From Sunday 6 Dec 1942 til 13 Sep 1943

(Libya & Tunisia) & Egypt.
Quaderno

Revui J. [Signature]
19088
26 NZ. Bn. (1941-45)
5 Park Lane, Timaru, N.Z.

Revui J. [Signature]
19088
2 NZ.E.F.
19-20 Oct. 7th Reign arrive Suez.
First draft N.Z. WWSA
27th RRS arrive Suez.

18 Nov. N.Z. Div. crossed minefield into LIBYA.
Mr. W. J. Jordan inspect 6th & 7th Reign. at MAADI.

31 Nov. N.Z. Div. moves North, passing Sidi Omar.

22 Nov. 4th N.Z. Inf. Bde cuts Bardia-Tobruk Rd. - takes 370 P.W.
23 Nov. 2nd Bn. takes Fort Capuzzo and 2 officers.
N.Z. Tie Factory opened in MAADI Camp.

23. 4th N.Z. Inf. Bde moves west 19 Bn. capturing Hannibat airfield.
6th N.Z. Inf. Bde. Gp. captures Pt 175
next Sidi Regegh - 25 Bn. suffering heavy casualties.
28th (MAADI) Bn. captures Sollum Barracks.
26th Bn. subjected to strong enemy attacks after enemy A.V. overruns 55th African Bde. at Sidi Regegh.


in night attack.

Libya.

December 1942.

Sunday 6

Monday 7
Went on for about 70 miles past Moug. Parked down for night.

Tuesday 8

Wednesday 9
Rained a little in morning. Walked round area to make map showing A/T gun, A/R etc. Sunny in afternoon. Did map of area. Evening - General knowledge quiz (Harm and I, Lofty, Bernard and Colin). Enemy bombers dropped flares and bombs on dome.l mile or so away.
Thursday 10
Wrote to Edna and Mum. Pecked truck ready for move. Tomorrow.

Friday 11
Up at 5.30. Left at 7.10. Traveled 30 miles. South with a Bde. in desert formation.

Saturday 12
Breakfast 8.15. Rain. Quite dry inside my tent.
Read 'Life Magazine.'
Order to move. Left at 2 P.M. Traveled 30 miles.

Sunday 13

Monday 14
Left at 6.50 A.M. on next stage. At 4 P.M. passed through enemy wire. Had shave and wash at lunch time. Six of our fighters flew over. Not a gun of El Agheila. Enemy not aware of our presence.
Saw Mandela away to South. Not bad going. Would be impassable after rain though.
Went on till 11 P.M. Stopped for night.

Tuesday 15
On again at 10 A.M. Have traveled 607 miles since leaving Mesa Plataub on 30 Nov. Heavy shower at 8 A.M. Rest of day sunny.
Wednesday 16

Enemy mortars in area. Our 25pdr. and 6 pdr. replying.

Discovered my hole. Hurricanes and Spitfires overhead.

We are on the side of Wadi Matarin. Some from sea.

Observed several lorries 2000 yds. away on opposite side.

Of Wadi trying to pull out there. A/Ts, guns (1) over 8000 pdr.

shelled them. Went with C.O. at 10 a.m. to attack one two


ammunition.

Fixed upon by 2000 machine guns.

A/Ts, guns. No casualties. German staff car captured

9 o'clock. J.T. gun. No casualties. German staff car captured

100 shells, 30 6 pdr. shells. 200 yards away.

12 noon. German Mk 5 tank set on fire by one of our shells. 200 yards away.

Moved back to Bn. H.Q. Bde. shifted South some miles.

Camped for night.

Thursday 17

Moved S.W. at 8 a.m. Marks of German Mark IV tanks

in ground. They sneaked past last night. Between up

and 5 Bde. Off to Tripoli via desert route.

Passed 4 long trains in action. Saw some Jerry

prisoners in trucks. Shelling in distance. Malteds 4

3000. 2000 expected to break through tonight. Went 12 bdes with bobs on.

Friday 18

"Jerry" has escaped us. Went West during the night between

the road and the sea. Heard that Jerry is P.M. and

wounded (slightly in face by shrapnel). Was in ambulance

on Wednesday. 14th. going to A.D.S. when captured by

German column escaping to rear of our position.

Sunday 20

Church Parade at 9.30 a.m. Windy day, but sunny.

Shift to beach tomorrow.

Listened to B.B.C. News at 6 p.m.

Monday 21

Shifted to new area between main road to Tripoli

and the sea. Passed Nofilia en route (Italian Fort

and Mosque in site). Woke.

Arrived V 2.45 p.m. Dug in bivvy. Cold night.

Many of our fighters overhead.

No enemy planes.
Tuesday 22

Sunny day. Piece of Norm's cake for supper.

Wednesday 23

Overcast – few spots of rain fell. Bacon, chips and spaghetti for lunch (cooked ourselves).
Evening – wrote to Mum and Edna in Norm's tent.

Thursday 24

Received cake from Mum and one from Edna. Xmas cable from Mum. Football match 26th (6) v 23th (6).
Met Jack Rudkin and Alec Barnes.
Evening – supper – cake and mug of tea.

Friday 25

XMAS DAY. Lovely day.
Church service at 9 A.M.
Excellent dinner 1 P.M. (Tomato soup, pork, turkey and apple sauce, baked and boiled potatoes, green peas and carrots, agency plum pudding and sauce. Bottle of beer and 60 cigarettes.) Sat to Isabel and Mum.

Saturday 26

Rained fairly heavily during night. Quite dry in barn, though. Medical inspection for life etc at 5 P.M.
Cleaned barn.
Day turned out fine – wind from West.
Bought chocolate from Y.M.C.A.

Sunday 27

Church parade 9:30 A.M. In afternoon, hiked to beach with Norm (10 miles then and back). Very muddy going.
Came back through shallow lagoon. Norm took one of us walking on the water. Had a look at mine washed up on beach.
Also 8 wrecked schooners.
Back in time for tea. Letter from Dad, Edna, Mrs Lister and cable from Edna. Write to Edna.
Monday 28.
Attended Tūhiaid Sports meeting.
Wrote to Edna's mother in evening.

Tuesday 29.
Fine and sunny. Football match H.Q. v A. Cey.
Washed shirt, towel, handkerchiefs. Opened Edna's cake.
Excellent. (From Jenkins tea-rooms, Timaru)

JANUARY

Thursday 31.
Mail arrived. Letter from Edna (and photos), one from Mum, and one from Eileen.

Friday 1
Overcast. Played football for Bn. H.Q. v A. Cey. We won 3-0. I scored the only try.

Saturday 2
Went with Norm on water track to Hofilia to take snaps.
In afternoon - Sports meeting.
Too stiff to run.
Wrote to Edna & Mum in evening.
Sunday 3

Wednesday 6
Held "Frugal" in morning.
Concert at night. Norm & I sang "Fly Flappy" and "Piri Tamba" for an encore.

Monday 4
Moved 10 miles to new area South of Netjila.
Travelling in Bren Carrier. Vile day - cold wind, very dusty. Rest of 24th marched.
Put tarp bivvy. To bed early.

Thursday 7
Lovely day. Meeting of Concert Committee. I am Secretary. Held another meeting at night in YMCA Tent. Had speech. Heard speech over radio by Mr. Churchill (Roosevelt).

Tuesday 5
Bde. sports meeting held. Very good performances.
Fine sunny day.
Spoke to 24th. Officer about Paddy. The officer had pulled a piece of shrapnel from Paddy's cheek.
Said Paddy was now an acting Lieut Colonel.

Friday 8
Cold breeze blowing. Held "Frugal" in morning.
Held practice for concert in evening.
Packed truck ready to move in morning.
Saturday 9
Travelled 40 miles Westwards.

Sunday 10
On again for 60 miles. Beautiful day. Mr. Piper shot a gazelle with his pistol.
Received Xmas greetings (cable) from Melie & Albert.

Monday 11
Beautiful day. Stayed out all day. Had gazelle for dinner (delicious). Our cooks cooked it for us.
Church parade 11 A.M. in R.A.P. tent.

Tuesday 12
Moved on 20 miles. Very dusty.
Crossed very wide Wadi.

Wednesday 13
Spent day in same place till 3:30 P.M. Then moved on a short distance. Got stuck in soft sand several times. Had to push and use sand trays.

Thursday 14
In area till 3 P.M. Moved off for a few miles. Passed numerous small trees in Wadi.
Very stormy, but found sandy spot to sleep in.
Friday 15

Enemy held up our advance today. Shells bursting all day, just in front of our tanks (Shermans). Some big shells went right overhead.

Attack by enemy fighter bombers in early morning. Saw one plane, brought down.

At night we went with C Coy to protect their Gentry
(Tanks attached to us)
(25th well in slit trench.)

Saturday 16

Cropped Wadi Zemzem. Obtained specimens of weathered rocks - brown on outside; pure white inside.

The enemy continues to withdrawal.

In the evening, when we had stopped for the night, we had a stuka attack, also strafed by M.Es. No damage. (Got a scare though.)

Sedado.

Sunday 17

On again, in single file, down and across deep Wadi.

Grass and trees growing at the bottom. Saw Italian fort on top of hill to the right.

I sat up on top of cab all day. Travelled 40 miles.

Saw many Italian Tanks (3/5) left by roadside.

Saw also 3 burnt out ones (still burning).

Took snap (Norms camera).

Monday 18

Lovely day. On again. Only 100 miles from Tripoli now. 25 Kitty hawks flew over, going North. Heard that the 51 Div. (Highland Div.) is at Misurata on coast road.

Saw a truck load of Jerry prisoners brought in, from several enemy tanks which had been shot up by a Bofors gun. Our chaps got an Itie track with a Breda A/H gun on; so took it over.

(Wednesday)

Tuesday 19

On again, but for only 10 miles. Rough going. Heard that the 51 Div. (Highland Div.) is at Zisten.

Passed Bnei Uid in moonlight. Very picturesque.

Green fields, town and fort on top of cliff.

Wednesday 20

Proceeded 10 miles. Only today.

Obtained fresh water from a well.
Thursday 21
On slowly again. Heard that Tripoli has been evacuated by the enemy. Should be there soon.

Friday 22
On again slowly. Reached the first cultivated ground since Egypt, with farm-houses, bitumen road, trees!
This settlement is called Tuzzoli, a Mussolini farm settlement. We halted for 2 hours. Spoke with several Italian farmers. One had 10 children, one had 9 and another 6. Gum trees growing along roadsides and in clumps in fields. Small village of white stone buildings.
Community centre with Church etc. - No School.
Children are sent to Italy for education. The settlers receive a subsidy from the State. They grow wheat.
Very pleasant day.
Modeled on again, along winding road through hilly country. Camped for the night.

Saturday 23
Tripoli is now in our hands.
We stayed in our area all day. Very happy.
Mail caught us up. 3 letters from my beloved,
2 from Maud and Dad. 1 from Creek: Cables from Aunty Em and Dorothy.
Blow very hard today: sandy.

Sunday 24
On again for 30 miles, on a bitumen road at last, past Azizia, with green trees, olives growing in rows in fields, windmills and white stone houses.
Reached new area at noon. Put up bivouac. Disappoint-
ed in our area. Very sandy, on edge of desert.
An M.E. flew over at 300 feet.
The enemy only moved from here yesterday.
An armoured car shot up the Briguellen car yesterday when he was looking over this area. The driver has died.

Monday 25
Wrote to Edna and Mum.
Talked over concert in evening with Harry, George, Norm etc.

Tuesday 26
Went with rest of Sec in our truck to see the countryside.
Called at farmhouse. Exchanged for bully - 10 eggs, 1 roast, 4 cabbages, 1 rabbit (skinned & dressed), peaches and carrots. Country near coast very picturesque. Trees lining the roads: green fields; white stone houses.
Called on at several houses, built in the shape of a square, with sheds etc., on two sides. Many windmills about.
Water is jet by pumps. No rivers or streams.
A few of the inhabitants speak French.
Had fun trying to make ourselves understood.
Wednesday 27

Wet day. Went to Giordani for hot showers.

Thursday 28

Wrote a letter of sympathy to George Bartholomew's father (32 Woodfield Ave, Ealing, London.)

The local inhabitants are coming out more now. Groups of women folk and girls walk along the road now. The local people use horses and carts with motor tyres. There is a central community block of fine buildings - church, cinema, post office etc.

Friday 29

Fine day. Washed clothes. Concert rehearsal at hall - Giordani.

Saturday 30

Rehearsal for parade in Tripoli on Sunday held in morning at Suani Ben Adam. Concert rehearsal at Giordani.

Sunday 31

Went to Tripoli in morning with 7 others of H.Q. Coy to attend Service of Thanksgiving & Parade. Lovely day. Drove in clay bitumen road lined with trees. March past General Montgomery. Had lunch on roadside under trees on way back. Concert given for Div. Coy in hall at Giordani at 7 P.M. An excellent performance. I was in Bedroom Scene. Norm and I sang "Fly Fanny."

February 1943

Monday 1

Lovely day. Prepared to shift to new area tomorrow. Wrote to Mum.
Tuesday 2
Moved to new area: Suani Ben Adam. Among trees and green fields. Air raid over Tripoli at 7 P.M. Great sight, like a fireworks display.

Wednesday 3.
Marched 3½ mls to practise for ceremonial parade to take place tomorrow for Mr. Churchill.

Thursday 4
Ceremonial Parade for Mr. Churchill. Marched 3½ miles to parade ground in morning. Lovely day.
Rehearsed parade once before lunch.
Parade of Tanks, Artillery.

Friday 5
Runner for day. Got off in afternoon to go to Castel Benito to see about theatre for concert. Very good theatre.
In evening - Mobile Cinema -

Saturday 6
Lovely day. Went in Jeep to Castel Benito (3 miles) to fix up about hall for concert. Got use of theatre for 5 nights beginning next Friday.
On way back had a look over the drone.
Hundreds of planes of all types.

Sunday 7
Wet day. No church parade. Mail arrived letter from Edna, Mum and Nancy. Received parcel from Frances Marliwick. Also a cake from M. (made by the Ritz - Nelson)
Monday 8
Mail arrived. Letter from Edna, Mum and Bina.

Tuesday 9
Wet day. On leave to Tripoli. Went in by truck at 9 A.M.
Had a good look around the town in the native quarter.
Bought a leather shopping bag for Edna (25/-)
Had mug of tea at NY. M.C.A.
Back to camp at 5:15. Arrived in time for tea at 6 P.M.

Wednesday 10
A wet day. Got ready to shift to Tripoli tomorrow.
Jack R., Charlie (our drivers) and Bud went in with the advance party to pick out a suitable office and sleeping quarters.

Thursday 11
Shifted to Tripoli by truck in morning. Took up residence in an unoccupied house (2 storeys) in residential quarter 1/2 of a mile from Governor's palace.
Our I. office is across the street in another house.
Wonderful library there. Looked through books.
Put on pile to show position of Ceys., Y.M.C.A.
Union Club, Brewery, Bde., brothel area etc.

Friday 12
Most of day spent in office.
Wrote to Mum.

Saturday 13
On leave for the day. Went with Harry to see Kiwi Concert Party at Union Club. Hell of a queue. Waited from 1:45 till 3 P.M. & then didn't get in.

Had a walk around the city. Very pretty along the waterfront. Palms and gardens. Bought dates and peanuts. Harbour full of ships - several 10,000 ton Liberty steamers (U.S.A.). Several Italian steamers sunk or burnt out scattered about the harbour.

Quite a number of buildings wrecked or damaged by bombs (sure, I guess).
The Cathedral not far from the harbour is undamaged.
Sunday 14

Spent evening at Harry's Canteen (Sup. Coy).
Talked over concert.

Jack R. & Norm discovered scaling up doorway in our
villa. Got to work with pick & pulled out blocking of concrete,
revealing steps leading down to 4 rooms beneath the
house we are in. Electric lights were O.K. Spent 2 hrs.
looking through all the stuff in the rooms. Books, clothes,
crackers etc. Jack R. found a new ceremonial sword
(Italian). I got several illustrated books, tracts etc.
for the concert.

Monday 15

Concert arranged for Thursday, 7 P.M. in Ballroom
of Governors Palace.

Wrote to Edna.
Worked on wharves from 11 P.M. till 7 A.M. Unloading
stores & oil drums. Brought back 2 21/2 lb. tins of
peaches.

Tuesday 16

Worked on the wharves from 3 till 11 P.M. Unloading
stores from T.L.C's.

Wednesday 17

Practised for concert to be shown in the ballroom of the
Governors palace tomorrow night. Stage erected. Lighting
all fixed. Curtains, spot-light etc. Put chairs in position.

Thursday 18

In morning & afternoon, worked at Palace to get everything
ready for the concert, shown to Bob.

Concert in evening from 7 till 9 P.M. Full house. An
excellent performance. Programme: Opening Chorus (Liberty Bell—words by
me & there'll always be an England) Mac—Yodel & Whistle : BBC
Nurse—Play Underhill - Bedroom Scene—Patter—Violin solo—Dave

Song: "Swabbers" — Saxophone Solo— Monologue— Melodrama Roy
but honest." — Saxophone piano accordian waltz — Hula
— Song (George Brady) "One little finger keep moving—
Baiocchi Binti" Fly Flappers—Tableau.

Friday 19.

Concert at Governors Palace. packed ballroom.
A very good show. I surprised the Brigadier on the
W.C. I dressed as a lady for, was the Brig. embarrassed.
Supper at Y.M.C.A. (Biscuits, scenes, sandwiches, fruit salad).
Saturday 20

The Div. Cav. put on a concert, using our stage at the Palace. Quite a good show.

Sunday 21

Cleaned hall in morning for concert. Church parade (voluntary) 9.30 A.M. Had photos taken in costume, outside Palace.

Concert at night. Air raid at 8.30 P.M. while Norm & I were singing "Fly Flippity". Large bomb dropped on waterfront rocked the Palace like an earthquake. The show went on. Supper at Y.M.C.A.

Monday 22


In afternoon, went to "Talkies" at Palace ("Topper").

In evening - our concert at Palace.

Supper at Y.M.C.A.

Tuesday 23

Lovely day. Our Revue "Thumbs Up" at Miramar Theatre at 7 P.M. 6 Bde. Band played from 6.30 till 7 P.M. Theatre full.

(Stole 1,000 persons.) Excellent performance. I was made up by Wally Pricter - female impersonator of Kiwi Concert party.

Talked on hour to do my face. Made a marvellous job. Didn't know myself. Supper at Y.M.C.A. afterwards.

Wednesday 24

Lovely day. Fixed notices for concert tomorrow.

Did up two parcels for Edna; one for Dad (books).

In afternoon, went with Norm & Jack R. to see Kiwi Concert at Miramar Theatre. Met Eric Young there (from 25th). I see.

Evening Party at 9.30 P.M. at 71, O.C. Air Raid 1 A.M. Bombs dropped near Harbour.

(Received cake from Mrs. Brink (Waioriri - Hastings). Write to Edna.)

Thursday 25

Lovely day. Prepared for concert during morning. Put up posters: hired native boy to act as "Sandwich Man.

Had 4 cups of coffee. Many more shops open here now. Had a bath and shave in afternoon.

Concert "Thumbs Up" in evening at Miramar Theatre. 6 Bde. Band played from 6.30 till 7 P.M. Full house: excellent performance. Wally Pricter made me up. (Beautiful!) Bedroom scene was a scream. Several people in audience (Didn't know at the time) in "The Melodrama" tour. Best sort went better than ever.

Supper at Y.M.C.A. after the show. Then a party (books) till Support Coy. To bed 1 A.M.

Air raid 6 A.M.
Friday 26
Lovely day. Went into town, bought silk scarf (10/-) and 2 silk handkerchiefs (2/-). Worked on waterfront from 11 P.M. till 4 A.M., unloading stores from lighters. Air Raid Alarm at 11.30. Lights were turned off - went to shelter. No planes however came over. Back to bed at 4 clock.

Saturday 27

Sunday 28
Moved to old spot at Suani Ben Adam (10 miles from Tripoli) by truck at 9.30 A.M. Put up bivvy. To bed early. Air raid over Tripoli 1 P.M. Saw barrage.

MARCH 1943

Monday 1
In old area among trees at Suani. Sing song service at R.A.P. in evening.

Tuesday 2
Packed up and moved on at 9.30 to Tunisia. Fine day. Traveled all day and night. Bombs dropped 100 yards from road by enemy plane at mid night.

Wednesday 3
Reached Medenine at 9 A.M. Camped among olive trees. Warm day - cloudless. Enemy guns firing in distance. Wrote to Mum. Stand to at 6 P.M.
Thursday 4.

In some area. Very warm day. Changed into shorts. Went round Coy. Aids to put on map. 1:30 P.M. three M.E.199s shot down by A.A. and our Spitfires.

To bed early. Slept like a top.

Friday 5.

In area. Walked round A and B Coy. to rescue A.T. gun. for map. Letters (2) from Edna B from Mum (27 Dec. 2 Jan.) from Helen Lister.

Saturday 6.

Enemy attacked at dawn. Guns firing all day. More planes in the sky than ever seen before. Fighters + fighter bombers.

We were bombed about 5 P.M. by 4 M.E.s. out of the sun. 4 wounded. Saw several bombing raids by Stukas and M.E.s. Wrote to Mrs. Brock.

Many Spitfires about all day. Saw bombs drop like footballs from German bombers. One Towny blown to pieces. Enemy have had 27 tanks knocked out today. Heard that Tripoli had heavy air raids a night or two ago. Benito Mussolini School (where our troops were) wrecked.

Our tanks and guns still firing at 6 P.M.

Sunday 7.

Rained during night. Gunfire from time to time. Sunny morning. Spitfires and M.E.s. overhead at breakfast time. 8:10 A.M. saw an M.E.109 shot down near Medenine by our A.A. Big cloud of smoke where it crashed.

Wrote to Mum about finishing show enemy bombers came screaming down. Leapt out of track, ran to my slit trench just as bombs were falling. Bombs fell 100 yds. away. Sandy Powell and Johnny Liggs (Sgt.) exaggerated. B. Coy. O.R.house destroyed. Saw many day fighters overhead. Planes in sky all day. Bought chocolate, tobacco, milk fruit from HQ canteen. Deepened my slit trench.

Monday 8.

Much quieter today. Warm and overcast. Wrote to Mrs. Bullock. Took newsletter round companies in jeep. Renewel leave with drawn into the hills again after his unsuccessful attack yesterday. Wrote to Eileen in afternoon. Some reinforcements arrived. Met Bruce Gathorne and Ralph Norbury back in Bn. also. Plumpuff for tea. Fighter bombers over at 5:00 P.M. Dropped bombs a mile away. Not many planes about today.

Tuesday 9.

Friged this morning. 1,000 yds. advance on front. Read Digest in bivvy in afternoon. Wrote to Eileen after tea. 10:00 A.M. Night exercise (as for morning). Mug of tea at A. Coy. on return.
Wednesday 10

Wrote to Cousin Beatrice. Mail - 2 letters from Edna, 2 from Madrid (11th, 12th, 13th June)
Went to Bde. re cipher. Harry Califf gave me collection of photographs of Bulgaria's flight across the Atlantic (flying boat) 1934.
2 hr. by train from I Sec.
Move Tomorrow.

Thursday 11

Left 7 A.M. travelled part of route via Ben Guerdane, Fourmistanine. Traveled all day; all night. Arrived destination 5:30 A.M.

Friday 12

At 4.30 recce plane flew over S.E. to N.W. at great height.

Saturday 13

Easy day. Camouflaged bivvy. Recce route march in afternoon with Phil Baker (Provost Sgt.)
Night march 7 till 8.30 P.M.

Sunday 14

Lovely day. Church parade 7 P.M.
Listened to wireless at Y.M.C.A. track till 11 P.M.

Monday 15

Lovely day. Took maps, B.B.C. newsheet and Div. Summary about Cairo in jeep.
Evening - lecture by Capt. (Sandy) Thomas on Escape from Greece.
Route march (4 1/2 miles) by compass.
Wrote to Mum and Edna during the afternoon.
Communion (Anglican) at 5.30 P.M.
Tuesday 16
West round Ccoys. with Div. Summary: News Sheet.
Helped lay start line for night manoeuvre.
Bottled billy on return.

Wednesday 17
Jack K. left for hospital with Malaria.
Helped roll up tape (start line)
Windy day
Promoted to rank of Sgt (T)
To bed 7 P.M.

Thursday 18
Rained during night. Blowing.
2 parcels from Edna. (Gox, short bread, razor blades, cake, toothbrush, dentifrice, coffee & milk, sausages, cheese)

Friday 19
Sent photos (5) to Mum, taken last Sept. 1st of me lifting wheel & sleep. 1st of Mary, Pat & me with Nazi flags, 1st of me shaving, 1st of Norm & Ken on beach, 1st of me & I S/S with bottle, best spiece.
Prepared to move. Left at 5.45 P.M.
Obtained goods from Y.M.C.A. canteen for the Sec. Tobacco, chocolate, mugget, watches, razor blades, tea, milk, sugar.
Travelled about 50 miles, in desert formation (9 columns)
Good going.

Saturday 20
Reached area about 2 A.M. Slept in open. Level. night. Perfect day. Gunfire few miles ahead at 8-9 A.M.

Sunday 21
Not bad going. At 5.30 P.M. were bombed by 13 Kitty-hawks (Yanks) by mistake. 4 Tonnies killed short distance in front of 3 Tonnies destroyed.
On again till 7 P.M. Stopped night.
Monday 22


Died in 2-20 A.M.

Tuesday 23

Enemy shelling from right ahead. Saw enemy transport in front. Our tanks went forward at 5 A.M. Many more prisoners brought in - 50, to 200 a day. 51st Bn. Our Tank Busters came over - destroyed one of own Sherman's.

7 P.M. Moved forward at dusk to Roman Wall. Captured. Roman wall runs right across valley - 2500 yrs. old.

Our tanks retired. Blankets brought up.

Wednesday 24

Enemy still shelling our area. Fack-Wolf strafed front to feet up - 2:15 A.M. I lay down behind a wall of water - was filling water bottle at the time. 1 chap wounded in AFK Coy. 60 yrs. away.

Saw 3 enemy trucks. At 11 A.M. 27 Halifaxes & Tank Busters came over with Spitfire cover. 2 big fires started. 3 shells fell over. One shot down in flames.

2 landed by chutes & failed to open. 1 at 5 P.M. An enemy truck proceeded by motorcyclist came on us. We turned round & moved off. 5:30 P.M. Our Tank Busters in action again. Saw 2 enemy figs. 2000 yrs. away near 13 Bn. Enemy tank on fire.

Thursday 25

7 A.M. Saw 14 German tanks come up (Bearing 175°). Went with I.O. in jeep to contact French Force on right flank. Found them at 11 A.M. Went with L.O. (Capt. 02) Pascoe and Greek L.O. to top of highest peak. Looked over enemy trenches. Several enemy tanks looking among hills. Saw black native troops French carrying ammunition up step hills. Had lunch with L.O. Then went to hill - had both standing up - lastly seen clear water. French water time. Ran for shelter in wood in the middle where enemy shell landed near. Back to 20 Bn at 5:30 P.M. Shifted after dark to 24 Bn. Area 21 Bn. Attacked hill & captured it. Heard that Capt. Alcock had been wounded. Put out letter N in ting with sand to DESIGNE - for our planes to take bearing from.

Friday 26


Saturday 27

Sunday 28

Had a look at 4 German Mark IV special tanks destroyed. Also 1 Mark IV. Had photo taken with Kowa camera. By enemy tank. Saw one Mark IV that had been hit by big bomb. A bloody shambles. Tossed 6 big gun shells, but they exploded. One dead and 16 injured. Had been shot in head. Was carrying full equipment, including respirator. 11 A.M. heard bombing. Passed many big guns left by the enemy - 6.27%. Some bigger lots of vehicles abandoned. 4 and 11 St. and 4th st. shops burnt near road. About 15000. P.W's came in 3 P.M. passed M.E. 1950 came over, strafing. Sheltered behind truck. Bullets whistled past. Hit a white sandbag (3 bullets in leg). At 5.50 - also wounded. Took up positions on tractors. Enemy shelling a bit. Attached in A. Cay. Had 2 tractors. 5 P.M. at H.Q. 9 P.M. with A. Cay.

Monday 29

Our tanks went forward at dawn. Enemy sent over only a few shells. Good news. 6 and 7th miles from Gaba. Yaaku is held by S.F.A. First Army. Reinforced by 3 Div. M.T. line breached. Went on 8 miles. Passed 2 destroyed German Mark IV tanks. Hurricane co-operation plane flew over 5 P.M. & dropped three. at H.Q. at 6 P.M.

Hoped that Gaba is in our hands. Moved forward at 7 P.M. Stopped the night at 9 P.M.

Tuesday 30


Wednesday 31

Lovely day. Shared. Went to the beach for swim 9-12 AM. On way back passed through Gaba. Tasty food. Many beautiful women. Tried to go by mine. Drives killed. One of our cars blown up by mine. Drive killed. Tea at 3 P.M. Stood in open in quarry.

April

Thursday 1 April


Friday 2

Lovely day. Addressed by the Brigadier Gentry. At 9.30. Wrote to Edna.

Tinned Trunk.
Listened to B.B.C. at 7 P.M. In Sew. Stores Trunk.
Saturday 3
Overcast - windy. Took Div. I. Summary round Cows. Very happy - parcel from Edna (Ginger nuts, knitted gloves - perfect fit. Valet blades) and parcel from Mum (socks, handkerchiefs etc.) Parcel sent on from Bob Holmes - from Harrier Club (Timaru).

Sunday 4
Church Parade 8.30 A.M.
Wrote to Mum. Sent Mothers' Day Card to Mum.
Evening - went to A.D.S. for Song Service. Went in captured German troop carrier. (Buzzing Mag)

Monday 5
Norm left for Div. and O.T.U.
Posted to rank of Sgt.
Went to 4th. made copy of camp map.
8 Army to attack tomorrow (11 A.M).

Tuesday 6
Artillery began 4 A.M. Still going at 8.30 A.M.
Heard that attack has been successful.
16th Indian Div. on left. Trench. 50 Div. in center. 81st Highland Div. on right. 50 Div. held up by AJtK. ditch. Our planes much in evidence.

Wednesday 7
Left at 8.30 A.M. Moved parallel to GABES-SFAR road.
Met many prisoners coming back. Several groups of about 1500 - mostly Italians. Inspection checked: F.I. 22 Bomber. Bell of a mess.
Moved at dusk through gap in minefield through narrow gap in hills. Reached stopping near 10 P.M. Tacked.
Received letter from Edna & from Mum. (S.Jan 24)

Thursday 8
Many enemy trucks & motorcycles.
Bashed up for lunch. Four P 0k Wulf fighters-bombers dropped bound ahead. Dropped bombs. One fighter received direct hit. Turned over and went. Wallow! Flash of flame! Pilot still in plane. One petrol tank set on fire.
Stayed for night in same spot. Dry slit trench.
Listened to R.B.C. news at 7 P.M.
To bed. 9.30 P.M.
Calm wind blowing from lake on our left.
Friday 9

Saturday 10
Up early. Breakfast 6:15. Moved on at 8:30. Passed country fields with fields of wheat, one large orchard of olive trees. Crossed road from Sfax to Gafsa. At 2:30 p.m. Went through acres of olive trees. As far as the eye could see. Lovely red poppies mixed with golden daisies growing among trees with the grass. Passed crashed M.E. Also another German plane in a thousand pieces. Troops tad Sunday today. Stopped among olive trees for night at 6:30. Put up bivouac. Small blue tent, 2 rifle men. At 7 P.M. an enemy bomber dropped bombs 200 yards away. Halted. Flares from bivouac on drone to West. Went to y.M.C.A. Truck for lunch. Supper with Geoff Gray, the leader of Bill Pallett.

Sunday 11

Monday 12
Breakfast 6 A.M. Marched at 6:45. Lovely day. Fields of green grass and red poppies. White in golden daisies. Halt from 10 to 1:30. Boiled bully = 20 c.s. Sold blanket (Tommy) to motar for 12s. towns (11-9-4).
Enemy evacuating from Tunis. We are heading for Sousse. Sousse was in our hands at 8 o'clock this morning. Went on a few miles. Saw 18 Mitchell bombers, with flighters returning from a raid North of Sousse. Only 200 feet off the ground. A wonderful sight. Stayed the night in olive orchard.

Tuesday 13

Wednesday 14
Headache gone. Lovely morning. Stayed in area among olives all day. 7 P.M. Marched on 4 miles - camped among olives near road. Several 88 mm. shells landed close during night.
Thursday 15

Stayed in area all day.
At 10 wound off to take up position between Mauai
Bug on left & 255th on right between road line on
right & road. Escaped to Kaimu on left. Tacks
returned to olive grove except jeeps. Dry French wine
long gone. Mosquitoes bloody awful. Hundreds of them.
Pulled blanket over head.

Friday 16

Breakfast brought up on table. Lay low all day.
To escape observation by enemy on hill ahead.
High rocky hill smiles ahead with minestry(?). on top.
Called Takkuma. Fascinating place. Possibly a Tony O.P.
Saw 2 lightnings fly over in afternoon. Enemy
shells landing on road - & clay railway line.
After dark shifted about 2 miles further west across road to new area. Br. H.Q. in Wadi. Mosquitoes -
blowly awful. Worse than last night. Face red from head
a mile of Trumo.

Saturday 17

Quiet morning. Lay low all day. Boy mows & grass a copse
of wheat. Studied Takkuma through glasses. Would
like to climb it. Enemy shelling from somewhere
behind it.
During night, Engineers put two crisscross over deep
Wadi in front. Looks like an attack coming off soon.

Sunday 18

Enemy observed on Takkuma. Bill put in a report
on last nights work by Engineers.
3rd Platoon hit frightened, but was backed out late area.
One platoon left town. Pilot landed by parachute
overhead taken prisoner.
Mosquitoes - still bad. Dr. D. had to model heads
in delay to pass time away. Nine looked like Mr.
Dorothy Marren.
Patrols went out at night.

Monday 19

We attack tonight! Our objective - a low hill
between Takkuma and town of Elpidiaville.
Start line - Gana - wall. I went out at 7 P.M. with
Div. Prantm to show way to gap in wall.
Support Artillery barrage. Attack began 8 P.M. Moro
shining - lovely night. 2 Toms found injury in trying
to cross road after start. Taken prisoners.
Cleared enemy landing ground. Objective reached
midnight. Br. H.Q. took up position in deep Wadi.
Tired but

Tuesday 20

Area shelled all day morning.
Takkuma still partly in enemy hands. Our Art.
shelled it during day.
Tanks came up, went forward. Stuck minefield.
4 Sherman left their tracks. Observed figures on
Takkuma. Observed enemy personnel moving down
valley to North. Shelled by our Artillery. No tank
busted thru area. (yes.)
Improved our defensive in Wadi.
Ten brought up after dark.
No prisoners taken. Our Casualties very slight.
Arthur Manford will lose aleg. One of our own
shells.
Wednesday 21.

Breakfast @ 6 A.M. Rained a bit.
Two shells landed in our Wadi @ Bul. Q. No damage or casualties. Batty, the enemy & our Artillery firing all day. New Gentlemen-Dickinson visited us.
Six, in A. Coy, wounded by shell fire.
Mr. Piper (I.O.) sprained his ankle.

Thursday 22.

Brig. Gentry visited us before leaving for H.M.Z. Many of our bombers (12 at a time) plastered the enemy near a crossing in the North. Two of D. Coy. killed by direct hits by shells on their trenches.
Walked around area to see Coy's.
More of our bombers over in afternoon.
Area shelled all day.
More forward tonight about a mile.
Talked new position. No enemy opposition.
Mr. Piper went back to B. Echelon. Sprained ankle.
I am I.O. & Sqt. as well.

Friday 23. (Good Friday)

Area shelled all day. Not as heavy as yesterday.
Marris took over. 1000 prisoners from Takrolim. 

Saturday 24.

The C.O. went to Bele for Conference.
Another enemy airstrike tonight.
Maj. Gentry & Maj. G. H. J. Fox called upon to assist.
Maj. Gillies killed. Alby, Vincenzo & Phil Prince, Artillery, called upon to put down barrage.
Some enemy taken prisoner.
Preparing for Redundancy for 4th (Possibly from Dad.)
That a time & place to receive it!!!

Sunday 25.

Confined fighting in heavy enemy mortar shelling. Coy. still fires. Enemy shelled the rear area behind earth wall. Poor old Alby! They are always throwing in when the fighting is heaviest. 5 lots of 18 bombers (12) seen drop bombs on enemy. An 88 mm. shell landed here at the H.Q. Phyllis sacked seriously wounded. A 138 A. C. was sent without food all day. C. Coy. hit tea at 2 in the morning. (Monday) John Bell suffering from shell shock. I sent him back to B. Echelon.

Tuesday 26.

Quiet today this morning. Good News!
We were to be relieved tonight by 1/4 Division - the 5th Div. (Pompeii)
Met men of the 9th A. Coy. Very nice to the game. Fool around for hours.
More than 1000 men alive and 1500 men killed.
Change over, after tea at dusk. Enemy began shelling. More casualties.
A new line taken over.

Wednesday 27.

Mess at B. Echelon between 9 P.M. & 3 A.M.
Comb. Btl. moved. Replied to new order.

Saturday 30.

(Short note)

Monday 31.

Received 4 letters today from Dad. Went to the movies with the lads.

Tuesday 1.

Went to the movies again today with the lads. Went to the movies again tonight.
Tuesday 27
Slept most of day
Washed clothes myself

Wednesday 28
Went for swim in sea & bathed away at Bou Medine
Picked out route for truck to reach beach from camp
Sea smooth, blue, lovely
Hit showers at A.D.S. in afternoon
Impromptu concert at Y.M.C.A. truck at 7 P.M.

Thursday 29
Many of our bombed rations over during the day
90 Kittyhawks in one mob
Went to Bde in dep to get maps up to date
Copa went swimming at seaside
Gen. F. Lopes, M.I.C. minister of Defence visited the Bn & spoke to us
Church service, 10.30 A.M.
After tea, 6 Bde Band played selections
Wrote an airgraph letter to Edna & one to Mum
Another attack coming off soon. We are reserve Bn.

Friday 30
Parcel from Edna. Cake - shortbread & pair of socks
Letter from Edna
Sent wire to Edna re me to Mum

Saturday 1 May
Going to beach
Reinforcements arrived for Bn
Edna Brad
Received cake from Edna or Mum (Have not opened it yet)

Sunday 2 May
Church Parade
Route march (6 miles) to beach
John B. + I did very well
Not feeling well. Taps in abdomen
Went to R.A.P. response of castor oil
Felt better in evening
Went without tea
Received more mail. 3 letters from Mum + Dad
Also 1 from Edna & 1 from Alma Ferguson
(Feb 14th Edna's letter)
Monday 3rd

Tuesday 4th
Maj. McQuade inspected army of Group I. John Bell left us magazine out of rifle.
Dud went to recce new area - in jeep.
More tomorrow to new area - 15 miles to west.

Wednesday 5th
Shifted to new area between Entideville & Pont du Faha. Traveled 18 miles. Set up bivvies - on flat grass covered field. Behind lines. Bombed at 4 o'clock by 4 No. 8 enemy bombers. No damage.

Thursday 6th
Wrote to Edna & Mum.
Did sketch in pencil of Djebel Zaghoud, highest peak in Tunisia (over 4000 ft.)
Good news regarding 1 Army's attack this morning.
Saw 144 of our bombers - brighter in the air at 3:30 P.M. returning from bombing raid.
Worn unpleasant wind blowing to dust.
Had a bath filled at mobile dentist. No pain.

Friday 7th
Two new members joined our I. See. Both I. Rehn.
Forecast. Busy morning - marking up maps.
Excellent news; 1 Army went on. Most of our men - to Bizerta.
Ranched during night - thunder & lightning.

Sat. 8
Fineday.
Shifted back to near old area near road. Left at 8 P.M. Travelled in column of route.
Arrived 11 P.M. Slept in open.
Sunday, 9

In all day.
Fighting still going on ahead, away hills.
Excellent news about first Army!
Prisoners 150,000.

Monday, 10

In all day.
Set off at N.M.C.A. truck at 7 P.M.
Wrote to Mum & Edna during day.

Tuesday, 11

Lovely day. Terrific artillery fire ahead.
Many bombing raids on enemy by our bombers.
Letters from Mum - Dad 1, Edna 1, Nancy Mount 1.
Issued with new summer clothes. Bush shirts.
Don't look much.
Wrote to Nancy.
Spent evening at Pioneers' truck. Listened to wireless.
My Ist for 3 biscuits at 9 P.M.

Wednesday, 12

Lovely day. Tank A. Cey. N.C. 05 for Map Inst. &
Grape wood.
Good news from battle front.
90 Light Div. & Pioneers holding out.
Many fires seen burning up north.
Several bombing attacks by our Mitchells.

Thursday, 13

Fighting now over. Prisoners now nearly 150,000
Also Von Arnim pings other German Generals.
90 Light Div. & Pioneers Div. (Italy) last to give up.
Went to Kairouan with John Bell. Gordon Bryce &
Office for day. Visited the Mosque. Went out to Yankee
Drum - over 100. Woodhams Prince.
Back at 8 P.M.

Friday, 14

To Kairouan. Climbed to top and saw how well
it had been defended. Several graves on top (B164).
Grand view of surrounding country.
Marvel how the Maoris took it.
Went up Jeep also post Eltizaville as far as second
Arti Tank Ditch.
Lovely day.
Wrote to Mum & Edna.
Saturday 15.

Sunday 16.
Left on return journey to Egypt 7 A.M. I travelled on jeep with Lloyd at head of line. Went in column of route via HAIROUAN. Saw destroyed Tiger (Mark 2) German tank. Arrived area near Maharea at 3:30. Stayed the night.

Monday 17.
Breakfast at 9 to 10. Left on second day's journey to Egypt at 7 o'clock. Traveled on main road to Gabes past Wadi Akarit. From Gabes, turned right 9 west through the oasis, dashed in Mareth Hills. Splashed through Medjuna near newly built Seer Goerdane. Very hot during drive through hills. Got nose sunburnt. Lloyd & I. Led Bu. in squad.

Tuesday 18.
On again - 3rd day travelling. 26 Bu. led convoy. I Sec. Driving truck broke down (tire on fire) Lloyd & I went on ahead in jeep. Reached Seer Bu. 1:30 P.M. Met up with other Bu. from Tripoli. Put up brev. Received mail - 2 from Edna & 2 from Mum (up to 23 March). Edna tells me I have been appointed to the Addington School. Saw Lefty Millar, son of the L.O.B. Chaps. Faro sung by T.O.R. from today’s journey - about 130 miles. Handled in Tunisian money (576 francs).

Wednesday 19.
Rained during night. Received Patriotic parcels. Mine from Stel J. Pupils of Cheltenham High School. Wrote them a note. Stayed in area all day. Kissi Concert Party at 4:30. Excellent show. Fully armed troops there to see it; some up guns to get a view. Lovely, warm, night. Had a bottle of beer & a bottle gin (alcohol only). Sold gin to Merv.

Thursday 20.
On again to area near South of Mareth. Recruited into No. 1 Mareth Bu. with 5.6 M. Reached Seer Bu. 10:30 P.M. Stayed until 27 March. 8 Bu. diy & 1, 9 R.C. diy showed through Mareth plateau. Passed Tunis. Stopped for a bit. glad to see Gracie & Bio. Mobile closed at 25 P.M.
Friday 21
Left 7 A.M. on next stage. Hold up from 11 to 12. Back by 5 P.M. A.M. Arrived staying here from 28th. East of Bureat @ 4:30

Saturday 22
Left 8 A.M. Passed through Sirte and on to Nabil. Stopped about 10 with Earl of Nabil. Passed camp where I worked. Lovely day. Lunch at 7:30 P.M. Then at 9:30 A.M. & 8:00. Sand played from 7 till 7.30

Monday 24

Tuesday 25

Wednesday 26
Thursday 27.

On again toMersa Matruh. Rough road for some distance then good between. Left 7.30 A.M. Arrived 8.30 A.M. Stopped area near aerodrome S.W. of town. Nothing & dusty. We were near here last July when the snow was blown through into Egypt.

Friday 28.

On to Bug Bug. Sat up behind cab to see the view. Rained most of day but dry at night. Much burnt out trucks & tanks all along route. Came down. Salum pass at 7.20 P.M. Very fine view of stop, ran some more. Reached 1st stop at Bug Bug. 3 P.M. Bought tufted fruit, pindaka & apples at N.A.M.E. Bake something. Wrote to Edna.

Saturday 29.

On again to Mersa Matruh. Rough road for some distance then good between. Left 7.30 A.M. Arrived 8.30 A.M. Stopped area near aerodrome S.W. of town. Bloody & dusty. We were near here last July when the snow was blown through into Egypt.

Sunday 30.


Monday 31.

On to Amiriya - arrived 8 A.M. Passed old battlefield at El Numin - big cemetery - barbed wire - big collection of enemy trucks, tanks, guns etc. Lunch at Amiriya. On to Wadi Natrun. Stopped for the night.

Tuesday 1 June.

Wed. 2 June

Thursday 3 June

Friday 4 June
Very hot. Windy.
To Maidi in evening. Bought pair brown shoes, top pants, shirts.

Sat. 5 June
Started War Diary. Went to Beach Kit Store for my kit bag. Talked to Arthur Bondell. Dinner at him. To Maidi in evening.

Sunday 6
To Cairo on leave in afternoon. For evening with Harry Pleffsen. Talked with Andrew.

Monday 7
Ben Cowry joined the Btn. as I.O. Finished log diary. Spent evening in R.A.P.

Tuesday 8
To Cairo on leave in afternoon. Had afternoon tea with Meryl Neely in her flat. Read letter from Alan Drake (Flying Officer - Ottawa). Had several bowls of ice-cream & fruit salad. Bought pair of sandals & sarongs. Home by truck at midnight.

Wednesday 9

Thursday 10
Went to office to make trace of map of MADBI CAMP. Headache & stuff neck. Went to bed in afternoon. Went without tea.
Friday 11th

Headache a little better. Temperature 101.5 at 10.30.
At 4.45 Temp 100.3. Pane Dr. Dr. Deverie. 6th Bn. Camp
condemned not to march. Not General - Helwan.

Katarina Ward.

Sat. 12th

Very nice nursery at hospital
Had hair cut off - Temp went down.

In Hospital till tomorrow

Friday 13th

Then to Base Reception at Mena for 2 days.
Then to 33 Bn. at Mena.

Had leave to Palestine for 3 days. (daily)
Stayed at Nathanya Leave Camp on coast between Tel Aviv & Haifa.
Excellent camp - Italian. We employed as
Cookes waiters etc.
Went to Jerusalem for 3 days.
Tel Aviv
Haifa
Nazareth
Sea of Galilee.

Back to Mena.
Then back to 26 Bn.

"I" Course at School of Instruction
- Refresher course - all "I" personnel
- 6 Bn. Course taken by Bill Casan.
19 July - 31 July.

Received mail: 24 July.

+ from Edna.
+ from Mum & Dad
+ from Frances Hodliurich
Sent parcel to Edna (dress material - 4 lengths)

Sunday 25th

Went on leave to Cairo with Frances.
Went for swim at Heliopolis baths.
Had tea at Frances Hodliurch's friends place
in Cairo.
Very hot day.

Monday 26th

Mussolini resigns
Refresher course at School of Instruction each day
Received two parcels from Edna & one
from Frances Hodliurch (Foxburgh)

On Saturday 31st, went to dentist.
Had tooth fitted (lower left - mole)
B - - - painful.

Sunday 1st August

Went to Helwan in afternoon. Had fruit salad
at "The Homestead".
Back in camp at 7 PM.
Monday 2 Aug.
Parades: rifle inspection (battle order)

Tuesday 3 Aug.
More parades. In afternoon went with Capt. Smith (B.Coy) up Wadi Tih to recce ground for manoeuvre.
Went with B.Coy at 8 P.M. on manoeuvre. Back at 10 P.M.

Wednesday 4 Aug.
Wrote to Edna.
Cheer by R.A.F. at El Djem open air stadium. Very nice dances ("Nelly") Very good figure. Left my pull-over behind. Not there when I went to look for it. Bad show! Must have been thinking of Nelly.

Thursday 5 Aug.
Through the Geo Chamber in morning. Cup of tea at Church Army.

Friday 6 Aug.
Interviewed Brig. Parkinson 9 A.M.
Picnic at Barrage in afternoon. Very enjoyable time - lovely spot. Back @ 10.30 P.M.

Saturday 7.
Nelson Reunion - Cairo, at Saul's Restaurant. Good dinner + music.

Sunday 8.
Wrote to Mum. Very hot day.
In evening went to Church Army Hut.
Wrote to Nancy & Alma Ferguson.

Monday 9.
Heard that I have passed the Brig.
Go to G. Office on 25 Aug. for second interview.
Tuesday.
Training.

Wednesday.
Div. Sports at King Frank Stadium
Cairo. Very hot day. Walked to Gezira Sporting Club with Garnet, Bill & John.
Had 2 plates of fruit salad.

Thursday.
Usual Training
ENS A Concert at El Djem. 99.9% Sex.

Friday.
Went to MAADI in afternoon.
Bought 23 pet. Snaps at BAKERS.
Very hot.

Saturday.
3 Parades. 6 A.M. 9 A.M. 11 A.M.
Usual sleep in afternoon. Shower.
To MAADI, after tea.
Head at Mpadt tent.
Back by truck.
Pics at El Djem. "Ladies from Kentucky."

Sunday.

Hot day. Church Service 0830 hrs.
Write to Mum — sent 200 photos.
Thursday, 26
Br. manœuvres in afternoon.

Friday 27
Letters from Edna, Mum or Cousin Beatrice.

Sat. 28
On leave to Cairo. Saw Maryl - got frock from her for concert. Also one from Mrs. Williams (Jean Gilmor)

Sunday 29
All day rehearsed at El Djem for concert.

Monday 30
Got ready for show my dance frock (I) - Egyptian. Had heels put on sandalos - painted white. Practised routine with Ron.

Tuesday 31
I. Sec. demonstration of work of an O.P. at Rifle Gys. Ted & Bill dressed as Jerry I. prisoners. Good show.

Wed. 1 Sept.
Letter from Edna (July 18).
Rehearsed in morning with band at El Djem.
Went to Cairo in afternoon for wig at Goldmans.
"Thumbs up!" Rehearse at 8 p.m. Big card there (4000 - 5000)
Very good show. The Eastern Dance caused much amusement.
Supper after the show - put on by Y.M.C.A.

Thursday 2
Took R.A.P. personnel for Map reading.
Night: Pictures at El Djem.
"The Trial of Mary Dugan."

Friday 3
Sent Edna cable respond.

Sat. 4
Sent Post to Edna.

Sun. 5
Prepared for Manœuvres beginning tomorrow.
Pack up truck.
To talk to Shatoo's with Ron - Robbie.
Monday 6.
Went on manoeuvres in desert, via Helwan.

Tuesday 7.
On manoeuvres in desert between Helwan and Red Sea. Very hot.

Wednesday 8.
On manoeuvres. Italy surrendered.

Thursday 9.
To shores of Red Sea. Had a swim. Lovely. Camped for night.

Friday 10.
Left for Camp. Came through narrow defile. Our trouble went ahead to recce area.

Sat. 11.
Back to Camp 10.30 A.M.
At Cairo after tea with Miss Robbie.
Went to talkies - Cinema Rex - Open air. Excellent Programme.

Sunday 12.
Wrote to Mum and Edna.
Airgraph from Alan Drake.
To Cairo with Miss Robbie after tea.
Went to talkies. This mum came to dinner.
Very good.

Monday 13.
Mobile Cinema (M.C.A.)
"The Devil and Miss Jones.
Wrote to Mum.

Tuesday 14.
Sent postcard to Edna (Sea Shells: pantee etc.)
Letter from Mary Hardie.
Interview with Brig.

6th Dec. 60° 57' E July.
"Fly-Flappy."

V1. Sixteen ounces make a pound, three feet make a yard; silent thoughts don't make a sound,
Concrete's very hard. We all know why we are dry, why the grass is green; But can you tell me why the fly should have cre- at-ed been? Twenty flies in my tea to-day - There were ten there yes- ter-day - The sit - u - at - i on trul - y is bad. The crazy things are driv- ing me mad; So when you see me dance and yell - Have pi - ty on me, can't you tell - That I am sand hap - py!
Fly flappy! Some-one shoot me dead!

V2. From the dawn till setting sun,
Every day the same;
They have got me on the run
With their silly game;
Dive bombing all day long
As no Stuka can!
Down forty thousand strong
Right into the jam.

V3. Rabbits breed six times a year,
Wages are just the same!
Fish lay their eggs I fear
Millions, without shame.
But the fly has got them beat,
There's no need to bluff;
Give him filth and give him heat,
Watch him do his stuff!
Fleas crawled up the window pane,
So Jack Hulbert said;
Over here they do the same
Standing on their head:
Up and down and round and round,
Watch the blighters go
With an awful buzzing sound
I have cause to know.

V.5 If you see a chap one day
Walking down the street,
Waving arms and crying "Hey!
Get there off my meat!"
You will know its me you see,
Once a bright young lad,
Now I fear its "nuta" I be,
Real stark starving mad!

Every man in every clime should hear the battle cry
Of us who fight for Freedom's cause, death Egypt's blazon it
On in the front, that's got to be, where men of Empire bled
Will bring the conflict to an end, and peace to every creed

Let us raise our voices again, and let the echoing ring
To let the nations, yet upheld the head and courage known
For it is time to end the strife, to set the Mole for free
This is our song—our hope—our prayer—God grant us Victor!
V.1  "A" stands for Army, the Army of the free, With 'B' for Battalion and 'C' for Company; But letter number twenty two is one you ought to know, As it stands for what we fight for, no matter where we go, 'V' stands for Victory.

This is our cry As we sing our song, as we march along on the road that is hard and dry; For free men are we, From a land across the sea – Where one and all, the short and the tall Cry 'V' for Victory!

V.2  Every man in every clime should heed the battle-cry Of we who fight for Freedom's sake 'neath Egypt's blazing sky; Or on the front that's yet to be, where men of Empire breed Will bring the conflict to an end, and Peace to every creed.

V.3  Let us raise our voice again, and let the echoes ring, To let the Nations yet oppressed take heart and courage bring; For it is time to end the strife; to set the Nations free: This is our song - our hope - our prayer - God grant us Victory!
With feeling

V1 Good-bye Mother dear, the time has come to part; The call to arms is sounding now and

in my heart I know the cause is just, tho' the strife be long, But courage Mother dear — and

Tempo di Marcia

Listen to my song. Up from the South we come, we come, From the land of the "Long White Cloud"

Maori and Pakiho bronzed by the sun, Full of fight and justly proud —

Up from the South we come, we come From the land where men are free — To

fight for the right till the War is won; Oh God! Grant us Victory.

V2 We leave the hills and dales where the grass grows green,
We leave the capes and bays with their golden sheen
To fight in desert lands 'neath a burning sky
And live in sands of coarser grain, to do or die.

V3 So now, Mother dear, God keep you safe and free
To live in peace while I am gone across the sea;
With thoughts of home and you, I feel the urge so strong
To do the thing I know is right — so hear again my song.