



R.T. Street.

19088

13 - 9 - 1941

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L/Cpl. R.T. Street.

B Company,
Southern Infantry
Battalion.

1941

Saturday, 13th. Sept

Left Barnham Camp
at 2 A.M. by train for
Lyttelton. Boarded
"Maori" + left for
Wellington at 5.15.
Good trip, dull day.
Breakfast + dinner
served on board.
Slept from 1 till 4.
Berthed Wellington
5.15 p.m.

Boarded "Aguatania"
+ quartered 7 decks
down, Deck G.
Wrote to Edna + Mum.
Raining here.

After tea, walked around to get
used to ship. To bed 10 p.m.

Sunday 14th. Sept.

Up at $\frac{1}{4}$ to 6, shave + wash.

Boat drill at 6.15 A.M.

Blowing a gale from South.

Too windy for ship to leave.
Sailing postponed for 24 hours.
broad of people on wharf.

Showery in morning, cleared off
in afternoon. Great crowd of
people on wharf.

At next wharf is Dutch liner
"New Amsterdam," also in port
is the Finnish barque "Pamir"
- a four master.

N.B. Not "New Amsterdam" - but
"Johan Mam Oldenbarnevelt"
- 2 funnels - about 20,000 tons.

Wrote to Edna. Had shave.

To bed 10 p.m.

Monday 15th. Sept.

Calm morning. Left Wellington
at 10 A.M.: huge crowd on
wharf. Dutch liner drew
out at 9.45 A.M. H.M.S. Achilles
followed us.

At 2 p.m. paraded on B.
deck + received pair of
sandals each.

Three vessels of convoy in
line ahead, Achilles,
Aquitania + Dutch liner.

After tea saw last of
N. Z. fade from view. Left
6.15 p.m. two aircraft from
land flew over ship. Went
to movies with Bob Holmes
shaved, put clock back 1
hour + went to bed 9 p.m.

Tuesday, 16th Sept.

Up at 5.30 A.M. Went for walk on deck. Sunny & calm sea. Dutch liner sailing to starboard & slightly astern; Achilles about a mile ahead. Our company on duty, fatigues etc. I had nothing to do. On Deck with Bob Holmes & Colin Skinner till lunch time. Passed a school of small whales on port side. In afternoon, Bob, Colin & I sat in sunny spot at stern of ship. Sea calm. Dutch liner drew up level during afternoon. After tea wrote to Edna.

Had shave; put watch back 1 hour & went to bed.

Wednesday, 17th. Sept.

Up at 5.15 A.M. Had a hot sea-water bath. Went for walk on deck. Overcast but mild; sea calm. Dutch liner to starboard warship Achilles out in front. Company parade from 9.15 till 11.45 A.M. P.T. on deck.

On parade again at 2 p.m.

Had skipping, tug-o-war & games on deck. Good fun. Sky still overcast, sea a bit "jobbly".

To bed 9.30 P.M.

Thursday, 18th. Sept.

Up at 5.15 A.M. shaved & dressed.
On deck till breakfast. Convoy
changed formation, as a 3 funnell
Australian cruiser (camouflaged)
a one funnell liner joined us
Dutch vessel now on port side.

At 10 A.M. had "dangle-parade" on
B deck. At 11 A.M. had an Air-R
alarm, followed by emergency boat sta
alarm. Sea very calm, sky overcast.
Land sighted on starboard quarter.

1.15 P.M. Beautiful & sunny. Sea very
smooth. Smoke on horizon starboard side.
Had route-march on deck with
pipe-band: great fun especially
the "about-turns". Beautifully sunny
& clear sky in afternoon. Wrote
to Edna in evening. Saw displ
of "Aurora Australis" from B deck.

Johan Van Oldenbarnevelt.



Retarded watch half
an hour.

Friday, 19th Sept.

Up at 5 A.M. Sea very calm. Land in sight 8 or 10 miles away on starboard side. Mountainous, with islands off shore. Probably Tasmania. If so, we are passing to south. Australian warship in front, 3 liners in line astern. Paravanes out since last evening. Plane flies across our front about a mile away. Orderly Corporal for the day. Went to R.A.P. on account of cold in the head. Inhaled a concoction with towel over head. Spent morning in Orderly Room, assisting black. Land seen earlier in morning was Australia.

By noon, stiff N.W. wind blowing, sea rising. After dinner,

came up with two funnelled Cruiser & two funnelled liner.

H.M.S. Achilles must have returned to N.Z. Three funnelled cruiser also left the convoy. Land still in sight - low lying. Had a "handle" in wet canteen with Bob & Colin.

Saturday, 20th Sept.

Up at 5 A.M. Fairly heavy sea. Other ships in convoy, bucking & plunging. Blowing hard from West. In morning, our Company was on fatigues for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

Wind increases in force; one funnelled steamer making heavy weather of it, taking tons of water over bows. The Aquitania a steady ship; decks wet with spray. At times the cruiser out in front, covered in spray. Seen no one sick yet today, on this ship. Had afternoon off. On deck, watching other ships. After tea, wrote to Edna's mother.

Sunday, 21st Sept.

Up at 6 A.M. Clear sky, wind South of West. Sea - heavy swell. On deck - saw ship take three waves over bow (Aquitania)

Fatigues for one hour in morning. Rest of day free. Read Library Book "The Woman at the Door" - Warwick Deeping.

Afternoon, stood at stern of ship. Great thrill as she rose & fell on waves. Heavy swell still running.

Wrote to Edna after tea. Put watch back half an hour. To bed 9.15 p.m.

Monday 22nd Sept.

Up at 5 A.M. Blowing a gale from S.W. Boats slowed up. Aquitania plunged quite a bit. Fatigues from 9-10. Read book "Dominion's Log" (Neill). Company parade at 2 P.M. on B deck. Played games. After tea, did some washing.

Blowing from S.W. all day. Heavy sea running. Conboy doing only about 4 knots. Great sight to see the warship "Sydney", plunging in the waves.

To bed 9.30 P.M.

Tuesday, 23rd Sept.

Up at 5 A.M. Strong wind still blowing, sea moderated a little since yesterday. Sun trying to break through. Fatigues from 9-10.

Parade at 2 p.m. Got new book at library "Exiles" (Warwick DePuy). Route march on deck. Great fun, as vessel pitched. Went to talkies with Bob & Colin. On deck for half-an-hour before going below. Supper - Bob, Colin & I. (Peanuts, fruit - apple & biscuits)

Bed 10 P.M.
(Put watch back $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.)

Wednesday, 24th. Sept.

Up at 5.15 A.M. Wind - light
S.W. Sea much calmer, mod-
erate swell; sky overcast.

Fatigues from 9th 10.

Company speeded up. Have
been travelling very slowly for
four days. Not expected
to arrive Fremantle till
Friday morning.

Company parade in boots from
2 till 4 p.m.

Sea much calmer.

Went with Bob & Colin to Concert
by artillery - very good.

Read book "Exiles" before
bed. Put watch back half
an hour.

Thursday, 25th Sept.

Up at 5 A.M. Sea calm,
wind - fresh Westerly, sky -
blue, clouds near horizon.

Rising sun on starboard side,
must be travelling North.

Fatigues from 9-10. One Lockheed
Hudson "Bomber" flew over ship.
"Amphibians" from H.M.A.S. Sydney
took off. Sydney laid smoke
screen. Aircraft signal sounded
11 A.M. Took 10 minutes to get up to
Boat station. changed library.

back at 12 p.m. "The Edge of Reason"
by Phillip Gibbs. Not feeling too
well - headache & cold in the
head.

In afternoon, parade on
deck. Plane flew over ship.

Land sighted on starboard
quarter at 4.15 P.M. Agquitania
left rest of convoy behind
& speeded up. Passed a
mine-sweeper at 4.5 P.M.
Arrived Fremantle at 6 P.M.
Low lying town, breakwater
harbour, oil tanks.

Pretty sight at night. No black-
-out, city a blaze of lights.
Water-tanker, official
launch party, lighters etc.
came out.

Went to pictures with Bob
& Colin. Up on deck
afterwards. Not feeling too
well. Took 2 aspirins & went
to bed.

Friday 26th. Sept.

Up at 5.15 A.M. Lying about
a mile off Fremantle. Three
other ships of convoy in
harbour. Everyone disappointed
- no shore leave. Fatigues
from 9-10. Sky - blue sky & clouds,
fresh westerly wind. Alarm
signal at 11.15 A.M. Rushed to
boat stations. Reached there
much quicker this time.

In afternoon, drew two sketches
of bed "lay-out" for "B" Company.
After tea, did some washing.
Went to Concert by Northern
Infantry with Bob & Colin.
To bed, 9.30 P.M.

Saturday 27th. Sept.

Up at 5.15. Shave & bath.

On deck at 6 A.M. Sunny & calm. Oil tanker "Kuorimba" drew alongside at 7 A.M.

Company parade at 9 A.M.

Parade also in afternoon.

Watched water-tanks along-side Aquitania.

In late afternoon, two transports came out of harbour & anchored near us.

Evening calm. Fremantle a blaze of lights.

To bed 9.30 P.M.

(Issued with Identity Discs today.)

Sunday 28th. Sept.

Up at 5.15 A.M. Calm morning

- fresh - no wind. On deck leaning over rail, looking at the shore. Two other transports still moored as last evening.

Left Fremantle at 9.30 A.M. Beautiful morning, sea calm & blue. Bob, Colin & I went up to Boat Deck.

- gorgeous view. Stripped off & sunbathed. After dinner got new library book "Old Wine & New (Deeping)" lay on deck & read with Colin. Sea deep blue & lovely. Lockheed-Skinner bomber flew past ships.

Evening; on deck for an hour with Bob & Colin. Wrote to Edna. Supper of peaches, pineapple & biscuits.

Monday, 29th Sept.

Up at 5.15. Saw sun rise out of a calm sea. Clear sky - few clouds near horizon.

Parade on deck, 9 to 11.30.

Sun bathed with Colin & Bob till 12.30 p.m. Sea - deep blue, foam from ship's bows, pure white, sky - cloudless.

Afternoon free, except for kit inspection.

On deck, gazing over ship's rail, thinking of Edna & Pamela. Getting warmer, after tea on deck with Bob. Still warm. Sky clear, sea calm. Some companies sleeping on deck.

To bed 10 p.m.

Tuesday, 30th Sept.

Up at 5.15 A.M. On deck at 6 A.M. Sea beautifully calm, sky cloudless. Sun rose like ball of gold at 6.15. Parade from 9 to 11.30. Saw flying fish, small shoals of them, appeared to be only 6 or 8 inches long. Joined one in flight - 15 seconds fly only an inch or so above water. Sea like glass by noon. Sunbathed with Colin before lunch. Parade from 2 to 4. Handle of beer in canteen before tea. Evening - went to concert (Navy Boys). Slept on B. deck with Colin & Bob.

Wednesday 1st Oct, 1941.

Up at 5 A.M. Tied blankets back to cabin. Wore shorts all day. Very hot. Swam in sea-water baths at 1.30.

Sun-bathed at lunch time. Sea very calm. Sky, cloudless.

Saw many flying fish. In evening, went to pictures with Bob & Colin. Very warm. Some Com-panies sleeping on deck. I slept below on G. deck. Very hot - slept in the nude with fan on.

Thursday, 2nd Oct.

Up at 5 A.M. Sea still very calm. Weather getting hotter. "Emergency boat-stations!" drill at 10.45 A.M. Flying boat from H.M.S. Sydney took off & flew for over an hour. Very hot having dinner (soup, meat, peas & potatoes; dried peaches.)

Not much work done on parade deck. Issued with orange each. After parade - had cold bath. Covered in perspiration. Shadow at mid-day - scarcely any at all. Must be near the equator.

Had cold bath before tea. Evening; handle of beer. Slept on deck.

Friday 3rd. Oct., 1941

Up at 5.30. Sea smooth.
Two new cruisers joined us,
but "Sydney" left the convoy
with one funnelled steamer
(for Singapore) very hot today.
Swim in bath at 9 A.M. I
sun-bathed before lunch.
Scarcely any shadow. Boxing
on forward deck.

Very hot all day. Dressed
in shorts only. Perspired
freely.

Went to talkies in evening
with Colin & Bob.

Slept on A deck with Colin
- under the moon.

(Handed in air mail letter)
to Edna; 2/-, from Edombo.)

Saturday 4th Oct.

Up at 5 A.M. Cloudy but
very warm. Rain shower
about 9 A.M.

Had shower under hose
on deck at 10.30.

Rain cleared off, rest of day
cloudy.

At 4.30 P.M. the escorting
cruiser H.M.S. Glasgow drew
up alongside ship & band
played a selection of tunes.
Squintania had quite a list
on, due to everyone being on star-
board side. Colin, Bob & I had
2 handles each on deck.

Slept on deck with
nothing on.

Sunday, 5th. Oct.

Up at 5.15. Shave + cold bath. No parade today. Very hot - covered in perspiration.

Read book "The Anxious Days" by Philip Gibbs.

Sunbathed on A deck. Saw small bird fluttering about deck - much like a swallow. Cold bath before dinner.

Sunbathed on boat-deck (aft) with Colin in afternoon.

Evening; retarded watch half-an-hour.

Slept on deck (A.)

Monday 6th. Oct.

Up at 5.15 A.M. Passed equator during the night. Cloudless day - sea calm. Perspired freely all day. A.A. gunners on Aquitania given practice in shooting at a kite towed behind H.M.S. Glasgow which drew up alongside. In afternoon gunnery practice 2 two 4" guns on stern of ship. Shots fired at smoke target laid by H.M. S. Glasgow. Guns shook ship, terrific blast. Had swim in baths.

Tuesday, 7th. Oct.

Up at 5.15 A.M. Blowing fairly hard. Still hot, but wind cool.

Sea, choppy.

Got new library book "The Bride of Palomar" - Peter B. Kyne.

In afternoon, issued with 14 rupees (21/-) to be used in Colombo. Expected to arrive tomorrow morning.

Went to pictures with Bob & Colin "Kid Galahad." Slept on deck.

Wednesday, 8th. Oct.

Up at 5 A.M. Baylon in sight. Aquitania went on ahead. Dozens of native sailing craft outside harbor. Breakwater harbour - full of ships moved to buoys. Smoke haze over harbour.

Palm trees behind buildings on foreshore. Slept. Entered harbour at 7.45 A.M. Twenty to thirty overseas freighters at anchor. Vessels moved to buoys. The two Dutch liners (troop carriers) entered harbour at 9 A.M. also H.M.S. Glasgow - our escort. Another

three funnelled cruiser in
port.

I have leave at Colombo
from 12 till 6 p.m. Sultry
heat. Had most interest-
-ing day. Taken to shore
in passenger ferries hold-
-ing from 100 to 200 persons.
Marched from wharf to
Barracks, through city.
Many strange sights.
Bullocks drawing big carts.
rickshaws, etc. &
Many fine stone build-
-ings.

Dismissed from barracks
at 12.30.

Bob, Colin, Trevor & I
walked to Anzac Canteen

for lunch. After that
were taken for bus ride
to Temple (took boots
& hats off.) Then to Mount
Lavinia. Then to Zoo.
Excellent zoo; snakes,
lions, tigers, elephants,
zebras, crocodiles etc. -
Ride free. Bought
Edna hand, washed
supper cloth (2 rupees)
(Our allowance for day
was 14 rupees, or 21/-)
Returned to Barracks at
4.15. On board again
by 6 p.m.
Slept on deck. Rain set
in during the small hours
of morning.

Thursday, 9th. Oct., 1941.

Up at 5 to 5 A.M. Raining.
Rain ceased about 8.30 A.M.
Spent the day ashore at
Colombo with Bob & boline.
Ashore from 10.30 till 5.45.
Rain cleared off before
noon. Marched from getty
to Barracks & dismissed.
Walked to Canteen
for sandwiches & cool drink.
Served by white (English)
married ladies. (A few
single ones.)

Very hot: perspired
freely. Seventeen big
electric fans going in
canteen.
Walked around the

Fort area (Shopping
centre)

Bought & posted to Edna
pair of silk stockings
from Millie's Emporium.
(Very up to date shop,
similar to D. J. C. of
Christchurch.) Visited also
Cook's Travels Building.
Went to roof of Grand
Occidental Hotel for
view of city. Very big
hotel of six storeys.
Ball-room with orchestra
& 27 electric fans.

Visited "Gem Museum",
& also Anglican Church
(part of the Garrison).
Had fortune told

by Indian in Botanical
Gardens (Palm reading).
Very accurate as regards
my character.

Walked around the streets
of the Fort Area. Felt sorry
for rickshaw-men. Couldn't
bring myself to be pulled
around by some miserably thin
native. Rickshaws have
bells & lamps.

Rested for half an hour in
rest-room at Muller's.

Walked to Garrison parade
ground. Marched to getty &
returned to Aquitania by
6 P.M. Had 2 handles of beer
at wet canteen. Slept on
deck.

Friday 10th. Oct. 1941

Up at 5 A.M. Shave & cold
bath as usual. Sunny day.
Dutch troopship departed
at 6 A.M. & waited outside
harbour. Many small native
rowing boats laden with wares
(ibong elephants, cigars, book-
ends etc.) came alongside
ship. Goods hauled up in
bags tied to rope. Exorbitant
prices asked. e.g. 15 rupees
for fruit-bowl. Reduced
after much talk to 4 rupees.

We lifted anchor at 10
to 9, preceded by the
other Dutch liner & followed
by H.M.S. Glasgow.
Sea calm, slight breeze.

Sun - bathed before lunch.
hot legs burned.

Evening - swotted up lecture
for tomorrow (Gas & protect-
ion against it)

Slept on deck.

Saturday, 11th Oct., 1941.

Up at 5.30 A.M. Sea beauti-
- fully calm. Convo. making
good speed (15 knots).
Gave lecture to No. 4 Platoon
on "Gas in Warfare" at 10.10.
Air-raid alarm at 10.45.
Swim in baths also in
morning.

In afternoon, had games
& running on deck. Issue
of limes juice. Our Com-
- pany had $\frac{1}{2}$ hour's
boxing. I boxed Tom
Duffey (2 rounds). Very
hot work.

Slept on deck. Retarded
watch half-an-hour.

Sunday, 12th. Oct.

Up at 5.45 A.M. Sea calm.

No parade today.

Sunbathed on A deck.

Amphibian plane from
H. M. S. Glasgow flew around
ship, very close. Crew waved
to us; bare torsos.

Had a sleep on deck in
afternoon. Wrote letter to
Mum. Saw smoke on
horizon. Warship went to inves-
tigate.

In evening, noticed very
bright star in S.W. sky,
low down.

Slept on deck.

Retarded watch half-an-hour.

Monday, 13th. Oct.

Up at 3 A.M. (by mistake)
Slept in mess-room till 5
A.M.

Sunny day - sea beautifully
calm. Saw plane launch
in mid-air from H. M. S.
Glasgow.

Issue of lime juice & orange
in morning. In afternoon
issued with "Field Dressing".
Wore boots on parade
today.

Slept on deck. Retarded
watches half-an-hour.

Tuesday, 14th. Oct.

Up at 5.30 A.M. Sea beam-
tifully calm.
Issued with lime-juice
+ orange.

Sun-bathed in lunch
hour.

Had "dangle - parade" on
B deck in afternoon.

Had hose down.

Evening - went to talkies.

"The Saint in New York."

Retarded watch half
an hour. Slept on deck.
Cooler than previously.

Wednesday, 15th. Oct.

Up at 5.30. Sea very calm.
Handed in to Orderly Room,
sandals.

Sunbathed before dinner.

Cruiser sailed past, close
to ship at 4.30, to say
"farewell".

Must be near entrance
to Red Sea now. Sailing
west. Our ship lay a
smoke screen during man-
-oeuvres.

Washed clothes after tea.
Hot work - covered in pers-
-piration & only dressed in
bathing shorts.

Slept on deck. Retarded
watch half-an-hour.

Thursday, 16th Oct.

Very hot night. Up at 5 A.M.
Sea - very smooth.

Cruiser left us at 7 A.M.
Our ship out in lead.

Saw a swallow flying
about the ship; settled on
deck. Put grease on rifles,
to be stored away. Had those
down. Issued with lime.

juice & biscuit. Saw land
on starboard quarter at 11 p.m.
High mountainous island.
May be Perim.

Very hot in mess-room at
dinner time. Lost several
pints of sweat.

In afternoon, issued with
tins of pineapple (1 tin

to 3) & tobacco.

About 3 p.m. we changed
course & returned in
direction we came.

Rumour has it "all shipping
in Area B to return to
Aden, on account of
mines" at entrance to Red
Sea."

Land now on Port side
Several vessels seen on
horizon. One sailing vessel
- looks like an Arab
"Dhow".

Ship travelling fast. At
5 P.M. swung round on
to original course.

At 6 p.m. saw brilliant display
of lightning, above land on

starboard side. The land seen during the day appeared to consist of three fairly large islands with smaller islands in between. All very barren.

Very hot & oppressive on deck. Slept in the mids; too hot even then. Passed a light-house on starboard side about 9.30 P.M.

Friday, 17th. Oct.

Up at 5.30 A.M. Sea like glass. Cold water bath was warm. Sky cloudless. Travelling slightly west of North. Two other transports out of sight. This ship travelling at over 20 knots.

Passed barren island on port side at 7.30 A.M.

Saw other steamers in sight. At 10 A.M. while looking over ship's rail, saw a big sea-bird swoop down upon a small bird, seized it in its claws & flew up to cross-trees on bow mast. Then it plucked the small bird & ate it.

Emergency boat stations at
10.45. Not work!

For dinner, had tin of fruit
salad + tin of pineapples; Bob
+ Colin also. In afternoon,
issue of lime juice. Sing
song on deck. Sea as
smooth as glass - wouldn't
have believed it had I
not been here to see it.
Sea is dark blue, too -
not red.

Evening - to bed early.
Slept on deck.

Saturday, 18th. Oct.

Up at 5.30 A.M. Breeze
from North. Weather cooler.
About time too.

Issued with lime juice
tin of peaches, cigarettes.
Passed one or two cargo
vessels.

At 6.30 p.m. saw land on
port side. Mountains.
Lighthouse also.

Slept on deck. Cool.

~~Took kit bags on deck at 8 A.M.
Large number of ships in
port (Suez apparently).
Twelve barrage balloons flying
(floating) above harbour.
We anchored about a mile
from shore. Land on both~~

Sunday, 19th. Oct.

Up at 10 to 5. Land in sight. Dressed in battle dress. Hilly, barren land to port.

Took kit-bags on deck at 8 A.M.

Large number of ships in port.

(Suez apparently). Twelve barrage balloons floating above harbour, sun glinting off them.

We anchored about a mile from shore. Barren land on both sides. Hilly on port (West) side - not a single tree.

Oil-tanker left port with balloon flying above it. Armed merchant cruiser came into port (camouflaged). (Have just learned that this is Port Tewfik.) Soldiers going

ashore in lighters. Sky cloudless. Were paid 11 (Egyptian) equal to 100 piastres at 10 P.M.

We left the Aquitania at noon, carrying our big kit & sea kit. Given at 4 inch meat sandwich & an apple. Taken to shore in lighter, whole of our Company on one vessel. Distance to shore about 2 miles. Saw troopship "Georgic" lying aground near shore (Bunked & set on fire some months ago.)

Landed & marched a hundred yards to train. Given mug of tea & a cake.

Egyptians very poor looking people, clothed in dirty rags. No idea of sanitation.

just squat in the open
in view of passers by.
Travelled in 3rd. class
carriages. Passed
through miles of desert
country with occasional
areas of green vegetation
& cultivation; in size
& date palms. Passed a
big prison camp (Italian)
just outside Jerfih. Rows & rows of
tents behind barbed wire.
Passed six or eight aerodromes
beside railway. Saw many
Wellington bombers on ground.
Saw 16 Hurricane fighters
flying in formation.
Passed more prison camps.
Several stops at wayside

stations. Crowds of men & child-
ren asking for "backsheesh."
Some came through train
selling cheap jewellery, cigar-
ettes, peanuts, chocolates.
"Very nice, very sweet, very
O.K."

Didn't reach Cairo till 8.45
P.M. Many search-lights
sweeping sky.

Delayed in Cairo till 12 p.m.
Reached Moadi Camp at
1 A.M. Tea & mess. Shown to
tent by M.C.O., (Cpl. Gray -
who has been through Greece &
Crete.) 9 in our tent.
To bed at 2.45 A.M., feeling
very tired.

Monday 20th. Oct.

Up at 7 A.M. Sky cloudless.
Wash + shave. Breakfast at 8 A.M.
Nothing but sand in all directions. Sun not too hot.

"Dangle-parade" in morning.
Mess-room in a tent.
From here, can see the pyramids in the distance.

Bob, Colin + I are in tent C.3. We are now in C. Company.

In afternoon, handed in pay books.

In evening, walked to Y.M.C.A. & Canteen.
Got library book from Y.M.C.A.

To bed 9.30 P.M.

Tuesday, 21st. Oct.

Up at 6 A.M.

Issued with puttees + stockings. Sunny day.

Began digging ground to lower level of floor of tent.

In afternoon, went to theatre for lecture on "Cairo & its temptations."

Received letter from Edna.
Had shower after tea.
Went to Y.M.C.A. with Colin + Bob.

To bed 10 P.M.

Wednesday, 22nd Oct.

Up at 5.45 A.M.

Received note from Paddy, asking me to meet him tonight.

Had T.O.F.T. Test this morning. Did well.

In afternoon, received rifle.

After tea called on Paddy in his cubicle. Spent evening with him. Heard experiences in Greece.

To bed 9.45.

Thursday 23rd Oct.

Up at 5.45. Sunny as usual. Never rains here.

In morning, had rifles zeroed. ^{try} Fired 5 shots. Did well.

In afternoon excavated ground in tent.

Issued with 50 cigarettes.

Hot shower. Letter from Edna.

After tea, went with Bob & beline to Lowry St. Met Adrian Sparks & Mylton Drummond there. Wrote to Edna.

Friday, 24th. Oct.

Up at 5.45.

Rifle inspection.

Route march to Maadi

Tent. Beautiful spot amid green trees & palms. Had rest there & drink of orange. Went on to residential area.

Received two letters from Edna & one from her brother.

Pay parade. 100 piastres.

Evening - wrote to Mum.

Supper with Colin at Church Army H.Q.

Saturday, 25th. Oct.

Up at 5.30.

Drafted into new Companies according to ability.

I am in C Company (Leading Coy). Colin is in D Coy & Bob in F.

Our Coy. went for march to top of hill; saw eleven pyramids, Nile River etc.:-

In afternoon, Bob, Colin & I went to Y.M.C.A. & wrote letters.

In evening, went to talkies at Shaftes Theatre. (Jamaica Inn.)

Sunday, 26th Oct.

Church parade at 9 A.M.
on parade ground.

In afternoon, went
to Maadi tent & town-
ship by bus, with Colin
& Bob.

Walked to edge of Nile.
Had tea at Maadi
tent. Saw 12 white
camels.

Home by bus at 8.30.

Monday 27th. Oct.

On Bren gun all
day. Letter from Mum
(No. 4)

Tuesday 28th Oct.

Shooting on the range
with Bren machine guns
in morning.

Instruction in Bren A. A.
mounting in afternoon.

Wednesday, 29th Oct

Saw Flying Boat (4 engines)
fly over Camp before
breakfast - heading S.W.

Thursday 30th. Oct.

Up at 5.30. Parade & march
past of whole camp (about
7000.) before General Auchinleck
on area behind Lowry.
Went at 9 A.M.

On fatigues at Officer's mess
for lunch & dinner.

Changed library book at
Y.M.C.A.

Colin called for supper at
my hut.

Friday 31st. Oct.

Up at 5.30. Route march
to Maadi town, back via
Maadi tent. Stopped for
drink & cakes. Very interesting
walk - 8 miles, along Nile's
bank.

Issued with water bottles, tin
hat, respirator, mess-tin.

In evening, went to pictures
with Bob & Colin "Men with
Wings".

Supper at Y.M.C.A.

Saturday, 1st Nov 1941

Battalion parade at 8 A.M.

On leave to Cairo in afternoon
with Bob & Colin. Most interesting.
Went to Maadi by bus at 2.30 p.m.

Caught diesel train to Cairo.

Walked to N.3. Forces Club.
Saw & spoke to Audrey
Holdgate of "Simon" (N.W.A.S.)
Went by "gari" to see temple.
Saw at N.3. forces Club.

after tea, saw Audrey again.

Walked to Berket saw
prostitutes. Disgusted.

Had supper near Sheppards
Hotel. Steak too tough to
cut or eat.

Returned by train 11.45 P.M.

Sunday, 2nd Nov. 1941.

Church parade at 9 A.M.

Very hot day. 100° in shade.

Went with Colin by bus
to Maadi in afternoon.

Bought Xmas cards.

Tea at Maadi Inn.

Lovely in shade of trees.

Walked back to Camp

at 7.30. Stopped at

Y.M.C.A. for supper.

Monday, 3rd. Nov. 1941.

Am Cook. House fatigues.
Letter from Edna & one
from Mum. Wrote to
Edna.

Tuesday. 4th. Nov. 1941

Rifle shooting on range.
100 yds. 200 yds. & 300 yds.
Very hot day. Felt very
thirsty.

At 4.30 p.m. went on
leave to Cairo. Caught bus
to Maadi & train from
there.

Had dinner at N.Z. Forces
Club. met Bob at 7 p.m.
Had talk with Audrey.
Walked with Bob to see
shops. Visited the "Berke" &
out of curiosity. Disgusted.
To Station by "gari".
Home at 10.15 p.m.

Wednesday 5th. Nov.

Felt sick - diarrhoea.
Went to R. A. P. Took
castor oil. On F.D. all
day. ate no breakfast
or dinner. Had rice soup
of tea for tea.
Walked over to see
Paddy. Wrote to him.

Thursday 6th. Nov.

Felt better today.
Went to Y. M. C. A. after
tea with Bob & Colin.
Listened to Band Concert.
Changed library book.
"The Flutes of Shanghai"
by Louise Golden Wilson.

Friday 7th. Nov.

Pay day. 100 piastres
(1 Egyptian pound
= 100) 1-0-7

Hot day. Witnessed
mortars (3 inch) firing
live bombs across
valley.

Bad cold in head.
In evening - went to
Church Army with
Colin.

Saturday, 8th. Nov.

Went on leave to Cairo
with Colin, from 1 p.m.
Visited Dead City. Went
through here en route to Cairo
by bus. Visited Museum of
Hygiene. Bought Edna
a leather hand bag &
Panola a leather toy camel.
Dinner at N.Z. Forces Club.
Saw Audrey.
Home early at 8 p.m.

Sunday 9th. Nov.

Chorch parade 9 A.M.
in Pall Mall Theatre.
Much cooler today.
Wind blowing from North.

Went to Meadi with
Cohin for tea.

Ride home in truck.

Attended song service
at Y.M.C.A.

Supper.

Monday 10th. Nov.

Much cooler today.

Route marches in battle
order up desert.

Saw Hurricane fighter
that had made forced
landing.

Went on Julyang
Picket at 5 P.M.

Tuesday, 11th Nov.

Armistice Day.

Our Company on duty.
Our Infantry picked all day.

Much cooler. In battle dress for tea.

Went to Y.M.C.A. in evening.

Saw picture: "Rank, Name & Number."

Supper.

Wednesday, 12th Nov.

At the Abbassia Range for shooting practice.
Went by Army Trucks (4). Interesting trip.
saw new sights of Cairo.
Passed Citadel.
Aerodrome at Abbassia.
all sorts of planes.
Fired 30 rounds, in battle order: bayonet fixed. & in gas masks.
Back in Camp at 2.30.

Thursday, 13th Nov.

Route march & field craft
on plateau in morning.
Night manoeuvres at
same place.

Back at 9.15 p.m.

Coffee & biscuits with
Cohn in my hut.

Friday 14th Nov.

Wet & picked all day.
Wrote to Mum &
Nancy Monat.

In evening went to
Ball Hall Theatre with
Bob & Cohn to see pictures.
Supper at Church Colony.

Saturday, 15th Nov.

Company Runners from
7.30 till 6 p.m.
Pictures with Bob &
Colin at Pall Mall.

Sunday, 16th Nov.

Windy & dusty.
Church Parade: Pall Mall
Theatre: 8 A.M.
To Maadi with Colin for
tea at Maadi Tent
Returned to Y. M. C. A.
at 7.30.
Changed library book.
"Savla John" - by Warwick
Deering.
Supper.

Monday, 17th. Nov.

Letter from Edna & Mum.
Photos also of Pamela
& Edna.

Evening - night work.
Back at 9.15 P.M.

Tuesday, 18th. Nov.

March past in morning.
visit by Mr. Jordan, High
Commissioner.

Went to Magdi for tea
& evening. Wrote to
Edna & Mum.

Wednesday, 19th. Nov.

Route march & manoeuvre
by our platoon (No. 2)

Bought 4 oranges from
"Wog" when having a
"smoke-o."

In afternoon, played
basket-ball in C. Coy
team against Central
Infantry. We won by
4 goals to 3. I scored
3 goals.

In evening went to
pictures with Bob, Jeannette
& Donald & Helen & Eddy
in "Sweethearts."

Thursday, 20th. Nov.

Route march of 10 miles
in morning. Spent
"Gyppo" prison, into Maadi
& home via Meadi
Jen.

afternoon: bayonet
practice.

Letter from Edna.

Evening: went to Y.M.C.A.

Wrote to Edna.

He & Bob listened
to band concert.

N.B. Western Desert
"push" has begun (Tuesday)

Friday, 21st Nov., 1941.

Our going to Prison of War
Camp at Helwan for Guard
Duty postponed.
Route march to Plateau
in afternoon.

After tea, called on Paddy
at his cubicle. Had 2
hours chat.

To Y.M.C.A. for supper
with Bob & Colin.

Saturday, 22nd Nov., 1941.

Dangle Parade at 10 A.M.

In afternoon, went on leave with
Colin & Bob to Cairo & Pyramids.
Best days outing yet. Went
inside big pyramid to Kings
& Queens Chambers. Colin & I
climbed to top. Took snaps.
Saw the Sphinx also. Pyramid
= 250 paces along one side of base.
Covers 13-14 acres.

Tea at N.Z. Forces Club. Saw &
spoke to Sunday.

Went to Concert at "Music for All"
Concert Hall. Very good. Lady
violinist from S. Africa excellent.
Played songs my mother taught me.
(Dvorak) & Liebesliebe (Kreisler)
Home at 1 A.M.

Sunday, 23rd. Nov. 1941.

Fatiguees - Swill Picket at
Officers Mess.

Wrote 10 pages to Mum.
At 5 P.M. went with Colin
to Maadi Tent for tea.
Back to Y.M.C.A. at
8.30.

Changed library book.
Returned to hut & packed
for morning.

Monday 24th Nov.

Left Maadi Camp at 8 A.M.
(C. Company) for Prisoner of
War Camp at Helwan.
Took all our gear. Travelled
in Army trucks. Reached
Camp at 9 A.M.

Billeted in tent. I am on
Escort Guard Duty.
Italians in Camp. Many
of them walking about doing
jobs. Prisoners wait upon
us at Mess. V. good food.
e.g. Lunch - Block of minced
meat & gravy; soup; bread &
marmalade, tea, cake of chocol-
ate, orange)
I was off duty all day. Tent
frequent.

Tuesday, 25th. Nov. 1941.

Up at 6 A.M. On duty from 9.30 till 11.20, escort to 6 Italian prisoners (working party). One asked me how many children he had. Said he had 4. He spoke French as well.

Had hot shower in afternoon. At 5 p.m. went on guard duty outside camp till 7.20 p.m. (Prowling guard.) On again from mid-night till 2 A.M. To bed 2.15. Called out at 2.30 as lights were switched out. On guard till 4 A.M. Back to bed.

Wednesday, 26th. Nov., 1941

Beautiful & sunny. Not on duty. Did some washing in morning.

After dinner, read book & wrote to Edna.

On escort duty from 2.30 till 4 p.m. watching 10 Italians over a tent. Bill Jordan (N.Z. High Commissioner) visited the camp. Spoke in French to prisoner called Joseph, 45 years old: has 4 children.

Thursday, 27th. Nov. 1941

On duty all day (escort duty)
Went on ration truck with 5
Italian prisoners to the S. African
Camp, 2 miles from here. Got
stores - sweet potatoes, mandarin,
macaroni, caniflowers, biscuits.

In afternoon, in charge of 3
Gippo workmen, from 1 till 4.30.

On duty as prowler, 10-12
4-6.

Friday, 28th. Nov. 1941

Leave for the day. Stayed
in camp till lunch time.
Paid in afternoon. Went
to Helwan (Helouan). Got
ride in truck. Visited the
"Japanese Gardens" - very
unusual. Afternoon tea
at "The Homestead." met
Jim & Bob there. Walked
to Kiwi Club. Bought Edna
a leather hand-bag.
Back to "The Homestead" for
tea. Walked around shops.
Bought wallet for photos.
Left back to Camp at 7pm.

Saturday, 29th Nov.

On relief all day.
No jobs.
After tea read book
"Jane Eyre" in
mess Room, with Howard
who wrote a letter.
Air-Raid warning about
8 P.M. Lights went out.
Not out for long.
To bed 9.30 P.M.

Sunday, 30th Nov.

On duty from 7.45 A.M.
Went with ration truck
to S. African Camp, with
4 Italian prisoners, in
morning.

In afternoon, read
"Jane Eyre."
Removed that Italian
& German prisoners arrive
tomorrow (from Western
Desert).

On duty from 7.20 till 9.40
P.M. - from 2 till 4 A.M.

Monday, 1st. Dec. 1941

Off duty from 6 A.M.

Read "Jane Eyre".

At 7 P.M. went on special duty - escort guard to about 1000 German prisoners from Lybia. Arrived by train (14 carriages - engine each end) at 7.30 P.M.

Our Escort Guard formed a single line on other side of train line - about 15 yards between us.

Prisoners - a poor looking lot. Many quite young - about 18 years with scarcely a whisker. Prisoners all off by 8.30 P.M. Mug of tea & biscuits: then to bed.

Tuesday; 2nd. Dec. 1941.

On Escort Duty from 7.45 A.M. Guarded 12 hippos till 12 A.M. - digging deep trench for latrine.

In afternoon, several small escort jobs.

Sky cloudy - looked like rain.

Heard rumour that H.M.S. Sydney has been sunk - no survivors.

On duty - 9.40 till 12 p.m.

Slept till 4 A.M.

On duty: main gate from 4 till 6 A.M.

Wednesday, 3rd. Dec. 1941.

Packed kits in preparation for returning to Camp at Maadi. Our period of Guard Duty at this P.O.W. Camp has been curtailed.

Bought newspaper. Read of sinking of W.M.S. Sydney. Wrote to Mum in Canton.

We left P.O.W. Camp to return to Maadi Camp at 4 P.M. Arrived back in time for tea.

Mum, Bob & Colin after tea. Letter from Mum (no 2. sent surface mail in Sept.)

Bob left with R.A.P. for Hospital down the Canal.

Supper at N.C.A. at 7.30. Bed 9.30.

Thursday, 4th. Dec., 1941.

Cold morning first thing wore jersey. On range, shooting with Bren gun: 5 single shots & 3 bursts of 5.

Went for route march after shooting - about 8 miles.

Came to a deep gorge & walked down it in single file. Must have been a waterfall & river thousands of years ago.

In afternoon received letter from Edna & her mother: very happy.

Went to range again in B.M. party. Saw big engine bomber fly overhead.

After tea, walked to Y.M.C.A. & wrote to Edna.

Friday, 5th. Dec. 1941

Route march in Battle Order
(Water-bottle, web, respirator,
pack, tin-hat, rifle bayonet)
to top of escarpment
to N. E. of Camp. Stiff climb.
Wore respirators for 15 minutes
while we marched. A 2 engined
flying boat passed overhead.

Arr. Louis P. T. on return to
Camp. In afternoon, Pay.

Went to talkies at Shafto's
Theatre with Colin. Saw "The Earl
of Chicago."

Supper at N. M. C. A.

Saturday, 6th. Dec., 1941

Went on leave to Cairo
with Colin, Howard & Jim
Robbie

Climbed the Great Pyramid
at Giza & took 8 snaps with
Colin's camera.

Shown by guide over tomb of
ancient Egyptian Prime
Minister. Egyptian figures
carved in rock walls still very
clear; some of the carvings are
still in colour (blue & red.)

Tea at N. 3. Forces Club at
7 P. M.

afterwards Colin & I spent the
evening at the Music for All
Centre. Very enjoyable.

Back in Camp at 1 P. M.

Darling, I am sending
you my diary which is
now full. I have
bought another to continue
my news.

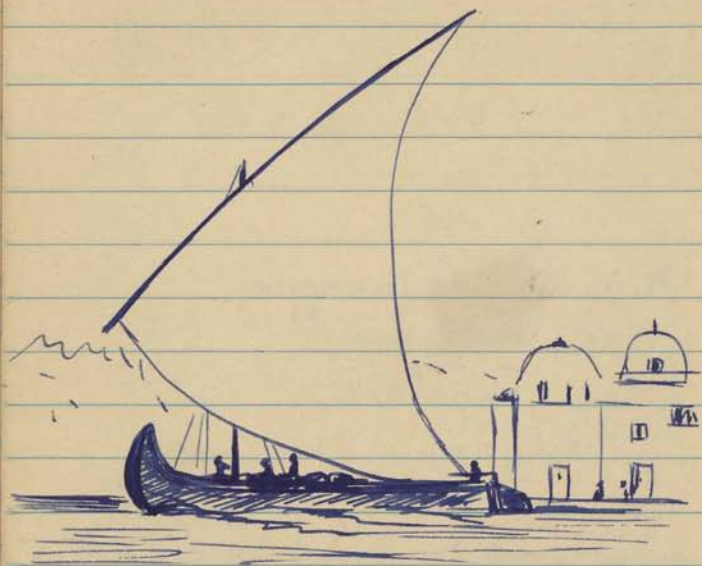
Love from Rewari



This is a photo of an Italian
Prisoner of War, Nicastro
Giuseppe of Benghazi.

I conversed with him in
French. He is 45 years of age,
& has 4 children. I gave
him cigarettes. Is going to
write to me after the war.
I showed him the photos of you
& Pamela.

Nicastro Giuseppe,
Viak Reggina,
Case Popolare,
Bengasi,
Lybia



Nile River Boat.

Egyptian Figures.

$$1 = 1$$

$$2 = \text{𐦢}$$

$$3 = \text{𐦣}$$

$$4 = \text{𐦤}$$

$$5 = 0$$

$$6 = \text{𐦥}$$

$$7 = \text{𐦦}$$

$$8 = \text{𐦧}$$

$$9 = \text{𐦨}$$

$$0 = \cdot$$

