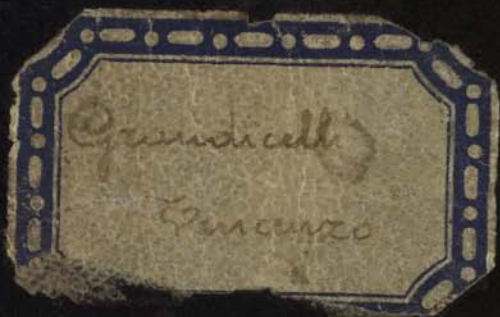




From Sunday 6 Dec; 1942
till 13 Sep. 1943
(Libya & Tunisia.) &
EGYPT.

Rewai J. Street

19088

26 NZ. Bn. & 23 NZ. Bn.
(1941-43) (1944)

5 Park Lane,
TIMARU,
N.Z.

Quaderno

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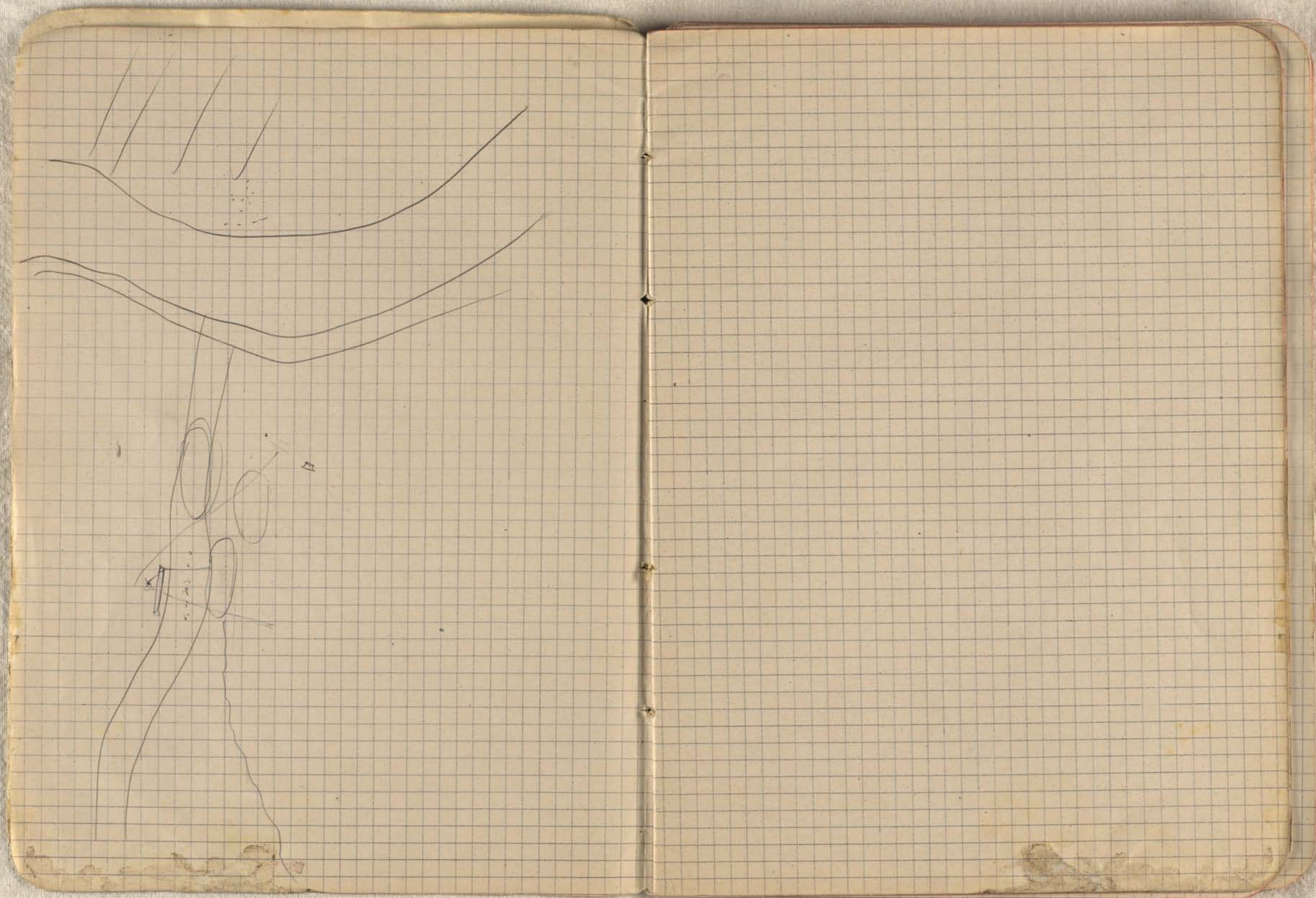
Rewai J. Street

19088

24.2.E.F.

Rewai T. Street

I9088



1941

19-20 Oct. 7th. Reins. arrive Suez.
First draft N.Z. WWSA
20th 27 O/Rs arrive Suez.

18 Nov. N.Z. Div. crossed "wire" into LIBYA.
Mr. W. J. Jordan inspects 6 + 7 Reins.
at MAADI.

21 Nov. N.Z. Div. moves North, passing
Sidi Omar.
"A" Sqdn N.Z. Div. Capt captures Sidi Azeiz
occupies escarpment overlooking Bardia
- Tobruk Rd.

22 Nov. 4 N.Z. Inf. Bde. cuts Bardia-Tobruk
Rd. - takes 370 P.Ws.

23 N.Z. Bn. takes Fort Capuzzo & cuts
communications with Bardia.

N.Z. Pie Factory opened in MAADI camp
by Mrs. B. C. Freyberg, wife of G.O.C.

23. 4 N.Z. Inf. Bde moves west, 19 Bn.
capturing Gambut airfield.

6 N.Z. Inf. Bde. Gp. captures Pt 175
near Sidi Regegh - 25 Bn. suffering
heavy casualties.

28 (MAORI) Bn. captures Sollum Barracks.
26 Bn. subjected to strong enemy
attacks after enemy hrs. overrun
5 S. African Bde. @ Sidi Regegh

24. Rommel withdraws 15, 21 + Ariete
Divs from Sidi Regegh region for raid
on frontiers.

25 Belhamed captured by 18 + 20 Bns.
in night attack.

26 6 N.Z. Inf. Bde. Gp. completes occupation

Libya.

December. 1942.

Sunday 6

Went on for about 80 miles. A Coy. Cooks Truck broke down. Had tea with H.Q. Coy. Bought tin of peaches at H.Q. canteen.

Monday 7

Went on for about 70 mls, past Msus. Parked down for night.

Tuesday 8

On for about 70 miles. Arrived at new area at 2 P.M. Passed 2 windmills on way, in wide Wadi. Now about 120 mls. ~~East~~ East of El Agheila. Put up bivvy.

Wednesday 9

Rained a little in morning. Walked round area to make map showing A/Tk. guns, A/A etc. Sunny in afternoon. Did map of area. Evening - general knowledge quiz (Norm and I, Lofty, Bernard and Colin). Enemy bombers dropped flares and bombs on drone mile or so away.

Thursday 10

Wrote to Edna and Mum. Packed truck ready for move tomorrow.

Friday 11

Up at 5.45. Left at 7.10. Travelled 30 miles south with 6 Bde. in desert formation. Dug in - put up bivvy. General Knowledge quiz at 'Lofty's' truck 7 till 8.30. Rained during night.

Saturday 12

Breakfast 8.15. Raining. Quite dry inside my tent. Read 2 Life Magazines. Order to move. Left at 2 P.M. Travelled 30 miles S.W. Dug in. Rain stopped. Desert bare of all vegetation - smooth with tiny pebbles. Rained again. Slept in truck.

Sunday 13.

On again some 40 miles. Camped for night. Fine and starry. Somewhere S.E. of El Agheila.

Monday 14

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

Tuesday 15

On again at 10 A.M. Have travelled 607 miles since leaving Messa Matruh on 20 Nov. Heavy shower at 8 A.M. Rest of day sunny. Went on till 10 p.m. Trucks fired upon by enemy A.T. guns. Vehicles hurriedly dispersed. Attached to C. Coy. Dug in. Heavy enemy mortaring during night. Bursting bombs made terrific din in Wadi. Finished my slit trench at 2 A.M. Cold night!

Wednesday 16.

Enemy mortaring area. Our 25 pds. and 6 pds. replying. Deepened my hole. Hurricanes and Spitfires overhead. We are on one side of Wadi Matratin 5 mls. from sea. Observed several Jerrys 2000 yds. away on opposite side of Wadi trying to pull out their A/Tk. guns (5). Our 25 pds. shelled them. Went with C. Coy. at noon to attack feature 2000 yds. away. Captured 4 50 mm. A/Tk. guns intact with ammunition. Fired upon by Spanish machine gun and A/Tk. gun. No casualties. German staff car captured. Got some loot - Jerry knife, fork, spoon, goggles, pipe. Saw one Jerry lying dead: blown to pieces by one of our shells. Leg lying 20 yds. away. Observed German Mk. IV tank set on fire by one of 25 Bn. 6 pds. Moved back to Bn. H.Q. Bde. shifted South some miles. Camped for night.

Thursday 17

Moved S.W. at 8 A.M. Marks of Jerry Mark IV tanks in ground. They sneaked past last night - between us and 5 Bde. Off to Tripoli via desert route. Passed 4 "Long Toms" in action. Saw some Jerry prisoners in trucks. Shelling in distance. Halted for night. Dug in. Jerry expected to break through tonight. Went to bed with boots on.

Friday 18

"Jerry" has escaped us. Went West during the night, between the road and the sea. Heard that Paddy is P.W. and wounded (slightly) in face by shrapnel. Was in ambulance on Wednesday 16th. going to A.D.S. when captured by German column escaping to rear of our position. Sunny day. Shaved; washed. Washed socks etc. Many of our fighters overhead. No enemy planes.

Saturday 19

Sunny day. Took things easy. Patriotic issue - chocolate and tin of fruit (between 3). Lecture by F.S.S. Corporal at 3.30 P.M. on Tripoli. Listened to B.B.C. at 6 P.M.

Sunday 20

Church Parade at 9.30 A.M. Windy day, but sunny. Shift to beach tomorrow. Listened to B.B.C. News at 6 P.M.

Monday 21

Shifted to new area between main road to Tripoli and the sea. Passed Nofilia en route (Italian Fort and Mosque: also wells.) Arrived 2.45 P.M. Dug in bivvy. Cold night.

Tuesday 22

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

Wednesday 23.

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

Thursday 24

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

Friday 25.

XMAS DAY. Lovely day.

Church service at 9 A.M.
Excellent dinner 1 P.M. (Tomato soup - pork-turkey and apple sauce, baked and boiled potatoes, green peas and carrots, gravy, plum pudding and sauce, Bottle of beer and 50 cigarettes. Wrote to Isabel and Mum.

Saturday 26

Rained fairly heavily during night. Quite dry in bivvy though. Medical inspection for lice etc. - at 3 P.M.
Clean boy!
Day turned out fine - wind from West.
Bought chocolate from Y.M.C.A.

Sunday 27

Church parade 9:30 A.M. In afternoon, hiked to beach with Norm (10 miles there and back) Very muddy going.
Crossed very shallow lagoon. Norm took one of me walking on the water." Had a look at mine washed up on beach.
Also 5 wrecked schooners.
Back in time for tea. Letter from Dad, Edna, Mrs Lister and cable from Edna. Wrote to Edna.

Monday 28

Sunny day. Opened Mum's Xmas cake. Excellent.
Attended Tabloid Sports meeting.
Wrote to Edna's mother in evening.

Tuesday 29

Fine and sunny. Football match H.Q. 0 v A. Coy. 3
Washed shirt, towel, handkerchiefs. Opened Edna's cake.
Excellent. (From Jenkins' tea-rooms, Timaru)

Wednesday 30

Fine and sunny. Attended meeting re. Sports tomorrow.

Thursday 31

Fine sunny day. Coy. sports in afternoon. Good ground, well marked out. I went in for 220 yds. 440 yds. High jump, Long Jump, Hop Step & Jump: Putting the weight. Came second in every event. Bottle of beer in evening.
Mail arrived. Letter from Edna (and photos), one from Mum, and one from Eileen.

JANUARY

Friday 1

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

Saturday 2

Went with Norm on water truck to Nofilia to take snaps.
In afternoon - sports meeting.
Too stiff to run.
Wrote to Edna & Mum in evening.

Sunday 3.

Thunder & lightning in early morning. Very windy & dusty. Some rain also. Wrote to Edna. Birvy full of dust.

Monday 4.

Moved 16 miles to new area South of Nofilia. Travelled in Bren Carrier. Vile day - cold wind; very dusty. Rest of 26 Bn. marched. Put up birvy. To bed early.

Tuesday 5

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

Wednesday 6

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

Thursday 7

Lovely day. Meeting of Concert Committee. I am Secretary. Held another meeting at night in Y.M.C.A. tent. Had supper. Heard speech over radio by Mr. Churchill (~~Roosevelt~~).

Friday 8

Cold breeze blowing. Held "Frugal" in morning. Held practise for concert in evening. Packed truck ready to move in morning.

Saturday 9

Travelled 40 miles Westwards.

Sunday 10

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

Monday 11

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

Tuesday 12

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

Wednesday 13

Spent day in same place till 3.30 P.M. Then moved on a short distance. Got stuck in soft sand several times. Had to push and use sand trays.

Thursday 14

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

Friday 15

Enemy held up our advance today. Shells bursting all day just in front among our tanks (Shermans). Some big shells went right overhead. Attack by enemy fighter bombers in early morning. Saw one plane brought down. At night, went with C. Coy. to protect the "Greys" (Tanks attached to us.) Slept well in slit trench.)

Saturday 16

Crossed Wadi Zemzem. Obtained specimens of weathered rocks - brown on outside, pure white inside. The enemy continues to withdraw. In the evening, when we had stopped for the night, we had a Stuka attack; also strafed by M.E's. No damage. (Got a scare though.)

Sedada.

Sunday 17

On again, in single file down and across deep Wadi. Grass and trees growing at the bottom. Saw Italian fort on top of hill to the right. I sat up on top of cab all day. Travelled 40 miles. Saw many Italian Tanks (Mk. 13) left by roadside. Saw also 3 burnt out ones (still burning.) Took snap. (Norm's camera.)

Monday 18

Lovely day. On again. Only 100 miles from Tripoli now. 28 Kitty hawks flew over, going North. Heard that the 51 Div. (Highland Div.) is at Misurata on coast road. Saw a truck load of Jerry prisoners brought in, from several enemy trucks that had been shot up by a Bofors gun. Our chaps got an Itie truck with a Breda A/A gun on: so took it over.

~~(Wednesday)~~
Tuesday 19

On again but for only 20 miles. Rough going. Heard that the 51st Div. (Highland Div.) is at Zliten. Passed Bene Uid in moonlight. Very picturesque. Green fields: town and fort on top of cliff.

Wednesday 20

Proceeded 10 miles only today. Obtained fresh water from a well.

Thursday 21

On slowly again. Heard that Tripoli has been evacuated by the enemy. Should be there soon.

Friday 22

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

Saturday 23

Tripoli is now in our hands. We stayed in our area all day. Very happy. Mail caught us up. 3 letters from my beloved; 2 from Mum and Dad. 1 from Jack; cables from Auntie Em and Dorothy. Blew very hard today: sandy.

Sunday 24

On again for 30 miles, on a Bitumen road at last, past Azizig, with green trees, olives growing in rows in fields, windmills and white stone houses. Reached new area at noon. Put up bivvies. Disappointed in our area. Very sandy — on edge of desert. An M.E. 109 flew over at 200 feet. The enemy only moved from here yesterday. An armoured car shot up the Brigadier's car yesterday when he was looking over this area. The driver has died.

BIANCHI

Monday 25

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

Tuesday 26

Went with rest of Sec. in our truck to see the countryside. Called at farmhouse. Exchanged for bully — 10 eggs, 2 fowls, 6 cabbages, 1 rabbit (skinned & dressed), peanuts and carrots. Country near coast very picturesque. Trees lining the roads: green fields: white stone houses. Called in at several houses: built in the shape of a square with sheds etc. on two sides. Many windmills about. Water is got by pumping. No rivers or streams. A few of the inhabitants speak French. Had fun trying to make ourselves understood.

Wednesday 27

Wet day. Went to Giordani for hot showers.

Thursday 28

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

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

Friday 29

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

Saturday 30

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

Sunday 31

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

February 1943.

Monday 1.

Lovely day. Prepared to shift to new area tomorrow.
Wrote to Mum.

Tuesday 2

Moved to new area Suani Ben Adem. Among trees and green fields. Air raid over Tripoli at 7 P.M. Great sight; like a fireworks display.

Wednesday 3.

Marched $3\frac{1}{2}$ mls. to practise for ceremonial parade to take place tomorrow for Mr. Churchill.

Thursday 4

Ceremonial Parade for Mr. Churchill. Marched $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to parade ground in morning. Lovely day. Rehearsed parade once before lunch. Mr. Churchill, General Alexander, General Montgomery drove round troops. Marched past. Winnie spoke to our Dix. Maori Bn. put on excellent show. Parade of Tanks, Arty. also.

Friday 5

Runner for day. Got off in afternoon to go to Castel Benito to see about theatre for concert. Very good theatre. Called in at aerodrome on way back. Saw a M.E. 109 E close to. Saw also new Vamp fighter "Lightning" with 2 engines and twin booms + tail. Named "Little Edna". Saw also several Beaufighters, Lockheed Transport planes, hundreds of German & Italian planes smashed on drone & in hangars. In evening - Mobile Cinema -

Saturday 6

Lovely day. Went in Jeep to Castel Benito (6 miles) to fix up about hall for concert. Got use of theatre for 5 nights beginning next Friday.

On way back, had a look over the drone. Hundreds of planes of all types.

Sunday 7

Wet day. No church parade. Mail arrived. Letter from Edna, Mum and Nancy. Received parcel from Frances Harliwich. Also a cake from Mum (made by the Ritz - Nelson.)

Monday 8

Mail arrived. Letter from Edna, Mum and Bina.

Tuesday 9.

Wet day. On leave to Tripoli. Went in by truck at 9 A.M.
Had a good look around the town & in the native quarter.
Bought a leather shopping bag for Edna (25/-)
Had mug of tea at Y.M.C.A.
Back to camp at 5.15. Arrived in time for tea at 6 P.M.

Wednesday 10

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

Thursday 11.

Shifted to Tripoli by truck in morning & took up residence
in an unoccupied house (2 storeys) in residential quarter
 $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile from Governor's palace.
Our "I" office is across the street in another house.
Wonderful library there. Looked through books.
Put up big wall map of the city on wall of office.
Put on maps to show position of Cons., Y.M.C.A.
Union Club, Brewery, Bde., Brothel Area etc:-

Friday 12.

Most of day spent in office.
Wrote to Mum.

Saturday 13.

On leave for the day. Went with Harry to see Kiwi
Concert Party at Union Club. Hell of a queue. Waited
from 1.45 till 3 P.M. & then didn't get in.

Had a walk around the city. Very pretty along the
waterfront. Palms & gardens. Bought dates and
peanuts. Harbour full of ships - several 10,000 ton
liberty steamers (U.S.A.) Several Italian steamers
sunk or burnt out, scattered about the harbour.
Quite a number of buildings wrecked or damaged
by bombs (ours, I guess).
The Cathedral not far from the harbour is undam-
-aged.

Sunday 14

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

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

Monday 15

Concert arranged for Thursday, 7 P.M. in Ballroom of Governor's palace.

Wrote to Edna.

Worked on wharves from 11 P.M. till 7 A.M. unloading stores & oil drums. Brought back 2 2lb. tins of peaches.

Tuesday 16

Worked on the wharves from 3 till 11 p.m. unloading stores from T.L.C's.

Wednesday 17

Practised for concert to be shown in the ballroom of the Governor's palace tomorrow night. Stage erected: lighting all fixed: curtains, spot-light etc. -
Put chairs in position.

Thursday 18

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

Concert in evening from 7 till 9 P.M. Full house. An excellent performance. Programme. Opening Chorus (Liberty Bell - words by me & There'll always be an England") Mac - Yodel & Pig and Whistle: B.B.C. News - Padre Underhill - Bedroom Scene - Patter - Violin solo - Dave Menzies - Musical Monologue - Clyde: Song - Len, "Disorderly Room".
Interval.

"Sawbones" - Saxophone Solo - Monologue - Melodrama "Poor but honest." - Saxophone, piano accordion & uke. - Hula!
- Song (George Brady) - "One little finger keep moving" -
"Saieda Bint": "Fly Flappy" - Tableau.

Friday 19.

Concert at Governor's Palace. Packed ballroom. A very good show. I surprised the Brigadier on the W.C. I was dressed as a lady too. Was the Brig. embarrassed! Supper at Y.M.C.A. (Biscuits, scones, sandwiches, fruit salad)

Saturday 20.

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

Sunday 21.

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

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

Monday 22

Went into city in morning. Lovely day. Saw hole made by enemy bomb on waterfront. Blasted seafront wall down - made big hole. In afternoon, went to talkies at Palace ("Topper"). In evening - our concert at Palace. Supper at Y.M.C.A.

Tuesday 23

Lovely day. Our Revue "Thumbs Up" at Miramere Theatre at 7 P.M. 6 Bde. Band played from 6.30 till 7 P.M. Theatre full. (Holds 1600 persons.) Excellent performance. I was made up by Wally Pricter - female impersonator of Kiwi Concert party. Took an hour to do my face. Made a marvellous job. Didn't know myself. Supper at Y.M.C.A. afterwards.

Wednesday 24

Lovely day. Fixed notices for concert tomorrow. Did up two parcels for Edna; one for Dad (books). In afternoon, went with Norm & Jack R. to see Kiwi Concert at Miramere theatre. Met Eric Young there (from 23 Bn. I. Sec.) Evening Party in Sig's room at H.Q. Coy. Air Raid 1 A.M. Bombs dropped near harbour.

(Received cake from Mrs. Brock. (Waikoni - Hastings). Wrote to Edna.)

Thursday 25

Lovely day. Prepared for concert during morning. Put up posters: hired native boy to act as "Sandwich Man". Had 4 cups of coffee. Many more shops open here now. Had a bath and shave in afternoon. Concert "Thumbs Up" in evening in Miramere Theatre. 6 Bde. Band played from 6.30 till 7 P.M. Full house: excellent performance. Wally Pricter made me up. (Beautiful!) Bedroom scene was a scream. Several nurses in audience (Didn't know at the time!) The Melodrama (poor but honest) went better than ever. Supper at Y.M.C.A. after the show. Then a party (back) at Support Coy. To bed 1 A.M. Air raid 6 A.M.

Friday 26.

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

Saturday 27

Up at 9.30. Missed breakfast. Prepared to move to old area under trees at Suani Ben Adem. Snap taken of us sitting on verandah in deck chairs. Worked on wharves from 10 P.M. till 1 A.M. Air raid warning 1 A.M. No planes came. Brought back 2 bottles of rum; 20 cakes of chocolate. Air raid at 4.30. Terrific barrage.

Sunday 28

Moved to old spot at Suani Ben Adem (14 miles from Tripoli) by truck at 9.30 A.M. Put up bivvy. To bed early. Air raid over Tripoli 7 P.M. Saw barrage.

MARCH 1943
Monday 1

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

Tuesday 2

Packed up and moved on at 9.30 to Tunisia. Fine day. Travelled all day and night. Bomb dropped 100 yds. from road by enemy plane at mid-night.

Wednesday 3

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

Thursday 4.

In same area. Very warm day. Changed into shorts. Went round Coy. areas to put on map.

5.30 P.M. three M.E. 109s shot down by A.A. and our Spitfires.

To bed early. Slept like a top.

Friday 5.

In area. Walked round A and B. Coys. to resect A.T. guns for map.

Letters (2) from Edna & from Mum (27 Dec. 3 Jan) 1 from Helen Lister.

Saturday 6

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

We were bombed about 3 P.M. by 4 M.E.s. out of the sun. 4 wounded. Saw several bombing raids by Stukas and M.E.s. Wrote to Mrs. Brock.

Many Spitfires about all day. Saw bombs drop like footballs from German bombers. One Tommy blown to pieces. Enemy have had 37 tanks knocked out today. Heard that Tripoli had heavy air raid a night or two ago. Benito Mussolini School (where our troops were) wrecked.

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

Sunday 7

Rained during night. Gunfire from time to time.

Sunny morning. Spitfires and M.E.s overhead at breakfast time.

8.40 A.M. saw an M.E. 109 shot down near Medenine by our A/A.

Big cloud of smoke where it crashed.

Wrote to Mum. Just finishing when enemy bombers came screaming down. Leapt out of truck, ran to my slit trench just as bombs were falling. Bombs fell 100 yds. away. Sandy Powell and Johnny Legg (Sigs) wounded. B. Coy. Canteen destroyed. Saw many dog-fights overhead. Planes in sky all day. Bought chocolate, tobacco, milk & fruit from H.Q. canteen. Deepened my slit trench.

Monday 8

Much quieter today. Warm and overcast. Wrote to Mrs. Bullock.

Took newsletters round Companies in Jeep. Rommel has with-

-drawn into the hills again after his unsuccessful attack yesterday.

Wrote to Eileen in afternoon. Some reinforcements arrived.

Met Bruce Guthrie. Ralph Newburgh back in Bn. also.

Plumduff for tea. Fighter bombers over at 5.5 P.M. Dropped bombs a mile away.

Not many planes about today.

Tuesday 9.

Frugal this morning. 1600 yds. advance on foot.

Read Digest in bivvy in afternoon.

Wrote to Edna after tea.

1900 hrs. Night exercise (as for morning). Mug of tea at A. Coy. on return.

Wednesday 10

Wrote to Cousin Beatrice. Mail - 2 letters from Edna, 2 from Mum (11th-17th Jan).
Went to Bde. re cipher. Harry Gillett gave me collection of photographs of Bulbo's flight across the Atlantic (flying boats) 1934.
2 new arrivals for "I" Sec.
Move tomorrow.

Thursday 11

Left 8 A.M. travelled coln. of route via Ben Gardane, Foum Tatahouine. Travelled all day; all night. Arrived destination 5.30 A.M.

Friday 12

Day slit trench. Put up bivvy. Slept in afternoon.
Ju. 88 recce. plane flew over S.E. to N.W. at great height.

Saturday 13.

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

Sunday 14

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

Monday 15

Lovely day. Took maps, B.B.C. newsheet and Div. Summary around Cays in jeep.
Evening - lecture by Capt. (Sandy) Thomas on Escape from Greece.
Route march ($4\frac{1}{2}$ miles) by compass.

Wrote to Mum and Edna during the afternoon.
Communion (Anglican) at 8.30 A.M.

Tuesday 16

Went round Coys. with Div. Summary; News Sheet.
Helped lay start line for night manoeuvre.
Night manoeuvre - 8 till 10.30.
Boiled billy on return.

Wednesday 17

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

Thursday 18

Rained during night. Blowing.
2 parcels from Edna. (Sax, shortbread, razor-blades, cake, toothbrush, dentrifice, coffee & milk, sheeps' tongues, cheese.)

Friday 19

Sent photos (5) to Mum, taken last Sept. 1 of me lifting wheel of Jeep; 1 at Mesa Matruh with Nazi flag; 1 of my chameleon; 1 of Norm & Ken on beach; 1 of fort of I. Sec. with bottle beer apiece.
Prepared to move. Left at 5.45 P.M.

(Obtained goods from Y.M.C.A. canteen for the Sec. Tobacco, chocolate, nugget, matches, razor blades, tea, milk, sugar.

Travelled about 34 miles, in desert formation (9 columns).
Good going.

Saturday 20

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

Sunday
Friday 21

On again. Travelling North across desert. Undulating - not bad going. At 5.30 P.M. were bombed by 14 Kitty-hawks (Yanks) by mistake. 4 Tommies killed short distance in front & 3 tonner destroyed.
On again till 7 P.M. Stopped night.

Monday
Saturday 22.

On again. Halted 10 A.M. Saw our Fighter-bombers bomb Jerry some miles ahead. Our guns firing on distant target. Halt for lunch - boiled up. Saw 68 of our planes in the air at once including 12 Lightnings. Prepared for night attack. Attached to A. Coy. Attack began 10 P.M. Barrage by our Arty. One 25 pdr. falling short. Killed 2 of 25 Bn. Adv. down flat green wadi. Came to A/Tk. ditch. Enemy firing down it. Crossed ditch: cut through wire. Captured many Itie. prisoners. Took 20 back to Bn. H.Q. Led Carriers back to A. Coy. Dug in 2-30 A.M.

Tuesday
Sunday 23.

Enemy shelling from right ahead. Saw enemy transport in front. Our tanks went forward at noon. Many more prisoners brought in - Jerries & Ities. (Nearly 2000 now).
2-15 P.M. Our Tank-busters came over - destroyed one of our Shermans.
7 P.M. Moved forward at dusk to Roman Wall - dug in. (Roman wall runs right across valley - 2500 yrs. old.) Our tanks retired. Blankets brought up.

Wednesday
Monday 24.

Enemy still shelling our area. Fock-Wulf strafed from 20 feet up - 8-15 A.M. I lay down behind 4 gal. tin of water - was filling water bottle at the time. 1 chap wounded in A/Tk. Rept. 50 yds. away. Saw 3 enemy tks. At 11 A.M. 27 Kittyhawks & Tank-busters came over with Spitfire cover. 2 big fires started. 9 J.U. 22's flew over. One shot down in flames. (2 landed by chute: 2 failed to open.) At 5 P.M. an enemy truck preceded by motor cyclist came towards us up main road. Our M.M. G's opened up - truck turned round & made off. 5-30 P.M. Our Tank Busters in action again. Saw 2 enemy figures 200 yds. away near road. Enemy tank on fire 7 P.M.

Thursday 25

7 A.M. Saw 14 German forces tanks come up (Bearing 352°). Went with I.O. in Jeep to contact French Force on right flank. Found them at 11 A.M. Went with L.O. (Capt. O'Rowke) and Greek L.O. to top of highest peak. Looked over enemy lines. Several enemy shells landing among hills. Saw black native troops (French) carrying ammunition up steep hills. Had lunch with L.O. Then went to well & had bath (standing up). Lovely cold clear water. Filled water tins. Ran for shelter in wadi in the nude when enemy shell landed near. Back to 26 Bn. at 5 P.M. Bn. shifted after dark to 24 Bn. area. 21 Bn. attacked hill & captured it. Heard that Capt. Aitken died of wounds. Put out letter N. in tins with sand & benzine - for our planes to take bearing from.

Friday 26

Went with Provo. Sgt. to well in French Force area to fill water cans. Had another bath. Lovely. Back at 3 P.M. Big attack at 4 P.M. by Morris, 23 Bn. 21 Bn. supported by big creeping artillery barrage, bombs & tanks. Saw 42 bombers (18+12+12) going over. Wind blowing down valley. Much dust in enemy's face. Morris went in on tanks - 2 to a Crusader. Attack successful. Prisoners came in - 3 lots of Jerries - 50 in each lot. Helped search them. Got a camera (with film in), compass & manicure set in leather case.

Saturday 27

More prisoners - 50 Ities & 10 Jerries. Our 1st. Armd. Div. not far from El Hamma. Blowing & dusty. Helped search prisoners. Our forces driving on. Had wash & shave. Got my share (200 francs) taken from P.W's. 2 P.M. More Jerry P.W's came in. 4-30 More Itie P.W's. Tea at 5 P.M. Moved forward at 6 P.M. 4 miles. Passed enemy positions captured by our chaps. Stopped for night.

Sunday 28

Had a look at 4 German Mark IV special tanks destroyed: also 1 mark III. Had photo taken with Morris camera by enemy tank. Saw one Mark IV that had been hit by big bomb. A bloody shambles. Turret & big gun blown yards away. Lots of bodies, black & charred among debris. Saw dead Jerry buried. Had been shot in back. Was carrying full equipment including respirator. 11 A.M. moved forward. Passed many big guns left by the enemy - 6/8's: some bigger. Lots of vehicles abandoned. 4 J.U. 88's came over: dropped bombs near road. About 150 Itie. P.W.'s came in. 3 P.M. several M.E. 109's came over strafing. Sheltered behind truck. Bullets whistled past. Milt White wounded (3 bullets in leg.) Bde. I.C. also wounded. Took up positions on feature. Enemy shelling a bit. Attached to A. Coy. Had 2 teas: 5 P.M. at H.Q. 9 P.M. with A. Coy.

Monday 29.

Our tanks went forward at dawn. Enemy sent over only a few shells. Good news. 5 Bde. only 8 miles from Gabes. Yanks 16 mls. from SFAX. First Army reinforced by 2 new Divs. Mareth line breached. Went on 3 miles. Passed 2 destroyed German Mark IV tanks. Hurricane co-operation plane flew over 5 P.M. & dropped message at Bde. Tea at 6 P.M. Heard that Gabes is in our hands. Moved forward at 7 P.M. Stopped for night at 9 P.M.

Tuesday 30.

On again at 5.30 A.M. Went along main bitumen road. Bailed up 1/2 mile outside Gabes. On again. Passed through Gabes. Many trees - oasis. Running stream. First since Nile. Camped outside Gabes in open country. Sea - lovely & blue 3 miles away. Moved on 2 mls. Stopped for night. 4 J.U. 88's over at 7.15 P.M. Much A/A.

Wednesday 31.

Lovely day. Shared. Went to the beach for swim 9-12 o'clock. On way back passed through Gabes. Pretty town. Many beautiful women (French). Much bomb damage. Shifted to area 5 miles away at 5.30 P.M. One of our carriers blown up by mine: driver killed. Tea at 8 P.M. Slept in open in quarry.

April.

(+ Killed) Capt. Ball.

Thursday 1 April.

Lovely day. Breakfast 9 A.M. Washed clothes. Wrote to Mum. Sorted out maps: took old ones to Bde. Evening 6.15 P.M. Church service.

Friday 2.

Lovely day. Addressed by the Brigadier (Gentry-D.S.O.) at 9.30. Wrote to Edna. Tidied truck. Listened to B.B.C. at 7 P.M. in Sig. Stores Truck. Played cards till 9.30. Tea & army biscuits for supper.

Saturday 3.

Overcast - windy. Took Div. I. Summary round Cays.
Very happy - parcel from Edna (Ginger nuts - knitted gloves - perfect fit: Valet blades) and parcel from Mum (Sax: handkerchiefs + rep.) Parcel sent on from Bob Holmes - from Harrier Club (Timaru)

Sunday 4

Church Parade 9.30 A.M.
Wrote to Mum. Sent Mothers' Day Card to Mum.
Evening - went to A.D.S. for Song Service. Went in captured German troop-carrier. (Bussing Nag)

Monday 5

Norm. left for Div. and O.C.T.U.
Promoted to rank of Sgt.
Went to Bde. & made copy of going map.
8 Army to attack tomorrow (4 A.M.)

Tuesday, 6

Artillery began 4 A.M. Still going at 8.30 A.M.
Heard that attack has been successful.
4 Indian Div. on left flank, 50 Div. in centre: 51 (Highland Div. on right.) 50 Div. held up by A/Th. ditch.
Our planes much in evidence.

Wednesday 7.

Left at 2.15 A.M. Moved parallel to GABES - SFAX road.
Met many prisoners coming back. Several groups of about 1000 - mostly Italians.
Inspected crashed J.U. 88 Bomber. Hell of a mess.
Moved at dusk through gap in minefield & through narrow gap in hills. Reached staging near 10 P.M. Ten.
Received letter from Edna & from Mum. (Jan 24.)

Thursday. 8.

Moved on for 13 miles. Lovely day. Saw five lots of 18 bombers fly over (Mitchells & Bostons.) Great clouds of smoke & dust where bombs burst. More Italian P.W.'s coming in - some in trucks - some walking - unescorted. Many enemy trucks & motorcycles.
Boiled up for lunch. Four Fock-Wulf fighter-bombers dived down ahead. Dropped bombs. One fighter received direct hit. Turned over and over. Wallop! Flash of flame! Pilot still in plane. One petrol truck set on fire.
Stayed for night in same spot. Dug slit trench.
Listened to B.B.C. news at 7 P.M.
To bed 7.30 P.M.
Cold wind blowing from lake on our left.

Friday 9.

Breakfast 5:15. Moved off 5:45. Truck got stuck in soft going. Used trays: no good. Pushed out by Bulldozer. Crossed railway line from Mahares to Gafsa. Crossed large field of wheat. Also barley & rye: orchards of fruit trees. Saw wreckage of Fock-Wulf plane shot down yesterday. At 11:40 four Fock-Wulf planes dived down. Two bombs dropped. Nothing hit. Halted at 1:30. Interrogated a Wog about a Luger. Found several rounds on him. Found brand new Luger in holster hidden in grass by Wog's wife. (Garnet found it). Pistol given to Bill Robinson of Pioneers. He told us about the Wog first. Enemy planes dropped flares during night: followed by butterfly bombs. None very near. Slept soundly.

Saturday 10

Up early. Breakfast 6:15. Moved on at 8:30. Level country: green with fields of wheat, rye, barley & orchards of olive trees. Crossed road from SFAX to GAFSA at 2:30 P.M. Went through acres & acres of green olive trees. As far as the eye could see. Lovely red poppies & white & golden daisies growing among trees in the grass. Passed crashed M.E. Also another German plane in a thousand pieces. Travelled 40 miles today. Stopped among olive trees for night 6 P.M. Put up bivvy. Small blue lake $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away. At 7 P.M. an enemy bomber dropped bomb $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away near road. Flares & bombs on drone to West. Went to Y.M.C.A. truck for fifteen quids. Supper with Geoff Gray: the leader & Bill Pollock.

Sunday 11.

Lovely day: cloudless & warm. Dudley went to SFAX in the jeep. Cleaned out the truck. Repacked it. Received maps from Bde. Sorted them out: sent out to Gys. Church parade (voluntary) 10 A.M. Took down bivvy. Ready to move at 5:30. Moved on 9 miles through miles of olive trees. Camped for night. Dudley arrived at 9:30 P.M. from SFAX. Bought eggs & wine. Said the town had suffered from our bombing.

Monday 12.

Breakfast 6 A.M. Moved on at 6:45. Lovely day. Fields of green grass with red poppies: white & golden daisies. Halted from 10 till 1:30. Boiled billy & 2 eggs each. Sold blanket (Tommy) to native for 125 francs (12/6). Enemy evacuating from Tunis. We are heading for Sousse. Sousse was in our hands at 8 o'clock this morning. Went on a few miles. Saw 18 Mitchell bombers, with fighters, returning from a raid North of Sousse. Only 200 feet off the ground. A wonderful sight. Stayed the night in olive orchard.

Tuesday 13.

Missed breakfast. Misty morning. Left at 6:15 & came out on to main road SFAX - Sousse. Lovely wide bitumen road. Lovely day. Turned in near Bourdjine & camped for the day. Shaved: washed my legs & feet. Had tea at 6 P.M. Bad headache. Took 3 aspros. Left area at 7 P.M. Passed through Sousse - very nice town - blue sea: white houses: many trees. Went 14 miles. Stopped for night in olive grove beside road.

Wednesday 14

Headache gone. Lovely morning. Stayed in area among olives all day. 7 P.M. Moved on for 7 miles: camped among olives near road. Several 88mm. shells landed close during night.

Thursday 15

Stayed in area all day.
At 7.30 moved off to take up position between Maori Bn. on left & 25 Bn. on right between railway line on right & Road Enfidaville to Kairouan on left. Tracks returned to olive grove except jeeps. Dry trench among long grass. Mosquitoes bloody awful. Hundreds of them. Pulled blanket over head.

Friday 16

Breakfast brought up & eaten in dark. Lay low all day to escape observation by enemy on hills ahead. High rocky hill 3 miles ahead with monastery(?) on top. Called Takrouna. Fascinating place. Possibly a Jerry O.P. Saw 14 lightnings fly over in afternoon. Enemy shells landing on road & along railway line. After dark shifted about 2 miles farther west across road to new area. Bn. H.Q. in Wadi. Mosquitoes - bloody awful. Worse than last night. Face neck & hands a mass of lumps.

Saturday 17.

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

Sunday 18.

Enemy observed on Takrouna. Bill put in a report on last night's work by Engineers. 14 enemy fighter-bombers bombed our late area. One plane shot down. Pilot landed by parachute & was taken prisoner. Mosquitoes - still bad. Dudley & I modelled heads in Velay to pass time away. Mine looked like Mr. Montague Norman. Patrols went out at night.

Monday 19.

We attack tonight! Our objective - a low hill between Takrouna and town of Enfidaville. Start line - Roman wall. I went out at 7 P.M. with Div. Provost. to show way to gap in wall. Terrific Artillery barrage. Attack began 11 P.M. Moon shining - lovely night. 2 Jerry's found lying in long grass soon after start. Taken prisoner. Crossed enemy landing ground. Objective reached midnight. Bn. H.Q. took up posn. in deep Wadi. Tired out.

Tuesday 20.

Area shelled all day & night. Takrouna still partly in enemy hands. Our Artillery shelled it during day. Tanks came up & went forward. Struck minefield. 4 Sheremans lost their tracks. Observed figures on Takrouna. Observed enemy convoy coming down valley to North. Shelled by our Artillery. 14 tank busted fire over. (ours.) Improved our dig-out in Wadi. Tea brought up after dark. 6 Prisoners taken. Our casualties very slight. Arthur Manors will lose a leg. One of our own shells.

Wednesday 21.

Breakfast @ 5 A.M. Rained a bit.
Two shells landed in our Wadi @ Bn. H.Q. No
damage or casualties. Both the enemy's & our
Artillery firing all day. New Brigadier - Parkinson
visited us.
Six in A. Coy. wounded by shell fire.
Mr. Piper (I.O.) sprained his ankle.

Thursday 22.

Brig. Gentry visited Bn. before leaving for H.Z.
Many of our bombs (18 at a time) plastered the
enemy near a mosque to the North.
Three of D. Coy. killed by direct hits by shells on
their trenches.
Walked around area to see Crys.
More of our bombs over in afternoon.
Area shelled all day.
Move forward tonight about a mile.
Took up new positions. No enemy opposition.
Mr. Piper went back to B. Echelon. Sprained ankle.
I am I.O. & Sgt. as well.

Friday 23. (Good Friday.)

Area shelled all day. Not so heavy as yesterday.
Marris took over 300 prisoners from Takrouna.

Saturday 24.

The C.O. went to Bde. for Conference.
Another move forward tonight.
Met strong enemy opposition. C. Coy. called upon
to assist. Major Smith killed. Also Vin Rice and
Phil Parsons Artillery called upon to put down barrage.
Some enemy taken prisoner.
Received remittance for Lk. (Possibly from Dad.)
What a time & place to receive it!!!

Sunday 25.

Confused fighting. Heavy enemy mortar &
shell fire. Bn. H.Q. shifted to new area behind
earth wall. Poor old Kiwis! They are always throwing
in where the fighting is heaviest. 8 lots of 18 Bombers
(Jas) seen drop bombs on enemy. An 88mm. shell
landed bang at Bn. H.Q. Phil Baker seriously
wounded. A B & C. Coys. went without food all
day. C. Coy. got tea at 2 in the morning (Monday)
John Bell suffering from shell shock. I sent him
back to B. Ech. I sec. reduced now to 3. Bill
doing good work with C. Coy. No sleep for 3 nights.
Wounded brought in on jeep.
Mosquitoes still bad.

Monday 26.

Quieter this morning. Good news!
We are to be relieved tonight by a new Division
- the 5th Div. (Tommies)
Met some of their officers also the I.O. Very
new to the game. Feel sorry for them.
More of our bombs (18 at a time) bombing enemy.
Change over after tea at dusk. Enemy began
shelling. More casualties.
Moved to B. echelon between 9 P.M. & 3 A.M.
The whole Bn. moved 8 miles to new area.
Tired out.

Tuesday 27

Slept most of day.
Washed clothes + self.

Wednesday 28

Went for swim in sea 8 mls. away at Bou Medine.
Picked out route for truck to reach beach from camp.
Sea smooth - blue - lovely.
Hot showers at A.D.S. in afternoon.
Impromptu concert at Y.M.C.A. truck at 7 P.M.

Thursday 29.

Many of our bombers + fighters over during the day.
+ 6 Kittyhawks in one mob.
Went to Bde. in Jeep. to get maps up to date.
Coys. went swimming at seaside.
Hon. F. Jones: M.Z.'s minister of Defence visited the Bn. + spoke to us.
Church service. 10.30 A.M.
After tea, 6 Bde. Band played selections.
Wrote an airmail letter to Edna + one to Mum.
Another attack coming off soon. We are reserve Bn.
(cheers!)

Friday 30.

Parcel from Edna. Cake - shortbread + pair of socks.

Letter from Edna
Sent wire to Edna + one to Mum.

Saturday 1 May.

Swim at beach.
Reinforcements arrived for Bn.
+ Bde. Band
Received cake from Edna or Mum (Haven't opened it yet.)

Sunday 2 May.

Church Parade
Route march (6 mls.) to beach.
John B. + I did War Diary.
Not feeling well. Pains in abdomen.
Went to R.A.P. 2 spoons of castor-oil.
Felt better in evening.
Went without tea.

Received more mail. 3 letters from Mum + Dad.
Also 1 from Edna + 1 from Alma Fergusson.
(Feb. 14 Edna's letter)

Monday. 3rd.

Felt better today. Bacon + fried egg for breakfast.

Demonstration by engineers - blowing gap in cactus hedge by Bangalore torpedo.

Opened cake - from Edna. Lovely cake.

Tuesday 4th.

Maj. McQuade inspected arms of Group I.

John Bell left magazine out of rifle.

Dad went to recon new area - in jeep.

Move tomorrow to new area - 15-18 miles to West.

Wednesday 5.

Shifted to new area between Enfidaville & Port du Fahs. Travelled 18 miles.

Put up bivvies - on flat grass covered field.

Behind lines.

Bombed at 4 o'clock by 4 to 8 enemy bombers. No damage.

Thursday 6.

Wrote to Edna & Mum.

Did sketch in pencil of Djebel ZAGHOVAN, highest peak in Tunisia (over 4000ft.)

Good news regarding 1 Army's attack this morning.

Saw 144 of our bombers + fighters in the air at once at 3.30 P.M. returning from bombing raid.

Warm unpleasant wind blowing today.

Had a tooth filled at mobile dentist. No pain.

Friday 7

Two new members joined our I. Sec. Both 8 Reinforcements. Busy morning - marking up maps.

Excellent news from 1 Army front. Not far from Tunis now - a Bizerta.

Rained during night - thunder & lightning.

Sat. 8

Fine day.

Shifted back to near old area near road.

Left at 8 P.M. Travelled in coln. of route.

Arrived 10 P.M. Slept in open.

to
near village
of
Djebibina

Q
to
P
M
N

Sunday. 9

In area all day.
Fighting still going on ahead among hills.
Excellent news about First Army.
Prisoners 50,000.

Monday. 10.

In area all day.
Sing song at Y.M.C.A. truck at 7 P.M.
Wrote to Mum & Edna during day.

Tuesday 11.

Lovely day. Terrific Artillery fire ahead.
Many bombing raids on enemy by our bombers.
Letters from Mum & Dad (3). Edna (3) Nancy Monet 1.

Issued with new Summer clothes. Bush shirts.
Don't look much.
Wrote to Nancy.
Spent evening at Pioneer's Truck. Listened to wireless.
Mug of tea & biscuits at 10 P.M.

Wednesday 12

Lovely day. Took A. Coy. M.C.O.s for Map Inst. &
Compass work.
Good news from battle front.
90 Light Div. & Pistoia holding out.
Many fires seen burning up North.
Several bombing attacks by our Mitchells.

Thursday 13

Fighting now over. Prisoners now nearly 150,000
Also Von Arnim plus 8 other German Generals.
90 Light Div. & Pistoia Div (Italian) last to give up.
Went to Kairouan with John Bell Gordon Royce &
6 officers for day. Visited two Mosques. Went out to Yankee
Drome - over 100 Warhawk Planes.
Back at 5 P.M.

Friday 14

To Takrouna. Climbed to top and saw how well
it had been defended. Several graves on top (21 Bn.)
Grand view of surrounding country.
Marvel how the Maoris took it.
Went in Jeep also past Enfidaville as far as second
Anti Tank Ditch.
Lovely day.
Wrote to Mum & Edna.

Saturday 15.

To Tunis with Tiny Henderson in Ambulance.
Lovely day. Left 9 A.M. Stopped at Grumbalia -
saw huge P.W. camp (Italians).
Had good look around Tunis. Very nice city.
Very attractive women. Bought photos.
Left on return journey 5 P.M. Stopped at airfield
few miles out. Saw huge German transport
plane - 4 engines - 140ft. wingspan. Used for
carrying tanks.
Arrived home 8 P.M.

Sunday 16.

Left on return journey to Egypt 7 A.M.
I travelled on Jeep with Lloyd at head of Bn. Went
in column of route via KAIROUAN. Saw destroyed
Tiger (Mark IV) German Tank. Arrived area near
Mahares at 3.30. Stayed the night.

Monday 17

Breakfast at 7 to 6. Left on second day's journey to
Egypt at 7 o'clock. Travelled on main road to Gabes
past Wadi Akarit. From Gabes, turned right & went
through the enemy defences in Mareth Hills.
Passed through Medenine & on nearly to Ben Gardane.
Very hot during drive through hills. Got nose sunburnt.
Lloyd & I. led Bn. in Jeep.

Tuesday 18.

On again - 3rd. day travelling. 26 Bn. led convoy.
I. Sec. Stores truck broke down (tyre on fire). Lloyd & I
went on ahead in jeep. Reached staging area 1.30 P.M.
6 miles from Tripoli. Put up bivvy. Received mail -
2 from Edna & 2 from Mum (up to 28 March).
Edna tells me I have been appointed to the Addington
School. Saw Loftus Millar & some of the L.O.B. chaps.
Face sunburnt from today's journey - about 140 miles.
Handed in Tunisian money (576 francs).

Wednesday 19.

Rained during night. Received Patriotic parcels. Mine
from Std I. Pupils of Cheviot D.H. School. Wrote them
a note. Stayed in area all day.
Kiwi Concert Party at 7.30. Excellent show. Fully
5000 troops there to see it. Some up gum trees to
get a view. Lovely moonlight night.
Had a bottle of beer 1 bottle gin (Sgts. only)
Sold gin to Merc.

Thursday 20

On again to staging area South of Misurata.
Travelled on Adjutant's truck with R.S.M.
Had a dog. Arrived 4.30 P.M.
Saw convoy of 25 ships (6 damaged & 19 steamed & towed)
steaming towards Tripoli close to shore.
Arrived staging area between Crispi & Giada at 4 P.M.
Mobile cinema at 25 Bn. area.

Friday 21

Left 7 A.M. on next stage. Held up from 11 to 12 isobels by 5 Bde. ahead. Arrived staging area approx 20 mi. EAST of Buerat @ 1:30

Saturday 22.

Left 7 A.M. Passed through Sirte and on to Natilia. Stopped about 10 miles East of Natilia. Passed camp where we spent Xmas. Lovely day. Talkies at 7:30 P.M. "Next of Kin". 6 Bde. Band played from 7 till 7:30

Sunday 23.

Left staging area at 7 A.M. Passed through Marole Arch on through El Agheila and Marsa Suda to staging area 125 miles & 130 from Benghazi. Arrived 2:30 P.M. Lovely day - very warm.

Monday 24

On again to Benghazi. Left 7 A.M. arrived 1:15 P.M. Lovely day. Big drama between staging area & Benghazi - with ~~4~~ engine Liberators & Wellingtons. Talkies at night.

Tuesday 25

Went into Benghazi with Ted, Bill & John. Called in at aerodrome on way. Shown over Liberator bomber by one of ground crew. Saw 500, 1000 & 2000 lb bombs. Saw 26 Liberators leave to bomb Messina (Sicily) Saw them return at 5 P.M. Shown over Beaufighter also. Benghazi better than expected. Had cup of tea & biscuits at Y.M.C.A. Got lift both ways. Bottle of beer in evening. Went to pictures "The Saint takes a holiday." Poor picture. Came home half way through & went to bed.

Wednesday 26

On again to near Derna. Very nice near Barca. From there - hilly. Very windy road. Arrived 4 P.M. Mileage 160. Country here undulating hills with trees - look like firs. Passed Cirone - very old - dates back to Roman days. Houses had words "Duce Vincereum" painted on fronts. Possibly for Mussolini's visit to Tobruk last year about this time.

Thursday 27.

On again to staging area few miles S.E. of Tabernuk.
Passed through good country, down steep escarpment to
Derna. Very pretty place - right on the sea.
Passed battlefield at Graxala - saw many Jerry tanks
destroyed: also M.I.
Tabernuk harbor full of sunken ships.
Arrived 3 P.M. Mileage 165.

Friday 28.

On to Bug Bug. Sat up behind cab to see the view.
Rained during night but day fine. Many burnt out trucks
tanks etc. - all along route. Came down Salum pass at
2 P.M. Very fine view - steep road - bare rocks.
Reached staging area at Bug Bug 3 P.M. Bought tinned fruit,
pickles & cake at N.A.A.F.I. Note sunburnt.
Wrote to Edna.

Saturday 29

On again to Mersa Matruh. Rough road for some
distance - then good bitumen. Left 7.30 A.M. Arrived 2.30 P.M.
Staging area near aerodrome S.W. of town.
Blowing & dusty.
We were near here last July when the enemy broke
through into Egypt.

Sunday 30.

On to Daba. Arrived at 11.30 A.M. Good road.
Passed Sidi Hamish & thought of old times at Beqqush.
Lovely day. Sat up behind cab.
Had wash in benzine tin & water.

Monday 31.

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

Tuesday 1. June.

On again to Maadi. Left at 7 A.M. passed Pyramids
on way - saw some good looking A.T.S. on truck.
Arrived Maadi 11 A.M.
Quartered in tent with Gordon (R.A.P.)

Wed. 2 June

Straightened things up. After tea went to Maadi with Gravel. Got trousers & shirt pressed. Supper at Maadi Tent. Rode back to camp on truck. Parcel from Edna, one also from Harmonic. Sock (chd). Sent wire to Edna.

Thursday 3 June.

Very hot. Windy. Fixed up Group I. leave. To Maadi in evening with Gravel. Supper at Maadi tent.

Friday 4 June.

Very hot. Windy. Cold shower. To Maadi in evening. Bought pair brown shoes, long pants, stockings.

Sat. 5 June.

Started War Diary. Went in truck to Base Kit Stores & got my kit-bag. Took Arthur Barnett's binoculars to him. To Maadi in evening.

Sunday 6.

To Cairo on leave in afternoon & for evening with Harry Haffner. Talked with Audrey.

Monday 7.

Ben Cury joined the Bn. as I.O. Finished war diary. Spent evening in R.A.P.

Tuesday 8.

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

Wednesday 9.

Got Patriotic parcel. Sent book of paintings by Peter McIntyre to Edna. Got felt hat, sock, sand shoes, underpants from R.Q.M.S. Wrote 19 pages to Alan Drake.

Thursday 10

Went to G. office & made trace of map of MAADI CAMP. Headache & stiff neck. Went to bed in afternoon. Went without tea.

Friday 11.

Headache a little better. Temperature 101.5 at 10.30
At 6 P.M. Temp 104. Rans Dr. Dr. Kerrie (2482) came
- ordered me to hospital. No I. General - Helwan.
Katarini Ward.

Sat. 12.

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

In hospital till following

Friday 18th.

Then to Base Reception at Mena for 1 day.

Then to 33 Bn. at Mena

Had leave to Palestine for 14 days. (July.)

Stayed at Nathanya Leave Camp
- on coast between Tel Aviv & Haifa.

Excellent camp - Italian P.W.s employed as
cooks - waiters etc.

Went to Jerusalem for 3 days

Tel Aviv

Haifa

Nazareth

Sea of Galilee.

Back to Mena.

Then back to 26 Bn

"I" Course at School of Instruction

- Refresher Course - all "I." personnel
of 6 Bde. Course taken by Bill Carson.

19 July - 31 July.

Received mail: 24 July.

4 from Edna.

4 from Mum & Dad

1 from Frances Harliwich

Sent parcel to Edna (Dress material - 4 lengths)

Sunday 25

Went on leave to Cairo with Garnet.

Went for swim at Heliopolis baths.

Had tea at Garnet's Greek friend's place

in Cairo

Very hot day.

Monday 26

Mussolini resigns.

Refresher course at School of Instruction.

each day.

Received two parcels from Edna & one
from Frances Harliwich (Roxburgh)

On Saturday 31, went to dentist.

Had teeth filled (lower left - molar)

B - - - painful.

Sunday 1 August.

Went to Helwan in afternoon. Had fruit salad

etc. - at The "Homestead".

Back in camp at 7 P.M.

Monday 2 Aug.

Parades: rifle inspection (battle order)

Tuesday 3 Aug.

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

Wednesday 4 Aug.

Wrote to Edna.

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

Thursday 5 Aug.

Through the Gas Chamber in morning. Cup of tea at Church Army.

Friday 6 Aug.

Interviewed Brig. Parkinson 9 A.M.

Picnic at Barrage in afternoon. Very enjoyable time - lovely spot. Back @ 10.50 P.M.

Saturday 7.

Nelson Reunion - Cairo, at Sault's Restaurant. Good dinner & music.

Sunday 8

Wrote to Mum. Very hot day.

In evening went to Church Army Hut.

Wrote to Nancy & Alma Ferguson.

Attended Church Service at 7.30. Maori quartette sang two hymns. Very good. Had supper with Bill Boyce in office.

Monday 9.

Heard that I have passed the Brig.

Go to G. Office on 25 Aug. for second interview.

Tuesday.
Training.

Wed. 11

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

Thurs - 12 Usual Training
ENSA Concert at El Djem. 99.9% sex.

Friday. 13

Went to MAADI in afternoon.
Bought 23 War Snaps at BAARIS.
Took down washing.
Very hot.

Saturday 14

3 Parades. 6 A.M. 9 A.M. 11 A.M.

Usual sleep in afternoon. Shower.

To MAADI after tea.

Meal at Maadi tent.

Back by truck.

Pictures at El Djem. "Ladies from Kentucky".
Poor show.

Sunday 15.

Hot day. Church Service 0830 hrs.
Wrote to Mum & sent war photos.

Mon. 16

Normal Training.

Tuesday 17.

Training. Night march.
Sicily is now in our hands.

Wednesday 18

Section did field sketch.

Thursday 19

Friday 20

Saturday 21

Went to Cairo on leave.
Had afternoon tea with Meryll Neely at Club.
Invited to Audrey Haldgates wedding on
Monday.
Went to picture - 6 till 8.30. "Twin Beds".

Sunday 22.

Monday 23

Went to Cairo at 9 A.M. for Audrey's
wedding. Bought silver brooch dish as
wedding present. Service at Anglican
Cathedral. "All Saints" @ 11 A.M.
Wedding breakfast at Club.

Tuesday 24

Concert Practice.

Wed. 25

Up before 0800 at Div. H.Q. for selection
to O.C.T. U. Missed.

Saw picture "Mrs. Minniver" at El Djem
at night.

Thursday 26

Ben manoeuvres in afternoon.

Friday 27.

Letters from Edna, Mum & Cousin Beatrice.

Sat. 28.

On leave to Cairo. Saw Meryl & got frock from her for concert. Also one from Mrs. Williams (Jean Gilmer)

Sunday 29.

All day rehearsal at El Djem for Concert.

Monday 30.

Got ready for show my dance frock (1) - Egyptian. Had heels put on sandals & painted white. Practised routine with Ron.

Tuesday 31.

I. Sec. demonstration of working of an O.P. - I office. to Rifle Coys. Ted & Bill dressed as Jerry prisoners. Good show.

Wed. 1 Sept.

Letter from Edna (July 18).

Rehearsal in morning with band at El Djem. Went to Cairo in afternoon for wig at Goldmans.

"Thumbs Up!" Revue at 8 P.M. Big crowd there (4000-5000)

Very good show. The Eastern Dance caused much amusement.

Supper after the show - put on by Y.M.C.A.

Thursday 2.

Ben left. New I.O. 2/Lt. Davies.

Took R.A.P. personnel for Map reading.

Night. Pictures at El Djem.

"The Trial of Mary Dugan".

Friday 3

Sent Edna cable re. parcel.

Sat. 4

Sent Parcel to Edna.

Sun. 5

Prepared for Manoeuvres beginning tomorrow. Packed truck.

To talkies at Shatto's with Ron & Robbie.

Monday 6.

Went on manoeuvres in desert, via Helwan.

Tuesday 7.

On manoeuvres in desert between Helwan & Red Sea. Very hot.

Wednesday 8.

On manoeuvres. Italy surrenders.

Thursday 9.

To shores of Red Sea. Had 3 swims. ^{lovely.} Camped for night. Italians fighting Germans. Landing near Naples by Allies.

Friday 10.

Left for Camp. Came through narrow defile. One truck went ahead to recon area.

Sat. 11.

Back to Camp 10.30 A.M.
to Cairo after tea with Roy & Robbie.
Went to talkies - Cinema Rex - open air. Excellent Programme.

Sunday 12.

Wrote to Mum & Edna.
Airgraph from Alan Drake.

To Cairo with Roy & Robbie after tea.
Went to Talkies. This was came to dinner.
Very good.

Monday 13.

Mobile Cinema (Y.M.C.A.)

"The Devil & Miss Jones"
Wrote to Mum.

Tuesday 14.

Sent Parcel to Edna. (Sea shells & postcards etc.)
Letter from Norm Hardie.
Interview with Brig.

6 Dec. 6 Oct July.

66 Fly-Flappy

Revised Street
2nd Oct. 1942.
Eggy/H.



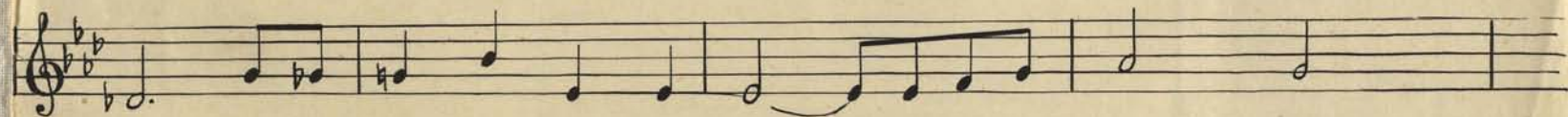
V.1. Six-teen oun-ces make a pound, Three feet make a yard, Sil-ent thoughts don't make a sound,



Con-crete's ve-ry hard: We all know why we are dry, Why the grass is green; But



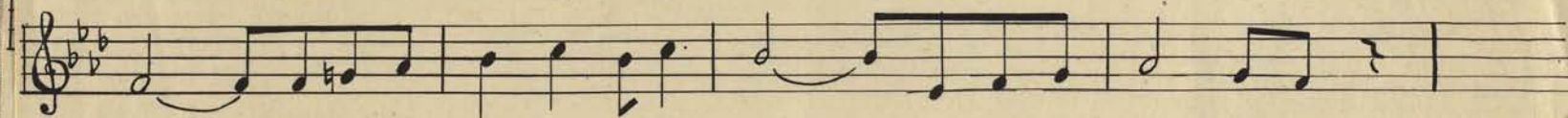
can you tell me why the fly should have cre-at-ed been? Twenty flies in my tea to-



day - There were ten there yes-ter-day - The sit-u- at - ion



trul-y is bad, The crazy things are driving me mad; So when you see me dance and



yell - Have pi-ty on me, can't you tell - That I am sand hap-py!



Fly flap-py! Some-one shoot me dead!

V.2. From the dawn till setting sun,
Every day the same;
They have got me on the run
With their silly game;
Dive bombing all day long
As no Stuka can!
Down forty thousand strong
Right into the jam.

V.3. Rabbits breed six times a year,
"Wags" are just the same!
Fish lay their eggs I fear
Millions without shame.
But the fly has got them beat,
There's no need to bluff;
Give him filth and give him heat,
Watch him da his stuff!

Flies crawled up the window pane,
So Jack Hulbert said;
Over here they do the same
Standing on their head:
Up and down and round and round,
Watch the blighters go
With an awful buzzing sound
I have cause to know.

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

Renaud Street
8th Oct. 42. Egypt.

V.1 "A" stands for Ar - my, the Ar-my of the free, With 'B' for Bat-tal - ion and
'C' for Com-pan-y; But let-ter num-ber twen-ty two is one you ought to know, As it
stands for what we fight for, no mat-ter where we go. 'V' stands for Vic-tor-y,
This is our cry As we sing our song, as we march a-long on the
road that is hard and dry; For free men are we, From a land a-cross the
sea - Where one and all, the short and the tall Cry "V for Vic-tor - y!"

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

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

R. V. Street.
1st. Oct. 1942.
Egypt.

With feeling.

V.1 Good-bye Moth-er dear, the time has come to part; The call to arms is sound-ing now and

in my heart I know the cause is just, tho' the strife be long, But cour-age Moth-er dear - and

Tempo di Marcia

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

Mao-ri and Pa-ke-ha bronzed by the sun, Full of fight and just-ly proud -

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

fight for the right till the War is won; Oh God! Grant us Vic-tor-y .

V.2 We leave the hills and dales where the grass grows green,
We leave the capes and bays with their golden sheen
To fight in desert lands 'neath a burning sky
And live in sands of coarser grain, to do or die.

V.3 So now, Mother dear, God keep you safe and free
To live in peace while I am gone across the sea;
With thoughts of home and you, I feel the urge so strong
To do the thing I know is right - so hear again my song.

