

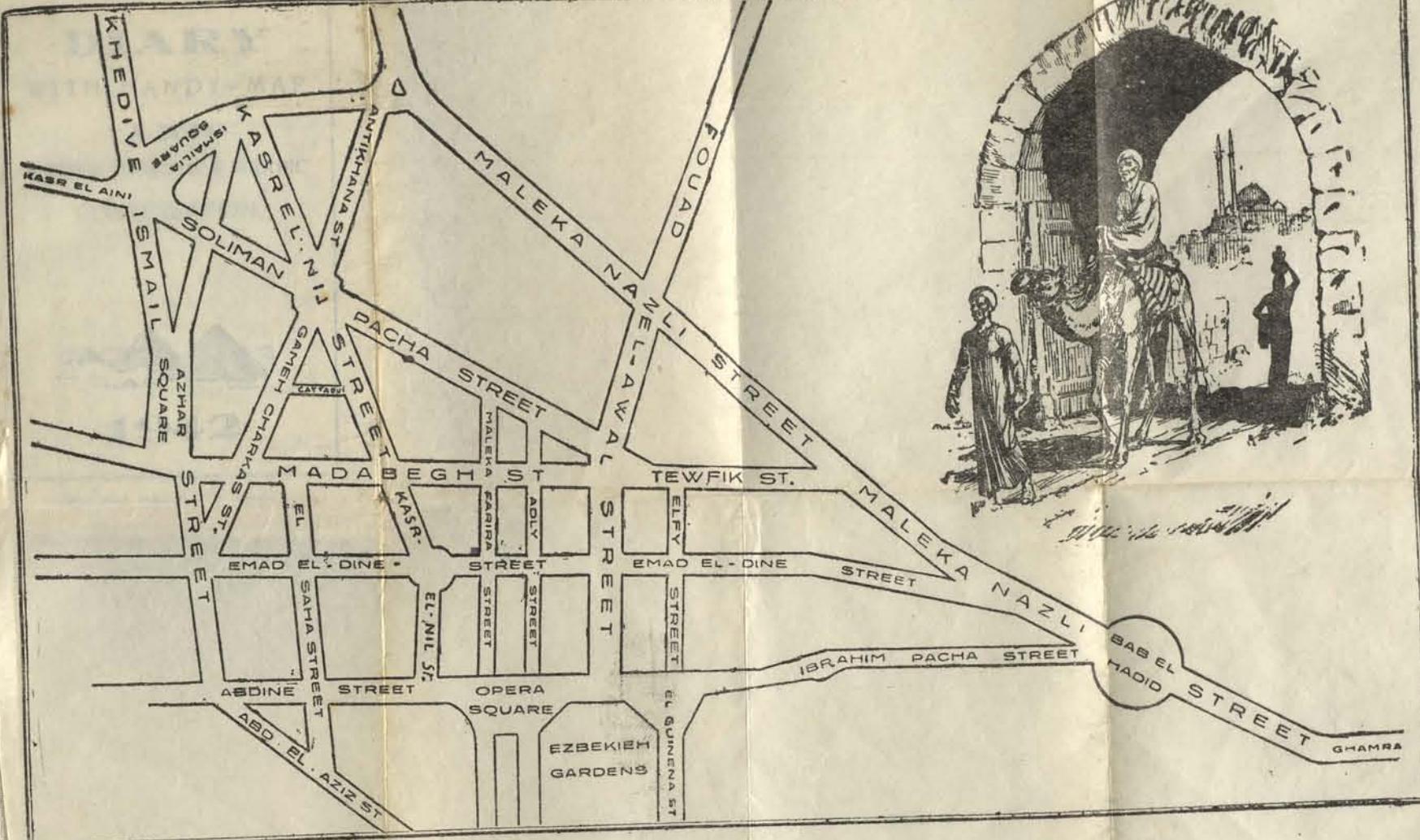


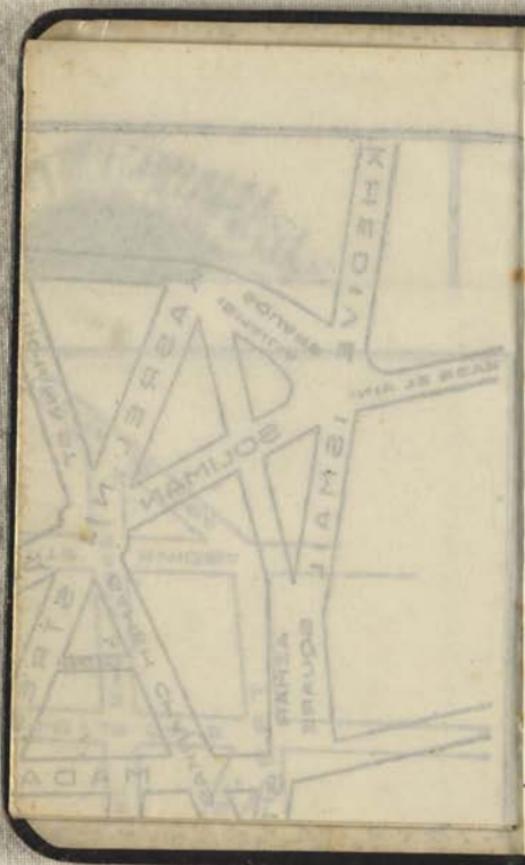
From Sunday 7 Dec, 1941
to Sat. 5 Dec. 1942

(Diary for Dec. 1941 is
at end of this book.)

Pte. R.T. Street
19088

26 N.Z.Bn.
(I. Sec.)





DIARY
WITH HANDY - MAP
AND
USEFUL ENGLISH & ARABIC
CONVERSATION



1942

IMP. THE PRINCE, T. 50614

PER

Name

Address

Date

Time

Weather

Notes

Food

Drinks

Entertainment

Work

Exercise

Reading

Relaxation

Personal

Business

Other

Total

50 P. T.

100 F. T.

Khamseen Ersh, or Nuss - Guine.
Wahed - Guine, or Meet - Ersh,

Money:

Egyptian currency is based upon the English pound. One pound Egyptian is worth 20s / 6d sterling There are one hundred piastres in an Egyptian pound.

Here are the names for the various money values

'/2 P. T.	Ersh - Tarifa, or Tarifa.
1 P. T.	Ersh - Saagh, or Wahed Saagh
2 P. T.	Nuss - Franc, Ersheen - Saagh or Arbaa Tarifa
5 P. T.	Khamsa - saagh, or Wahed Shilling.
10 P. T.	Ashara - Saagh, Bariza, or Nuss Real
20 P. T.	Reál, or Eshreen - Ersh.
50 P. T.	Khamseen Ersh, or Nuss - Guine.
100 F. T.	Wahed - Guine, or Meet - Ersh,

PERSONAL MEMORANDA

Name

Address

Telephone No.

Motor Car No.

Wireless Licence due

Life Policy No.

Premium due

Fire Policy No.

Premium due

The Pyramids & Sphinx at Giza.

Need no introduction

Trams 14

Sakkara

Pyramids Tombs, and the Colossal Statues of Ramses II.

No. Trams or Buses

Zoological-Gardens (Ask for Ginen-Hayawariatt)

Sharia El Giza,

Tram 15

Busas 6-7

go slowly.
go to sleep.
I like to walk.
let us take a walk.
take this.
take this away.
look out.
listen.
bring me.
give me.
it is necessary.
it is not necessary.
mind your own
business.
who are you?
what is your name
what do you want
what is your work
I am obliged
you are mistaken
Good bye,

emshi bishwesh
rouh nam
ana aheb amshi
yalla nitmas'ha
khodd dah
sheel dah
khalli balak
essma-e (Dessma, oof pl)
hatt
eddini
lazem daroury
moush lazem
shoof shoghlaak

meen enta
esmak eih
enta awez eih
eih shoghlaak
ana mamnoon lake
enta ghaltan f'nob
ma-ass lamah

I am wrong
God forbid
come out
I come on foot
tell him to come
what do you say
are you free today
wait
wait for me
wait a little
what have you done
I have done nothing
it is warm
it is cold
it rains
that is better
what is your age?
close the window?
what is to be done
do you understand
I understand

ana ghaltan
la samah Allah
etla-e barra
ana geit mashi
ooloh yigee
enta bet-ol eih
enta fadi ennaharda
esstanna
esstanna-ni
esstanna shewaya
enta amalt eih
ma-amaltesh haga
eddonia harr
eddonia bard
eddonia bitmattar
dah ahssan
kam omrak
e-efel el shebbak
eih el amal
inta fahem
ana fahem

I do not understand
what do you want?
It is not my fault.
leave me alone.
I am in a hurry.
{ where have yon
been?
don't go away.
don't stir
he is a friend of.
mine.
what good is it ?
No doubt.
{ I can bear it no
longer.
who calls me ?
that is impossible.
don't be angry.

ana mosh fahem
awez eih
di mosh ghalteti
sebni wahdi
ana messta-egil
inta gay menen
matrohsh be-eed
matet-hayeghs
howa sahbi
we eih el faydah
min gheir shack
ma-adarsh
at-hammeloh tan
min biy nadini
deh mosh momken
matez-alsh

in the post office
where is the post
office? fein el bosta
where is the
telegraph office ? fein maktab el
where is the
letter-box ? fein sandook el
it is in the next
street. bosta
I want a post card,
give me a stamp.

Cab, omnibus, tram
cabman arbagi or ossta
are you disengaged enta fadi
yes, I am aywa ana fadi
drive me to the
station waddini lil mahatta
what is the fare?
one shilling.
no this is too
much kam el ogra
khamsa krosh
la, dah keteer
khaless

go, to the post office,
drive quickly.
stop, go on.
go to the left.
go to the right.
I wish to get out.
go back.
go straight on.
how much do you want?
half fare ticket.

Pyramids.
give me the rest of my mone

at the restaurant

restaurant
fried eggs
fried chips
a cup of coffee
a cup of tea
these eggs are hard

rooh lil bossta
soog awam
oaf, imshi
imshi shemalak
imshi yiminak
ana awez anzel
erga-e wara
imshi doghri
enta awez kam
noss tazkara
ahram
eddini elba-ee

give me the salt.
I have no appetite.
pass me the butter
(this butter is not
fresh
I take my breakfast
breakfast is ready.
ice cream.
when do you dine?
have you any nost?
(this towel is not
clean.

the time

what time is it?
it is late.
it is still early.
it is one o'clock
it is two
it is three
it is four
it is five

eddini el malh
ana ma-andeesh
nefs
nawelnt el zebda
el zebda di mosh
tazah
ana baftar
el fetoor gahez
dandoorma
emta hatetghadda
andekoo roosbeef
el foota dehmesh
nedifa

kam el sa-ah
elwa-et Met-akhar
lessa badry
el sa-ah wahda
etnein
< talata
< arba ah
< khamssa

it is six o'clock	el sa-ah setta
it is seven	« sab-ah
it is eight	« tamania
it is nine	« tess-ah
it is ten	« ashrah
it is eleven	« hedashar
it is twelve	« etnashar
it is ten past one	« wahda
it is a quarter past two	« we ashra
it is 20 past two	« etnein we
it is half past two	« robh
it is five to two	« etnein we
it is a quarter to two	« telt
it is 20 to two	« etnein we
it is only ten	« noss
	« etnein ella
	« khamsa
	« etnein
	« ella robh
	« etnein
	« ella telt
	el sa-ah ashra

it is not early.	eldonia mosh badtr
it is early.	el donia badri
my watch has stopped.	sa-atи wa-afet
mine-gains	sa-atи bet-addem
mine loses	sa-atи bet-akhar
 	health
how are you?	ezzayak
are you quite well.	enta sehhetak
 	kewayyessa
pretty well, thanks	kewayyessa khales
 	motshacker
I am very well	ana aal awi
I am not very well	ana mesh kewayys
I am ill	ana ayyan
I have a headache.	andi soda-e
I have caught cold	ana massakt bard
I want to see you.	awez ashoofk
send for the doctor	rooh hat el hakim
she has a bad cough	and eha kohha
	wehsha

do you sleep
well ?
where is the
chemist's ?

Useful expressions

On the right
On the left
in future
Now
Before
Gladly
How much
Like,
How
On this side
Inside
out side
exactly
here
never
there
better

enta bet-nam
kewayyess
fein ala-ee
agzakhana
ala el yemin
ala el shemal
fil mosta-ebal
delwa-t
abl, awam
bikol seroor
kam
mesl,zay
ezzay
meni el nahiah di
gowwah
barrah
tamam
hena
abadan
henak
ahsan

where
why
always
without
take this
I thank you
allow me
give me
send me
tell me
I understand
this way
that way
leave me alone
are you sure
Closed
wait for me
admission free
fixed price

fein
leih
dayman
bidoon, min gheir
khod di
ashkoark
essmah li
eddini
eb-at li
oolli
ana fahem
men hena
men henak
seebni wahdy
enta me takked
ma-efool
esstannan
eddikhool
magganan
ela tman mohaddad

Expressions

wonderful	ageeb
I am at your service	ana taht amrāk
go with safety.	ma-el-salama
you are welcome.	ahlan wasahlan
 	marhap
welcome to you.	ahlan bek
you have honoured	sharrafteni
you have	anesstena
 	shid helak
entertained	el shadd alla allah
be strong	El hamd lillah
in God I trust	Allah yebarek feek
praise be to God	balash awanta
God bless you	ensha allah
With pleasure	ashoofak bi kheir
God willing	
I shall see you back	balash awanta
safe.	dah al awi
 	zy el zift
stop this deceit,	
it is perfect,	
like pitch (Bad)	

When the apricots appear ?	fil mishmesh
as you desire	ala kefak
How wonderful	Eish. eish
strictly exact	Mazboot
a clever nice boy.	wad gad-awi
God forbid	be-eed el sharr
he is light-minded.	a-eloh taralali
he is wide-awake.	howwa ragel dayer
may you get up well	tessbah bi kheir
will you take the trouble.	kallef khatrak
please a cigarette.	etfaddal sigarah
please take a cup of coffee.	etfaddal ahwa
please take a cup of tea.	etfaddal shay
please go on.	etfaddal edkholl
please help yourself	etfaddal kol
please take.	etfadhal Khod

Useful Vocabulary
NUMBERS - EL AADAD

1	wahed	16	sittashar
2	etnein	17	sabaatashar
3	talata	18	tamantashar
4	arba-ah	19	tesaatashar
5	khamssa	20	eshreen
6	setta	21	wahedweeshreen
7	sabah	22	etnein
8	tamania	23	talata
9	tess ah	24	arba-ah
10	ashara	25	khamsa
11	hedashar	26	sitta
12	etnashar	27	sab-ah
18	talatashar	28	tamania
14	arbaatashar	29	tesskah
51	khamastashar	30	talateen

40	arba-een	600	sotomeyya
50	khameen	700	sobemeyya
60	saitteen	800	tomnomeya
70	sab-een	900	toossemeyya
80	tamaneen	1000	alf
90	tess-een	2000	alfein
100	meyya	10000	ashar-ta-laf
101	meyyawe wahed	20000	eshreen alf
110	" " ashrah	1000000	melyon
120	" " eshreen	first	el awel
130	" " talateen	second	el tani
200	metein	third	el talet
300	toltmeyya	fourth	el rabeh
400	roobemeyya	fifth	el khames
500	khoomsmeya	sixth	el satet
a fifth	khomss	seventh	el sabeh
a pair	gowz	eighth	el tamen
half-a-	dozen	ninth	el tasseh
dozen	nos dassta	tenth	el aasher
the	el akher		
last			

eleventh	el hidashar	the last	el akher
twelfth	el etnašhar		
twentieth	el eshreen	twice	maretein
thirteenth	el talateen	a dozen	dasta
half	noss	once	marra
part	hetta	quarter	robh
secondly	thanian	single	fard
all	koll	a third	telt
one by one	wahedwahed	twenty	eshrean
		thirty	salassin

fruits, flowers & vegetables

fawakeh,	zehoor	we khodrawat
apricots	mishmish	mandarine
almonds	loze	cucumber
apples	toffaah	chestnut
oranges	borto-an	beetroot
bananas	moze	roses
pears	kommetra	violet
dates	balah	pink
lemons	lamoon	jasmine
figs	teen	spinach

1942 (Baggush).

JANUARY

Thursday

1

First day of 1942.
Easy day. Read War Birds.
Windy day. Rain fell in
evening. On road duty
directing traffic, from 10:30 till
7 P.M.

Supper at dug-out. Soup
(tomato), biscuits, Tongues,
peaches & pineapple.
(Letter from Mum - No. 14)

Friday

2

Cold wind from N.W.
Went out for all day reconnaissance in truck (10 at us)
Sat on top - wore great-coat, water-
proof cap, gloves, balaclava -
eye shields. Went to Escarpment
South of Sidi Haneish. Used pri-
-mous to boil water for lunch (coffee)
bread + herrings.
Evening - wrote to Mum.

JANUARY

3

Saturday

Miserable day. Stayed in dug-out most of time.
Left at 11.30 A.M.
In afternoon saw a collection of enemy weapons & shown how they work. e.g. Spandau machine gun (German), Brdka machine gun (Italian) Mortars (2" + 3") Italian Anti-tank gun (Dutch)
Evening - Ray Madden sketched. I painted it.

4

Sunday

Cold wind blowing from sea.
Church parade at 10.45 but the Padre didn't turn up.
Did washing in afternoon.
Received letter from Edna also Xmas. greetings.
Wrote to Edna + Aunty Em.

JANUARY

5

Monday

Overcast & cold. Ralph, Ewart & I went to Brigade H.Q. for a 3 day course in "Cipher". Left by truck at 8.30, + return ed at 4 P.M.
Met Pat Kane there (from I.G.C.F. 24th. Bn.) He used to go to Victoria University when I was there. I am to have a 6 day course (Special).

6

Tuesday

Cold wind blowing from desert all day.
At Brigade H.Q. all day on Cipher work.
Back at 4 P.M.
Evening - to bed early.

JANUARY

7

Wednesday

Cold wind blowing - sand flying. Walked to Brigade H.Q. for Cipher instruction, with Ewart and Ralph.
 Last day of instruction for Ewart & Ralph. I am to have 3 more days on special course.
 Evening - read "Digest."

8

Thursday

Beautiful day - sunny, no wind. Walked to Brigade H.Q. at 8 A.M. Spent the day learning new Cipher. This one is much more difficult. Took all day to learn.
 Back at 4 P.M. by truck. Rest of Battalion went on day's route march.

JANUARY

9

Friday

Cloudy. Walked over to Brigade H.Q. for "Cipher instruction" (9 A.M. till 4 P.M.)
 Rest of I. Section went to Mersa Matruh in truck for the day. Brought back souvenirs e.g. Hun 5 gall. water cans, tank shell cases, pieces of shrapnel.
 Paid at Orderly Room at 4:30 P.M.

10

Saturday

Sunny in morning. Walked to Brigade H.Q. for Cipher instruction.
 Back for lunch. Walked to beach in afternoon with Ralph & Frank.
 Evening - wrote to Miss Callahan (St. Albans School.)

JANUARY

11

Sunday

Sunny day. Church parade at 10 A.M.
 In afternoon, Ralph & I went for a swim in the sea near the Oasis in a delightful cove. Collected sea shells to send to Pamela.
 After tea, wrote to Edna.

12

Monday

Fine & sunny.
 Went on compass traverse to beach, as far as open boat (German) on beach.
 Cake arrived from Mum after tea.
 Wrote to Mum.
 To bed early 7.30 P.M.

JANUARY

13

Tuesday

Fine & sunny. In morning, a Grumann fighter came over camp - diving & climbing. Also fired several cannon shells into sea.
 At 11 A.M. had early lunch. Then set off to Hill 125 with rest of Battalion to witness attack by A.C.Y. Back at 5:20 p.m.
 To bed early.

14

Wednesday

Went out all day in truck to Ras el Kanayis. Saw recent grave of unknown sailor. Coast littered with tins of benzine & wood. Had lunch. Visited old Coast-guard station. After lunch, searched for ruins of Roman bath. Came across well - 100 ft deep. Back via Abu Haggag station.

JANUARY

15

Thursday

Tidied dug-out. Did some washing.
Fine, sunny day.

Letter from Bob.

Evening - read & wrote to Bob.

16

Friday

Indoors, in office.

Very windy. Wind increased towards evening.
Sand-storm.

JANUARY

17

Saturday

Better day. Cleaned sand out of office.
Had a swim with Ralph & Everett in afternoon at cove near Dacs.
Evening - read "Ragged Banner".

18

Sunday

Fine but Windy.
Letter from Edna & Mum.

Church parade 10:30 A.M.
Stayed in dug-out for rest of day. Read book.

Frank has jaundice & is to go into hospital.
After tea, wrote to Edna & Mum.

JANUARY

19

Monday

Frank went to hospital with jaundice.

In afternoon, went in truck on reconnaissance for Tuesday's route march.

20

Tuesday

Route march.

Interrupted by 25th Bn. doing fixing over our area. Blowing hard. Dust flying. Back at 3.45.

To bed early.

JANUARY

21

Wednesday

Packed up gear in office.

Classified maps.

Sorted out own gear in afternoon.

Evening - read.

22

Thursday

Fine. Not too windy.

Showed the way to "sand-dune" area - 3 miles from B.H.Q. for firing practice - 2" - 3" mortar, anti-tank rifle, tommy gun.

Out all day. Back at 3.45 P.M. Evening - to bed early.

JANUARY

23

Friday

Packed up to leave Baggush.
Marched to Sidi Haneish station
($6\frac{1}{2}$ miles) Saw George Bartholomew
(Engineer). Most of gear taken to
station by M.T.
35 of us in a truck. Sitting room
only. Left at 6:15 P.M.
Miserable journey.

24

Saturday

Arrived Maadi Base Camp
at 4:45 P.M.
Quartered behind "Pall-Mall"
Theatre.
All of our section in one tent.

JANUARY

25

Sunday

Church parade at 10:15 A.M.
To Cairo on leave in afternoon
By bus from Y.M.C.A. Hot shower
+ haircut at N.Z. Club. Walked to
Gezeira I + across Nile.
Back to Club for tea. Wrote to
Edna + Mum. Concert by R.A.F.
party.
Back to Camp early - 9 P.M.

26

Monday

Introduced to our new I.
Officer - Mr. Carson.
Evening - went to talkies at
Pall Mall Theatre (50 yds. from
our tent).

JANUARY

27

Beautiful day.
Had sand taken out of
left eye by Dr.
In afternoon marched
to Maadi Sporting Club
to see football match.
Received letters from Edna,
Mum & Edna's brother
Berf.

Tuesday

28

Wednesday

Shooting on 30yd. range in
morning.
Shower parade in aft.
Evening - read.

JANUARY

29

Thursday

Lectures in I. Tent.
After tea, went on Compass
Traverse in the dark.
Then went to Lowry Hut to hear
Kiwi Concert Party with others of
Section. Excellent concert.

30

Friday

Shooting range all day.
Early breakfast (by 30 A.M.)
Shot with rifle at Bram.
In evening, went to pictures in
"Pall Mall". "Charlie Pilot".

JANUARY

31

Saturday

To Cairo on leave with Ray Madden. Went to Zoo in afternoon. Then sailed on Nile for 3 hours. Tea at Springbok Club. Visited Bazaar. Bought Dad a fly-whisk, Mum a brooch Edna, silk stockings + "pouff". Went to Cabaret with two Egyptians. Home by truck 12.30.

Church Service. Letter from Glin.

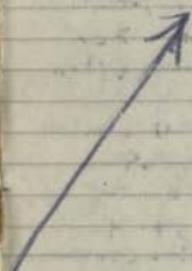
Wrapped up parcels for home. After lunch went to Maydi. Had tea at Tent. Wrote to Mum at Church Army tent.

(Sunday's programme

FEBRUARY

1

Sunday



Monday

2

Rehearsal for ceremonial parade tomorrow (General Auchinleck) Packed up at 5 hrs notice to go to Cairo Our section left at 5.15 p.m. in truck with gear. Billeted in Barracks at Citadel, Cairo. Supper in N.A.A.F.I.

FEBRUARY

3

Tuesday

An easy day for our Section. Shifted quarters from room next to Gymnasium to upstairs room. Only 4 of us to a room. Good view of part of city from window. Wrote to Edna in morning. Other Company's drilled on Barrack squares. Big airy buildings here. Like a hotel compared with camp.

4

Wednesday

Easy day. Visited water tower. After tea, Jack & I explored the walls of the Citadel. Very interesting. Passage ways cut out of rock in walls used as air-raid shelters. Too dark to do much exploring.

Went to pictures "Pettycoat Fever." Troops called out before it finished. We were not wanted. Went to bed.

FEBRUARY

5

Thursday

Paraded with Sigs. in morning! Shown over Mohamed Ali Mosque! Paid 2 piastres for guide - skipper. Wonderful building. Cost next \$3,000,000. Also saw disused palace where Mohamed Ali kept his women. Saw elaborate bathroom in bath. In afternoon Ralph & I walked around walls of Citadel & inside passages. Evening went to pictures. Terribly poor program. To bed 9:30 P.M.

6

Friday

Paraded with Sigs. P.M. Packed up to return to Camp. Marched back from Citadel at 9 P.M. Arrived Mansi 4:30 P.M. Had shower. Went to Church Army Hut for supper & read.

FEBRUARY

7

Saturday

Lecture in Section Tent.
 Went to Cairo in leave at
 1 p.m. Collected snaps from
 Heights. Went to Theatre
 M.N.R. to see "Fantasia".
 Very beautiful & unusual.
 Tea at N.Z. Club. Spoke with
 Andrew.
 Home at 11 P.M.

8

Sunday

Received letter from Edna, 2
 from Mum & one from Isabel.
 Church parade at 9 A.M.
 (Pall-Mall)
 Called on Paddy (4th-Bn. Army)
 In afternoon, wrote to Mum
 & Edna.
 Evening - visited Paddy.

FEBRUARY

9

Monday

Lovely day. Went out to do pano-
 ramic sketch in morning.
 In afternoon, changed into
 shorts. Went out to take bearings
 to resect position on map.
 After tea, visited Paddy in
 his tent. Drank beer out of
 cans (American).

10

Tuesday

Heavy mist, in morning.
 Work in office. In afternoon
 marched to Maadi to see football
 match - Base v 6th Bde. Had after-
 noon tea at Maadi Tent.
 At night (7 p.m.) went on compass
 traverse of about 2 miles. Couldn't
 find posts or been carrier.
 Supper. Bed 10 p.m.

FEBRUARY

11

Wednesday

Rehearsal for ceremonial parade tomorrow, in morning.

After tea (7 P.M.) went on compass traverse without torch. Found posts & burnt out Italian tank.

Supper at Church Army Hut.

12

Thursday

Ceremonial parade of 6th Bde. Decorations awarded by Gen. Auchenleck, in morning. Gen. Freyberg there also. In afternoon did map enlarging with pantograph.

FEBRUARY

13

Friday

Route march of 13 miles - the whole Bn. to Fort on escarpment to West of Camp. Stopped for lunch in street of native village. Fed children on escape of bread. Back via Maadi Tent. Had cold shower. Went to pictures in evening. Lillian Russell. Good picture.

14

Saturday

On leave to Cairo, with Bob Holmes (33rd Bn.) Bought brass vase for Edna. Spent afternoon at "Music for All". Trio played "Intemezzo" from Cavalleria Rusticana on my request. Tea at M.Z. Club. Talked with Audrey. Home by train & bus at 11:30

FEBRUARY

15

Sunday

Church Parade in "Pall Mall."
 Did up Edna's parcel.
 In afternoon, wrote to Edna
 & Mum.

16

Monday

Rained in early morning.
 New chap joined the
 section. Jack Roberts.
 Read library book in Church
 Army Hut in evening.

FEBRUARY

17

Tuesday

Shifted maps etc. to C.O.'s
 tent. New office.
 In afternoon, did a Road
 recce. in Camp area.
 Went to talkies at "Pall Mall".
 "The man I married."

18

Wednesday

Rained during night.

Went out on Road recce in morning
 - from Rwy. near Maadi Tent to
 Rwy. at Maadi. Back at 12:30 P.M. In
 afternoon drew plan of road.
 At 6:45, went on compass
 march - "to Flat Hill" (2833 paces).
 Supper at Church Army.

FEBRUARY

19

Thursday

Leave in afternoon, to
Cairo.
Went to Concert at Music Hall in evening. String Quar-
-tet played. Beautiful.
Home at 1 A.M.

20

Friday

Miserable day - cold wind
from N.W.
Route march up Wadi Tih.
Lunch out. Back at 1:30 P.M.
Packed up ready for leaving
for Kabrit (Canal) tomorrow.

FEBRUARY

21

Saturday

Left Maadi Base camp for
Kabrit (Canal Zone). Our section
went to Maadi by truck, to guide
Cigs. to correct carriages.
Train very late. Instead of
leaving at 11 p.m., didn't leave
till 2 A.M.

Dozed from time to time.

22

Sunday

Arrived Kabrit at 11:30 A.M.
(Detrained at Geneifa Sta.)
& walked 5 miles to camp.
Billeted in tents.
Plenty of Wellington Bombers flying
over camp. (Aerodrome nearby.)
Saw steamers sailing through
canal. Received letter from
McInnity Son & Samuel about Aunt
Grace's will.

FEBRUARY

23

Monday

Shifted our quarters.
 Erected E.P.I.P./tent - & dug
 it down. Then had it taken
 away for H.Q. Corp. Damn it!
 They do things like this
 often in the Army. 3 of us
 sleep in Provost tent - 3 in
 office. In evening, wrote
 to Edna & Mum.
 Cup of tea at Y.M.C.A. Bed 9 P.M.

24

Tuesday

Wrote out notes in office.
 Colin called at 1:15 P.M. No see
 me. Hot shower at 20th Br. at
 2:30. Colin waited till I got back.
 Had a good long talk. Colin stayed
 to tea. In evening saw picture
 put on by Mobile Cinema unit.

FEBRUARY

25

Wednesday

Up at 5:30 A.M. Shased & packed up
 ready to leave for Maadi School of
 Instruction. Taken to Gencifa Stn.
 in I. Truck. Met Howard Cuper on Stn.
 going on 6 days leave. Train left at
 7:42. Arrived Cairo main stn. at
 1:20. Met by truck from Maadi.
 Engine wouldn't start. Didn't reach
 Maadi till 4:45. Quartered in
 Hut 492 with 6 other I. Chaps

26

Thursday

Began lectures on Intelligence.
 Good meals here.
 Morning tea at 10:30 at Y.M.C.A.
 Lecture hut near by. Lectures
 given by Lieut. Wilcox.
 Lectures from 1:30 till 4:20.
 After tea, wrote out rough
 notes into big notebook!

FEBRUARY

27

Friday

Lectures on Intelligence from
~~9 + 11~~¹¹ 12. From 1.30 + 11. 4.30.
 Test on message writing.
 Went to picture with one of
 I. Sect. "My favourite wife."

28

Saturday

Lectures from 9-12.
 Test on map work - scales - con-
 ventional signs.
 Went to Cairo on leave. Saw
 Ancestry Concert by N.Z. Girls
 in N.Z. Club lounge from 15-9.
 Very good. L.C.L. Gathertwain
 there.

MARCH

1

Sunday

Church parade at 8.45 A.M.
 Wrote to Edna.
 Slept all afternoon.
 Evening - went to talkies at Shaftes.
 Later, wrote to Mum.

Monday

2

Lectures. Parcel from Edna.
 Night march at 9 P.M.

MARCH

3

Tuesday

Lectures - 9 till 12, 1:30 till
4:20.

Wrote out rough notes into
big note book at Y.M.C.A. in
evening.

4

Wednesday

Lectures.
Met Bob at howass Hut
6:30 P.M. Concert at 8 P.M.
by N.Z. Club girls.
Audrey - musical director.

MARCH

5

Thursday

Lectures.

Rained at 6 P.M. Telemed.
Went to talkies at Shaffis
"Honey moon in Bali".
Rain came through roof.

6

Friday

Went out in tuktuks (1 syndicate
to a truck) for purpose of making
road recce. Left at 9 A.M. - back
at 11:30 A.M.

Wrote out report in afternoon.
Went on leave to Cairo at 5 P.M.
Went to talkies "Waterloo Bridge"
with Audrey.

M A R C H

7

Lectures in morning.
 In afternoon, wrote out notes
 in Y.M.C.A. & wrote to Edna.
 In evening, went to talkies,
 "Band Wagon".

Saturday

8

Church Parade at 9:20.
 To Cairo on leave in afternoon.
 Saw "Dive Bomber".

Sunday

M A R C H

9

Lectures & test.
 Evening - to talkies at Shaffris.
 "My Son - my son".

Monday

10

Out on day's work. By truck
 to Suez Road. Had lunch near
 tower No. 3. Navigated by sun compass
 back to Bir el Fahm, then back
 to camp down Wadi Tih (45 m.p.h.)
 to pictures - Cisco Kid."

MARCH

11

Wednesday

Last day on course. Att
Played basketball in afternoon
against artillery.
To pictures. "It's a Date" (Deanne
Durbin.)

12

Thursday

Shifted to Southern Inf. Reg.
Depot to Hut 679.
To pictures at Shaftes with
Tom & Ray. French without
tears. Sat next to Greek
soldiers.

MARCH

13

Friday

Company + Bn. parade.
Got beds changed. Met Bob
Hilmes.
After tea, went over to see
Bill. Went to M.A.A.F.I. + met
Chum there also 2 chaps from
Napier. Sat at table, drank
beer + ate peanuts.

Bill Newland 25th Bn.

14

Saturday

Played tennis on Church
Army Court in afternoon.
Hot shower. Wrote to Edna.
In evening, went to
pictures with Bob at Shaftes.
Got library book from Y.M.C.A.

M A R C H

15

Sunday

Church Parade, 9 A.M.
 In afternoon, wrote to
 Mum.
 Evening - to pictures at Shaftes.
 "Beg, borrow or steal."

16

Monday

On Bear Range all day.
 Behind butts.
 Evening - to pictures at
 Shaftes with Roy + Tom.

M A R C H

17

Tuesday

Basketball in afternoon
 Sand storm in evening.
 To pictures with Roy.
 "A Yank at Oxford"

18

Wednesday

Played basketball against
 Artillery team & beat them.
 To pictures with Roy.

MARCH

19

Thursday

On range behind butte.
 All day shooting.
 Evening - changed library books
 at Y.M.C.A. "Prisoner of Zenda"
 Saw talkie at Y.M.C.A. "Song of
 freedom" - (Paul Robeson)

20

Friday

To pictures at Pall Mall with
 Bob. Raining. Water coming
 through roof. Young Tom Edish.

MARCH

21

Saturday

Wrote to Edna & Mrs. Brock.
 Letters from Edna (2) &
 Mum (1). Also photos of
 Edna & Pamela.

To pictures with Bob at
 Pall Mall.

22

Sunday

Church Parade - 9 A.M. Wrote to
 Mum & Edna.
 Went to Cairo after dinner
 with Bob Holmes. Saw exhibition
 of war paintings by Peter McIntyre
 at N.Z.S Club.

M A R C H

23

Went to point 307 in Bronx
Carried with 6 others. (12 miles)
Rough ride.
Evening - wrote to Mrs. Davis
- Mum. Sent photos in Mum's
letter. Supper at Y.M.C.A.

Monday

24

Tuesday

Took section for Compass
Variations. Scales; Conventional
Signs & abbreviations.
Went to pictures at Shaftop.
"The Man from Montreal."

M A R C H

25

Wednesday

Hot wind blowing.
Played basketball in afternoon
against Northern team. Beat
them 22 to 8.
Went to Y.M.C.A. with Bob
to change library book.

26

Thursday

Much cooler.
To pictures at Pall Mall
"Man Hunt." Very good.

MARCH

27

Friday

To Wadi Tih in Bren Carriers (3)
with rest of I. Sectim.
Did resection at Bir el Fahm.
Came back at 3 o'clock. Great
thrill. Had shower at 2:15 P.M.
Read book. Had afternoon tea
at Church Army.

To pictures at "Pall Mall" with
Bob.

28

Saturday

Wrote to Edna.
Bob - I had a run at
9 P.M.

MARCH

29

Sunday

Church Parade.
Wrote to Mum.
Went to Maadi Tent for Tea
Y.M.C.A., for song service
at 7 P.M.

30

Monday

Went for run at Maadi
Club ground at 3:30 with Bob
+ others. Cold shower.
Bob + I went to Y.M.C.A. at
7:30 P.M. - listened to Dr. -
of the American University in
Cairo.

MARCH

31

Tuesday

Played basket ball in afternoon.

To pictures with Bob, at Shaffie's. "Florlan." An excellent picture.

(1)

FRIDAY

APRIL

1

Wednesday

To Maadi Club with Bob for running. Bob came 3rd. in 1500 metres.

To Cairo at 5.30 P.M.
Bar Picket at N.Z. Club.
Back at 10.30 P.M.

2

Thursday

Told to get ready to leave at 5.30 A.M. tomorrow for 26th Bn. (Aleppo in Syria). Got extra blanket. Spent evening with Bob at N.A.A.F. I & Y.M.C.A.

APRIL

3

Friday

Up at 4 A.M. Packed my kit. Breakfast at 5 A.M. Left Maadi Base Camp at 6 A.M. by truck with 3 other 2d Bn. chaps for Cairo main Stn. Found that Train didn't leave till 3 P.M.

Arrived Kantara at 7 P.M. Crossed Canal on barge or ferry worked by chain. Had sausages, potatoes, bread + tea in Aussie mess.

Slept on station till 2 P.M.
Changed money into Palestine.

4

Saturday

Left Kantara at 12.30. Slept off + on. Reached El Arish at 6 A.M. Country changed from desert to undulating grassland. Passed from Eire into Palestine at 7 A.M.

Very pleasant journey. Got 12 big oranges for 7s of Bully Beef.

Arrived Haifa at 3.30 P.M. Taken to Barracks by truck. Leave in town from 6 P.M. till 10.30 P.M. Mt. Carmel 3 miles away.

APRIL

5

Sunday

Left Barracks at 6.45 A.M. by bus for stn. Boarded train for Syria/narrow gauge) Most interesting trip. Many W. Ikers boarded train from time to time. Many bends in line. Green fields, few miles - no fences. Enraged with Palestine woman + girl. Crossed border into Syria. Came out on to vast plateau. Snow covered mountains in view. Arrived Damascus 7.45 P.M. Quartet in camp.

6

Monday

Into Damascus on leave from 9-12 A.M. by truck. Met Mr. + Mrs. Harris from Beirut. Once lived in Napier N.Z. Visited Bazaar. Bought 10 photos of Damascus. Returned to camp for lunch. Brought by truck to Rly. Stn. at 1 P.M. Train left at 3.30 P.M. for Aleppo. Frank + I in compartment.

APRIL

7

Tuesday

Arrived Aleppo at 8:45 A.M.
Met at station by truck taken
to Barracks - 1 mile from
city (250,000) Met section;
Wrote to Mum.

8

Wednesday

Continued letter to Mum.
Went into Aleppo on leave
with Ewart in afternoon
from 2:30 P.M. Visited the
covered Bazaars (14 miles of
them in Aleppo). Visited two
brothels for few minutes.
Much better class than
Cairo ones.

Back to Barracks at 8:30

APRIL

9

Thursday

March past through streets of
Aleppo. Salute taken by Maj. General
Freyberg. Beautiful sunny morning.
Free-French Cavalry also in north.

10

Friday

Fine & sunny.
Read "In the steps of the
Master" (Mortons)

APRIL

11

Saturday

On "frugal" at 2 A.M. for 7 miles from Aleppo.
 Back at Barracks at 7 A.M.
 Read "In the Steps of the Master."

12

Sunday

Church Parade in City Church.
 Into Aleppo in afternoon on leave with Jack Kesson. Visited bazaars.
 Bought Edna 2 silver serviette rings. Also bought Arab head-dress + photos of Aleppo. Tea at Armenia Church. Attended service afterward by Dr. Watson of the American College. (Dr. Carlton)

APRIL

13

Monday

Packed up maps etc. in office in readiness to move.
 Went to city on leave after tea. Met Frank. Went to Café. Had 2 bottles of wine + an omelette. Listened to orchestra in H.A.A.F.I.

14

Tuesday

Read most of the day
 To bed early.

APRIL

15

Wednesday

Up at 5:45 A.M. Packed up gear ready to move, in trucks. 65 trucks in convoy - to Homs via Deir ez Zor (on Euphrates River). Reached Hammam (4 miles) at 4:15 P.M. Euphrates River 1 mile away. Had hot tea, meat + potatoes, rice + stewed apples. Slept under the stars. Lovely sunset, shining on River.

16

Thursday

On to Deirez Zor at 8:30 A.M. Passed many Arab encampments. Followed Euphrates river down. Arrived Deirez Zor at 4 P.M. Camped in area other side of city near aerodrome. Slept in bivouac tent. (Population of city 34,000)

APRIL

17

Friday

marched through Deir ez Zor at 9:30 A.M. Coly. of French troops led the march. Went through main street + back by rd. In afternoon wind blowing. Read book in tent. Wind blew a gale during the night. Dust flying

18

Saturday

Left Deirez Zor at 8 A.M. for Palmyra (150 miles) Desert road. Barren desert country. Arrived Palmyra at 5:30 P.M. Bilked at aerodrome. 3 German bombers on ground - smashed. Had a good look inside them. Coffee for supper.

APRIL

19

Sunday

Left for Homs at 8:30 A.M.
Stopped at ruins of Palmyra
Till 10 A.M. Wonderful ruins
(Roman city + Temple, theatre
etc) dating to B.C.

Lovely day. Reached Homs
at 5:30 P.M. Bivouaced on
outskirts in green field.

Found 2 tortoises. Kept
small one for pet. (Dopey)

20

Monday

Left Homs for Zabound at 9 A.M.
Arrived camp at 1:30 P.M.
Letters (2) from Edna, also parcel
+ 3 letters from Mum. Sad news
- Edna's father died.
Wrote to Edna + Edna's
mother.

APRIL

21

Tuesday

Tidied up office. Lovely day.
Paid at 3 P.M. Post Dopey.
Found again at 6:30 P.M.
in side tent.
Evening - wrote to Mum.

22

Wednesday

Lovely day. Another parcel
from Edna (food stuffs). Copied out
map for Bde

In afternoon, went with Brian
Carriers for 12 mile or so outing.
Took binoculars + map.

Went on leave to Baalbek with
Bruce, at 6:15 P.M. by truck.

Went to concert by 9 English
girls. Very good.

APRIL

23

Thursday

Fine day. More mail. Very happy. 2 letters from Mum, 2 from Edna (with snaps of baby) + news of her father's death. One from Bert Lister + 1 from Constance Dennis. Visited Paddy for an hour. From 7.30 till 8.30 P.M., Sent Edna + her mother cables.

24

Friday

Lovely day. Letter from Miss Callaghan + Edna. Wrote to Mum + sent photos of Syria.

APRIL

25

Saturday

Windy day. Wrote to Eileen in morning. Brief Anzac service at 10 A.M. On leave to Baalbek with Ewart. Left at 4.30 P.M. Too late to get in to see ruins. Very annoyed. Just like the Army. Went to "Mikado" with Ewart.

26

Sunday

Church Service 10 A.M. After tea, walked to top of hill 22 miles behind camp. Distances very deceptive.

APRIL

27

Monday

Tactical exercise without traps.
On duty with rest of Sec.
from 7 A.M. till 10 P.M.
Tiresome day.

28

Tuesday

Did recce. of water supply with
Frank. Walked 5 mds. up Wadi
Halibata to spring of water from
solid rock. Patches of snow.
Called in to native village.
Saw woman baking bread
in open air clay oven.
Grape vines + fruit trees on slopes.
Very pretty. Blew stormily in
afternoon. Evening. I. Set Party

APRIL

29

Wednesday

Worked on War Diary all day.
Ewart + Frank went to C. Coy.
for 2 days.
Slept in I. Office.

30

Thursday

In office all day. Did enlargement
of map for Mr. Hobbs. Worked on
War Diary + finished it. Hot day.
Wind blowing.
Jack R. + John went on 2 day trek
with D. Coy. with mules.

MAY

1

Friday

In office all day.
 Very warm wind from
 South.
 Drew map for Mr. Hibbs.
 Paid after tea.

2

Saturday

In office in morning.
 Read "The White Company"
 by A. Conan Doyle.
 Read it when I was 15 years
 old.

MAY

3

Sunday

On leave to Baalbek in after
 noon. Saw over famous ruins
 - Temple of Jupiter, Temple of
 Bacchus.
 Went to pictures at 6:30.
 Supper at Y.M.C.A.

4

Monday

Hottest day this year. No
 wind. Worked in office.
 Everyone in now.
 Wrote to Mum after tea.

M A Y

5

Tuesday

Hot day.
Worked in office in morn-
ing.

6

Wednesday

Went to Lower Gibraltar
with Frank in afternoon
on water-truck.
Slept at "B" Coy. area.

M A Y

7

Thursday

At Gibraltar (C. Coy) Getting
information about weapon pits
etc - for Bde.
Steep hill. Saw Ted Toner, +
Bert McDonagh.
Back to Camp by water-truck
in afternoon.

8

Friday

Went with Bert to recce route
from Monument (near Hermel)
to B Coy. Gibraltar
Lunch at source of Orontes
River. Wonderful spot. Water
gushes out of rocks. Saw inside
a fort built in solid rock face.
Overlooking river. Caught truck
at B. Coy. back to Camp.

M A Y

9

Saturday

Went on leave to visit Crusader Castle between Homs and Tripoli. Two truck loads went. Wonderful castle and view from same. Had lunch at base of hill. Motored to top. Spent 2½ hrs. looking over castle. Winding stairs, towers, chapel moat filled with water. Back to camp at 6 P.M.

10

Sunday

Church parade. Injection in each arm.

In afternoon, went with Ben, Ewart & Bruce in truck to monument & source of Orontes. Took photos & movies. Very pleasant outing.

Evening - wrote to Edna & Mum. Sent photos. Listened to Winston Churchill's speech at 10 P.M.

M A Y

11

Monday

Worked in office.

Sicsta from 1 till 3 P.M.

12

Tuesday

To Gibraltar with Frank. Slept there. Out looking for an O.P. in truck with Ben, Jack -

Jack Keown arrived back from concert. Pictures - "Calling all cars." (Post show)

M A Y

13

Wednesday

Back from Gibraltar.

To Gibraltar with Frank
by water-cart.
Slept there.

14

Thursday

Back from Gibraltar.

Kiwi concert party.

M A Y

15

Friday

Worked on dug-out in morn-
ing.

Siesta from 1 till 3:30.

Kiwi concert party with
Ernest, in camp area. Very
good.

16

Saturday

To Hermet with Mr. Carson &
Mr. McMillan in desert bus.
Very pretty place. Wealth of
trees - walnut, fig, poplar.
Back via Monument + Source
of Orontes.

M A Y

17

Sunday

On Piguet duty.

Very hot day.

Wrote to Mum & Edna.

M A Y

19

Tuesday

Digging our "I" office. Used
3 sticky bombs to break rock.

Debate." That euthanasia is
justified.

18

Monday

Went on 10 mile march (non
stop) with Bedouine
detachment.
P. up Wadi Halbata, up steep
slope (rock climbing) + back
via Wadi Fara.

Collected a dozen or more
big caterpillars on weed in field
near camp. Keeping them in
tin.

Wednesday

20

Visit of Duke of Gloucester.
Frank + I went to "Gibraltar"
for 2 days.

M A Y

21

Thursday

On Gibraltar with Frank.
Windy day - cool wind.
Back by water-truck in
afternoon.

22

Friday

Cold windy day.
Worked in office.

M A Y

23

Saturday

Set off at 0600 hrs. with Eric
James & Harry Hefferon for the
Cedars of Lebanon. Had eggs
& bread with Arab family near
top of Wadi el Aosse. (Very nice
girl of 17 yrs!) Saw shepherds
driving sheep & goats in small lake.
Reached road over Lebanon at
5 P.M. Took short cut over top.
Blocked by snow near top at 7:45
at 8000 ft. Slept in open.

24

Sunday

On again at 0600 hrs. Negotiated
snow slope and what a magnifi-
cent view. Below the cedars -
Ski School, 2 Hotels & beyond
2 picturesque villages - red tiled
roofs. Reached Hotel Mon Repose
at 0900 hrs. Stayed for day. Bath
shave & rest. In P.M. walked to
town of Bohair. Bought cedar
bowls & souvenirs. J.M. & 2 Aus-
tralian nurses at Hotel.

M A Y

25

Monday

Left at 0545 hrs. on return journey.
Reached top of range at 0800 hrs.
Much snow work. Took snaps.
Reached bottom of range at
10.30. Harry made heavy
going of it. Blistered & exhausted.
Arrived back in camp
at 5 P.M. Harry arrived
at 6 P.M. Attended to by Dr.
Letter from Edna - Mum.
Feeling quite fit.

26

Tuesday

Worked in office. Cake from
Edna; excellent condition.
Got boots fixed. Got another
pair of "Bombay Bloomers".
Wrote a 25 page letter to Mum
a letter to Edna.

M A Y

27

Wednesday

Worked in office.
3 letters from Edna, 3 from
Mum, 1 from Molly.
Wrote notes to Mum & Edna
& posted parcel to Mum &
Edna.
Supper of oysters in batter
cooked by Bruce.

28

Thursday

Prepared to go on week's man-
servises. Another letter from
Mum, Edna, Nancy Monat &
Margaret Hammington.

M A Y

29

Friday

Left on weeks maneuvers to For gloss. All 6th. Bde. in convoy. Hundreds of trucks. Left 7 30 A.M. reached area at 2 P.M. T.E.W.T. for J. Sec. and Sigs. from 7 till 10 P.M. Slept in open. Good sleep. Found scorpion in bed in morning.

30

Saturday

Up at 6 A.M. Found scorpion in bed. Good meals. Practised moving in convoy.

At 8 P.M. practised night attack. Found birds egg about size of big pullet's egg with brown spots. Blew it to keep. Found also cast off snake's skin.

Slept in open. Lovely night. Full moon - no wind.

M A Y

31

Sunday

Church service 9:30. Hot meal at 12 P.M. Moved off in convoy at 3 P.M. Travelled about 15 miles. Hurricane planes came over, flying very low. Stop till 10 P.M. Then 6 mile march with 1 blanket & groundsheet. I counted the paces. Dug in when arrived. Slept in slit trench. Up at 4:30 A.M.

Rest.

UNE

1

Monday

Rested till 10 A.M. Found 2 eggs of sand-piper near slit-trough. Bruce took moving pictures of bird on nest. Dug out large lizard with red stripe. Bruce took moving pictures also of it. Very hot. Put up towel on rifle for shade. In afternoon witnessed attack by 24th & 25th Bns. Artillery in action. Terrifically hot - over 100°. Bought 2 tins peaches from M.G.A.

2

Tuesday

Up and moving by 9 A.M. Took part in attack by A + B Coy (from 11 - 12 A.M.) Return by M.T. to Forges area. Rested in afternoon.

JUNE

3

Wednesday

Arrived back in camp from manoeuvres at 1 P.M.

Wrote to Mum & Edna. Sent 6th snaps.

4

Thursday

Very windy. Sent Mum & Edna more snaps of the Crusader Castle, Source of Orontes etc:-

J U N E

5

Hot, windy day.
Worked in office
Big parcel from Edna (tin of
pineapple with hole in)

Friday

J U N E

7

Sunday

Church Parade 9 A.M.
Showers - 10 A.M.
Wrote to Edna.

6

Miserable windy day.
Wrote to Nancy Mouat and
Margaret Hammington (Hull
Central School)

Saturday

8

Monday

Worked in office. Prepared to
move to Aleppo.
Evening - went to pictures (Mobile
Cinema)

JUNE

9

Tuesday

Left Zabboud Camp for
Aleppo (the whole Brigade)
Camped for night near Hama,
in field. Many bugs + things.

Found 3 eggs (quail)

10

Wednesday

Left spot near Hama at 8 A.M. Did manoeuvre near Hama till 10.30 A.M.
Arrived Aleppo 4.30 P.M.
Bivouaced for night on outskirts of city. Very stormy.

JUNE

11

Thursday

Moved in to German Barracks.
I was sent with Mortar Platoon
as I man, to Djebelous, 80
miles from Aleppo on Turkish
border, on Euphrates River.
Arrived 5.30. Had swim in
river after tea with boys.
Quite a big village here. Very
pleasant place. Saw Turkish Troops
in trenches on other side of railway.

12

Friday

Very hot. Mr. Carson came out
in station truck. Sent message
in code to Raggia (River 20 feet
below zero).
Had a swim in Euphrates River.
Muddy but cool! Sent message
in code to Bn. about suspected
enemy agent. Bottle of beer
in sack with lump of ice.
Was paid today.

J U N E

13

Saturday

Very hot. Sent message to Ragg (engineers building bridge farther down the river.) River 21 ft. below zero.

Had swim in Euphrates. Saw Turkish troops on other side of railway line. Big bridge here 2 miles long - built by Germans in last war. Lawrence of Arabia used to be here.

14

Sunday

Overcast. Went for swim in Euphrates. Thunder storm - lightning - dust storm. Deciphered message from 8 Fd. Coy. to Ferry Engineers.

J U N E

15

Monday

Very hot. Did panoramic sketch of bridge + surroundings in morning.

Bought bottle beer + tin of pineapple at canteen.

16

Tuesday

Very hot. Did panoramic sketch in morning. Went for swim in Euphrates in afternoon. Collected coloured stones.

JUNE

17

Wednesday

Left Djerablous at 3 P.M.
and returned to German Barracks
- Aleppo. Aussies took over from
us. Very hot day.

Arrived Barracks 6:15 P.M.

18

Thursday

Hot day.
Packed up ready to move.
Bn. marched to Baghdad Stn.
Boarded train for Rayak at
7 P.M. Cut my left thumb
on margarine tin. Fixed up
by R.A.P.

JUNE

19

Friday

Slept on train. Not much sleep.
Arrived Rayak 9:30 A.M. Detrained.
Shave - cup of tea. Embussed at
12:30 for Haifa.
Passed Sea of Galilee, stopped
for swim. Passed Tiberius +
Nazareth.
Arrived Haifa 8:45 P.M.
Tea. Left by train 12:15
A.M.

20

Saturday

Arrived Gaza 5:45 A.M.
Arrived Kantara 11:45 A.M.
Detrained for meal. Had wash
+ shave. Very hot.
Crossed Canal. Entrained at
3 P.M. for Mersa Matruh.

JUNE

21

Sunday

Travelled all night.
Wearisome trip! Breakfast
at 4 A.M. at Amiryia.
Arrived Mersa Matruh
6:20 P.M.
Bivouaced on hill South of
town.

22

Monday

Up at 6 A.M. after good night's
rest. Heard that Tobruk had
fallen, & that Gen Ritchie has
been "sacked." Good thing! Some-
thing must be wrong. Saw Grant
tank on trailer (34 wheels).
Shifted to Smugglers Cove. Had
a swim. (5 miles from town)
Made a tent from bivi.

JUNE

23

Tuesday

Had swim at 10 A.M. in sea.
Lively. Bn. shifted to Aerodrome
3 miles West of Mersa Matruh
at 3 P.M. Dug-outs - passages
to sleep in and work.
Saw Carl Watson - our new
C.O.
Several German planes over
during night dropping bombs. Our
Aircraft in action like firework.

24

Wednesday

Got office ready. At 4:30 P.M. received orders
to move to Amiryia at 6 P.M.
Goodness knows why.
Moved off at 9 P.M. Saw Ack Ack
display & flares dropped by enemy
planes over Mersa Matruh when we
were some miles on our way. Heard
bombs dropping.

JUNE

25

Thursady

Arrived Amiryia Camp 6:15. Met Ben, Ewart & Jack there. Had shave & good wash. Are to be here for 2 weeks.

Made myself a tent from 2 half bivies. Windy & dusty. Got my photos of the Cedars from Bruce. Very good shape. Went to talkics with Jack at Camp theatre.

26

Friday

Moved to new camp site near sea not far from Alexandria. Marched 8 miles from camp at Amiryia, but big packs taken by truck. Arrived new camp 12 A.M. Had swim - water warm & good breakers. Our office in a pill box. Heard B.B.C. news at 7 P.M. Enemy 30 mls. west of Marsa Matruh. We have a surprise for him!

JUNE

27

Saturday

Put up E.P.I.P. tent. Jack & Frank went on leave to Alexandria.

Word to leave at 2:30.

Packed up. Left for Amiryia at 5 P.M. ~~Taxi~~ at Amiryia. Left in convoy for desert 9 P.M. Arrived destination 2 A.M. Planes hovering overhead. Saw flares & heard bombs dropping in distance. Slept in 12 places in last 12 days.

Sunday

28

Up at 6 A.M. onto defensive position. I am with D Coy. in slit trench. Made tracings of area. Much bombing from 9:30 P.M. Ammu. dump hit 1 mile from here. Went up in smoke & flame. One plane dropped 12 bombs.

Slept soundly.

JUNE

29

Monday

Very hot. Heavy dew on sand. Made map of area. Viet Marcus Smith of Ekoate, with Bofors Troop.

Hundreds of vehicles in area. Bofors - anti-tank etc. Y.M.C.A. mobile canteen visited us. Bought pears & apricots (tinned.)

30

Tuesday

Very hot, trying day. Very thirsty - not much water or tea! Heard distant gun fire. Enemy 8 mls. away! Our bombers flew over - dropped bombs - all returned.

Did map of mine fields - wire. Dust flying - strong hot wind. Had bath in muddy salt water.

JULY

1

Wednesday

Not so hot today. Water pipe leaking & everyone collecting water in cans, tins etc. Very good!

AT 5 P.M. enemy shells began landing in area. Our 25pds. replied. Tanks appeared on N.E. horizon. AT 7.30 a tank battle in progress. Bombs heard for long time.

2

Thursday

Windy - cooler. Tank battle from 4.30 P.M. till dusk - a few miles to N.E. Enemy planes in small numbers over during the day. Got ready to move at 10 P.M. Order cancelled.

JULY

3

Friday

Tank battle resumed at day
break to East. Moved out from
El Deyralla Fortress area in
trucks with all gear for MAAD.
Bivouacked for night about
12 miles south of El Deyralla.
25 5 Bde. took over from 15.

4

Saturday

Not going to Maadi after all.
Stayed in same spot in desert
all day. Bombers came over
twice & dropped bombs a few
hundred yards away among the
trucks. No damage. Our air force
greatly outnumbers the enemy.
Saw 18 Bostons escorted by fighters
go over this morning. Going back
to the "box" tomorrow.

JULY

5

Sunday

Still in the desert. Heavy dew (fog) during
night. Had wash from water on bivvy cover.
Received mail (2 from Mum, 1 from Edna).
Very hot day. Lay about.
Enemy bombers bombed Div. H.Q.
again. 9 killed, 10 wounded as result
of yesterday's bombing. 600 Germans
gave themselves up to Div. H.Q. yester-
day. Left at 6.20 for Fortress area.
8 Stukas made dive-bombing attack.
a mile away. Arrived 7.45 P.M.

6

Monday

Hottest day yet. Our bombers &
fighters bombed the Italians
just North of us at 1 P.M.
Sky full of our planes.
Big things afoot tomorrow.
Our Armoured Div is going to
attack. We may go in against
the Ities.
Sent wire to Edna.

JULY

7

Tuesday

Still in the fortress area. Nothing definite doing. Lot of air activity. Saw 18 Kittyhawks flying over area. Saw a Hurricane shoot down a Fiat (Italian) fighter. Another Fiat flew over area at about 200 feet. Could have hit it with a stone! It was quite cheeky! Had my hair cut by chap in No. 16 Platoon. Not quite so hot today.

8

Wednesday

Got ready to move at 3 A.M. Left fortress area at 10 A.M. Bivouaced for night about 12 miles to South.

JULY

9

Thursday

Left at 8 A.M. on next stage of desert journey. Sandy in places. Some trucks became stuck. Reached area at 3.30 P.M. Bivouaced for night.

10

Friday

Waited about till 12 A.M. when we at last got the order to move. Slow country. Many trucks became stuck in soft sand & had to be pushed out. Arrived Amiryah at 5.30 P.M.

JULY

11

Saturday

At Amiryia. Put up E.P.I.P. tents. Everett went to Alex. & got my photos. Sent cable to Mum. Went to talkies with Norm Hardy.

12

Sunday

Church Parade. Went to Alexandria on leave from 10 A.M. till 8 P.M. with Norms Hardy. Bought Echo & her mother a brooch each. Very nice place.

Prepared to move. Took letter to Paddy to censor.

JULY

13

Monday

Left Amiryia at 7 A.M. for rear Div. H.Q. Travelled on Amm truck with rest of section. Truck had engine trouble. Then it got stuck in the sand. Had tea by ourselves. Made a bushy stew with tomatoes. Truck came for us at 8.30 P.M. Took us back to Bz.

14

Tuesday

Left for Div. H.Q. at 5 A.M. Saw Stuka that had been shot down. Reached Div. H.Q. at 1 P.M. Stuka attack (4 planes) at 3.15. I lay in slit trench with R.S.M. 4 trucks destroyed. A few casualties. 18 of our bombers (Bostons) passed over, with fighter escort.

JULY

15

Wednesday

Moved at 4 A.M. about 8 mls.
to new Div. H.Q. area.
Much shelling from 10 to 12 A.M.
Eric badly injured by shell.
Several Stuka raids. Saw
one shot down in flames at
7:30 P.M. over Div. H.Q. Many
of our tanks in area - Grants
a Valentines. One got hit & blown
out. 1/2 of crew safe.

16

Thursday

Not so much shelling in
our area today.
Enemy seen 2 miles to West.
Enemy bombers over with
fighters at 7:15 P.M.
Very hot & dry here.
Rum issue in evening. I
put mine in my water bottle.

JULY

17

Friday

Quieter day, but enemy shells landing
all about us at 4:30 P.M. Heard that
our fighters brought down 9 Stukas
in last evenings raid, & that our
tanks destroyed 28 enemy tanks
yesterday.

A Messerschmitt 109 E. flew over
at about 100 feet. We had a shot
at it with rifles. A can of beer
each for supper.

18

Saturday

Fairly heavy enemy shelling before
breakfast. Made map of DeCoy
area showing weapons etc.
24 Bz. are on our left now.
Enjoyed good breakfast of porridge,
sausage stew, tea, a tea of meat &
vegetable stew, rice, pineapple & tea.
Cars of beer for supper.
Got a new shirt as mine is
torn. Also a blanket.

JULY

23

Thursday

Hear that Capt. Young was wounded.
Capt. Elsworth also by bombs.
Had sleep last night. Good breakfast.
Posted to A. Coy.
Moved back to old area at
9 P.M.

24

Friday

At old area. Very hot day.
Flies a bloody pest. Directed
driver of O.C.'s P.U. to B. Echelon
5 miles to East.

Made map of A. Coy's area.
At 7.30 P.M. very heavy enemy
shelling. Stayed in slit trenches for an
hour. One chap killed outright
30 yds. from me. Heavy R.A.F. raid
during night on enemy.

No tea till 9 P.M.

JULY

25

Saturday

Hot, dusty & flies.
Quiet during day. Finished
map in morning.
Received cable from Edna Birthday
greetings.
No tea till 9 P.M.

26

Sunday

Breakfast at 5.15. Quiet day
today. Flies worse than ever.
Impossible to cope with them.
Gal. of water per man now.
Tea not till 9 P.M.
Boiled the billy at noon.
S. Africans attacked at midnight.
Our Artillery put over heavy fire.

JULY

27

Terribly hot day. Had pains
in stomach & diarrhoea.
2 letters from Mum & 1 from
Edna.

Flies worse than ever.
Swarms of them over every
thing.

Ate no tea.

Monday

28

Went to R.A.P. at 7 A.M.
Gave me castor oil.
Felt better in afternoon. Had
mug of hot sweet tea.

Tuesday

JULY

29

Wednesday

Cloudy today - not so
hot. YM.C.A. truck called.
Bought 1 tin of peaches &
2 sticks of chocolate.
Feeling much better.
Issue of N.Z.E.F. Times.
Casualty list up to 13th
July. Also account of
our attack last Tuesday.

Thursday

30

Quiet day. Had $\frac{1}{2}$ tin of pears,
bully beef, tomato sauce &
preserved green peas (bought
from canteen) for lunch.
Felt O.K. today.
Breakfast still at 5:15 A.M.
& tea at 8:45 P.M.
Posted N.Z.E.F. Times to Dad.
(account of our attack last
week.)

JULY

31

Quiet day. Bought tin of peaches & chocolate (Griffins Nut Milk) from Y.M.C.A.
Wrote to Mum - Edna in evening.

Flies worse than ever.
Heard that Eric is dead.

Flies worse than ever. Nearly drive one crazy.
Engineers blasted out my trench this afternoon. Bill Goodall from Riwaka helped. Pains in stomach. Went to R.A.P. Had castor oil. Ate tin of fruit & nothing else all day.

Friday

AUGUST

Saturday

1
Quiet day. Letter from Edna (3rd May.)
Lay under shade of ground sheet in my mosquito net most of day. Mug of coffee & milk for lunch - piece of toast. Flies everywhere washed pair of socks. Flies fell into the tin & drowned themselves. Big parcel from Edna - brought up by donk's truck.

Sunday

2

finger to lab hand
pink gelatin
and mix with water
- making about - it not
big quantity - so
300 ml. today b. 7.30

AUGUST

3

Monday

Flies worse than ever.
 Y.M.C.A. mobile canteen
 visited area. Watermelon
 at lunch time.
 Wrote to Edna.

4

Tuesday

Good deal of enemy
 shelling during day.
 Watermelon for lunch.
 For tea - tomato, cucumber &
 onion salad - potatoes + cold
 meat. A pleasant change.

AUGUST

5

Wednesday

Flies still drive one crazy,
 Wrote to Mum.

~~Next day it was not too bad~~
~~It was a bit of a bad day~~
~~Very hot now~~
~~Next day it was~~

6

Thursday

Issued with "fly-helmets"
 made from mosquito nets.
 Bought 3 tins of peaches from
 Y.M.C.A. truck. Very hot today.
 Wind. Flies very bad.

AUGUST

7
Hot day.

Went for walk to Cook's truck
in morning.
Sent cable to Edna for £5.
German A.A. shell landed
25 yds. from truck.
Leave begins tomorrow (5%)

Friday

8

Very hot. Flies bloody
awful! Read Weekly News
under fly net.

Saturday

AUGUST

Sunday

9

Flies worse if anything.
On duty in I. Office from
10.30 A.M. till 2 P.M.
Enemy shells landed 100 yds.
away. Splinters flew over our
heads (we had them low down!)
Sent shelling report to Bde.
Enemy planes bombed
area to rear this afternoon

Monday

10

On duty I. Office from 7 A.M.
till 10.30 A.M.
Saw a Hurricane shot down
by a M.E. 109. Crashed head
first a burst into flames.
Wrote to Leonard Davis (Waikau)

On piget from 10 till 11 p.m.

AUGUST

11

Tuesday

Y.M.C.A. truck visited the area.
 Bought 5 tins of fruit & biscuits.
 Windy & dusty in afternoon.
 A few enemy shells came over.
 Flies worse today. Thousands swarming around my trench. Thank Heaven I have my net.

12

Wednesday

Quiet day. On duty from 2 till 5:30 P.M.
 Hurricane flew over.

AUGUST

13

Thursday

Flies worse than ever. On duty from 10:30 A.M. till 2 P.M.
 Wrote to Mum & Edna.

14

Friday

On duty 7 till 10:30 A.M.
 Pay day. Drew \$1.
 Had a good wash at 6:30 P.M.
 Walked to H.Q. truck - posted letter to Mum & Edna.

AUGUST

15

Saturday

Plotted wire around minefield with John Styles in morning. Walked 3 miles. Enemy bombing raid behind our lines. One plane shot down. Hit the ground & burst into flames.

16

Sunday

Went to Church Parade (voluntary) by truck to M.D.S. 15 miles back. Y.M.C.A. truck called. Bought 2 tins peaches. Not feeling too good today.

AUGUST

17

Monday

On duty 8 till 12 A.M.
Not quite so many flies today.
No enemy shelling.
Mr. Churchill in Cairo.

18

Tuesday

Not so hot today. On duty from 7 till 10.30 A.M.
No enemy shelling.
Mr. Churchill in Moscow.

AUGUST

19

Wednesday

Very happy. 4 letters from Edna & 3 from Dad. My letters from Syria received at home. Our Spitfires shot down 4 M.E. 109's + damaged 3 others in dog fight this morning. Mr. Churchill is back in Egypt. Coming up here to desert tomorrow. John Styles (I. Sec) shot in back by Hun. Sniper this afternoon while on a recce for gear with Ewart + Mr. Piper. Now back at A.D. 6

20

Thursday

Wrote to Mum + Edna.
Another letter from Dad.
Went round Mortar posts + put them on map.

AUGUST

21

Friday

Cooler today. Did enlargement of A.Cop. area for Capt. Richards. Posted letters to Mum + Edna by Bruce. Washed hair. Pay day. Sent Mum a wire saying I had received letters.

22

Saturday

Anniversary of our wedding (2 years). Also my birthday (32 years.) Bought tin of peaches, pkt. of biscuits (Peck Freans Assorted) + chocolate from A.Cop. Canteen. Mick cut my hair. Must visit R.A.P. to have desert sores treated (on knee + hands). Quiet day.

AUGUST

23

Sunday

Went to R.A.P. to have "desert sores" treated. (2 on knee, 2 on left wrist, 1 on right thumb, 1 on end little finger.)

24

Monday

Hottest day we have had yet.
No breeze.
Flies very bad. Had wash all over at 5 P.M.

AUGUST

25

Tuesday

To R.A.P. to have desert sores dressed. Improving.
Hot day. Wind from desert.
Received patriotic parcel from Canterbury Patriotic Committee.
Small cake Gibbs dentifrice.
Tin of sweets, tin of Tahoro soap.
Tin of milk bootlaces, foot powder.
Enemy expected to attack tomorrow morning.

26

Wednesday

No enemy attack after all. Our Art'y. plastered El MREIR depression from 4 till 5 A.M. Thousands of shells screamed over. The Maoris went in & took 35 Italian prisoners. Much cooler today. Found pamphlet dropped by Hun plane to Indian 6. Telegram from Isabell (birthday greetings). Wrote to Mollie.
Maoris captured 35 Ities. Our Art'y. killed over 300.

AUGUST

27

Thursday

Cool day. Quiet here. Enemy shelled Maori Bn. at 1 P.M. Wrote to Mum and Edna. Posted N.Z.E.F. times to Dad. Received back my M.S.S. of camp to Cedars.

Pay day. Draw 10/-.

Enemy plastered Maori Bn. with mortar fire. They stayed in their trenches & suffered no casualties.

28

Friday

Not feeling too good today. Very hot - no breeze till late afternoon. Plotted in positions of reserve water and emergency rations. Had toheroa soup with Tom and Charlie. (Cooked on my cooker in improvised saucepan.)

Read book - Murder Mystery. Pains in stomach during night and diarrhoea.

AUGUST

29

Saturday

Three flares dropped by plane at 2.30 A.M. Fleeted down not far from my trench. Our bombers bombing enemy during night. One crashed & burst into flames. Went to R.A.P. 3 times during day. Witnessed "dog fight" above our area. 20 odd fighters. Mostly ours - 2 enemy M.E.'s shot down. Ate nothing all day. Very hot - no breeze.

30

Sunday

Worked on new "I" office - filling sandbags in morning. Heavy fatty barrage by our guns and enemy. Got no sleep.

Went to Church service at A.D.S. at 7 P.M.

AUGUST

31

Monday

Went to R.A.P. to have finger dressed.
Had 7 shots with rifle at two M.E.
log's from my trench at 10 A.M.
Saw one M.E. of limping home
with wheels down. Came down in
no-man's land.

Fried bully + bread croissants for
lunch. Also water-melon.
At 7 P.M. 48 German bombers flew over
heading S.W. Tank battle has started
to south.

The plane that came down
in no-man's land was a
Stuka - not a Messerschmitt.

SEPTEMBER

1

Tuesday

The enemy has pushed to the
East at the South of the line.
Tank battle going today. All quiet
on our front. We claim to have
destroyed about 50 German tanks
since yesterday. Much air activity.
No bombing here.
Heard from Arthur Mangos (Timaru)
today that Audrey H. is engaged
to a Tommy officer. Good for her!

Wednesday

2

Saw 2 Dornier bombers shot
down in flames over our area
at 1 P.M. by our Bofors. One
bailed out bchute failed to
open. Two, bailed out successfully.
One plane's engines caught fire.
Plane eventually crashed.

Shifted out to area 1 mile S.E.

SEPTEMBER

3

Thursday

Stayed in area all day. Enjoyed good breakfast at 6:30. Porridge, sausages & tea. Saw dog-fight between our planes and enemy fighters about 1 P.M.

Told about advance tonight 1000 yds. South. To take up now. Soon.

Left 9 P.M. Enemy shelled us.
Walked 4 miles.

4

Friday

Reached objective safely. Dug in. Stayed all day in slit trench. Our Colonel dead. Most of C.Coy. missing. Heavy mortar fire all round us. Chap killed 5 yds from my trench by mortar.

Retired from position at dusk (8:30 P.M.) Walked back to original position. Hot tea waiting for us. Very tired.

SEPTEMBER

5

Saturday

Received 3 letters from Edna - 3 from Mum & Dad (May & June). Have received all my mail now. Mug of tea for lunch - biscuits. Feeling much better. Heard that 10 odd of C.Coy. have come out safely. Stuka raid at 3 P.M. Bombs fell at mile 10 S.E. 19 no hits. Moved back to old positions occupied by Tommies at 8:45 P.M.

6

Sunday

Wrote out report on A.Coy's part in the advance on 4th. Wrote to Edna & Mum. Posted MSS to Free Lance (Wgtr) of "Tramp to the Cedars."

Brig. Clifton P.O.W. Col. Peart (our C.O.) killed during advance on 4th. Stuka raid over Argy. 4 or more shot down by our fighters. Dog fight this morning. 10 planes down. Saw it all.

SEPTEMBER

7

Posted letters to Mum & Edna
 Stuka raid on Bde. H.Q.
 at 7 P.M. Saw bombs falling.
 Dog fight about 3 P.M.
 One M.E. 109 shot down from
 10,000 ft. Dived like a stone
 & burst into flames. Pilot
 still in plane.

Enemy withdrawing WEST
 to the SOUTH.

Monday

8

Collected unexploded German incendiary bombs dropped in our area on the night of 3/4 Sept.
 Some silver - some green.
 Heard that we are moving out in a day or so. Good news!
 Buff Div. (Tommy) taking our place. Gen. Freyberg & Tommy General visited area.

Tuesday

SEPTEMBER

9

Wednesday

Some of the "Buffs" moved in as advance guard to our area. Talked to 2 Tommies all afternoon - one from Cornwall one from Kent. Been in Egypt only a month. First action on 3/4th.

Thursday

10

Shifted out of area at 4 P.M.
 Moved back to Cookhouse for tea at 5 P.M. Have been granted leave (+ days) at Alexandria from tomorrow.
 Received remittance for £2-10-0 from person unknown.
 Left at midnight by truck for seaside camp.

SEPTEMBER

11

Friday

Arrived seaside camp at 6.30 p.m.
Went on leave to Alexandria
(about 35 mls.) Left rifle + ammun-
ition at Military Camp near Alex
Booked in at British Hotel with
Tom Kennard + 3 cobbers.
Went to Y.M.C.A. for tea.
Baths, shave, haircut etc - Good
meal. Feeling 100%. Got shorts
pressed.

12

Saturday

Shifted at 9 A.M. to "Hibbert
House" + booked in for 4 days.
Walked around looking at shops.
Had lunch (4 course) at United Serv-
ices club. Bought Mum a handbag
Edna 2 prs. silk stockings + Pamela a
handbag. Had them posted. Went to
seafront - ate grapes.

SEPTEMBER

13

Sunday

Went for motor trip to see the
Catacombs, Pompey's Pillar, the
Zoo and Stanley Bay. (20 piastres)
Went by taxi from Y.M.C.A.
Evening - went with Tom + Eric
to service at Methodist Church,
+ afterwards to social gathering
at church rooms. A very happy
day. Eating like a horse +
enjoying every meal.

14

Monday

Went shopping with Tom and Eric. Bought
floor rug for Edna. Wrote to Mum.
Shopping again in afternoon. Met
Charlie in Orecio.
Evening - dinner at United Forces
Club. Then to Concert Hall. Com-
plaints at Globe Theatre (Eddy Mallory
etc.). Supper at Hibbert House
(Eggs, chips + Tomato).

SEPTEMBER

15

Tuesday

Bought Dad a leather writing outfit. Pasted parcels home. Went to Sidi Bishr by tram. Had lunch there. Met Ernest Chambers of Tutira (Kaiwaka)

Evening. Tried out my War Song - "Up from the South." To bed 11:30 P.M.

16

Wednesday

Back to Camp near seaside. Two parcels - one from Mum, one from Edna. Jim Wootan drowned while swimming yesterday.

SEPTEMBER

17

Thursday

Wrote out music for N.Z.F.F. Times Competition. "Up from the South" Song of 3 verses & chorus by R.T. Street.

Went to R.A.P. to have little finger dressed. Cool breeze from sea - lovely.

18

Friday

Left with advance party for new area 20 miles S.E. at 8:45 P.M. Marked out Bn. area with flags. Composed words for new song "Fly Flappy."

SEPTEMBER

19

Saturday

Rest of Bn arrived at 9 A.M. in
Trucks + went to allotted areas.
Put my "Fly Flappy" song to
music.

20

Sunday

Church Parade 10 A.M.

SEPTEMBER

21

Monday

Went in Jeeps with Jack Keen,
To identify certain spot heights.
Dug down our bivvy "about
a foot."

Wrote to Milt White.

At 9 P.M. went on night manoeuvre till midnight. Advanced
on foot $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

Boiled billy on return + had
Bully for supper.

Tuesday

22

Sent song "Fly Flappy" to
Musical Director of Kiwi
Concert Party.

Another night manoeuvre
(Brigade) from 7 P.M. till
1 A.M. Boiled billy on
return.

SEPTEMBER

23

Wednesday

Wrote to Mum & Edna.
Bought tin of pineapple +
chocolate at H.Q. Coy.
Canteen.

Prepared to move (tomorrow)
on Div. manoeuvres.
To bed early - 8 P.M. Slept in
"I" tent as our bivvy was
pulled down & folded up.

Beautiful moonlight night.

24

Thursday

Set out on Div. manoeuvres.
Left 7.30 - arrived new area
2.30 P.M. Passed crashed
Boston bomber at side of route.
4 graves nearby.

Tea at 5.30 P.M. (Curry, mashed
potatoes, stewed apple - tea)
Left in convoy at 7.30 for new
area. Arrived 11 P.M.

SEPTEMBER

25

Friday

Dug in on arrival last night.
Heavy fog first thing.
Stayed in area till 9 P.M. Much
petrified wood about. Collected
several specimens to send home.
Walked over to 24 P.M. & met
Paddy. Talked for half an hour.
Left for new area at 9 P.M.
on foot - 7½ miles. Moonlight
night. Dug in on arrival near
large palm tree.

Saturday

26

On manoeuvres. In area
all day. At night did advance
under cover of artillery barrage.
Several shells landed short.
One C. Coy. chap wounded. I
counted the paces.
Dug in on arrival.

SEPTEMBER

27

Sunday

Tanks (new American "Shermans") co-operated & did a shoot. Had a good look over a new tank. Weighed 30 tons - cost £30,000 - crew of 5. A 75 mm. cannon in turret with 360° traverse.

Manoeuvres finished at 10 A.M. Left in convoy for old area at 9.30 P.M. Rough bumpy ride. Arrived 3 A.M.

28

Monday

Breakfast 9 A.M.

Easy day.

Sing-song in evening.

SEPTEMBER

29

Tuesday

Composed new song "We are the Kiwis". Posted parcels to Dad & Edna (petrified wood). Very hot day. No breeze.

To submarine

Wednesday

30

Wrote to Mum & Edna. Practised my song "Fly Flappy" with Norm & Ken for concert on Friday night.

Parade for Ministry

OCTOBER

1

Thursday

Patriotic Parcels arrived.
Mine was from Dunedin. Very nice parcels. Wrote letter of appreciation.

Went out to cairn as marker at 7.30 P.M. for compass traverse.
Sat nearly on a snake. It hissed at me.

2

Friday

Concert at 7 P.M. near R.A.P.
Very good programme.
6 Bde. Band in attendance.
Ken, Norm & I sang "Fly Flappy"
"Up from the South".
Ray Madden came to supper
at our tent & brought a cake.

OCTOBER

3

Saturday

3 letters from Edna; 3 from Mum & Dad. Also 2 snaps of Ponapa (excellent) with Edna's mail. Very happy. Also Edna's cake arrived. Tin not knocked about at all.

Night manicure from 7 P.M.

Rained & thundered at 3 P.M.

4

Sunday

Sent wire to Edna.
Started new song: V for Victory.
Ken left on 4 days leave.

OCTOBER

5

Monday

Rained heavily at
3.30 P.M.
Got my hair cut by
Noel.

Went with Jack in "Jeep"
To plot positions for
start of Bde. Manoeuvres
tomorrow.

6

Tuesday

On manoeuvres.
Found a big black scorpion.
Kept it in a tin - to send home.

OCTOBER

7

Wednesday

On manoeuvres. Returned to
camp at 1.30 P.M.

Windy + sand storm.

8

Thursday

Wrote to Edna - Mum.
Sent in song "V for Victory"
to Song Competition.

OCTOBER

9

Friday

24 Boston bombers passed over
with 50 odd fighters - a grand
sight. Saw all 24 return two
hrs. later. In afternoon 18 more
Bostons with escort went over.
Later on, saw two more lots
of bombers - 18 in each lot.
Dozens of fighters too.
Some returned low over our
area.

10

Saturday

Up early. On exercises till
130 P.M.
Parcel of 200 cigarettes
(Captains) arrived from Edna.

OCTOBER

11

Sunday

Sent 20 Xmas. cards to friends
and relatives.
Church parade 9.30 A.M.
Talkies at 7.30 P.M. (Mobile
Cinema) "Night Life of the Gods."

Ice-cream + fruit salad for tea.

12

Monday

Out for the day to see
manoeuvres by Sherman
Crusader tanks. Took our
lynch & boiled the billy. Met
Paddy. Very pleasant being.

OCTOBER

13

Tuesday

On manoeuvres for the day.
 Saw 4 gazelle & a fox.
 Given a fine specimen of
 a chameleon by Bernard
 Pearce of H.Q. Coy. Canteen.
 Over a foot long - green in
 colour. Changes colour very
 quickly.

14

Wednesday

On manoeuvres in morning.
 My chameleon escaped after
 lunch.
 Had "sing-song" in tent in
 evening.
 Shifting to the beach tomorrow.

OCTOBER

15

Thursday

Left at 1:30 for new area
 near beach. Packed up in
 morning - pulled down tent.
 I travelled with Ewart in
 the jeep & we led the con-
 -voy. Arrived 3:15 P.M.
 Put up "I" tent and own
 bivvies on sand-hills.

16

Friday

Pay day. Had a swim in
 sea - lovely sandy beach.
 Sea very blue (light)
 Came up very windy - just
 storm in afternoon follow-
 -ed by rain.

Dave (from Sigs) brought
 me in a brown chameleon.
 Wrote to Mum.

OCTOBER

17

Saturday

Windy with light showers.
Worked in office.
Wrote out parts for "Lullaby".
Played "500" in evening.

18

Sunday

Church Parade & Communion.
New padre - very good
style. Wrote out music.
My chameleon caught 3 flies.
In afternoon (3:30 P.M.) concert
by Kiwi Concert Party. Very
good.

OCTOBER

19

monday

Sorted out maps. Met our
new I. Officer.

At 1:35 saw 21 American
bombers fly over - a grand
sight. Accompanied by at least
40 fighters.

20

Tuesday

Lovely day. Saw 24 American
bombers fly over - escorted by
fighters. A great sight. Two hrs
later - another 24 with fighters
went over. My pet chameleon
caught 8 flies. Wrote to Mum &
Edna.

Leave tomorrow for front line.

Miteiriyah

OCTOBER

24

SATURDAY

Frietary

Reached objective.

Tanks in action.

Visited out Cays, in front of ridge. Went to captured Jerry A.P. to get numbers of wounded German Drilling up our chaps. ~~Boys~~ brought back Jerry prisoners of war.

25

SUNDAY

Bombing by enemy.

Tanks in action.
Air-burst cleaned up 6
of our P.M. H.Q. Chap.

26
one
two
three
four
five
six
seven
eight
nine
ten

OCT

2

Went
down
up
(62)

Consequently the diary for 23 Oct. should be for 24th.
and so for the next few days.

		34 St. James St. Hope	
OCT 21	WEDNESDAY		
Went to "lay up" area for day. Marched to forward point at night. (12 miles)			
22	FRIDAY		
Lay up all day in dug out.			
Attack began at 10 P.M. Traffic Arty. Barrage (creeping)			
Saturday	SUNDAY		
Shelling by enemy.			
Tanks in action.			
Air-burst cleaned up 5 of our Bn. H.Q. chaps.			

OCTOBER

26

Battle still on.

Some of C. Coy.
captured by Germans
Tanks (Grant)

Mon.
Sunday

28

Many of our tanks
blazing 4 out of
3 action.
Enemy lost 70 tanks.

Our Air Force on
top.

TUES
monday

WED.
Tuesday

OCTOBER

28

Relieved by S. Africans
Moved back 15 miles.

THURS.
Wednesday

28

Saw plane break up
in the air, pieces
fell everywhere.
Saw 7 lots of 15
bombers (once) go over.
Bad cold. Tired.

OCTOBER

30

Resting behind lines. Had desert sores attended to and all my hair cut off. Had wash left over. Washed socks, handkerchiefs. Wore my cap-furred flying shorts. Excellent fit. Put up I. tent. Tin of fruit (peaches) for lunch. Excellent tea.

31

Resting behind lines. Sky full of our planes.

Fighters on patrol all day up above.

Pulled down tent. Packed up gear ready for move.

Moved to new area in north.

FRIDAY

Thursday

1942

1 NOV.

OCTOBER

31

SUNDAY

Saturday

Reached new area in early morning.

Area shelled during day. Stuka raid in afternoon.

Hot tea brought up.

SAT.

Friday

NOVEMBER

2

In area all day.
Went to Bde. in Jeep with
Dudley in afternoon.

Attack made by Tommies &
tanks about midnight.
Terrible barrage (ours)

Tyneside Bde (151st) & 152 Highland
Bde.

D.L.I.↑

3,

TUES
monday

Escorted 50 prisoners to P.W.
cafe. 4 Italian officers, 4
Jefries, rest Itics. Many more
prisoners came out.

Stuka raid; in middle of a shave.
Dusty in our area - many
tanks going up + down.

Moved forward 4000 yds. at night.
Dug in.

MON.

Sunday

WED.

Tuesday

NOVEMBER

4

Shelled during day. Tpt. moved
up. Stuka raid 1 P.M.
One of our planes (bomber)
shot down in flames.

6:30 P.M. heavy enemy shelling
of our Bn. H.Q! Kept in my slit
trench. One shell landed 15 yds.
away. Caused 6 casualties including
our Adjutant - Arthur Barnett (Dunedin).
Enemy retreating from North sector.

Good news. Good sleep.

Wednesday THURS

5

In same area. Quieter
today. Prepared to move.

Moved by M.T. at 7 P.M.
Travelled all night across
enemy territory.

NOVEMBER

6

FRIDAY

Thursday

On trail of the enemy.
Tanks (ours) out in front.
Moved in desert formation.
Enemy retreating from Egypt.
Visited 2 German lorries abandoned.
Got a haversack, new pair of Huns face-up boots etc.
Lots of stuff lying about.
Moved on after tea to a new area.
Slept on top of our truck (Dodge 15 cwt.)

7

SAT. Friday

Several hundred Hun & Itie prisoners brought in. They had fired on our convoy. Our ATks. + MMGs replied, wounding several. (600 P.Ws. 100 fm 90 Light)

On we go in pursuit of the fleeing enemy. Our convoy reached right across horizon.
Stopped for night.

Gun fire to West.

SUM.

Saturday

NOVEMBER

8

Heavy rain. Ground very soft.
Unable to go on.

Good news about progress of battle. 30,000 prisoners.
Not many German Tanks left.

Had a look at captured German Red Cross Van. Wonderful equipment. Got documents & books.
Raining on and off. Slept under bivvy tent.

Sunday

Morn.

9 Nov

Chasing up the enemy.
Started off again. Truck got stuck. Pulled out by Bren Carrier.

NOVEMBER

10

Chasing the enemy.
Went over to Jerry car with
dead Jerry lying alongside.
R.A.P. Sgt. got his watch. I got
a new helmet & haversack.

Arrived Mersa Matruh at
dusk. Hundreds of burnt
German vehicles

10

Tuesday

At Mersa Matruh. Much loot!
Dressed up in Jerry uniform
& had my photo taken.
Went for a swim in the
sea.

Sing song round piano
in evening. Bucket of wine

Heard that Tobruk had
been taken by the Marines.

TUES

monday

NOVEMRER

11

Wednesday

In Barracks at Mersa Matruh
Saw many Daimler-Benz
Aero engines, brand new,
left behind. Also plane wings
of all sorts.

Collected souvenirs - Jerry
Bayonet, belt, boots etc:-

12

Thursday

At Mersa Matruh.

NOVEMBER

13

Friday

Wrote to Mum & Edna.
Found more loot - huge
room full of groceries.

My Carbide lamp a good
success.

14

Saturday

At Mersa Matruh.
Fewart left to go to O.C.T.U.
Route march of 4 miles to
the Lido for a swim. Very
good sandy beach. Sea
warm.

Played "500" in our room
after tea.

NOVEMBER

15

Sunday

Church Parade.
Wrote to Eileen.

16

Monday

By. Parade in morning.
Tidied up area.
Wrote to Mum. Paid fl.
Sent cable to Edna.
Mr. Piper brought back big
German staff-cat. To be
our property.

NOVEMBER

17

Tuesday

2 parcels from Edna. Paddy
called & stayed for morning
Tea. Norm got 5 parcels.

18

Wednesday

Wrote to Edna, Olive, Joyce,
Sycamore and Alma Ferguson.
Acted as Orderly Room
Clark for H.Q. Coy.
2 letters from Edna 2
from Dad, 1 from Mollie,
1 from Nancy Mount.

NOVEMBER

19

Thursday

At Mesa Matruh still
H.Q. Coy. Clerk.

Trip ~~to~~ began

20

Friday

Left Mesa Matruh at
1:30 P.M. for Lybia
Camped last night in
desert. I travelled in one
Jeep with 3 boys.
6:54 p.m. arrived at El Alamein

NOVEMBER

21

Saturday

On the move again across
the desert. Our German
staff car broke down - front
axle broke.

Travelled about 100 miles
in desert format in
Must be near the frontier.
Camped for night.

22

Sunday

Crossed into Libya through frontier
wire at 11:45 A.M.
Reached destination at 3:15 P.M.
Went to our area, put up I. tent
& own bivvies. Sidi Asciz in
distance. Thousands of vehicles
around the horizon (N.Z.D.I.V.)

NOVEMBER

23

Monday

Many winged Liberators passed over
- flying Westwards. Visited Coys. to get
information for War Diary.

24

Tuesday

Sorted out maps.
Overcast.
Jack made some whitewash
"patties". Very good.

NOVEMBER

25

Wednesday

Overcast. Went in Jeep in afternoon with Mr Piper and Norm to ~~Dadia~~^{Badia}. Had look around the town (battered) and port. 2 steamers being unloaded into lighters.

Rained slightly during night.

26

Thursday

Received parcel from Mum, one from Edna, one from Molly.

Played football for H.Q.A. Beaten by A.Th. 5 - 0.

NOVEMBER

27

Friday

Nothing much doing.

Stiff from football match yesterday. Too old!!

28

Saturday

Overcast.

Went to football in afternoon. 26 Bn. beat 21 Bn. by 12 - 8.

Rained slightly.

NOVEMBER

29

Sunday

Went to A.D.S. for hot showers.
 Wrote to Edna.
 Wrote to Mum.
 Paddy rang me. Had a long
 chat over the phone.
 Listened to B.B.C. at 6 P.M.
 Listened to Mr. Churchill's speech
 at 10 P.M.

30

Monday

Wrote to Mollie.
 Instruction on British
 mines by Engineers.

DECEMBER

1

Tuesday

Wrote to Nancy.
 (2 A Fitzherbert St.)

Lovely day.
 Instruction on German
 and Italian mines and
 booby traps. Retail.
 Letters from Edna, Mum &
 Isabel.

Supper in Norm's tent.

2

Wednesday

Letter from Dad & Mum, and one from
 Bob Holmes.
 Took maps & B.B.C. News bulletin
 around Companies.
 Wrote to Bob.

DECEMBER

3

Thursday

Posted letter to Bob. Sent N.Z. E.F. Times to Dad.
 Rained slightly during day.
 Attended mine detection demonstration by Engineers.
 Paid at 6 P.M.
 Went to Talkies (Mobile Cinema) at R.A.P. at 6.30 P.M.

4

Friday

Left area for somewhere to the West at 10.30 A.M. Travelled in 15 cwt. Reached Sidi Resegh & went 4 or 5 mts. beyond.
 Camped for night at 5.45 P.M.

DECEMBER

5

Saturday

On again past El Adem / big drama! lots of wrecked enemy planes. Many of our bombers & troop carriers landing & taking off. Went on past Bit Hakim (where French held off Jerry in May).
 Camped for night at 5.15 P.M.

BACK a year.)

Sunday

1941

67

Church Parade. Picked out with 112 others to leave tonight for the Line Battalions. Packed up gear. Posted hand-bag to Edna.
 Left camp at 7 P.M. Marched to Maadi carrying full pack. Boarded train for Western Desert.

DECEMBER

1941

DECEMBER

Monday

8

Travelled all night. Sat on pack on floor of carriage. Dozed at intervals. Tengi silver at two sides came at 6 A.M. (Amirya) Ate Bully beef & biscuits on train at 11:30. Lethin put sand. Passed several aerodromes. Arrived destination at 5 P.M. Slept with Ray White in small tent 2 miles from Mediterranean Sea.

Tuesday

89

Blowing sand flying. Wore eye shields. Roy & I changed quarters to "dug-out". Picked out to go into intelligence section. Shifted by truck from B Coy area to Headquarters. Slept in Orderly Room. Wind moderated.

DECEMBER

1941

DECEMBER

Wednesday

10

Cloudy. Spent morning digging up roofing iron for our dug out, with Frank Coe, my new mate. Our new quarters - room underground - 15 yards in from each end. Cleared out sand in afternoon. Shifted our gear in. Wind changed to N. Some rain fell at 4 pm.

Thursday

10/11

Wind from sea. Spent morning digging up sheets of tin from old hospital site. Ditto in afternoon. Brought back tin boards & odd odds by truck to our dug-out. Tea - very good. Shepherd's pie; jam tart & rice. Marvellous how they cook in the open air shelter whatever. Bottle of beer before bed.

12-11

DECEMBER

Friday

1941

DECEMBER

12

Calmer. Worked on dug-out all morning. Ralph joined & Frank & me in our room. Put on roof of office. In afternoon, went for route march of 3 miles. Stopped at sea-shore. Had a swim in the nude water not very cold. Ate Ralph's Xmas cake in dug-out - bottle beer in evening. To bed 8 P.M.

Saturday

123

Ceremonial Parade this morning at The Oasis. Inspected by Brigadier Barracough. Dug out ground for office in afternoon. Was paid. Went to movies by Mobile Cinema Unit. Open air. Very enjoyable. Cecile Courtenage in "Everybody Dance". Programme from 6.30 to 8.15 P.M.

1941

DECEMBER

124

Sunday

Overcast. Church parade at 9.15 A.M. Letter from Dad & Mum, written on 15th Nov. Fixed up sleeping quarters. Dug out site for office (Intelligence Section) in afternoon. Saw Convoy passing Westwards (3 transports, 3 naval vessels). After tea visited boys in B. Coy. Posted letter to Mum.

Monday

125

Wet, windy, miserable day. Wind off sea, heavy rain at times. Map reading in morning. Rigged up 2 kerosene lamps. Played 500 in evening.

DECEMBER

186

Tuesday

Blowing and raining at intervals. Proceeded with digging of dug-out for office. Went with Major McQuade in truck to witness an attack by B. Company (Manoeuvres). Received letter from Edna. Felt very elated. Ate large dinner: 2 helpings.

187

Wednesday

Acted as guide to D Coy. To rendezvous to witness manoeuvre by B. Coy. Marched out at 8.30, returned in time for lunch. Day - fine, no wind. Finished office. Had swim in sea with Ralph & Frank. Letter from Mum. Wrote to Mrs Davis in evening.

DECEMBER

18

Thursday

Beautiful day. Went on Compass Traverse in morning with Ray and Ralph. In afternoon, dug out soil for Mess Tent. At 6 P.M. listened to B.B.C. news at B. Coy. Read "Digest" in dug-out.

189

Friday

Beautiful day. Swotting Intelligence pamphlet in morning. Map reading in afternoon with Mr. Piper. Issued with Patriotic parcel! Tin of ginger-nuts, chocolate, boy's taces, razor blades; tin of tomato soup, handkerchiefs, a tin of cream. Evening - chatting in Ray's & Jack's dug-out. Some more arrivals from Maadi.

DECEMBER

19 & 21

19. 20th.

Saturday

Coal breeze from South.
Did washing. Fixed up
fire place & boiled water.
Received parcel from Mum
& Dad & a Xmas. gift from
Edna's Mother & Father.
Listened to B.B.C. at 6 P.M.
Talked in dug-out with
Ewart & Dick till 9.15 P.M.

20.1

Sunday

Church Parade - 9 A.M.
Breeze from West.
Wrote to Edna and Mum.
Fixed steps of Ewart's dug-out.
Listened to B.B.C. news at
6 P.M.
Talkies in open air. "O. Kay
for Sound."
Letter & snaps from Colin.
He is in 20th Bn. H.Q. Coy.

DECEMBER

22

Monday

Fine day. Took Maps to D
Coy.

In afternoon, went on compass
march with Ralph to locate
Brigade H.Q., H.Q. Coy.
Y.M.C.A.

Listened to B.B.C. News. at
6 P.M.

Raining & thunder at
11.30 P.M.

22.3

Tuesday

Thunder, lightning & rain at mid-
night. Water poured into dug-
out. Many chaps flooded right
out; Mr. Piper also. Our office had
a foot of water covering floor.
Our Section went on Reconnaissance
-ee, in truck, took lunch. Inter-
esting work. Showery during
day. Back at 6.30 p.m.

DECEMBER

1941

24

Wednesday

Letters from Edna, Mum &
Aunty Em.
Had hair cut by store
man at H.Q. Coy. (Ned Wilson)
Showery & windy.
Spent Xmas. Eve in Jack
at Ray's Dug-out.
Beer, coffee, lamb & greens
peas, pineapple for supper.
To bed, 11:45 P.M.

25

Thursday

Christmas Day.
Slept in till 11 A.M.
Excellent Xmas. Dinner,
Mutton, boiled & baked potato-
es, cauliflower & green
peas, plum pudding & fruit
salad.
Slept in afternoon.
Wrote to Edna in evening.
Opened Cake - excellent.

DECEMBER

25

Friday

Boxing Day.
Went with Battalion on
Route march. Windy day
- unpleasant.
Took Lunch. Went to hill
101.
Wrote to Mum.
To bed at 9:30.

26

Saturday

Tidied dug-out. Fixed up
my bunk.
In afternoon, went for
walk with Frank & Ralph
to sea-shore.
In evenings finished letter
to Mum.

DECEMBER

1941

278

Sunday

Went out to area for manoeuvre with I. Section + other officers. Went via road in trucks. Slept + read in afternoon. Went to talkies in open air at 6.30 P.M. Supper at Jack + Ray's. Dug-out.

289

Monday

Perfect day - no wind, sky cloudless. Sorted maps, tied in bundles. Letter from Mum. Read book - "Terminus." Supper - tinned fruit + cream. Coffee + milk.

DECEMBER

29 30.

Tuesday

Wet day. Went with Ewart + Mr. Piper in truck to take bearings on Escarpment. Visited Tomb of Sheikh Hatwash (marked on map). In afternoon, fixed roof of office (put tent fly over it). Evening - read book ("War Birds")

30 1

Wednesday

Last day of the year. Went in truck to deserted aerodrome on escarpment in afternoon. Took bearings. Saw remains of burnt out British bomber. Couldn't lift propeller (3 blades - metal) Evening - party in office. Guns firing - tracer bullets. To bed 12.30 A.M.

MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM

Brock's.
"Loch Inver"
R.M.D.
Otane.
H.B.

George.
32 Woodfield Ave;
Ealing,
London. S.W.5



100

THE HISTORY OF

C