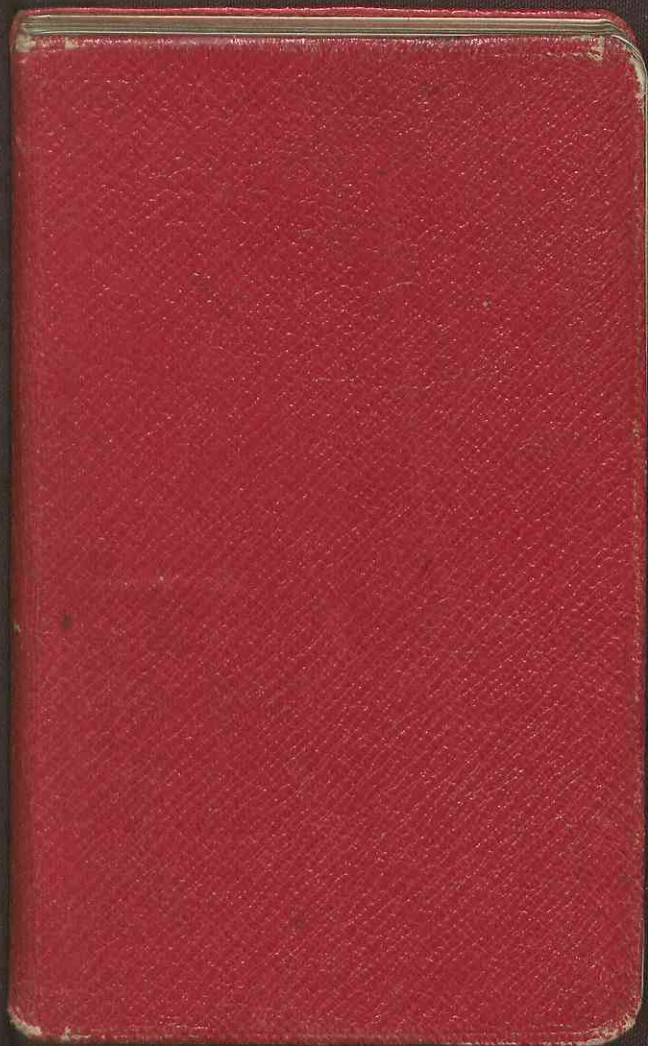
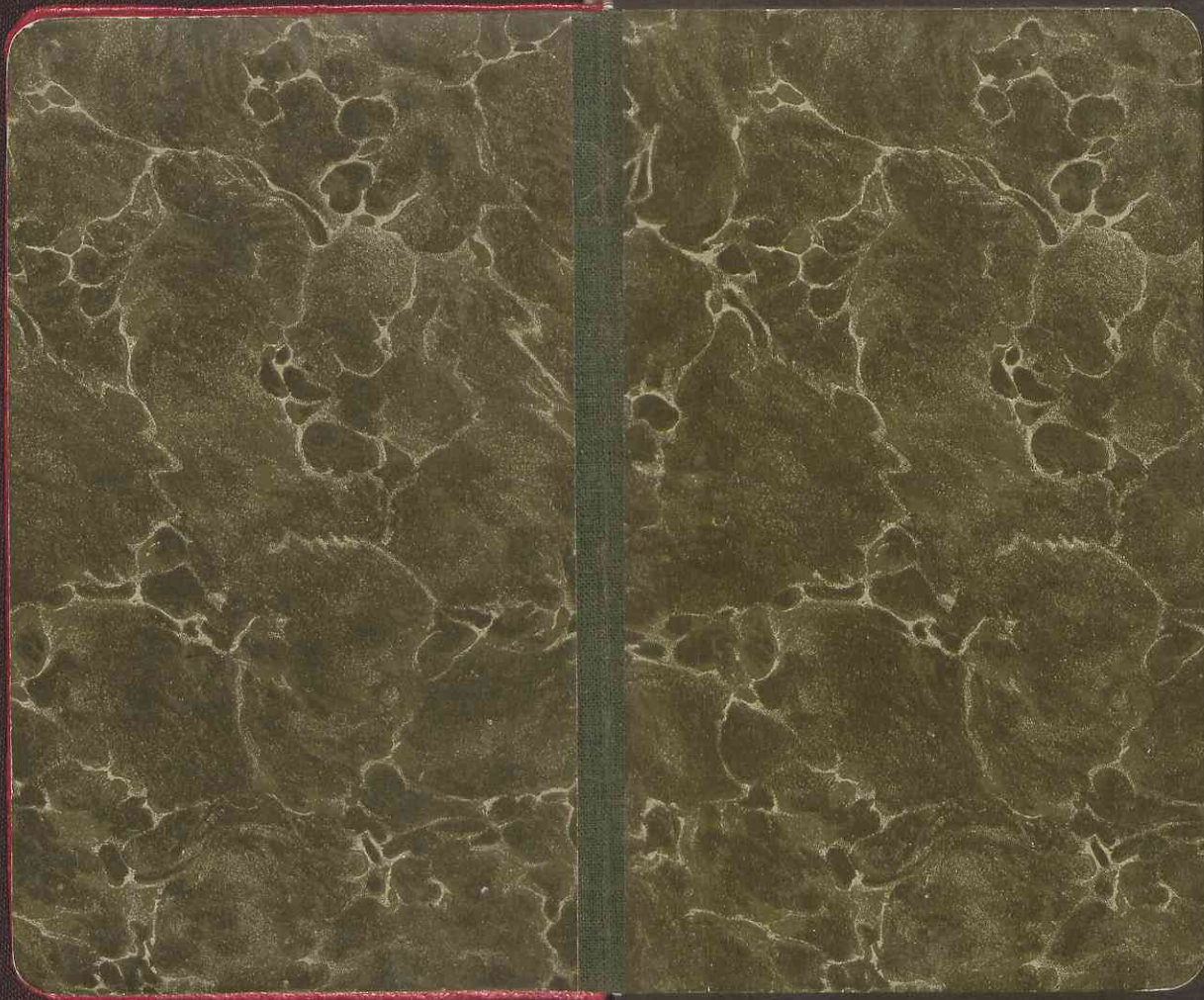






APD

2/1/1

1963.0024.0001

Personal Diary.

Ind Lieutenant A. P. Derham
G. Company
5th Inf. Bde.
Ind Inf. Bde.
1st A. I. G.

{ If found please return
to above or failing this
to:-

J. P. Derham Esq
Heinfel
Harcourt St
Hawthorne
Melbourne
Victoria
Australia

THE
"PALL MALL"
NOTE BOOK

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LONDON:
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July 31st
Friday August 1st 1914.
At Springbank, England
declared war on Germany
Monday August 31st
Wrote to C.D. M. U. R.
withdrawing resignation of
Commission in C.M. H.
Tuesday August 4th Walked
to Marysville and struck
Camp.
Wednesday 5th Walked to
Springbank - said goodbye
to Anderssons - Car to
Healesville and home.
Thursday 6th Tried to
get in to A.M.C. with Commission
but was not successful.
Decided to wait on movement
of M. U. R.
Monday 10th Volunteered
for active service abroad at
Victoria Barracks.
Friday 14th Signed on as
Private in 64th Inf. Justa

was medically examined
by Dr Upjohn M.S. and passed
as fit.

Saturday 15th - Wrote to C.C.
Public Schools Contingent.
also to Captain Morley
Adjutant A.M.C.

Sunday 16th - Saw Dr Hiller who
approved of my decision.

Monday 17th Received 3 notices
to attend enrollments
(1) at 49th Infantry (Public
Schools) (2) at M.W. Rules at
10.30 am (3) at Victoria
Barracks. A.M.C. at 9
A.M.C. Attended at
A.M.C. Office. was medically
examined and accepted
by Col^l R. Tate Lutherland.
Went up to M.W. and
found I was just too late
to get an appointment
with Capt. Horwath. 6th
Inf. Bn (my old friend -

and Adjutant. M.W.R.)
Got my name crossed off
the 64th as Private.
Tuesday 18th Wednesday 19th Played
Tennis - Saw Schuler &
Thursday 20th Friday 21st went to
Barracks - was sworn in
by Major Jwoor.
Friday 21st - attended at
Barracks and went
to camp at Broadmeadows
by train.

Names of my tent mates
in A.M.C.

Carnegie 5th V.M.R. in
South Africa

James Barr Med. Student?

Summerton Commere. Trar.

Hank Carr Chemist

Hanny } A.M.C.
Laidlaw }

Porter (Gordon) } Horse
Bill Stehen } ^{James} Saloon keeper

August
Saturday 22nd September

Began work - squad drill
& under Non Coms who had
no knowledge of their work
and officers with less.

For two or three weeks - served
as private in A.M.C. and then
transferred to 5th Inf Bn
as private. Was immediately
appointed provisional acting
sergeant to No 3 Section.
Was a member first of No 1
Squad. Then of No 7. and
finally of No 16. where
the Amb were
Sgt Stretch.

Mrs. W. Cook (Blindens)
Volum, Wigglesworth,
Turner, Volum, Mr Intyre
Mc Donald. Mostly of
Geelong Grammar School. Vic.
Wednesday 16th September
was offered and accepted
a Commission in 5th Bn

went to Melbourne to arrange
for Uniform. &c. Home for
tea.

Commission gazetted as from
this date.

Saturday 16th October. Home for
tea. Westville on way back
Sunday 18th. Home for afternoon
and evening. Goodbye.

Wednesday 20th Left Camp
and entrained for Port
Melbourne. Embarked
about 1.30 PM and sailed
at about 3.45. There was
a mist to the North & East
and I could see the Dandenong
fairly and the Belov'd
hills beyond it all.
Passed through the rip about
sunset - the bay looked
very beautiful. Left the
Melbourne. ~~W.M.S.~~ (Z.M.A.S.)
lying at anchor off Queenscliff.
Strange to think of the

Circumstances of my last
and almost my only other
trip down the bay.

Thursday Perfect Weather
— Ploughing ahead alone.
~~and~~ out of sight of land.
In the evening - lights
visible for astern. (H.M.A.S
Melbourne?).

Friday Weather still good
very calm for night.

In Charge of Main Guard.

Saturday H.M.A.S. Melbourne
came in sight and passed
us on Port Side.

Remained in offing ahead.

Sunday Blue Hills on

Starboard bow in evening

Monday 6 A.M. Steamed
into King George's Sound
where the Melbourne had
preceded us. Magnificent
flotilla of transports
and men o'war.

Tuesday 27th Went into
Albany Harbour to Coal.

S.S. Katoomba came in on
her way E. where she was
to be transformed
into an armoured cruiser -
a very beautiful boat. triple screws.

Wednesday 28th Visited and
returned various
Post Cards Home.

Thursday On Guard. Received
various visitors etc. Letter
from home.

Friday

Saturday morning steamed
out into King George's Sound
again. Posted closed letters

Saturday and Post Cards home.

Sunday November 1st 6 A.M.

Cruiser weighed anchor and
steamed out - preceded
only by H.M.A.S. Melbourne
and the other members of
the Convoy some of which we
had not seen. A long line of
transports followed the
New Zealand Division bringing
many

up the rear. Have got a
rather nasty cough again but
no illness that cannot be
explained by the effects of
the enteric inoculation on
Tuesday 27th Oct.

Monday 2nd. Beautiful
weather - but the sea is
much heavier - the weaker
stomachs have succumbed
- not so mine. Out of sight
of land - forever Australia!
only the waves pushing their
eastward to thunder their
message on the shores.

Joined by the "Medic" and
"Ascaminus" from Perth.

Tuesday 3rd Weather still
good. Course about N.W.
by N. More news of Smuden's
escapades - Penang Harbour
wrote diary from beginning
up to date. Will not again
indulge in so indolent a
capsk. I intend to incorporate
more detailed news in

Personal letters, a sort of
circular letter to be posted
at once and also a sort
of open letter to be left with
Ginid. Still untouched
by seasickness. Cough slight
but the source of some
misgiving. George Copes down
with some obscure malady -
Influenza I suppose.

Inoculation for Enteric
repeated today - in its effects.
Going to be a good little boy
now and keep my diary up
to date. Happy and cheerful.
Wednesday 4th November 1914

No event of importance
Thursday 5th

George diagnosed as measles -
last left to isolation cabin.
Friday 6th Sailing with all
lights low after sunset.

First flying fish seen
Saturday. Half Holiday. Sports
Concert in Evening. Poor

Sunday Divine Service C of E. as usual. Thought of prayers at Springbank. Don't like this public worship which has to trim its sails to reconcile the fact we are on a mission of bloody murder! I approve of the bloody murder but not of the attitude of mock sanctity. I would not be surprised if God has all this money on the Germans.

Funeral on the Euripides - which sails on our stock bow. She drew aside and slackened speed for a scant five minutes. Am writing little and reading and thinking less. We are in constant danger of attack and are some miles off the general trade route - W. W. of Cocos Islands. Monday 6. am. The Minatour has gone ^{later} rumours of attack. The Sydney left at full speed in answer to an S.O.S. call from the Otsuki a small Japanese scout. (??)
In the technical sense only

Message about 9. am. Sydney engaged. The Otsuki left a little later full speed going out ahead NW. at first. Message about 11. am "Enoden beached and done for". Thanks to Sydney. Melbourne & Otsuki too late for gun. Collier (with rammer) and the rest of the enemy fleet still at large. 3. P.M. Otsuki & Melbourne return to stations. Message. Sydney Casualties 2 killed 13 wounded. Half holiday to commemorate. Shall put in on next page rough sketch of disposition of convoy in case my letters miscarry. Orders for tonight all lights out as dark risks of a night attack being partially successful is not inconsiderable. Could not hear the guns this morning.

Osaka N Minatama (Flagship)

Wiltshire Porirua (Flagship)

Wiltshire Southern Euripides

Medic Rexa Wiltshire Arglesmore

Arconius Thropshire

Africa

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Sydney Ibuki

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

Australians

P.S. Other Scouts out further

Melbourne

Laternal Distance 1 mile
Vertical " $\frac{1}{2}$ mile
Scouts (warships) about 5 miles.
Scouts Light Cruisers - variable.

4 PM. Monday 9th. No sign
of Sydney returning yet - no
further news. Hope the
people in Melbourne don't
believe any of the silly rumours
that are going about I believe.
Had the Bidden is finally
brought to book by us. Wat O!
the Australian fleet!
Must be more religious and
write this up daily and
more carefully. No excitement
about the bill. Excitement on
a tub like this is futile as
if we are hit we go to the
bottom and if we aren't we
have no honour & glory so we
just do puzzle exercises and
play chess. The Commander
of the whole show -

Captain Gordon Smith is on
brandus and he is a bit
nervy about sending his
cruisers off after the enemy
as he only has a limited
number to protect little Willie.
Towards the morning
independent worked and he
smiled considerable. They
are all a little anxious
about tonight and I am
glad I am only plain Alfie in
G. Company & day. - However
what can the striking little
Königsberg do with all her
dirty pals - don't know how
many? - Buz Rab - he lay
low in the wrong spot last
night - this night he
knows the spot - but at
present he is going so fast
you can hear him whizz.
and I guess we won't see
him for a day or two.

Tuesday 10th Actual facts
of Yesterday's fracas.

"At about 5 AM this morning
(Monday) a strange Code signal
was heard which we now
believe was made by the
German Cruiser "Guden" to her
allies.

"At 6.50 am. the Cocos Island
W.T. Station made "S.O.S" "S.O.S."
Strange Cruiser at entrance. This
was taken by HMA T. O'Brien &
passed to HMAS "Melbourne". HMAS
Sydney was ordered to get up
steam for "full speed" and proceed
to Cocos Islands which is a
terminus for cables to Australia
New Guinea and Dutch Indies
and a W.T. Station. At time
of receiving signal we were 50
miles away to NW. The
Sydney signalled at 9.30
"Enemy in sight" little later
"Am engaged with enemy,
proceeding N." The Melbourne

and the Japanese Cruiser Iwaki
(12 inch guns (4) - heaviest
armament in Pacific.)
cleared for action and spread
out to intercept the enemy.
whose course would have
brought her in the direction
of the Convoy. - Soon however
the Sydney signalled
"Iwaki beached and done
for" - "Am proceeding to chase
Collier" - "2 killed 13 wounded."

Wednesday 11th More detailed
message from the Sydney.
The Guider landed a party
at Coco. Smashed the Wireless
Station just after the call was
sent. Cut some cables &c.
The Sydney blew three
funnels and a mast
out of her and forced
her to run ashore. She
then chased the Collier

caught and sank her.
The other 9 cruisers the
Noringberg is marked
down and is being shadowed.
The Sydney signalled the
Orizeta to go back for
prisoners & wounded but
she was too far North. The
S. will return in tomorrow
(Thursday) with prisoners
and wounded.

Tonight 150 Casualties.
Captain Alive. It is believed
that all prisoners and
wounded are to be brought
on board the Orizeta. For
which purpose first and
second Class Cabins are
being vacated in some cases.
More definite news about
this later.
Thursday This morning
the Orizeta as flag ship
did a tour of inspection

up and down the lines
of transports - reporting
for once in her full speed
- nearly 20 miles an hour.
More details of this in
my letters.

Thursday 12th Weather
still calm and sultry.
Sharp & small last night.
Phosphorescent ocean.
Beautiful blues today.

S.S. purples of Cisca 15,000
- converted. Armed merchant-
man passed us on 10th
bow today at 1.30 P.M. going
S.E. to Cocos. A magnificent
ship - very fast and
painted the service grey.
Greetings exchanged.

Have had some excellent
games of chess and am
learning apace. All children
should be taught Chess - best
thinking exercise I know.

5 P.M. Have just written
some post cards for posting at
Colombo. Am expecting Gladys
alongside this evening. Heaven
send our Clemency will
be returned in kind when our
fellows fall into their hands
at the Front. The Englishman
in command will never swerve
from that gigantic Bureaucracy
and humanity for which
thank God.

Am afraid this diary is
neither very coherent nor
very legible but all writing
is done under more or
less awkward and interrupted
conditions and one must
make the best of opportunities.
Sydney Delayed. Standing
on 10th deck this evening
with the Machine Gun Officer
(The Bash Bazook) at about
11.30 P.M. Saw a momentary
gleam of light far out on

Std bow - got our glasses
but saw no more.

Friday 13th King HMS
Hampshire - battle cruiser
on our Std bow. The Empress
of Russia passed last night
on the way to Coco to pick
up the wounded and prisoners.
The E. of Asia was going to
mind the wireless and cable
station. Still uncertain
whether we are to have the
prisoners or not.

Still calm and clammy.
Our Escort is changing
around a good deal.
Various Pacific Station
cruisers come poking
around at intervals. Give
one the impression of
tremendous vigilance
and efficiency. Whatever
happens at the front the
British Empire is still "the

goods" when it comes to punning
a world.

Saturday No fresh news. Some
non-committal messages
from the front. A report
that the Koinigberg is up
a river in E. Africa and
her crew entrenched ashore
- a British presser paying
them particular attention.
Japanese successes in East.

Congratulations passed to Capt.
of Ibuki. Sydney expected to-
night. On Friday the N.Z.

Convoy put on full speed
and passed us going
ahead to Colombo. In afternoon
Sunday (Sat) I went over the
engine room, stokehold, bunkers
& - the engines are magnificent.
They are right down in the
bowels of the ship - only 2 1/2 inch
plates between the E. room and
the water. One little rock

and to the bottom she
goes. There is little or no
attempt at waterproof
bulkheads &c.

Sunday 5 A.M. "Sydney" passed
us and went ahead with
Impress of Russia.

Ceylon on the bow about
ten miles away. Beautiful
foot hills surmounted by
Adam's Peak. Immense
surf breaking although
there is no perceptible
movement out here.

Posted P.C.s and letters
last night. Horizon
speckled with black and
white sails. Reported
we are to have prisoners
after all. Sighted Colombo and
came to anchor outside
breakwater at about 1 P.M.

Beautiful green lawns and
terraces. Handsome pavilion

-like buildings surround by
green reserves of Palms and
some thick shrub with very
bright green foliage. The harbor
itself was packed with shipping
including:

Four or five R.Z. Transports
Converted Cruiser Imp. of Russia
(which towered magnificently
over all the others which
however included some very
large ships)

Russian Cruiser with five very
tall thin funnels. "Askold"^(?)
Japanese battle cruiser "Ibuki"
H.M.S. "Hampshire"

H.M.A.S. "Sydney" "Immortal" ^{page}
One or two other smaller cruisers
and a large number of
international merchantmen.
It was a remarkable sight
and the gay colouring was
added to by the National
Flag flying gaily at the

sterns. Courtesy and business-calls were paid and returned. The Commanders of the "Hampshire" and the "Duke" came aboard. The Japanese Minase did not suffer in smartness in comparison with the British. Shore leave is difficult to get except on duty. No chance for me.

Sir Leoy made an inspection of some of the other Australian transports as A.D.C. to Colonel Patterson. His report on their comfort or lack of it especially on the horse boats is simply staggering. Horses dying or nearly dying by the score and animals and men suffering the most acute discomfort

with no means of relieving either. In the case of the 8th Battalion on the "Kororata" conditions were so bad that companies had to be moved onto other transports.

Atmosphere misty - inland scenery obviously beautiful but shrouded in clouds.

Monday, Nov. 16th

Very much rougher today - the shallow water here is green and dirty. The small boats are tossing about like cockle shells and there is a good deal of yaw transshipping the fat Colonels and major especially down the rope ladder. German prisoners become aboard today - no wounded. About 4 P.M. They came out in two ships boats, towed by the "Hampshires".

steam pinnace. Five officers
and about 25 other ranks.
They all came aboard
in what seemed to be a
contented frame of mind.
Healthy wholesome looking
men. The men are
confinned aft on the main
deck - free to move
about but under armed
guard.

The Officers have refused to
give their parole. They are
in 1st Class cabins specially
vacated for them. Armed
sentries at doors and
windows. They have
meals in the 1st Class
saloon before we have
ours. With the officers of
the Guard. They are a
fair type in general. I have
not had a good look at
the Captain - the Kaiser's

relative. These members
of the Emden's crew have
won undying fame in
Germany. The casualties
were roughly 130 killed
and about 150 more or
less seriously wounded.
Tuesday, 17th On Guard

from 2-6 AM This morning
found a sentry sleeping
at his post. Tried this
morning and sentenced
to 28 days detention.
The silly folk sit down to
rest with fatal results.
Lord Roberts' death announced
yesterday. A Grand man
in harness to the last.
England has much to thank
him for.

Captain Sakar's brother
wounded and a prisoner
at the front. He better
know Captain Sakar the

more I like and respect him. He is a man, a gentleman, and a boy, delightfully mixed, and is universally popular among officers and men.

George Capes is much better but still quarantined. I think I omitted to mention that he is engaged (?) to Dely. Rice and that Frank Lind is engaged (?) to Eva Morrison - a surprise to me. Such a man! Have been preparing a map of Duffers drift for a Century. Are just leaving Colomb now - must get on deck.

Saler. Sailed 11.45. Due West. 3rd Brigade (Stol line) to remain to Port

to water - follow tonight. Got no mail at Colomb - hope the people drop to the idea in time to catch me again en route.

As usual there is a good deal of friction between Company officers and the Adjutant. Of course it does not directly affect me. Month shut and cars open is a golden rule for junior subalterns.

Wednesday Weather still terrible. Not a roll since Albany. German Officers are very 'ortz and seem to think they are entitled to a sort of bent kneed worship - especially the Princling. One of our officers of the guard approached him the other day with an ordinary military salute in some

primal business and
the silly beggar hauled
off as if to strike him.
He did not get his
saloon, but he got the
point of the sentry's
bayonet in the pit of
his German stomach and
no time wasted - no harm
done of course but a
reminder.

There are two guards
now each of 80 men
& 3 Officers. The one over
the prisoners with bayonets
fixed and ball ammunition.
One sentry over the for-
ward found asleep on
Tuesday night and is
to be court-martialed.
He will probably get
6 months hard labour.
Later on they will be
shut down.

The Germans exercise
on deck from 12 - 1
roughly - and 3.30 - 4.30.
They are very strong
- healthy and smart.
They have the same food
and better accommodation
than our own men.
Thursday 20th November.

No event of particular
importance. Rumoured
that an Indian Division is
coming to meet us at Aden.
Have the first two lessons
of Dufferin's Wrist to the Boy
today. They were interested
and my landscape map
in water colours was much
admired. In the evening
Mr Bean (war correspondent)
gave a lecture to Officers and
non-coms on the fight
between the Sydney and
the Dresden. It was a

very full and fascinating
account - of one of the
most remarkable
engagements in modern
times. I expect full
accounts will have been
published, if not I shall
incorporate a sketch of same
later on in Diary & Letters.
Friday 21st

Reported 40,000 Turks
marching from Jerusalem
to the Suez. Fearing
if we have to fight our
way through. The
"Ascanius" (15 knts) 1st
Brigade changed places
with "Africa" about 12 knts
2nd Brigade as the latter
line is going ahead to
Aden. There was a
collision ~~last~~ night between
"Ascanius" and "Thropshire"
2 men reported drowned.
Friday

other damage not yet known -
Chemistry Dept.

There have been several
operations for appendicitis
aboard. All doing well.
Charles Ryan does most
of them.

Orderly Subaltern tonight
and tomorrow.

Saturday Perfect weather.
Breeze a little cooler.

Papaws and Cydon
Bananas at table
and Pears - like water melon
- taste like apricot, persimmon,
rock melon.

Average Day's programme

in case I forget to send
it along in letters or
in case same miscarry

over

6. Am. Reveille. Coffee.
 6.30 - 7.25 } Physical Exercises
 for Officers on
 boat deck. under Drummer
 instructor.
 8. Am. Breakfast.
 8.30 Am. Company Orderly
 Room - Defaulters?
 9. Am. & } Morning Parade
 11.30.
 11.30. Beer Issue to men.
 12. Noon. Lunch.
 1.15 - 1.45. P.M. (Swing Drill
 Officers
 2 - 3 P.M. Afternoon Parade.
 3 - 4 } Lecture by Senior Officers
 to Officers & the C.O.
 4 - 4.30. Company Classes
 for N.C.V.
 5. Messes Sec.
 6. Retreat. Dykes Mount.
 7. Dinner (Officers Mess)
 8.15. Lecture (occasionally)

9.30 Lights Out
 11. P.M. " " in Saloon.

Above does not include the
 hundred and one small
 routine duties and times.

The C.O. Prosopship.
 (Colonel Hauss) inspects
 parade at 10. Am and
 the ship at 11. Am.

All the headquarters
 people - (Division & 3 Brigades)
 do their own jobs and
 are generally ornamental
 except when they are in
 the way.

Am feeling quite well, content
 and quite energetic consid-
 ering weather and monstony.
 Am looking forward very
 much to hearing again

from Home, Springfield,
and I hope from Enid.

If the German Empire
fights the fight the Enten-
did - the war will not
be over tomorrow nor yet
the day after.

Sunday No particular
event of interest.

Was Officer of the Guard over
prisoners 10 am Sunday
to 10 am Monday. My
shift was 10-4 and 10-4
Six hour shifts are rather
trying as they usually merge
into and the interval
for sleep into 4.

Visit sentries at least
once an hour at night
and the sergeant at the
half hour so that they
have little chance of

going to sleep.

Nevertheless a sentry, either
of the ship's guard or the
prisoners guard is found
asleep nearly every night.
Monday 6 am. sighted the
inland of Ocotilla to the
N.W. dim citadel on the
ocean brim - a cloud
among azure clouds.
Approached and passed
it on the port bow at
a distance of about 4-5
miles. Immense desolate
rock - almost sheer cliffs
rising at least 1500 feet
into the central mountain.
And rock faces like the
Arizona Cañons. Passed the
N.E. end at 6 PM and
saw the smaller islands
beyond at sunset. Beautiful
to see the Hampshire HMS
and the convoy riding

peacefully at the foot
of these gigantic desolate
cliffs - the first glimpse
of Africa - the Continent
of mystery. The Germans
are very bright and
friendly - extremely clean
- seem a very fine type
in every way - look out the
world. If they are all like
these they will certainly
get their place in the sun.
Tuesday 23rd

No event of particular
interest. News from the
front not very exciting.
News of a disaster in
B. E. Africa - failure
to capture railway terminus -
heavy casualties. There
is going to be a lot more
to be settled before things are
settled. rather firm to be
at the storm centre

Wednesday Came in sight
of Aden at dawn.
Office of Prisoners Guard again
to be mounted 10. A.M. Guard
provided by G. Company.
Came alongside and fleet
anchored in Rozdstead
about 8. A.M. Gigantic
desolate rocks like Socotra.
Vast quantity and variety
of shipping as at Colombo.
Should like to have made
a sketch of the rock but
did not think it wise to
appear on board with such
peaceful implements. As
this is perhaps the most
critical time with the
prisoners. Won't intend
to go into details of our
methods of dealing with
either our own or the
German men - suffice to say
they have ample food stuff

and exercise. We anchored
close inshore and coal &
water tanks came alongside
about 12 noon. Coaling
continued far into the
night. I was on from
10-4 pm & 10-4 am.

I was just snatching a
few winks between 9-10
PM. when I was turned
out of my cabin to make
room for two British Officers
going home. Am in with
Sident & Linnon, one of my
jabs. The Regiment at
Caden - the Lancashire Fusiliers
I think - have been ordered
inland. All went well
as no attempt was made
to escape. A few shots were
fired over suspicious hats
hanging round in the
darkness but nothing
eventuated.

Thursday 26th Up anchor
and away at 4.30 AM.
The Oracle put on full
speed to get down to
the canal first but
various little contingents
prevented this.
This morning I had the
doubtful privilege of being
the first A.S. Officer
to be wounded. As the
Guard coming off duty were
unloading one man
discharged his rifle acci-
dentally and hit the steam-
pipe just in front of him.
It fortunately struck
quite square and the terrific
velocity tore the bullet
in minute fragments
which found their billet
in the man's hands and
shoulders inflicting hardly
but negligible wounds.

and in my legs stinging
but barely penetrating
the skin. Very lucky
the bullet did not
pierce back complete!
Guard duty is very wearing
as the responsibility is
considerable. We have received
cables from home to take
particular care of the
German prisoners
Friday 16th. No mail at
Aden. Posted letters to
mother and Frankie.
News from front that
the Dublin Fusiliers
and Warwickshire Regiment
have surrendered to a
superior force without
resistance - the latter on
more careful inspection
turning out to be
British! Both Colonels
were cashiered.

This morning a strange
steamer appeared to
starboard heading S.
rumoured to be Turkish
troopship. The "Hampshire"
whirled out and pounded
her. Expecting something
dramatic we all stood
and gazed breathlessly.
The steamer was packed
with troops which we could
see with our glasses crossing
the decks. A flash and
they must all go to the
bottom before our eyes!
Nothin' doin'! Some silly
old Indian. Troopship. The
Hampshire returned
quietly to her station
and the trooper steamed
relievedly away.
Lecture at deck this evening
by the 5th Chaplain who
served in the African war

as a combatant and has
since been skipper of a
steamer in the pilgrim
trade from Asiatic ports
to Mecca. His lecture
was entitled - a pilgrimage
to Mecca.

I hope to find time to
sketch in a little about
the interesting people
abroad but in the
meantime I am leaving
these details to Phillip
whose business it is.
Saturday ^{20th} This is appointing
news! - we are
to land at Port Said for
service in Egypt! -
probably stationed at
first at Cairo.

Sand flies, arabs!
Hell! may not see Enid
- may never get to the
front. On the other

hand we may have to
fight before we are really
fitted by training. Cairo in
the winter is not so bad
they say when one can pick
one's path, but picture
an outlying station in
the sands of the Sahara!
Think of us equipped for
a European winter.
Some of the fellows are pleased
at the chance of an immediate
biff! but I should dearly love
to see Enid and England -
besides have I not contracted
to bury my bones in the shadow
of La Sainte Haze or nowhere?
However - what the gods send -
Of course nominally we shall
get better training here than
in England and we may
even be fitted for the front
if we go there more quickly
than in England.

Sunday 29th On Ships Guard
all day - run at full
speed up Red Sea Continues.
Reported we are to be stationed
at Meua. (Pyramids) 10 miles
from Cairo. and to be sent to
the front as soon as efficient

Monday 29th 30th

Sighted land and arrived in
Suez about noon 8 a.m. Passed
into Canal at 3 P.M. Very interested
in scenery - remarkable similarity
to pictures w.t. O!

Tuesday 30th 1st

Arrived in Port Said at 6 a.m.
Was on deck most of last
night - bright moonlight.
The Canal is an extraordinarily
homely affair, in fact any
section of it would pass for
a fair sized waterhole in Victoria
and about as imposing. To
the east - Arabia and
Mysterious Asia

to the West. Egypt and
Mysterious Africa.
Eastward unbroken sandy
desert with desolate
rocky hills about 5 miles
away - Westward first
a continuous Oasis - the
fresh water canal - with
the train to Cairo stopped
at a wayside station.
Beyond the desert and
beyond again more desolate
hills but softer in the
looking with a look quite
like the old friends at
home you could imagine
you could see the old familiar
peaks breaking the skyline.
Further along the Canal the
Western bank was covered
with a scrub of young trees
- looked like mimosa and
some Eucalypti. - just
a soft moonlit woodland
scene with hints of

the great desolation
growing dimly beyond.
The whole Canal is entrenched
and patrolled and defended
by Indian and British troops.
As we passed each post greetings
questions, answers, cheer
and farewells were exchanged.
Passed some French & British
ships going South and were
cheered vociferously.

At one post - Lancashire
Engineers hailed us.

Who are you? Australians

Where are you going?

Said. Oh! God!

Did this expective indicate
Envy, surprise, pity or
what? Compared with
Suez - I should think Envy.
Paul, Stones, Snakes, Scorpion
Sketers, should surely
satisfy us. Port Said
this morning at 6.

3 French and two Brit

9.30 3.15 4.30

Cruisers at port also various
odds and ends. Native jugglers
Come aboard and rob the
guileless Australicians.

We are I believe to disembark
at Alexandria - Zami &
Oasis - March to Mena.
Never expected to Camp at
the Pyramids exactly but
I must try and improve the
occasion as best I can.

I am not going to write
home until I hear from
home as I think a description
is both some pt. Letter from
Muriel left at Suez - only
Porty little cloth!

Wednesday 2nd Dec. Weighed
anchor at 4.30 and sailed
for Alexandria followed by
flagship "Vanguard". Passed
the Serapis statue and went
ahead in a stiff and
delightfully refreshing breeze.
Reminded me of home.
Have lost my fountain pen

Thursday 3rd Came into
Alexandria a little after
dawn - came alongside.
Harbour full of Captured
German steamers.

B. & D. Companies intrained
for Cairo about midday.
Was in charge of Baggage
of 1st & 2nd Battalion.
Captain Baker and 1
Section of 7. Co. placed in
charge of a rest camp in
Alexandria - nominally
for 10 days. George left in
charge of 9. After some
pretty strenuous work the
second train containing
G. & H. Companies, 5th
Some 4th Coys (NSW) and
half 5th 6th Store pulled
out at 9.30 PM. I was in
charge of Baggage and
also 400,000 rounds of
Personal Ammunition.
Arrived Cairo 3.15 AM

Transferred to Electric
trams and proceeded to
Mena (Pyramids) thence
by native mule carts &
Camp. N.W. of Pyramids, and
about within lobe of the
Great Pyramid. Camp in
the desert and quite
untouched tho' the spot
has been used before since
time immemorial including
Moses' and Napoleon's little
stunts. The 5th came in
just to find narrow gauge
troll, tracks and stone
roads being pushed out
with the hands by Camels,
Steam Rollers, Mule carts &c.
We had to pitch tents
for the rest of the Brigade
for the first I got all that
stuff from the Quarters to
the Camp in less than
12 hours. train - cart -
train - cart - Camp.

Friday. Fatigue work. Pitching
tents for 6th & 8th
Battalions. I pitched the
6th and 8th - not being a
Military Engineer. I pitched the
tents first and then altered
the surveyor's pegs to suit my
lines. No body will ever be any
the wiser.

Saturday. More fatigue work.
As we are the only 2nd & 3rd
people yet here much leave
is being granted to them. It
seems to be upholding its
reputation as the cesspool of
fashionable Europe.

Sunday ^{4th}. Church service for
3th in shadows of Great
Pyramid. Moses' little
escapade recalled. All
enjoying best of health.
Warmer dry days. Cold
dewy nights. Cloudless
skies, cool breezes.

Magnificent officers mess
catered for by natives 4/6 per
Monday 6th. Thammis begins

no events of any note.
Getting very used to the sand.
Tents gradually drifting
in and some of the men
are already fitted out with
sleeping apartments. The
rest are constructing very
picturesque bionacs which
serve to keep out the weather.
Tuesday 7th - Saturday 14th
no event worth recording
- had a deluge of rain
which is said to be
phenomenal at this time
of the year.

Sunday. Church Parade
followed by a long route
march round Pyramids,
Sphinx, Tombs &c &c
and home through the
desert. - not appreciated

by the men, who say "six
days shall thou labour
and the seventh do
route marches.

Went into Cairo in afternoon.
In late for Zoolog. Museum
- dinner at the Continental
- drive through native
quarters till 11. "Casinos
de Paris" till 1 AM. Well
fed but intensely bored.

Monday 18th began an
absolute orgy of duty work
& pay (as usual) for my
night out. Main Brigade
quarrel 10 am till 10 am Tuesday
Orderly Officer till 5.30 PM

Wednesday and so on.
Thursday 21st Training
continues. Bad news from
front for many of our
Imperial Officers. Not
looking forward to Xmas
festivities.
Saturday 19th Egypt declared

a British Protectorate
Sunday 20th Church Parade
Houlet March through
native villages on the
Cairo. Smelly but very
interesting. Letter from
Enid and a Stale one from
home. Many kaleidoscopic
Changes in Personnel of G. Coy.
Monday 21st Training in
field work. Attack & Defence
Tuesday 22nd
Training continues

Wednesday 23rd Orderly Officer
again - rotten job.

Thursday 24th
Most of us screwed. Xmas Eve.

Friday 25th XMAS DAY
Large Mess Halls have been
built for the men. One Hall
per double Company - and
we christened them by

the men having Xmas Dinner
in them. I stopped to it and
waited on the Chaps - eating
huge masses of Curry, beef,
vegetables and pudding
out of huge dishes and
incidentally blackening my
own Collar sent beyond
description - the usual
fate of a bunter with or
without leave was launched
upon Cairo and incidentally
we have lost our third
Sergeant in three weeks.
Absent now for three
days - the whole three
are Irish old soldiers and
stone mad when drunk.
We are somewhat short of
non commissioned
officers on that account.
Saturday 26th Spent in
bathing and recovering
our tempers and digestion

after Xmas.

Sunday 27th Church parade
Route March for weary miles
over the Desert Hills - too
hot for our cloth tunics
and Sunday accoutrements.
Definitely announced
(unofficially), that we are
to work under the Double
Company - Malton System
(Imperial).

We are informed on good
authority that we
shall be in the trenches
at the front by April 1918
at the very latest.

Rumoured that there are punter-
tons of Australian Mail bags
unsorted at the Hq. Office.
Also rumoured that our pay
allocments at home are not
being handed over by the
Government. If this be
confirmed there will be a riot.

28. 2. 15.

Since the last entry -
27. 12. 14. Two months
have elapsed. Much
to my shame.
Much of interest has
eventuated some of
which I have imparted
in my letters - the
remainder has been
or will be minutely
described by others or
in the Melbourne papers

The chief features have
been - in January - hard
training verging into
dust excess and almost
unbearable monotony.
The Brigadier ultimately
realised that his soldiers
were after all human
and granted one whole
holiday per week

and Sunday afternoon
and evening free.

The 15th March has
always been rumoured
to be the approximate
date fixed for our
departure. and the
more contented of the
men are flooding along
with this hope always
before them.

In the interval the
Germo-Turkish attack
on the Canal has "Come
and seen and - changed
its mind". All sorts
of rumours as to the
total strength of enemy
have been abroad - varying
from 10 - 80,000.
Whatever the numbers
concerned in this first
attempt - it is pretty

Certain that we could
have held out easily
against 10 times the
numbers with four
times their brains and
stomach for fight.

As far as I know they
have gone home to rest.

The Canal Defences were
manned by British -
Indian troops chiefly
supplemented by
Anglo-Egyptian Territorial
and Egyptian forces -
the artillery certainly but
I am not certain of the
rest. The New Zealanders
were there - under fire -
with one or two casualties.
The 7 & 8th Battalions of
our Bde were there in
the General Reserve but
not under fire.

The Indian troops bore
the hunt and behaved
magnificently and above
all efficiently. Our
Casualties, I believe can
be numbered on the
fingers while the enemy's
are proportionately immense.
500 dead and buried on
the spot and many
many more Casualties
and prisoners.

The 7th & 8th marched
out with all equipment
on 12 hours notice and
we cleaned up - struck
tents & after them - hoping
that we should be the
next to go. However such
was not to be - we
had to welcome them
back after a few days
having done nothing.

Small pox in small
numbers is reported.
and we were at first
told that it might
confine us here for
weeks & months. Great
was our despondency
indeed.

However last Wednesday
the 3rd Bde. received
Divisional orders for
Evacuation.

Brer Chivers came
around and told me
that his Company
(he is C.O.M.S. of
D. Coy. 11th Bn) had
orders to pack up ready
to move Thursday (25th)
evening. They actually
are moving out this
afternoon. February 28th.

On Wednesday, Vera
Symons & Florie S.
Came out with Wally
and had afternoon
tea with Jim, me,
Whelton & my tent.

On Thursday 26th I
Spent the day at Helipoli
with them and had
dinner at the girls'
flat in Paris. La pension
Hoover house.

They all are all well and
happy.

I got a large budget
from home last week
Mankie, Mrs. A. Katrine
(from Glenciers) (Lur) Ruth.
Mother, Walter, Dor. Dem.
Dor. S. R.A.S. (2) Hilda Power.
Muriel. It may be the
last before we leave.

Did not go and see
Mrs Scott Moncrieff as the
Aunt is awful today
Sunday and Jim Elder
(drunk) poured a bottle
of hair oil over my only
decent tunic.

Mrs S.M. is a sister in
law of an Oxford friend
of Enid's and very kindly
dressed me to tea.

I have been very lazy
with regard to photographs
- but have made
arrangements to collect
some and send them
home.

Divisional Orders today
promote Capt. Pelham
and Capt. Baker to the
Rank of Major !!

By the way the promotion
of Self and other gilded
Subalterns & two Colon
- first lieutenant - rank
date from some date
about middle of January.
must look it up
don't che. no.

Have sent back no
less than 7 of my
men (out of 54) and
am hoping to get rid
of at least 4 more.

Some idea can be
obtained from this what
material I have been
tiring with as most of
them are of the
"undesirable" class.
Combining "bad Character"
"physical" & "mental"
"inefficiency" in a most
delightful proportion.

The remainder are only
a degree less unattractive
with a small coven of
really good fellows.

Doesn't worry me in the
least as the scoundrels
will probably fight like
H — .

Have spent some good
days among Tom's
temples & but you
can see Baedeker for
that.

Our own orders to be
prepared to move are
to hand and rumour
has it we are going to
every place in Scotland
not to mention Christendom.
The most likely in order
of probability are

- (1) France - Marseilles - Font
- (2) Algeria and Oran in thereabouts
- (3) England
- (4) Cyprus.

We are to take all our kit with us - making it likely that our permanent base will be somewhere other than Egypt.

I find that Mother's and my arrangements were very complete. I want almost all I have and have almost all I want.

My wolsey valise is going to serve - minus the padding which is only useless weight.

I am entering this
up to date for fear
long letters may go
astray and in the
hope that I may be
able to send it back
by Phil or Vera.

The only thing of general
application I wish
to dilate on is. —

Captain Pean's article
in the Argus [this
perhaps accurate and
just from one point
of view] does not mention
mitigation, circumstances
[such as drugged drinks,
no compensations,
innumerable.] and is
calculated to arouse
a sentiment among
shallow ruled and

narrow minded sections
of the Australian Public
which will do incalculable
harm.

True the Phlegm of
the troops has been wild
and pretty rotten but
A majority of these men
are the right sort of soldier
and are going to risk
and perhaps give their
lives for their Country
whose honour the Generals
jeopardise by their priority
and they will in spite of
this fight bravely and
efficiently when they have
once got Cairo behind.
It amounts partly to
the situation described
in Kipling's song.
"It's Sonny this & Sonny that!"

9c

but its Mr Thomas Atkins
when the drums begin to play

Ursa tells me Melbourne
women are incensed
and are refusing to
countenance the troops
at all. I should like
to give them a taste of
German myriades &
bring them to their senses.

If Melbourne women
learn to how to train their
sops instead of reserving
their energies for making
Cholera belts in times
of crisis, the army would
have more according
to the laws of Mrs Grundy!
However, we are yet
to be tried and found
true / God send above
all things that we shall be.

In case I don't make
any further entries
at this close this
inadequate, dilatory, and
incoherent diary.

God bless you all and
keep you until we
meet again.

Alfred Derham

Tuesday.

9.3.15.

We are still here in Mena.
The Third Brigade actually
went about a week ago!
Where we don't know.
Where we are going we
don't know. What we
are going we don't
know but we believe
we are going in a day
or two. The betting is
now on somewhere in
the "Near East." Alexandria
and various places in
Arabia, Persia, Cisca Minor,
are all on the cards, this
I still believe that Marseilles
is a possibility. I hope we
do go to France although
it means many more
chances of getting potted.
I don't think that we stand
one chance in a hundred
of coming out unscathed.

Have met some Territorial
officers. Mere boys - they
make our mess look like
a race of burly sunburnt
giants. As indeed we
are - although the 5th
are small compared to
many other bodies of ^{your} men.
The rank and file are
pathetically young -
some of them just turned
16. Infanticide! What!
They are all volunteers!
to go where and when
the King requires.

When these strapping millworkers
and Collier lads offer their
lives with an open hand -
why do our great loafing
Tennis champions and
flock totters hang back?

There is a lot of sickness and
many deaths. Due chiefly

to measles followed by
pneumonia.

Three at least of our Officers
stand a very poor chance
of continuing in our force
owing to ill health.

{ Murray (Lieut J. A. - Capt of
Dorsets) - General breakdown
& blood poisoning
Champ. (Lieut F. C.) Afflicted
with complications
Stevens (Lieut F. J.) M. G. Officer
Tuberculous.

The last named leaves
vacant that important
unit the Machine Gun
Section. George Ayres has
been transferred to this
which means that he
will probably leave P. Coy.
The only really trained
subaltern we have

Leaving me senior Subaltern
and the Company in a
bad way.
Sickness he has made
our Co. average at least
two officers short - with
the result that one has
to do double work in many
ways.

Jim is lucky to have his
sisters in Cairo. Florrie
has been ill for a week
and in bed.

Called on Mrs Scott Moncrieff
but found him out.

Met Mr S.M. going out to
a masonic meeting -
a very nice man - a la
Jack Latham - must call
again if possible.

Have collected a few bad
photographs taken by our

Pardie and am sending
them home. They cost
me 15/- but are not
really worth that.

I have just discovered that
I have been drawing three
weeks' pay every fortnight
- explaining the case with
which I made both
ends meet in Egypt and
the reason why I did not
have to wire for more.
I shall have to retrench
with a loud bang!

There are commencing
brawls in the City between
our men and the natives.
It is a bad omen and the
sooner we go the better on
that account. Many heads
cut and one death in
our force as a result!

Spent 24 hours in charge
of the "Canal Guard" last
Saturday. It is a bridge
guard on the way to
Cairo. This side of the
Nile and quite near Mena.
Quite a delightful spot.
Among green crops and
native huts and in all
its primitive picturesqueness.
Water wheels, or draw plows
&c. While we were there
we were inspected sort
of casually by the Sultan.
His visit was unexpected
and the intense boredom I
felt in honoring his pseudo-
rank almost amounted
to reluctance - it was
an unconscious and no
deliberate game of mind but
quite pronounced all the
same. He is a puppet and
does not even represent the great
power behind.

My returned "hero"
already amount to 9
"and" I am hoping to
"drop" two or three more.
The improvement from
their absence is already
noticeable and the platoon
is "sitting up and taking
notice" much more than
before. We ought to get
one next Australian maid
before we leave now. I am
glad as it may be
many a long day before
we hear again. I
do hope I shall see Cousin
Mick and return with
him to Confound old Gingles
with our stories of field
and flood.

I can hear far off voices

Singing the

See R.A.S. Queensland National Anthem

There are many stocks
jokes of course (some
of coarse) They will mostly
keep however. Major
Paker is a perpetual
source of merriment as
he periodically pretends
to be a decrepit old woman
with a very scentful past
and waxes gummiely
reminiscent under the
most extraordinary
circumstances caring
nought for the dignity of
brigade or barbarian.
Such is his personality
that all who know him
love him, and imitate him
and he is allowed to ride
roughshod over all the minor
restrictions and regulations
of regimental and even
Brigade administration.
His wife is in Camp and

he calmly marches out
of camp and returns
when it pleases him and
apparently no one dares to
lay him out. However
there are not many of
us who cannot take
a leaf from his notebook
when it comes to knowing
how to do one's job.

Phil is returning Chey
Ari when we depart
I suppose.

I shall send this either
by him or by Glorrie.

Our new Subaltern in C Coy
is ex Col. 1st $\rightarrow$ C. Sgt Major
A. S. Adams of 1st F. Coy.
A very nice Chap and
I met him in F when
I was there. Used to live
at Fairlie - where the

Purchase is used to live.
Knows Hilda Power & Co
I have no idea whether
my letters are the sort of
thing you want. I only
hope you are actually
getting them. I am making
this more a disappointed
letter than a chary - the
latter is too boring for my
lazy nature.

I wonder how Frank is.
Suppose military work
is more than ever a tye
on his time. The time
has not yet come when we
can be quite certain that
Australia will not still have
to fight for her own life, but
heaven forbid.

I hear Leo & Jean are
married. Good Luck to
them!

Frankie Thomas & Doug.
little - same to them!

I am suffering from little
tongues occasionally of my
old mad optimism. I
hope I don't get it badly
or I shall be annoying
my friends with large
quantities of hot air.
I can usually look back
on my habitual frame
of mind as one looks
at a moving picture but
occasionally I feel I
am in the picture and
I suppose that if I return
I shall have to take up
the burden of insanity along
with the other troubles of life.
I think I have learnt enough
wisdom however to direct that
insanity along more profitable
lines calculated to prove

less a misery to myself
and less a source of amusement
to my friends. It would
be interesting to learn the
little games of pat. fall &
all over again and enter
once more into the half
forgotten realms of scalpels
and test tubes. The latter
is the memory which fills
me with the most sincere
regret. I hope I shall have
the opportunity of putting into
practice the lessons I think
I have learned in the past
few years.

The older I get the more
I believe in the ultimate
truth of what we know as
high ideals - involving what
sacrifice they may. The
courage and strength of
one nature alone has

gave me my happiness and
I truly believe my life so far
as life is worth living.

The question of reward does
not enter really into the
spirit of the gods but if
it did, to be such a
soul however tried were
reward enough.

Nevertheless I believe that
heaven will send some
sweet and tender recompense
to fill the clear incandescent
sphere of faith with the
softening influence of
love like a shower
of rose petals.

Don't listen to the half men
who prate of the "animal
side of human nature" and
propound schemes of
intense practicality and
equally intense selfishness
and soul killing materialism

There is a purpose in it
somewhere and it is not
found and realized by
hitching your Chariot
to the Ideal level of
moderately respectable
average conduct of the
dead level moderately
respectable mass of middle
or any class humanity.
This conduct is doubtless
quite incontestable, quite
passable, even attractive
if looked at with half
closed eyes, but it won't
do for you and me and
ours. Bismuth M.D.,
and your eyes and ears
all tell you that such
and such a course of
action is safe sensible
and saves trouble all
round but instinct says
something quite different

and after all Bill Smith
and his semiscientific
following are welcome to
their views and especially
to their irreputable

statistical and utterly
material prosop of their
soundness. I never yet
^{met} a Bill Smith who would
sacrifice anything to
speak of in support of
his ideal of life nor
one who would give up
many comforts of that
same ~~same~~ existence
to help anybody who
was not inside.

On the other hand we have
the Negroes whose eyes
see beyond the earthworks
rising hand in hand -
some to face forward
to the edge of the abyss
and nothing but the

stars to guide them - the
others of other people's hearts
and give us up to stand
courageous in the face
of invisible darts with
power to agonize; and
wait and only wait.
Theirs is the agony but
theirs the noble pride
of having saved the nation.
Heaven send that afterwards
will be in their hands the
rebuilding of the nation
which they have saved.
Don't imagine for a moment
that I impute these motives
to the vast mass of volunteers
for service. I believe just the
same that it is the small
sprinkling of such souls
among us that will make
the difference we pray for
between an untrained
band of mercenaries and

a body of national volunteers
imbued with a spirit and
determination which will
recompense for the lack
of experience in war.
Just such men have
performed miracles
in the past - Let us
hope that we shall be
able to at last do our
job clearly and without
failure.

I may continue and
I may not, but I
rather imagine this will
begin to pale, so my seed!

Again in case I have to
send this

A. Dein

12.3.18

On Canal Guard today.
Mail arrived - letters from
Mother, 2 Post 2, Amy, Wm &
Frankie, Arthur D. R.E.S. J.K.
One departure from here
is not so certain as it was.
It is rumoured that the

2nd Brigade, have already
been in action in the New Forest.
Some and kisses to all the
family.

Alfred P. Derham

A number of the
following pages were
blank and have not
been digitised

KAI OLESSON.

Personal Diary

2nd Lieutenant A. P. Werham
9. Company

5th Inf. Bde.
2nd Inf. Bde.

First Australian Imperial Force
On Active Service.

{ Kindly please return to above
or failing this to

J. P. Werham Esq.
Heimpel

Harcourt St
Hawthorn
Melbourne
Victoria
Australia



