Oswald S. Benjamin was born in Melbourne, May 1884, the younger son of Sir Benjamin Benjamin (later A.B.B.).

Educated at Scotch College, he qualified as an accountant and was appointed Secretary of the Foster Brewing Company.

He enlisted as a private in the A.I.F. in 1915, served in France until the end of the war, and was twice wounded in action, one seriously. He was twice awarded the rank of Sergeant.

On his discharge he rejoined his firm as an accountant, and became an insurance broker in 1921. He remained an insurance broker until his death in Melbourne, Victoria, in 1944. (See A History of Insurance Broking in Australia, R.H. Benjamin, Craftsmen, Melbourne, 1938.)

R.H. Benjamin

25/1/1939
| CALENDAR FOR 1915. |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| **JANUARY**       | **FEBRUARY**     | **MARCH**        | **APRIL**        |
| Sunday 4.11 Wednesday 7.15  
Sunday 4.11 15  
Sunday 4.11 15 | Monday 4.12 1  
Monday 4.12 1  
Monday 4.12 1 | Tuesday 4.13 2  
Tuesday 4.13 2  
Tuesday 4.13 2 | Wednesday 4.14 3  
Wednesday 4.14 3  
Wednesday 4.14 3 |
| **MAY**           | **JUNE**         | **JULY**         | **AUGUST**       |
| **SEPTEMBER**     | **OCTOBER**      | **NOVEMBER**     | **DECEMBER**     |

**CALENDAR FOR 1916.**

| **JANUARY**       | **FEBRUARY**     | **MARCH**        | **APRIL**        |
| Sunday 5.11 Wednesday 8.15  
Sunday 5.11 15  
Sunday 5.11 15 | Monday 5.12 1  
Monday 5.12 1  
Monday 5.12 1 | Tuesday 5.13 2  
Tuesday 5.13 2  
Tuesday 5.13 2 | Wednesday 5.14 3  
Wednesday 5.14 3  
Wednesday 5.14 3 |
| **MAY**           | **JUNE**         | **JULY**         | **AUGUST**       |
| **SEPTEMBER**     | **OCTOBER**      | **NOVEMBER**     | **DECEMBER**     |

Handwritten note on the right side of the page: "Hit diary from date of embarkation for the West European Ward. 17th Battery. F. Head Waring. Brigade. A. O. F."
1915
22nd Nov. Berlin 8.30 a.m.
(Booked in the same hotel as on 21st.)
We arrived here at 9.30 a.m. by train from Potsdam, station to train via Alexander
Park to Alexander Park. The top floor, except for Von Brandt, did not seem at all suitable
for us. The view from the window was lovely, but the view from the window did not seem
as lovely as the one we had in Berlin. We had a lovely view of the hotel and the
surrounding area. We were very pleased with the view.

The hotel was very nice, we had a lovely view of the hotel and the view from the window was lovely.

Of the best portion of the hotel to

The view was very lovely, describable in paper. Anyway, I

The view was not as lovely as we had hoped it would be.

We had breakfast at 7 a.m. and

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left to the patients. The meals have not been too exciting, especially they then in the crowded town hotel, so the leather cutter, with his help, have completed arrangements with the cook to have the same food as the officers. For a certain sum per week, of course this is not known to the rest of the men, and we also have a special secret spot where we eat in. Left town below as the weather was rather cool.

25th. Very still and fine and smooth. Sailed towards France. In the afternoon, waved off to wash at the anchors we were kept fairly close to the ship. The work involved many functions and took a minute to share. Just to show the

amount of business done, the tellers were about five. The arrangements of the canter are very bad. A lot of work and worry could be saved in several ways.

Left on deck and tasted a good night.

26th. Got into the canter early again all day till 3:30. It's not like the work, so before we left, the two of us went serious detail for the work, have looked a protest with the O.C. and have asked to be taken off. Slept two hours on deck again and slept very tight, soon dropped off to sleep.

27th. Close about 5:30 and had a meat-water dinner. Much Rivière related, when told Pete to self-wine taken off the canter.
and again felt the same
morning, had some came to breakfast
in the mid. till about half an
hour afterd to part away two quite
egg on them. On parade after
breakfast we put on our like-belts
and were told to wear different
rattor boats in case of fire on
accident. The position is on the
vegetable deck, which is to be
thrown outboard, with about 90
others. Then, used, had it explain
measured. Arrived at Albany
about 10:30 a.m., very pretty
cap in our cap, the fore-boats,
surrounded by tides and
small tides. Remind me of
Sydney Harbor on a barsine scale.
We anchored in the outer harbor
and only stayed long enough to
put another case of tins on the
deck. The then stand out again
and gave us. On Laren we will
reach land again in Australia.
Left in dock on top of the settable
house with teather paper.
28th. Feb. After breakfast we had
to parade for inspection in full
around being and it was arrangeable
that a painter from the part of
the ship, himself, time was all
correct, I am glad to say. The
rules had never been at bis
it after the parade, the boats to
die their service. I passed the
time very pleasantly on the forward
deck looking at the beautiful blue of the sea, which
is wonderfully blue. A large ship
is over the skin on the fort side, which

we believe to be the Cerrie. This boat left last night, a difficulty on two rack, where today is quite common and is a foretaste of what it will be when we reach warmer climate. Three of us were taken out on buds on top of the cockpit which when we were ordered down by the military police so we then started to the forward deck. I forgot to mention that the crew that was served out to the troops was so bad that they threw it overboard. Even little pieces of beef had a meat chicken and every morning we have tea cups.

Of the Rev. Boxing competitions have been arranged through the ship and this morning Rev. M. Harris.

For instance the ten will represent the 10th battery by means of tying the sheet out one aft from the officer. I have been detailed as one of the lanyard fiddlers. We have two hours on the ship, it merely is to see that all lanyards are brought back in the morning not disturbed during the day, and are served out again at six o'clock.Each man thanks the man lanyard by means of a feel of wood with his hand on it. About noon was held to report in the Quarterly Office where Col. Glay investigated me as appointed by both with the Adjutant Capt. Stiles. He told to make up the total of the various sort of pay back to the pay
the news to the last commander who then told their men. The men only set in if a day on the Quake. But little to me. To Eastern shores we now set sail across our little mind if you have bought a case of fresh fishes. Finally, the last on board. The Water front battery was inoculated today but it was on duty near the bay. I think probably the best tomorrow. But on deck again.

8 1/2. Awoke about 4:30 then arose to find a house to have. Nothing much of interest happened during the day. Weather being warm & calm. Had a game of检疫 bridge with Heath Austin & breakfast, but 2 on the day. Clung my harnets on the

Loco deck & kept the deck of the first from 7:30 pm till 2 am.

1st Dec. Try hard for that orderly again. This is a job that has no fascination for me, and want that two of us have to draw the tired from the cook house which is a good distance from our deck. Do all the working of and keep to deck. I am doing this thing that one is kept under decks practically all day. After 4 a.m. sometimes were all washed. He was talky and the contents of our kit bag & haversacks expected. But their effect was, I do not know, whether to look
for stolen property on to see of
any man had not all his things
marked, is a conjecture.
About 11 a.m. the captain of
the boat and the colonel with
about a dozen other officers come
about every day to inspect all
the batteries in the boat.
The captain conversed favorably
on any rebel boats. In the
afternoon the striking competitions
were held, our battery winning
two out of three events. I met
not for a boat-fraction to watch
them, and washed my dirty clothes.
In the evening had two rubbers
of bridge and then drove my
horse to the battery's dock.
Even since leaving among the woods
and sea have been turbulent.
is hard to let these last few days as cast on something has got into the tank. Anyway there will be a fresh lot available in a day or so from the continent. Some of us are looking forward to the trip to the Canteen to use some of the brandy.

The supply of drinks is very low, so there is a possibility of a famine except what is issued from the cookhouse. If there is a possibility of coming back to Melbourne by any other way, it will not be by troopship which cannot even compare to camp life for comfort. This is the opinion shared by other officers on board, although little need has existed.

Better than the rest of the men.

Dining tonight about 7 p.m. with a heavy shower of rain. Those who were sleeping in the open made a violent rush for cover. Some sensible enough to make way, but others just went on down the length or those less fortunate.

31st Jan. Being 9 a.m. found an alarm-awo from each forward that the rush downstairs for their life-belts and then to their allotted life-boats or rafts. I was able to help on the vegetable list. Todays is beautifully free smooth shot. Two Caesar baths have been erected on the deck, but I have not sampled them yet.
A concert was held during the evening which proved very good. The right hose-band rendered some very good selections. The other ones were given by the men. One of the canvas-beds is too de comfort from developed a hole in its side and has been removed. There was a lecture on the sabbath in the hollid. The lecture dealt with the subject, Troc. Physical drill before breakfast which is to be the order for every morning. Service for Jewish soldiers was read in private for today. There was no one who could conduct the service, not having anyone on board with the qualifications. The tent had been turned out to be the acthief table, and to make the service very short all the hebes are under a dozen as on board. In the afternoon we led a morning parade and airing blankets. Told by my luncheon on the forecastle deck but was rudely disturbed about 2 a.m. by a shower of rain. I did not fancy deep down stairs so remained till it was over, then pitched camp again.

5:00 a.m. Our battery is on guard duty today. I am one of the ward and with two others as a sentinels are looking after the prison in which there are two occupants. We are on for 24 hours and are not allowed to leave.
the precincts of the of the cells. The first issue of
the weekly paper appeared today. It is of very poor
quality. They are charging
6 for it. In 24 hours, it may
drop. In front of the prison from
10 to 11 a.m. I read about 10 a.m.
My watch during the night
was about 2 till midnight.
6th Dec. A guard relieved about
8:15 a.m. and then had to
dress in full marching order
for inspection. Upon my word
the water was freezing in my
boots as I went. After
afford that I had to refer to
the Orderly Office to balance
the last pay check & count out
hundreds of pounds-worth of notes.
Finished for the day about
3:20 p.m. Then enjoyed a
salt-water shower. A clear
afternoon, my other clothes being
absolutely saturated. We
embarked at seven today. The
first boat we have seen. We
were in a week and it was quite
a treat to see anything else.
Had to sleep
downstairs on account of rain.
Did not enjoy it in the least.
7th Dec. In the morning I was
in the Orderly Office counting
money and finding a letter
into the bag, and while there
Tol. Cooker called me into
his cabin and had a friendly
8th Dec. Still fine warm calm
a very smooth sea. In the
afternoon went swimming.
Fellow shipmates went too,
but I spent part of the time writing
letters and my diary. I believe
we passed the line today but
no break was made of it.
A concert was held this evening
which lasted off successfully.
one of the items being sung
was "Blissful Moment on deck"
and a food fight.

9th Dec. Felt to my deck
I was made suddenly for the
day in warm weather it
was not a cool job by any means.
We set our Second Leg of 100
represents 10 days of
we were faced with 107 tons.

Chat for 10 minutes or so.
Sitting in my hammock on deck in
the evening or passed a pleasant
night. You can see how our
little mess of four have had to
peak downstairs again as the
cook has had to constant help
with special food for his
own protection. It has now
come to the state in our mess
table of self-serve and those
who are late sometimes get nothing
both in food and extra materials.
The supply of canned fruits, bread
and such like has ceased at the
Captain's deck, but together with fruit
and all other things some plums
left out of a case we bought
when the supply was running
low.

7th Dec. Still fine warm calm
a very smooth sea. In the
afternoon being conditions
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9th Dec. Felt to my deck
I was made suddenly for the
day in warm weather it
was not a cool job by any means.
We set our Second Leg of 100
represents 10 days of
we were faced with 107 tons.
We had some heavy showers of rain during the day but the night turned out fine and I had a good night on deck.

10th Dec. In the morning I was detailed to the Onderlay Office & worked there till 11 a.m. with Capt. Stokes. In the afternoon I was detailed for the second time & expected my arm to be on the same side as soon. Early in the evening it rained so much that I had to spend the night downstairs but I must say I did not enjoy it in the least, it being just like Turkish bath all night.

11th Dec. Reported at 9 a.m. at the Onderlay office and worked there till 11 a.m. Counting money to make up 500. The last day of the month. I then went to dinner at the council house conducted by the Lieut. Col. & spent the rest of the evening talking to him. The after noon was a rather sad one but I got the work done to the Brunswick Mate, not very inclined for the last week as I had two of everything to be done.

This cat $1.75. This charge are: Differences 10, coffee 6, undertakers 6, tobacco 2, flour 2, breads 2 & wood 2.00. I had bread last in the afternoon but clearing up I saw my homework or deck works riveted.
for my ruby by a fine morning and an occasional deck of sea spray, but this did no harm as I had a waterproof coat on.

12. Dec. When I awoke the first thing I looked for was my watch, in fact, anything that I could not see it on the line. I really thought it had been taken overboard, but on taking a look round I found my watch where it had fallen in during the night. I am now speaking perhaps a little too soon, there being no sign of land in sight. Today there have to send every alternate two boats looking after the barrier's stern. Our mail for Australia is due at noon today and I think we will soon be at sea. Every man received a present today, mine was a 6 doz. cards, some for cigarettes and useless utensils. In the evening I left my hammock on deck except for one sheet of spray pass a pleasant night.

13. Dec. Awoke at 5:30 with a shower. The weather is fine and the sea quite calm. During the morning an alarm was given as we all looked for our lifeboat, then we paddled on deck to search off to our lifeboats. Early this morning we fetched three lifeboats on our starboard while later on a lifeballon on our port. This I believe is Cape Gaspar. Several scenes are in sight now and probably after in the trade routes. About
11 a.m. We passed an Arab
dhow, she seemed to be bound for
the African coast. The day is
warm, the wind the last
place is in the Laka. In the
afternoon hot. Our Battery
were encircled again. I myself
expect to be done away at the
end of the week. Had a fare
ofbridge upon which they 5.00
to even a couple of kilos.

Before retiring slept; then a
secretly enjoyed a tea
of pineapple. During all the
time we might be discovered.

I might say the Cantonese
for a week or two ran out
of tea, drinks, ceased fruits,
flour, etc., in the possession
of any of these would now be

Contact upon with suspicion
about midnight there arrived
between four of us in a boat.
Before, Helen a gold a fruit
of cake fresh from the oven.

The weight about 13 lbs.

Of course we did not waste,
your time does not set.
I forgot to mention I had
bought a new canvas bed
from the tailor for 4.
It is twice as big as
my old one & of sprat child
quality.

14th. Free. Awoke feeling
very sickly & too full of cake.
After physical efforts did not
feel any better except had
a cup of tea for breakfast;
while it was still dark.
The tow have a submarine guard post consisting of two rigid boats with a 30-30 on the stern and four of our 13-tonners amidships. We might possibly put up a good sight. But I do not think there is much danger on this side of the Canal. Before retiring to rest a few of us had a very nice drink of the night stuff, and then passed a pleasant night on deck.

15th Dec: Left at 10:30. During physical jacks we passed high rocky islands called the 13 apostles. The first is cafe and has a lighthouse located on the highest part. These made a very fine sight.

In the afternoon there was no faze as played bridge until some betting competitions. The day was so warm there were not much till 17:00. Had a shower after tea. Listened to the concert for a while then retired to my hammock and slept the sleep. 16th Dec. Arose at dawn and found the day colder. Left us out of sight after the two h. of transport that called at Allen are seen landing us and were gone before the day. During the afternoon we passed a capital ship which was probably taking wood to either India or Australia. Passed a good night on deck.
17th Dec. Our battery is on duty today & I am one of the main guards. The two 6.54 troopships are still on our starboard. We are told to keep our company. At about 10 a.m. we passed a lighthouse on a sandbank, it did not seem to be a very strong construction. The area near passing ships right this the day at a much slower time than usual.

During the night we passed several ships & lighters. The shore is now quite close & what is surprising to me is the speed of the current which I expected to be very fast.

18th Dec. Relieved from guard at 7 p.m. & had to report right away.

To the ship's adjutant with whom I was working till noon with a bell for breakfast. About 12 a.m. we arrived at the almost anchored. There is a good deal of speculation as to where we will land. The two 7.3 boats took us in, we will probably have preference in landing their troops. I am a little tired, having not eaten looking forward to a few steaks at anchor in the harbor.

We got mail another 10 of each today which will take us till we disembark. The weather today is nice & cool & during the night everybody found it very cold on deck.
19th Dec. Still lying at anchor at Ven, but met the L.J. Coast Guard at the wind this morning. At 9.30 a.m. I had to return to the after year and we finally cleaned off all the last sheets and some on deck ready for the Army representative from here. The officers all went there, added to the other today but the men will have to wait till we arrive at Cairo. Spent the afternoon playing three handed bridge with three other L.J. officers. Also there aboard a large supply of oranges, apples, Egyptian cigarettes. These were soon worked away very quickly by the men. The food was sold at 8 a shilling and the deck was soon littered with orange skin and hips. Quiet the night on deck the weather being very cold and windy.

20th Dec. Still at anchor and I do not think we will move till tomorrow. The second L.J. boat went to the town early in the morning. The other one coming back to the town about eleven o'clock we were all turned on the deck with the band playing while a French bull boat came to anchor. No mail of any sort left dated during the day, but we were all excited about the situation in the morrow. Left down every account of having to be at
The task of finding your way through a tangle of clouds is a thing not to be left to chance. I see
now that all the little work I have done in the past was in vain. The little that I have
achieved in the past was all in vain. The little that I have done in the past was all in vain. The little that I have done in the past was all in vain. The little that I have done in the past was all in vain.
before the engine failed to negotiate the first curve & after<br>cruising for some time the train was taken round in two<br>lanes. the then foot started & passed right thru the town<br>of town. the houses are all of square design up to three or<br>four stories in height and the color scheme is most of<br>green & red or white. it was very interesting but the town<br>admitted erosion from rain & wind & not in tune with the<br>scene. the then passed thru the desert & ran along the<br>channel for some way till along the line there were<br>taken soldiers & crowds of daily workers. whenever the<br>train stopped the letter carried<br>the compartments selling orange, cafes etc. then pandemonium<br>reigned supreme with yelling<br>other parts. it was full moon & at times the scenery looked<br>very pretty with Deep fields & houses dotted here & there.<br>we arrived at grand town station at about midnight. we then<br>headed to metropolis where which took about half an hour.<br>we then took a temporary guest in cage & thru but before we<br>lay down we had to embark all the material stores which<br>were brought up by people from the train. it was three<br>o'clock before we finally<br>lay down our weary heads.
Nov. 29th: Up at 10 o'clock or was put on guard at the end of our lines to keep the natives out. This was too light for as they simply advanced some calling papers early I was relieved from this at 9 a.m. after breakfast. After that I was detailed for another guard orotting into full marching order again with our kit-bags blankets are searched down to the station again to look after the first supplies since there. My first impression of Egypt are good and the buildings as far as I have been are beyond my expectation but the sand is not near as fine as flour. Dine

the morning. Left tent by me unexpectedly rode at 9 a.m. were quite surprised to meet each other.

Dec. Relieved from guard at Station about 10 a.m. then fixed a cart to bring our kit's back as we found them rather heavy the previous day. In the evening had dinner, rest until went into Heliopticks then dinner at the Hotel Heliopticks. This is a very fine place - the dinner was very nice. While sitting on the 3 it came across Alger the first American. We were some time at 9:30 we were served for duty at 11 A.M. to go down to the station for our nooks.
which had just arrived. So we marched down about 300 of us to meet the train.

13th Dec. The train did not arrive till about 6 a.m. so consequently we tailed a cold breakfast right at cold to light fires on a piece of wood to keep ourselves warm. The fact excitement was destroying the lonesome, one another took loose but followed the other along to the camp where we had to load them. It was a long day work the horses did not finish till about 11 p.m. happen self then had leave for the rest of the day which we spent in Cairo where I met nurse

Camping, went about half an hour.

Capt. Allen & Ricken. happen Hunter 4th. next day self finished at work dinner at shepards a top back to camp.

26th Dec. Christmas day without celebration in our Brigade.

We cooked all day getting things ready for the move to a new camp the following day. I myself was on picket and lay by shifts during the twenty four hours. In the nights there was a bit of shooting & killing in being between the soldiers on the intervals, and I believe the authorities were rather anxious about any more on the
part of the natives. I did not have much sleep during the night as my shift on the deck extended from ten p.m. till 2 a.m.

26 Dec. Up early in the morning and in full marching order we had to load our forces from Helopoli to Heladi, a distance of about fourteen miles. The force I had was a very nervous, ill-beloved, nerve and gave me trouble all the way. Our route lay this - Helopoli, Cairo, and along the Nile to Heladi. We had landed at the barracks, the quarters of bully beef, beer, but I managed to supplement wine with a bottle of stout.

which I shared with another. We then went to the old Cairo with its terrific check gold buildings. I would not like to be there by myself in the dark. When we got to the Nile it was very picturesque with sailing boats floating along on the pyramids in the distance. The desert was also very pretty and a background of palm trees like the Nile at a forenoon. We then arrived at our destination in the dark feeling very tired, in fact I was nearly too much asleep to eat my tea.

27 Dec. Detailed as usual only for our tent consequently was eliminated from prandial.
The food we get now is not nearly as good or plentiful as we used to get at Malta. Fortunately the Imperial nations are not as large as the Austrians. I was detailed for guard duty at 6 p.m. so consequently had to stand in the open as we have to guard the road. Relieved from guard at 9 a.m. and passed the day at sea drill. Bought a winter coat but these coats 10 dressed极 well and are very comfortable today on, they are fairly numerous around the camp. We also had bread for the first time or I strolled into town after dinner and indulged in a good plunge bath at the soldier's club. This is run by English ladies. Besides being kept beautifully clean, the prices are very moderate. I believe the town is where the English people of Cairo live and there are lots of fine houses in it. The town is very pretty and it seems to me to be quite an oasis with its trees and house.

25 Dec. Eased myself during the day. After tea, Eric Genefin strolled to Naasni and spent an hour or so. Eric is in the same camp with us but is about 200 hundred yards from the camp. He seems in good health and looks very well.

26 Dec. Oranged again for bar. Busy, I must say I am not
1st Jan 1919. In the afternoon after lunch for which the Colonel gave us plum pudding, lemonade, chocolate and fruit. I went into Sydney and had a very good time. We went to Chipp's which is a very nice place. The thing to do is to get a plate of fish and chips and select your own chips with which everyone seemed to like their plates. A girl then collects the amount for each person and brings it to the table. Chipp's are absolutely the best I have ever tasted or brought back from a lot. I am sure as food I have never been in better.

Chipp's was full of people, mostly of course being in the majority, of the other people of all nationalities. We arrived back at camp about 10 p.m. and to bed. I forgot to mention that we received another fai (fatty) today which brings us up to date.

21st Jan. Being Sunday all the other loops have gone to church. I made but I am here really
2nd Jan. It rained all day. A little rain fell. The weather is on the cold side.

3rd Jan. On guard today for another 24 hours. A little rain fell.

4th Jan. Only drill in the day.

5th Jan. In the evening, Col. Kaylor visited the hospital and the patients who are being treated in the hospital. Mr. A. was there who drives the ambulance service. He also met there two other mess, chief mess, and another mess.

6th Jan. During the afternoon, we enjoyed after our camp fire a very nice piece of ham, cheese, cake, and whiskey. All of which we enjoyed after our camp fire. The weather is so cold, feeling very cold.

7th Jan. Normal routine.

8th Jan. During the afternoon, Mr. A. was on guard. He is the chief of the hospital. He was called for after the band concert to join the officers of the artillery school. A large number of officers came to attend the concert but none came.

9th Jan. During the afternoon, he should pay me a visit but Charlie clenched who was wounded at the trenches. He looked very well and informed me he was going to return for a holiday which he
was looking forward to very much. We went again in the evening, which turned out very cold and foggy.

9th January. After church parade which I did not attend, we went to lunch at New York. Then, while doing a little afternoon shopping, I had some coffee alone to see the famous Stanley Hotel. I then instantly headed my horse to another chief street to save him the road back.

I was mighty glad to see him and found him looking in great shape. Luckily I had left for the afternoon of evening so joining forces with him we went to Cairo and had lunch at the St. James. Before this, I went out had a chat to Maxwell who also expected him a warm welcome. After lunch we went to have coffee at the place where we met the other at dinner with Charlie and Charlie Jacob who joined us with great delight to join very pleasant. He said it was really pleasant here and to have a talk. There is no doubt blood relationship is a great perk. Charlie the command of the 9th went at dinner and both remarkably well. We also saw Dr. O'Leary there but did not speak to him. Dr. O'Leary also passed through. The then went away toeghers where we met another friend.
Lewis then who has a commission in the Thompkins Regiment. I forgot to mention we also met Archie Macleod at St. James, so the day was quite one of reunion of old friends. Stanley is in camp at Tel-el-Kebir, two plus a half hour journey from Cairo. Stanley left us at Cropper’s to catch the train back to camp so I took the day to the National Hotel and indulged in the buying of a hot bath at the cost of 5 francs each for dinner. There I received a visit to the hopper flat where we had a pleasant dinner. This was to the delight of the garrison of the town.

of the few times of cigarette smoke. He asked to come along a friend, I gladly went.

10th Jan. Drill routine as usual.

11th Ditto.

12th Getting ready to shift camp to Tel-el-Kebir, picking up stores &ision troops. In the afternoon there was a competition amongst the tents as to which could be attacked first in the shortest time. One won an ice cream & will receive a large of 50. Each tent was limited to three, and I was amongst ours. In the evening Mr. Parker, another, we met at Helwan and had a hot bath at a very nice dinner at the
English Teutzler Hotel. This is a very nice clean quiet hotel and is kept by a French woman. We set back to camp by 9 p.m. and the place looked quite funny all the tents being tied down. 10 p.m. Rescilled at 9 a.m. and having set up, fed horses, eaten breakfast and saddled up, we started off in the dark for Kel-El. Kelbin in which camp Stanley is quartered. It was very picturesque traveling along the banks of the Nile during sunrise. Then this lane to the railway station where we arrived. The journey has accomplished so we went on and arrived at Kel-El. Kelbin about 3 a.m. There is a big encampment here, and the artillery is reported from Australia seeming to be concentrated on the one spot. After arriving at the site of our camp we had to lead our horses about a mile to water over dustry dry desert to a small canal. I am not looking forward to a repetition of this three times a day. Retired to rest about 9 p.m. after much work we turned it.

11 p.m. Busy erecting tent. Setting the camp up shape. A trail was distributed but I was disappointed in not getting a letter from home. Got another day of it this evening.
15th Jan. Iam Brigade orderly along with Major. This job consists of running errands from the Brigade office to the offices of the different units. It is quite a common affair to see trains load of soldiers, horses, canisters, and stores continually passing along the line which runs alongside the road. There is a long review today stated arms by General Henry but being on duty I was not able to attend.

15-20th Jan. Never known the fountain pen to meet such wet weather before. Between these dates nothing unusual has happened, only mounted battery brigades check out in the desert until the usual of guards improving.
Jan 19 - sent a cable to Galley regarding all well. Daily routine of any interest.

2 Jan - day was set apart for divisional inspections in different parts of Jericho etc. We had all arrived at the spot selected in the desert when the 'a' came up from the General to return to camp. Prepared for a night bivouac. Sent one officer into the position.

The started about 6 p.m. from the desert on selected path. Our brigade had to stop for food and water. This brought us to the desert. Poorly furnished with any light. The night was bitterly cold. In the morning the General came round and reported then we had to take out our jannet for the inspection.

5 Jan - they then a dispute arose for those put on the Bani train packet. Our duty consisted of keeping law order in the soldiers' train going to Cairo at 9 a.m. Returning at 7 p.m. Company are arrested three men for not having passes. Having therefore devised to the Bani troops we were accosted by a man and spent another pleasant day in Cairo and go back for bath. On the train going it rained very hard. Slept over this journey back back to Tel el. Halil to Jerusalem which is on the Canal. After landing up on the train and had gone half a mile one of
the forces stepped off at 6 a.m. The town is very quiet, we crossed the canal but stepped on one of the bridge which is very thick and the canal bit by bit in two parts. The town about a half past two o'clock about midnight, we sent a few officers on the route to the advanced positions to drill for us. As our left section was now in our left in camp but 3 or 4 we will have to move to a few days later. We believe they will have to be moved away for about 2 or 4 a day and then fort 1 Feb. It was the right section that got to be moved to the front, close to the front where the next fort was to be made. The local was about 10 miles away from the canal in the line of sight from the canal and all the water supply.
To brought out on camel in tanks of about 15 gallons each. We have our tanks with us and the food is good, but we have another water supply for washing our food only being one bottle per day. In our positions and has completed and the duties of the general is that they are excellent and model fit to be expected. We all had to take off our blankets after the result but it is good to know that our work has been appreciated. The general plan is for some platforms protected by sandbag walls connected with each other by underground.

Saw some with ammunition cases. We call them jars. The 81st Battalion is encamped about 10 miles beyond us and they have been having frequent visits of an evening to Captain Forbes. Captain Forbes has also had us to his tent a couple of evenings after the last raids a three divisions after a days delay.

To-day we started our first fire. The experience was both novel and interesting. The 7th Battery had the honor of firing first. The gun turned, then the 7th. It was 26 in our gun, but later on Hope to have the target. Living...
It also occurred from other positions that lines again seemed full of flying shells.

At 7 a.m., after breakfast, we marched to the 13th Battery to do more firing. On our way I was engaged for most of the day, enjoyed the experience. While acting as number four in the afternoon, I was badly hit by the last shot of the day. I was unhurt and left my fingers smashed in the salute and had to have them dressed by the doctor. I was the first casualty in our battery. The shooting was reported to be very good, and we were very satisfied with it.

At 3:30 p.m. back to civilization again. With all our kit, blankets etc. on our backs we started out to reach the railway before dark. Our guide told us to go 15 hours about an hour later we found we were nearly back at our camp again. We then made another start and finally reached the railway after a long walk. We then dropped our blankets and continued our journey along an excellent road on foot for the canal, a distance of 8 miles. This we reached without a stop or were then seven hours off our destination before finally going to our camps. Where the 2nd Division were being concentrated before being shifted to France. It seems that the proposed Turkish attack on the canal has failed.
not a pleasure. But he did

not a pleasure to hear the news. I am very poor. I could not
be expected to agree with you in the same way.

the news of your departure

not the news of your departure

not the news of your departure
About midnight we landed our journey across the Mediterranean and anchored at Toulon. As soon as the weather was cleared, every day a few of the seamen were sent in for the country. It turned out that the sea was not inclined to favour us with any days of fine weather. We were all crowded out with life-belts in case we had to leave our ship. If the weather were good we had to put on our coats and go on shore to see the country.

On all hands the day passed in a gay and cheerful manner. We set a good example, as it proved a splendid sight for the people, but in the dark, obedience, except a strict course, was not so well observed. Every night we slept in our deck cot calling for the atmosphere of below. There were then for that reason a fine evening bath aboard.
day that had been very
disappointing. The weather
work on the walls of the
observe the different
The daily work at home on
fever of 25°. She remained in
work on the cotton all night
the town where she and
some made it rather depressing
at first.
25° by nine. This was the height of
our adventure, at times all the
which time was used in washing
with stored foods, etc. Days at
the experiments, with each day
with the increase of one very
interesting word getting everything
fiction toward the end of
the English language, and the
food eaten on which it seemed
such a thing that she thought
was present to see that the
the town looked after her
better in all ways.
From morning till night. It seemed
as though her life had been
a party of many occasions
which took place in the town.
We entrained about midnight. 11 a.m. we went for a journey of about 30 hours.

8th April. Today we were under fire for the first time. Shells fell all about us. Survived by my own coolness for ten wondering where the next wound would be.

8th April. This morning found our stay with the Battery 60th Brigade. During the week we were very few effective and acts were found that battery we had to leave off being taken in our mess house which was receiving too much attention. We heard the R.A.F. tell one of the men that was ever so welcome and every time they could do to make us comfortable we were then reconciled to
we were lines where we picked up the rest of our soldiers. The battery we were taking over from the R.T.A. reached after dark on 3rd May to do strenuous work the next morning. 3rd April: These pits are at a place called Le Haie, not far from Armentieres and are situated in an open field with the sun's rays shining on them. The great temperature seems to be causing when aircraft observation is made, this object, the object is, as little movement as possible. As a consequence of this there is a minimum of work for us. Here is always an aeroplane sent out to look for hostile craft. One, warned by blowing the blast of a whistle, we took some cold wet weather forecast, then the mud was awful and as the cookhouse was about 500 yards from the pit, it was quite a work of art breathing up the fire without falling down or losing the lot. We did not do a great deal of things, because it was a quiet part of the front, we were never more than a week from the German lines. From here we could go in ten minutes to the baths at Furnes, where besides a hot-bath...
Here was also a change of clean clothes. During the end of our stay here a party of about twelve men were detailed to build new pits at Bos Quinner about four miles away. I was one of these and as the work was only done on the night we would have the men in about 6 p.m. and work till 3 a.m. This lasted altogether about a fortnight and was very tiring as we slept in two sets at the factory as in the right.

April 9th 1942. For our own stay at Bos Quinner our first thing to do was to finish building the

We often make them as comfortable as possible. I must say that when they were finished they were his logs for our own. B Jon we painted the interior roof and white, and the walls with green. We had a concrete floor.

June 9th. Was in a farm house about 200 yards from the pits where we could for been coffee and

We also erected lots of screens here to do as the enemy could not observe our fun from this. I think was a favorite hobby of the major.
while evading or maneuvering there we were caught all around by fire from the guns of anti-aircraft defences and some of our tanks escaped. The fields all around were beautiful in their superb autumnal hues with wheat and barley while the tanks were also a blaze of brilliance.

We were evidently not spotted for our left was turned for while the batteries on the right of us were firing blank we received no such attention ourselves. The last week of

They were exempted from the T.A. B. with three others from the battery, the T.A. B. landing four of their success in exchange left experience. I took a foot load there as there wasn't much to do, in fact I was off duty for a time with double or no man, but I cooked for some of them.

The T.A. B. were using B47s which I found extremely interesting to look at. There I found many pleasant hours.

As our division of artillery was told under orders to move off to a different part of the front, we joined
July 24. Received orders to leave for south towards the town. Journeled by road to Amritsar. Left Calaba with some of the division. We stayed a few days.

July 13, 1863. Marched from Alexandria to Bolling's, our tents were about 400 yards below the James River. The country was very pretty along the road and across the timbered fields. The women and children were very friendly and the flowers made them a blaze of color.

July 26. After a week's stay at Bolling, I went on the march again. After leaving Alexandria, we were halted near a very fine chateau where an old officer lived. The garden was very fine and the scenery is said to have been fine. The Colonel had his H.Q. here and must have been very comfortable.

We now marched from this to Bolling's, where the whole division were encamped in a large permanent camp.

July 30. I did not enjoy the day here as I was interested a lot with reforming seven of the boys for some day. In the afternoon we marched on again and arrived at about the night.

July 31. In the evening we went to our new positions in case of battle as there was a large number of causeway balloons we had to observe the enemy. We then started to build our tents, which took us a couple of days. We were
The country all round us like a large honeycomb with all the old German trenches and shell holes. The bombardment was terrific. The noise of the shell-shrapnel made everything very hot and dusty without intermission. It was good to have an interval of quiet after being under continuous fire. We had to see the wounded men brought in. Some of the men and officers with shell-shock were screaming as if all their nerves were bone and were troubled with a titus dance.

While in this position our batteries alone fired about 10,000 rounds with the hundreds of guns of all armies congregated here. The outside fire then mingled with the bombardment. The writes lines at first were in a rice position near a canal where one could battle which was a rare treat but on account of dead falling in we had to be moved from one fire line to another. Several times at night we had to take the bodies of the dead to a place of safety.
One afternoon a shell burst amongst the locals, killing two men, four others wounded and another man. At the exit site we had about four men wounded seeking ammunition to the pits was a very rough and dirty job. The men working on the trenches had a particularly tough ride joining up with the last used roads. Several times we narrowly escaped the shell's angry climb and a feeling of relief would escape when out of the danger zone. In the evening of the 15th the battery came out of action and camped at the waffen-linie for the night.

Aug 15th Left Albert to Val de Rezon where we bivouacked.

Aug 16th From Val de Rezon to St. Lo for rest. Here all the division was camped and kept a camp fire. Spent several pleasant nights at the 31st Battalion. Officers mess with Capt. Smith & Captain Story. Also met Dave Liley and spent a couple of hours with him.
Aug 17. Arrived back again at Albert.

Aug 18. Into action again in tank Aside to the left of Longue Trench. Here things were not so shocking as before as we were nearly only down near the line. We were stopped several times over when the tank hit but just before the trench we passed for an hour or two and got to a place. On the second day they drove us off without much loss and another battery behind us was taken to capital.

Left 4th Came out of action back to Albert.

Left 5th. Marched to Oyville stayed for the night.

Left 6th. From Oyville to Douclet where we stopped to Godmanech and which was a very pretty town with good scenery surrounding about 2 miles out was the castle with a monastery on the top where a fine view of the surrounding country could be obtained.

Left 7th. Sorry to leave but had to go. Ranched to Oferinge and bivouacked outside. Here must have been a nice town but
Sept 21st - Left office today. Tendered a great deal of comment on the 15th site away from the other. The weather was very favorable. One of the nearest things to a ruin I have seen is a large wall on the hill. The remains of a cathedral are very fair. They are outside the wall which is about 10 feet thick. It is said to have been built in the 17th century. It is quite quiet in this part now.

Sept 22nd - Rode in the lake to the nearest about 10 miles from the site. We met some workers who had spent a couple of hours with us at the site. It is also at the other for a few days and we were quite comfortable. We met each other, and we met again. The man on the river, on the river, is now a major.

Oct 7th - Went to Asheville, showed services at Reynolds, but this time by a cab, no freight rides.
Oct 13th. I was detailed to be one of a party accompanying
surgeon to the rear in anticipation of a medical inspection on the 15th.
On the return journey, returned to 20th Battery lines after a long
ride.
Oct 14th. Set out to find our own wagon lines, on
which we only had the
map reference. After a
lot of inquiries, ultimately
we succeeded. Found Stanley
just across the road
from us & we were well
pleased to see each other. The lines are fast outside Reinjefelst.

Oct 25th. Left Reinjefelst & headed
to a mile or so outside
Greenhoede where we spent
a pleasant evening & did the
buy a new water as mine
was not working well.
Oct 24th. Left Greenhoede at
10 a.m. & had a hard day's
march to Kermoyes. It was
very wet & cold & not at all pleasant, so
as a consequence, they did
not feel too cheerful.

Oct 21st. Left Kermoyes & arrived
about 10 a.m. at Hereford. We
enrained at 5 a.m. the next morning.
Oct 23rd. Arrived at Tram at 7 a.m.
in a sea of mud, which
took us five hours. We
then about 10 p.m. set out on a pacifying trip. Amin was which is a fine town, arrived at a village outside known where line rested a few hours.

Oct 29. moved on again towards the front. passing numbers of German prisoners on the roads, then camped outside Albert.

Oct 30. started again towards Albert to see the front lines ten hours. The fighting on the roads was wonderful and the mud terrible.

Oct 31 - Nov 1. Our stay during this period can only be described to living in a sea of eternal mud.

You could not escape it no matter how hard you tried. Tried a lumpy walk happier atmosphere we used to be every comfortable there. On evening when the fire set fire I was at the office and all this time got promoted to rank of acting corporal. When Bond Johnson went on leave to England I took over his duties of the temporarily which were pleasant enough. All the ammunition jams, water etc had to be packed in boxes to the pits as the rats would not allow them to be sent. Our lives there were often shelled by the enemy without even getting any of us, but we must take that...
50% new troops by Siegfried without any reinforcements coming in. About 15 Dec I learned that Stanley had been killed on 23 Dec at Montauban whilst drawing rations for his section.

Of course this was a great shock to me but I soon got over it. Received plenty of parcels from home and managed to enjoy them.

Jan 1-2: Off duty with bronchitis trying hard to get better as I was due for leave on a day or so.

Jan 3: Found some one on watch instead of which I was sent to hospital. First of all went to Heidelberg then to C.E. at Heidelberg where we stayed the night. Next day by special train from there to Pilsen where we arrived at about 2 a.m. We were taken to 1st British General Hospital. This place is situated right on the sea and would be a beautiful spot in the summer time, but it is now rather cold. We are not allowed to stay in bed, but must get up for meals etc. instead we have about 50 yards further down the street. All the ambulance cars are driven by women who seem very effete at the same time.
Jan 17th. I was marked to leave the capital on the 15th, but arrived to a railway smash on the line I did not to take today. Three carloads of was returned to Haversville which took us about an hour. We then entrained & moved off about 1 a.m.

Jan 18th. Arrived at Rome about 9 a.m. & traveled to the rest camp to wait for the train to Staple. Entenred again in the afternoon.

Jan 19th. Arrived at Staple.

Feb 10th. After being on draft for work a week, one finally left the base. Arrived at Albert about 10 p.m. & stayed there the night.

Feb 5th. We were then taken by train to Le Bihan & were attached to F.F. Section F.A. B.

Feb 6th. I was detailed amonst others for a party to escort a Gen to a very cold & stiff journey. Arrived there about midnight.

Feb 7th. Twenty of us traveled down the line to Long Wood to take a a ammunition dump where we had a good but refreashable tea. Found the 15th Battery within 10 minutes walk & set my watch.

Feb 9th. Much to our surprise we were after lunch another party of men arrived to take over from us. Queued up to go back to the section at Laville.

Feb 8th.