

**WAR DIARIES OF  
LIEUTENANT ARTHUR GRANT ROSS CRAWFORD MC  
16282, Imperial Camel Corps (New Zealand)**

**1917 (Egypt and Palestine)**

January 1

Gesi – rough and cold. Hemphill relieved us and Rose and I and our men returned to Gi-site

Jan 2

Gi-site. Very cold and rough. Orders to move out in morning.

Jan 3

Cold rough day. Up in the dark and moved out about 6.30 and treked to Malha, which we reached about 4pm Put up some rough bivvies and it rained heavily during night and we woke up soaked.

Jan 4

Rough and cold with constant showers. All hands erecting bivvies. Thought ours was all right but got soaked again

Jan 5

Cleared a bit and gave us a much needed chance to dry blankets etc. Watering in mng, grooming and ticking in after. I was O'dog. Patched up roof of bivvy.

Jan 6

Weather improving. Malha – I got orders to take my section out to Bir-el-Zoabatia in mng.

Jan 7

Warmer and no rain. Moved out at 8.30. Could not find Zoabatia and got to Hod Arnussi. Went back with Sergt Wilson and at last discovered small disused well which is evidently Zoabatia. Sent Wilson back with report to O.C. And on way back to Annussi discovered site of camp ¼ mile away from well and right off bearing! Stayed at Arnussi for the night.

Jan 8

Very cold morning, fine day. Watered camels and went back to Zoabatia. Very little material for bivvies but fixed up what we could. I went on Camel picquet at night – 12 to 3, as we are short handed.

Jan 9

Srgt. Marshall reported tracks of 2 scouts and I went out at 1pm with 2 men to investigate. Followed them for about 12 miles, when they ran into fesh tracks of Bedouins with a large mob of camels and goats. It was getting late and we couldn't locate their camp so we returned. A full moon on which I had been counting, was entirely hidden by black clouds and we had a job to find our way home but eventually got there at ¼ past midnight – very cold and hungry!

Jan 10

Got word at 6am that we had to move all men and camels out of camp by 8am. To a position 1 mile N of a certain point on the map – as artillery would be firing directly over our camp. Groomed and ticked while out, and watered at Annussi on our way back.

Jan 11

Quiet day in camp. A chap called Woodward in charge of the Artillery Patrol looked in on us and had a yarn. Got orders to shift out again all day tomorrow.

Jan 12

Artillery firing again and we shifted out again and grazed and watered the camels.

Jan 13

Very threatening with a few drops of rain, but it didn't come to anything – quiet day in camp. The convoy brought orders for us to return to Malha in the morning and everyone seemed sorry. We have been a very happy little family at Zoabatia.

Jan 14

Quite a hot dy. Hemphill came out with No 2 Section to relieve us and we marched out about 11.30. Got details of the Rafa scrap. 1 officer (poor old McCallum) killed and 6 men. About 500 casualties altogether. Got letters from Dillo and Lizzie and 3 parcels! Cake and other tucker – underclothing and papers. A great event!

Jan 15

Adolph left at daybreak on the long patrol. Rose went away to join MacKenzie at Magiebra. I was O'dog. Grooming and ticking in mng. Grazing in aftn. Another parcel (4<sup>th</sup>) from Dillo and note from Tattersall, dated Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>! Wrote Dillo.

Jan 16

O'dog again. Grooming, ticking, watering and grazing. Adolph returned about 5pm. Wrote Dillo and Jim.

Jan 17

Lovely day – rather windy. Had a parade of the whole Coy in mng and made them all have a good scrub down at the well after which the skipper inspected every man “in the nude”. Got 4 more that looked like “scabies” and isolated them. I had a jolly good scrub myself with “Tar” soap, and washed my clothes. Wrote very long letter to Jack.

Jan 18

Quite hot again and flies very bad indeed. O'dog: grooming, ticking and grazing. Sent money to Collicott and Son and also A and M.

Jan 19

Lovely day – evngs are lengthening out wonderfully and we got a long twilight, lasting already till well after 6 pm I had an off day and put in the morning washing and mending. Hemphill wrote to the skipper. He has got the job of Adj. of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Btn and thinks we will go up very shortly. The camels are at present right out in front with H'Qrs at El-Arish. Foster stuffed my saddle.

Jan 20

Quiet day. O'dog. Grooming, ticking, and watering in mng. Rifle inspection in aftn. Turned cold in aftn.

Jan 21

Cold with high wind and a lot of sand. Revolver practice with Adolph in aftn.

Jan 22

Rough day – cold wind and a lot of sand. Grooming and ticking in mng. Fixing up saddles in aftn. Wilson arrived. He takes over Lewis gun section.

Jan 23

Rough and cold. Semaphore in aftn.

Jan 24

Fine and bright. Orders to shift back to Bayoud in mg! Worse than ever.

Jan 25

Up at 0330 – moved out about ½ past 5. A long day's trek and at 8pm we hadn't found the place so we “bivvied” where we were.

Jan 26

Found Bayoud not far from where we were and moved in. Found old Mac already here with some of his men. Rose is still at Magiebra. There is a Regt. of Light Horse here but they are leaving and Yeomanry coming. This was the day Bertie was taken ill.

Jan 27

Adolph took his section out to relieve Rose, and I took mine on a long patrol to Zagadan. Moved out at 0600 and got back at 1930 – a very long day! Zagadan proved to be a very ordinary looking sand hill, with no distinguishing mark on it and we went on another two miles looking for something more prominent.

Jan 28

Fine and hot. Did a pretty good loaf. Big mail in. Two letters from Dillo and 1 from Jack.

Jan 29

Windy. Quiet day. The Yeomanry (with about 350 pack camels (!) moved in to relieve the Light Horse.

Jan 30

Gale and sand-storm. O'dog – watering – grooming, grazing etc. Got new “bivvy” up. Morriss took over as my orderly

Jan 31

Very windy and sandy. Rose wet up to El-Arish to get pay etc. Letter from Bright.

February 1

Better day. Inspection of arms and ammunition in mng. Mack and I went for a ride I=in aftn. I was trying a new camel and think he is going to be a corker.

Feb 2

O'dog. Beastly wind and sand storm all day. Marching order parade in mg which disclosed many deficiencies in camel gear. Rose came back. Dixon, Mack and I rode round fixing outposts. Letter from Ferens.

February 3

Up at 0430 – got away with my section at 0630, relieving Adolph at Magiebra, which we reached at 1100. (Bertie was operated on for appendicitis)

Feb 4

Fine day – nothing much doing. “Stood to Arms” 0515 to 0600. Sent out a couple of groups and 2 pack camels for firewood. Wrote Dillo, Bright, Mitchel.

Feb 5

Fine morning – beastly wind again in aftn. Major Wiggins came over to see me in the evng.- quite friendly but by no means hospitable. The Northern Section require more frequent patrols. Had a good bath down at the well. Grooming and ticking and drawing rations and water.

Feb 6

Nice day. News came through that a squadron of Turkish Cavalry have been seen about 15 miles S.E. of Malha. Just our luck! Sergt. Wilson and 12 men went out to Prophet's Grave. They return tomorrow. They had to take two Bedouins out that the Yeomanry brought in last night. Sent rest of camels out to graze and get firewood. Wrote Marion and Stephen.

Feb 7

Nice day. Two Taubes past over in mng. Only 12 men left in camp. They drew stores and water in morning – watered camels in aftn. Sergt. Wilson's patrol got back at 1730 and report “all clear”.

Feb 8

Fine and quite hot. Sergt. Marshall and 12 men left on Prophet's Grave Patrol. Watered Sergt. Wilson's camels in mng. Gave the men a spell in aftn for bathing and washing clothes down at the well.

Feb 9

Nice day – it is gradually getting warmer. Grooming and ticking, drawing stores and grazing. Sergt. Marshall's Patrol returned at 1545. They found the “Prophet's Grave” and report “All Clear”. I dined with the detachment of Stafford Yeomanry – a most luxurious little dinner.

Feb 10

Dull grey day. Rose relieved us at 1100. We got away about 1130 and got to Bayoud about 1615, stopping for lunch on the way. Adolph is away in Cairo. The old man has been there.

Feb 11

Mack went out to Zagadan – Sergt. Wilson and 6 men to Geisi. I was O'dog. Dixon and I went up to the Yeomanry Mess in the afternoon.

Feb 12

Quiet day in camp. Sorted up kit etc as I am off to Cairo in a day or two.

Feb 13

I went out to Zagadan

Feb 14

Up at 4am and rode over to catch the train at Bir-el-Abd. Took a man with a pack camel and the blighter took 3 hrs and 20 minutes to do the 8 miles and arrived more than an hr after me, missing my train by 10 minutes, and losing me 7 hours in Cairo. Arrived in Cairo at midnight. Met Murray on the train. Stayed at Shepherds.

Feb 15

Cairo. Knocking round with Murray all the mng – out to pay office – ordinance etc. Got some field boots and 2 buckets at Ordinance – ordered jhudpores – left films and did sundry shopping. Gorrige came in to dinner with me.

Feb 16

Gardiner was my mate this day. Out to Abbassia with him – went to my base kit and on to the old mess for ½ an hour. Madame Michel lunched with me at the hotel. Gardiner and I went down the Mouski and bought some silks etc after which I dined with him and we went to the Kursaal.

Feb 17

Left Cairo by the 1100 train and got to the Bir-el-Abd dump about 2200. Stayed with Budge at the dump. Letters from Dillo and Lizzie.

Feb 18

Back to Bayud. Mack came out to the dump en route for Cairo, but when I told him Gorrige, Grubbe and Rowan would all be away he turned back with me. The old man was up at El Arish, but came back in the evg.

Feb 19

O'dog. Watering, grooming, grazing etc. Letter from Frances.

Feb 20

I was writing letters at about 3pm when I got sudden orders to move my Section to Malha immediately. My camels were out grazing at the time but we moved out about 5pm – packs – cacholet and everything. Camped about 2 ½ miles out from Bayud. Wrote Dillo and Mitchell.

Feb 21

Very cold in early morning, but most exceptionally hot day after. Left our camp at 5.45 am and reached Malha at 6pm with 2 halts for meals. Found some Ausies here, the 2<sup>nd</sup> L.H. Regt. The Major was very friendly but knows nothing about us. Camped at our old ground.

Feb 22

Rode into Mazar, taking Cpt. Sevelt and Morriss. Reported to Subsection. No one seems really to want us but apparently we will be attached to the Light Horse for patrols etc.

Feb 23

Malha – are now definitely under the 2<sup>nd</sup> L.H. Regt. Shifted camp in mng down near their lines. They are all very friendly and I have joined their mess. Rode into Mazar in aftn and saw their Q.M (Capt. Dovey) re camel fodder etc.

Feb 24

Grooming – ticking and watering in mng. Cpl Cooksley's group did the Kassieba patrol. Wrote old Base and sent photos to A and M.

Feb 25

Very hot. I took 6 men out on Patrol to Abu Libd. Sergt. Marshall, Jacob, Young, Graham, Friend and Bell arrived in evng. Orders to shift to Arnussi tomorrow.

Feb 26

Fine and hot. The L.H and ourselves moved from Malha to Arnussi.

Feb 27

Rain in early morning and dull cloudy day. I took the Section in to Mazar and drew 5 days emergency rations for men and camels. Watered in aftn and got all ready for tomorrow's stunt. Wired Bayud "I have moved to Arnussi A.G.C. Gleeson left this morning A.G.C." (Bertie died on this date)

Feb 28

Up at 4am and got away about 5. Myself and 30 O/R also 2 officers and a signaller of the 2<sup>nd</sup> L.H.

Regt who accompanied us for observation. Very rough going across the dunes to Amrah. Sent Gorrie back with broken saddle, and McAuley and Friend with Morriss' camel which sprained its shoulder. Reached Amrah at 10.30 and stayed till 12. Good trip to Lagama – reached at 2pm. Terribly rough from there to top of Pass, reached at 4.30. After a good look round decided to carry on top of Pass. Sergt. Wilson and 4 men of Advanced Guard pushed on to Roghuri and back. Terribly rough going for camels.

March 1

Up at 0445. Had a cup of tea and moved off about 0600 through the Pass and had an interesting time looking round a Bedouin village at the bottom. Took a different defile going back and found it much better. I signalled Mazar from the top but couldn't keep connection. Got to edge of rocks about 1030 and stayed till 11.30 for breakfast. From there to Ajeirat – tip top going and we covered 102 miles in 2 hrs in spite of camels being tired and very footsore. Ajeirat to Arnussi over dunes but fairly good going but we lost our way among the dunes when within 5 miles of home and didn't get in till half past 7. Camels and men all very tired.

Mar 2

Grooming, ticking and watering in mng. Had O'Room on Russell who got lost yesterday and came home. Wrote long report on patrol. Very windy and sandy.

Mar 3

Sent camels out to graze in mng. Rest of day writing etc. Letter from Jack and 2 papers. Wrote Dillo.

Mar 4

Dull and very close. Rode into Mazar and met Mackenzie who came with pay and clothing.

Mar 5

Dull – windy. Mack left in mng. Watered camels in mng. Had a team shooting rifle competition with the Australians in aftn.

Mar 6

Left at 0800 on 3 day patrol – myself and 29 men and 2 officers (Joyner and Waller) and a Signaller from the 2<sup>nd</sup> L.H. Went by Dhiaba – Rujum and had an easy day camping in the plain about half a mile that side of Pass near hill “800”.

Mar 7

On through Pass ( a very good track this time) and up Isuiailuys /Caravan route. Had a look at a water hole high up in the hills which proved to be dry. On to Rogwhi – a most peculiar well, approached through a narrow tunnel you had to crawl through. Back through Lagama Pass. Thoroughly inspected Lagama Wells and then on to some sand dunes half way to Amrah where we camped.

Mar 8

On to Amrah for breakfast – then home, reaching Arnussi about 12.30. An enjoyable and successful trip.

Mar 9

Very close hot day. Spent most of morning writing my report. The Section were inoculated for cholera. Dined with 2<sup>nd</sup> L.H in Mazar – home about midnight. The camel clippers (5 natives) arrived and clipped 7 camels in the aftn. Wrote Connie.

Mar 10

Quiet day in camp. Clippers did 27 camels. Wrote Bright. Also Bax and MacKenzie

Mar 11

Icy wind – quite a gale and very cold with torrents of sand over everything. The clippers finished. I sent them on to Kilo 155 to the Brigade Camel Dump. Wrote Jim and Jack.

Mar 12

Very stormy and wintry – like a rough spring day in N.Z. Had the whole section out in mng and rode out about a mile and grazed the camels for about half an hour. They are feeling the cold terribly poor brutes. Got caught in heavy rain squall and I personally got pretty wet about the seat!

Our Section played the Ausies at football in aftn, and got beaten 6 – nil, but by no means disgraced. Wrote Mitchel.

Mar 13

Much better day – quite warm again. I left at 0630 with 19 men on the Ajeirat Dhiaba patrol. Got to depression about 1145 and Dhiaba about 1300. Left Dhiaba 1415, home at 1745. When we got home we found the Ausies had orders to shift tomorrow and Sergt La Trobe and 15 men are coming to re-inforce me and take over the lost! I shall be very sorry indeed to say “good-bye” to them. Major Birbeck, Capt. Hawley, Lieut Joyner, Wilson, Sinclair.

Mar 14

Very windy and sandy again. The Ausies left about 2pm and Sergt La Trobe and his 15 men and 19 camels arrived about ½ past 3. Watered camels in mng. Fixed Posts etc in aftn. Reardon and Rutter went to hospital. Wrote Dillo.

Mar 15

Still very windy. Sergt Marshall and MacMahon returned from leave. Fixed up camel lines in mng – moved down into the old horse-lines. I hear (unofficially) that another half Section is coming up here – also that the whole Camel Brigade is coming back to Bir-el-Abd. I am afraid it is a case of “Finish Camels”! Pask went to hospital. Wrote Hemphill.

Mar 16

Bright sunny day. Sergt Wilson and 12 O/R did the Amrar patrol, leaving at 0630, returning at 1730. I rode into Mazar at 0800 and spent all day arranging rations and transport as we are now to work on our own. I am arranging to keep Cpt Ames and 2 men for escort permanently in Mazar.

Mar 17

Hot day. Sergt La Trobe and 12 O/R did Lussafa patrol, leaving at 0615, getting back at 1815

Mar 18

Lovely day – no patrols. Sergt Wilson and McAuley packed a big tank out from Mazar. Weller came over to lunch and brought a buzzer, so I have started the signallers to work. A mailing – very short note from Dillo (Jan 31<sup>st</sup>) and a parcel addressed to Ferens, which he most kindly had sent on to me. Wrote Bax and Ferens.

Mar 19

Lovely day. Good breeze in aftn. Grazing and watering. Sergt Marshall did Amrah patrol.

Mar 20

Lovely day but getting steadily warmer. No patrols. Grazing in mng. Rifle inspection in aftn. Wrote Dillo.

Mar 21

Very warm. Sergt Wilson and 10 men did Lussafa patrol. I rode in to Mazar and fixed up leave passes etc etc. Lunched with B. Squad 2<sup>nd</sup> L.H. Found a Bedouin with no pass prowling about near the camp. Brought him in, blindfolded, and sent him to Mazar under escort. I hear they have sent him on to El-Arish.

Mar 22

Much cooler. Sgt La Trobe did Amrah patrol. Gorrie, Corbett and Reid let in aftn on Cairo leave. Wire from the skipper that he is coming up tomorrow. A sergeant and 5 men of “Tommy” Mounted Police blew in here – on their way from Mazar to Bardawil – at right angles to their course!

Mar 23

The Skipper arrived at mid-day. Paid out in evng. Sergt Marshall did Lussafa patrol. I have got a touch of “Gypsy tummy” Most annoying. Letter from Mitchell.

Mar 24

Rode into Mazar with the skipper – did a certain amount of business – saw Ames etc and saw the old man off by the 1230 train. Sergt Wilson did Amrah patrol.

Mar 25

One of the hottest days we have had. I am still a bit crook and took things easy (I generally do for that matter, nowadays!) Wrote A and M

Mar 26

Getting hotter. Sergt Duffy came out and we went through the camels and cast 6. He is taking them through to Bir-el-Abd tomorrow with 2 men to help him. Gorrie, Corbett and Reid returned from leave. There is a rumour that 30,000 Turks were advancing and have been defeated and that Gaza and Beersheba have fallen.

Mar 27

Hotter still. No patrols. Grazing and watering. Rumour of big battle further up. I got a big mail – 2 from Dillo, 1 each from Stephen, Jack, Handley and Harry. Very sad news of poor old Bertie's death! I sent indent for Pass Forms to Army Printing and Stationery Dept. Mustapha.

Mar 28

Still hotter – with strong wind that felt as though it was blowing off red hot bricks. Sgt La Trobe and 8 men did Lussafa patrol. Sergt Marshall's Section washed their camels. Wrote Harry, Nan and Dillo.

Mar 29

Very hot again. Sergt Marshall and 8 men did Amrah patrol. I rode over to Gerarat in mng (mainly for exercise) and found Bedouins camped there with lots of sheep and goats and camels. Got a letter from Mrs Gibbes (quite correctly addressed) dated Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. Wrote Mrs Gibbes.

Mar 30

Dull cloudy morning – quite cool breeze in afn – Sergt Wilson did Lussafa patrol. Remainder grazing, watering etc.

Mar 31

I took the whole camp out to Gerarat and back for exercise – watered in afn. Got wire to say Dixon and 25 men are trekking up to here and the Old Man coming by train.

April 1

Rode into Mazar and met the old man – Dixon and 25 men arrived about 1730. The whole “H.Qrs staff” are coming here – Mack and Adolph stayed at Bayud – Rose is still at the date palms. Wrote Annie Dalton and Ferens.

April 2

Started the new regime. I was O'dog – grazing, watering etc. The Skipper and I went round looking for a new camp site in afn. Dixon went in to Mazar to see the doctor. The S.M and A.M.S arrived.

April 3

Shifted camp to new site near hod. We have got tents for all hands and look quite smart. Dixon went to hospital. The skipper and I had a ride round to look at some of the Bedouins.

April 4

1<sup>st</sup> day in new camp – grooming, ticking, grazing etc. Sergt La Trobe and 8 men left at 0500 on Lussafa-Amrah patrol. A Fokker flew over the camp in afn and attacked troops near Mazar with machine gun fire

April 5

The skipper, with the Q.M.S (as interpreter) and 2 men rode round to look at the Bedouins who are swarming round here, mostly without passes. Had about 10 or 12 mile ride including Gerarat in our circle. Sgt La Trobe's patrol returned at 0930. Watered camels. Wrote to Marion.

April 6

Some excitement in mng as two enemy planes came over here and dropped eight bombs on Mazar, wounding 9 men, some seriously. Satchell and Budge who were in there had a narrow escape. Sergt Marshall left on Lussafa – Amrah patrol.

April 7

The skipper went into Mazar. I had a quiet day in camp. Sergt Wilson left for Cairo on duty. Wrote J.H.C and Mitchell.

April 8

The skipper and I had a ride round looking for Bedouins again but found they had cleared out from where we saw them the other day.

April 9

I went into Mazar to meet the Field Cashier and get the pay. Letter from Mitchell

April 10

Speight and 6 O/R arrived. Otherwise "nothing doing".

April 11

I went down to Khirba to pay Rose's men – stayed night at his camp, about 3 miles out.

April 12

Got stuck at Khirba from 8.30 am till 5.30 pm waiting for a train. Got to Bir-il-Abd soon after 6.

Got a camel saddled, and rode out to Bayud, getting there about 8.30pm

April 13

Stayed at Bayud all day as Adolph and his section were away on a long patrol.

April 14

Left Bayud about 7am and got back to Arnussi about 12.30. Found we were under orders to shift tomorrow. Big mail in – 2 from Dillo, 1 from Lizzie, papers from W and Jack and an Auckland Weekly from Jim (bought with his own money) Also letter from Mrs Gibbes dated "March".

April 15

Mack and his Section arrived at Arnussi about mid-day – they stay there with Speight, except Mack himself who came on with us. The Skipper, Mack and I with No 4 Section and 1 Lewis gun left at 3pm and treked till 8pm when we halted for the night.

April 16

Moved off at 6am. Reached Lahfan about 10.30 – right in the Wadi Il-Arish, a change of scenery but very hot and dusty and rather desolate looking. We relieved half a squadron of the 4<sup>th</sup> L.H who moved out a few hours later. Barr (M.G) to hospital.

April 17

One of the hottest days we have had. Grooming, ticking and grazing. Duffy and the old man had a row. McGonnigall and Capt. Radford to hospital.

April 18

Very hot. The Skipper – S.M and Sergt Duffy went in to El-Arish. Mack was O'dog. We watered camels in mng with camel hauling bucket from well 100 ft deep – painfully slow. General Watson came along in afn and had a look at the camp. Wrote Jim.

April 19

Very pleasant day – quite cool. Up at 4am and got away at ½ past 5 with 16 men and 1 Lewis gun and patrolled to Maghaba – a very interesting trip. Splendid going along the Wadi and we got there about ½ past 8 – left at 2pm – home about ¼ to 5. I rode Bowman's camel and have decided to keep him. Hodges to hospital.

April 20

O'dog. Grooming, ticking, grazing etc. Wrote Dillo and Caldicott.

April 21

I left for "The Front" directly after breakfast – to take back 71 pounds, balance of pay. Had an excellent lunch at the "Officers' Rest Camp" Il-Arish and left by the 2pm train. From Rafa to Khan Yunis – lovely country – walled orchards and lots of trees. It turned out a very cold evng. Arrived at rail-head (Wir-el-Biela) at 8.30pm – couldn't get any tea so I dosed down alongside railway line.

April 22

Started from railhead at 5am to look for H'Qrs Camp of N.Z.M.R. Brigade, and walked about 6 miles through heavy sand before I found them. Only Ryan and the old Bandmaster and about 150 O/R there. Had a ride round on a HORSE and much enjoyed it. Back to railhead about 10am and got a train to Khan Yunis about 2pm. Went across to the Camel Brigade dump where I found Brook in charge. The Brigade have just had 397 casualties – mostly killed and missing. Poor old Priest killed. Caught 6pm train and reached El Arish about 10.30



April 23

Had a dip in the sea in mng. Rose brought my camel in and I got back to Lahfan about 5pm feeling as though I had been away a month.

April 24

O'dog – groomnig, grazing etc. Stifling hot day with hot S. wind. Mac and Rose both went on Magdhaba patrol.

April 25

Most oppressively hot. Had a very slack day in camp. Rose took the camels to water at hill 200 but the wells were dry and he had to go on to El-Arish and didn't get back till about 7pm.

April 26

Still very hot. News of a Bedouin raiding party being about.

April 27

Quite cool for a change – almost cold in fact. I was O'dog. Watered camels here this time and got through much quicker. Letter from J.M.C.

April 28

Quite cool. Rose did Magdhaba patrol. Parcel from Dillo.

April 29

Quite cool. I rode into El-Arish as I had heard that Hughes (of the old 9<sup>th</sup>) was in hospital there. Found he was shifted yesterday so I had a long trip for nothing, but I got a decent lunch (china plates and cup!) and a dip in the sea.

April 30

Still very cool. I was O'dog – Rose got his leave and left after tea. Speight, with No 2 Section arrived about 1800. Parcel from Marion.

May 1

Very cool day. A wire came through to get Adolph's Section up at once and to clear all Bedouins outside 5 mile radius. Rose went on leave. Wrote Dillo, Mrs Gibbes, Bleach.

May 2

Nice cool day. I did Magdhaba patrol. Speight left with 8 men to fetch Remounts from Kantara. Sent coins to Jim.

May 3

Still quite cool. O'dog. Watering in my very slow camel hauling small bucket. 2 sapper officers here to lunch. Had orders to prepare for a 5 day stunt. Wrote Mitchel.

May 4

Quiet day in camp – nothing much doing. Adolph's Section arrived in evg.

May 5

A company of Patiala Infantry arrived in mng. They go on to Magdhaba tomorrow. Transport for the Ausie Camel Coy also arrived and for the Hyderabad Lancers, also a party of engineers to fix the pump here, so the post was quite lively. Wrote Hughes.

May 6

Our column, consisting of 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy I.C.C – some engineers, Intelligence Staff etc under Major Durham, all assembled at Lahfan and we moved off at 9pm reaching Magdhaba about 2am.

May 7

All lay low all day in a gully at Magdhaba hiding from hostile planes. Moved off at 7pm and travelled all night.

May 8

After travelling all night we reached Auja about 5am. Found a few of the enemy there but they all got away in a train after a brief interchange of shots. No casualties on our side. The whole affair was grossly mismanaged. As soon as it was over we blew up the wells and went on to Birein where there was no opposition. Got some breakfast at 11.30 after about 16 hours in the saddle.

May 9

Went on from Birein to Kossaima. We were expecting some sort of attack from the rear but not

even a Taube came over us.

May 10

Moved out from Kossaima at 4pm. Lost our way and camped about 7pm.

May 11

Reveille 2.30am. Moved off about 3.45 and rode straight through to Magdhaba which we reached about 10am. A long ride on empty stomachs for both men and camels.

May 12

Left Magdhaba about 4am and arrived back at Lahfan about 7am. Orders to shift immediately up beyond Khan Yunis. 2 letters from Dillo, 1 from Lizzie. Very bad news with regard to Jim's health. Wrote Dillo.

May 13

Left Lahfan at 3pm and trekked to El-Arish.

May 14

Trekked from El-Arish to Sheik Sowaid.

May 15

Sheik Sowaid to Abassan-el-Kebir. Watered camels in aftn and very heavy dust storm.

May 16

Moved from Abassan-el-Kebir to Bgde Hqrs, close behind the trenches. Have orders to order our camels away and work in trenches.

May 17

"Dug in" inside a wadi and moved over there. Beastly dirty and dusty. Adolph took camels to water about 2 miles away. Joyner came over to see me but arrived just as we were shifting. Mac and I paid a visit to the 15ths in evng.

May 18

Hot and most infernally dirty. We are not sending our camels away as there is a stunt on. Sent all panniers and unnecessary gear into Be-ila. Wrote Jack.

May 19

Most infernal "Kampsun" i.e. burning hot wind and clouds of driving dust. The poor old Skipper finally collapsed and has gone to hospital. Saddled up at 6pm and paraded to move to Rafa with the rest of Brigade – a dreadful night. Clouds of driving dust – first stifling hot, then suddenly shifted and turned cold. Lost our way and lay down beside camels for an hour, finally reaching Rafa about 8am. 14 miles in 14 hours. Letter from Dixon.

May 20

The storm gradually subsided for which we were very thankful. Stayed at Rafa. We were to have moved out on our stunt but it was postponed. Letter from Dillo but stale news (11<sup>th</sup> March)

May 21

Rafa all day. Got bombed in the mng – 1 killed and 1 wounded – both niggers attached to Camel Corps. Drew pay and paid out in evng. Watered camels.

May 22

Left Rafa at 10am. (Whole Brigade) and marched continuously all day and night except for 1 halt for tea and a spell of 1 hour just before dawn.

May 23

Continued our journey arriving in the neighbourhood of Auja about mid-day (a 26 hour trek) Helped R.E man to blow up viaduct and Ry. Had a feed and left again at 4pm. Marched till 7pm and bivouaced.

May 24

Continued our trek and bivouaced still some distance from Rafa.

May 25

Moved off at 4am and reached Rafa about 7am. Expected a spell but got orders to move again same evg. Great rush – watering camels, drawing rations etc. Moved off again at 7.30pm and travelled all night. Big mail – letters from Dillo, J.M.C., Mrs Moore and R.W. Also a lot of papers.

May 26

Reached our old dug-outs near Wadi Ghuzzee (about 7am) Sent camels a mile or so back.

May 27

Had a good rest.

May 28

Orders to move again in evg. Camels were brought in about 3pm and we moved off about 6pm reaching our camping ground about 10pm. We are on a fine piece of land near the Southern rail-head and are to stop here for a while I believe. Letter from Marion.

May 29

Dug ourselves in and settled down. Not a bad spot but very dirty and dusty and water very scarce. Rose rode into Rafa and brought back stores etc. Wrote Dillo.

May 30

Huison and Murray came over in mng and stayed to lunch. The whole N.Z.M.R Brigade is camped about a couple of miles away.

May 31

Parade (Route march – rifle inspection) before breakfast. Walked over to N.Z.M.R in aftn. Saw Hine and old Bright. Bright lent me a horse and rode back here with me and we had a great yarn over old times.

June 1

I was Batn O.O Was to have gone to dinner with Huison but couldn't get away. Rose went to hospital. Wrote Marion and sent several photos.

June 2

Ticking parade before breakfast. Saddle inspection by Col in mng. I dined with Huison (C.M.R.). Murray and Gardner are in the same Squadron and Capt. Sommerville was dining there too. Adolph went to the school for Hotchkiss course.

June 3

Watering in mng. Left at 0730 and got back at 1330. It is about 7 miles each way, but quick watering when once you get there. Adolph sent over a case of beer. Jago and Gorringer were along here in the evg. 16<sup>th</sup> Coy played 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at rugby and were beaten 9 – 3. Paid out in the aftn.

June 4

Ordinary routine. I owe Mac 32 ½ P.T.

June 5

Reveille at 2.30. Moved off at 4 and went to the beach beyond Rafa. Got back at 8pm – a long day but very enjoyable. Found camp had been bombed during our absence – 3 killed – 20 wounded and 41 camels killed – 8 men of the 15<sup>th</sup> Coy, the rest Australians.

June 6

Reveille at 5 (½ an hour later than usual) “Gas test” in aftn – rather a lengthy affair as our friend in the Taube interrupted us twice but he didn't drop anything. Letter from Dillo – Jim is very ill indeed.

June 7

Parades mng and aftn. Rode over to Mnd. Bgde in aftn and fixed up balance of pay with Ryan. Letter from Nan, 2 parcels (plug of tobacco and peculiarly excellent cigarettes) from Harry and a baksheesh one of Ferens.

June 8

Up at 4.30 and went out on a sort of staff ride – all officers of I.C.C with the General in preparation for manouvres tomorrow.

June 9

Had a great show fight in honour of some French General – a farcical affair rather.

June 10

Didn't do much. Rode over to see Birbek and Joyner in evg – they are camped about a mile away.

Wrote J.M.C and Mitchell.

June 11

Camel Brigade sports (1<sup>st</sup> day) Started at 10am and lasted all day – pretty good fun. Fritz made us scatter once but passed straight on.

June 12

“Pigeon Instruction” in mng. Left for watering at 11.30 getting back about 5pm. Mack went over to play football v 1<sup>st</sup> L.H. Batn team. Got beaten 11 – nil. Got my knees badly burnt with the sun.

June 13

Final day of camel sports. Auckland Band etc – a great event. I rode in Officers' Camel Trot – had a snorting good camel, but these little Sudanese are too fast.

June 14

Very hot. Inspection by General Chandler in mng. Sorted up camels in aftn and paraded. 77<sup>th</sup> exchange for Sudanese but after waiting an hour or so found it was postponed. Wrote H.E.V.C.

June 15

Reveille at 2.30, moved off at 4. Went to Rafa beach and spent a most enjoyable 5 or 6 hours there. Watered camels at New Rafa on way home and reached camp about 7pm. My camel crocked up and I had a job to get him home. Adolph came back from the school.

June 16

Exceptionally hot day. The Coy went down to Sheik Muran to disinfect their clothing. I was Batn O'dog and stayed behind to get all lines straightened up for inspection by some S.M.O of East Force.

June 17

Exceptionally hot day. Did a pretty good loaf. Over to the 15<sup>th</sup> in the aftn. Wrote Dillo and Jim.

June 18

A lot cooler. Adolph went with camels to water at Tel-el-Fara.

June 19

Much cooler. I was in charge of Brigade Convoy in aftn. Mess 80 P.T.

June 20

Allotted new camels in mng before breakfast. I rode down to Sheik Muran canteen with Morris and brought stores for the mess.

June 21

Watering in mng 6.30am to 12 noon.

June 22

Had a sudden severe attack of “gyppy tummy” or stoppage of the liver or something. Very seedy all day. The doctor saw me twice, and I think very nearly sent me to hospital but I hope to escape.

Foster to hospital.

June 23

Still pretty seedy but gradually getting better. Stayed in all day eating nothing and feeling pretty groggy.

June 24

Made a very rapid recovery, thus escaping hospital, thank goodness. Jackson paid us a visit in the mng. There is a possibility of his coming to the Camel Corps! Bright was over here in the aftn. Adolph was Brigade Watering Officer. I should have been on Batn do, but did not go – the 1<sup>st</sup> time I have missed a duty since I came back from hospital – 12 months last February.

June 25

Parades mng and aftn. Mack is to go to the school (topography) next Saturday.

June 26

Parade in mng. Inspection of camels by General in aftn. Sent photos to Dillo, Jack and Jim

June 27

Reveille at 3am and we went out to do Coy Field Firing – an attack with ball ammunition – fairly successful. Home about ¼ to 9, and at ½ past 11 I set off again to water camels. Back at 4.30pm.

June 28

Mack and I went out before breakfast and saw the 17<sup>th</sup> go through their attack practice. Adolph drawing water for the Batn.

June 29

Took camels out to graze in mng. Parade in the evg. Saw an interesting scrap between 3 of our planes and a Hun but they failed to bring him down.

June 30

Reveille at 0300 and went out for Batn battle practice (with ball) Very successful on the whole I think. Back about 0930. Adolph took camels to water. Mack left for the school – I shall miss him very much indeed.

July 1

Rose turned up in mng so my spell as O.C was a short one. I was not sorry. Two letters from Dillo. Jim much better, but not out of hospital.

July 2

Hot day. I was out all day in charge of Bates, grazing camels. Parcel from Connie. Wrote Dillo.

July 3

I was in charge of Coy camel watering – left 0630 – back 1200. Section on Lewis gun 1600 to 1800. I hear I am to go on leave in a day or two

July 4

Lewis gun in mng and again in aftn. Sorted up my kit etc.

July 5

S.A.A. Inspection in mng. L.G in aftn. I took Adolph's turn as Batn O.C in morning and had to mount outposts. I managed to borrow a horse.

July 6

Paraded 1515 and picked up 6 men for leave and caught train for Rafa. Travelled all night in open truck.

July 7

Arrived El-Arish 0700 – left 0920 – arrived Cairo 1400 – out to Abbassia with Conrick. Dinner with Mack and a fairly lively evg with him and his crowd – Campbell, Bell, Reay, Conrick etc.

July 8

Mack had lunch with me and we went out to Heliopolis and on to Aotea.

July 9

Out to Kasi-Nil on way to get some pay. Lunched by myself at Shepherd's. Did a lot of shopping. Dixon and Stewart had dinner with me.

July 10

Dixon came in and we went to Kasi-il-Nil and the Citadel. He had lunch with me and I drove out to Abbassia with him after. Had dinnner by myself at St. James.

July 11

Was to have seen the N.Z. Roll people off in mg but I had a very rotten night owing to vermin (hardly to be expected at Shepherd's) and overslept myself. Missed the train by 5 minutes. Out to Kasi-il-Nil in mng. Lunched with Bassett at Abbassia. Mitchell dined with me at the Continental, and we drove out to the Pyramids.

July 12

Left Cairo by 1100 train.

July 13

Reached Rafa at 0430 and waited till 0800 for camels. Arrived at Bat bivouac on beach at 1000. I have had a most enjoyable trip, and the beach is a good place to finish off with – fresh, clean and cool.

July 14

I took all Coy camels out for exercise in mng and rest of day bathing and loafing. McKell, Lawlor, Rose and I went down to Officers Rest Camp for dinner. Most unfortunately our camels got away and the Major's and mine are missing. Wrote Mitchel.

July 15

Pleasant day by the sea – which was too rough, however to make bathing as delightful as usual. Rooke came over in mng. Church parade in evg.

July 16

Took a search party out in mng and found my camel and the Major's – minus blankets etc. I lost 2 good blankets and my overcoat. Had a swim both morning and aftn, but sea was still rough. Wrote P.Cs to Dillo, J.G.C and Stephen and sent snaps Dillo.

July 17

Got orders to move at 0300 and moved off shortly after 0400 and had a wearisome trek back. Arrived on our old Sheik Muran plain (but a slightly different spot) about 1000 – very ready for breakfast, and very sorry to be back in this spot. Found Yerex here waiting to take over.

July 18

I was Batn watering officer. After watering I rode over to N.Z.M Brigade Hqrs to see about pay. Waited about 3 hours for Ryan who was expected with a load of money but he didn't turn up. On arriving back in camp about 1800 found that R. had been here and left the money.

July 19

We started shooting on min range. At lunch time got order to get ready to move. Stood by till about 7pm when the whole Brigade moved out a few miles and bivouacked.

July 20

Hung about till about 1000 and then returned to our old camp as the Turks we were to attack had retired during the night.

July 21

I was Batn O/O. Adolph went down to the range in mng. Camels were watered. Rose went to hosp again. Sent P.C. To Connie

July 22

Church parade in mng. Pow wow with Col in aftn which I attended as Yerex was at Fara. Rose came back but goes to beach tomorrow. Mack was to have returned but is in hospital with diphtheria!

July 23

Breakfast at 0600 and took my Section down to shoot. Thick fog and drenching dew in mng, but quite muggy – very hot day.

July 24

Breakfast at 0430 and away to water at 0500 – back about 1030. Wrote Dillo. Sent “Barraks” to I.C.C, J.G.C, Breeds, Sheffield, Mitchell, Connie, Mrs Gibbes, Pah. Club, H.E.V.C, S.E.C, and Lillicrap.

July 25

Routine.

July 26

Camp routine. Wrote Mitchell.

July 27

Routine. Bombing practice (with dummies) in evg. Adolph took Coy to water.

July 28

Raid loading practice before breakfast. Rose came back in aftn. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Battns and the Battery went on a practice stunt in evg, getting back about midnight. We lost our camels and walked home!

July 29

A lazy day. Gorringe and Weston were over in mng, and Hemphill, Maoadoo, McKell and the Dr in evg.

July 30

Battn Watering Officer in mng and went on to N.Z.M.R. Brigade to get pay but they had none and Adolph had to go to Khan Yunis to get it from the Ausies.

July 31

I was Battn O/Off until 1830. We had a short Coy parade at 1300 and at 2430 we paraded again and went out for another practice for the coming stunt.

August 1

Back to camp at 0430. Inspection of camels by G.O.C in evng.

Aug 2

Rose took camels to water. "Promulgation of Sentence" parade in aftn. At 1600 we went out again (mounted) for another rehearsal of the coming stunt, getting back at 0200.

Aug 3

I attended Court Martial at 3<sup>rd</sup> Batn from 0900 till 1230. Letter and post from Dillo and 1 from Jim.

Aug 4

Yerex went to Rafa to get his teeth fixed. We exchanged another 7 camels with 3<sup>rd</sup> Batn. Mange dressed all camels in aftn. I have a beastly cold, the 1<sup>st</sup> for about 10 months Letters from J.Y.C and James.

Aug 5

Church parade in mng. Adolph took camels to water. Papers from Dillo and writing pad. Wrote Dillo (enclosing 1<sup>st</sup> photos with new camera) and J.Y.C., James and Jim.

Aug 6

Parade before breakfast and handed over 20 camels to the 15<sup>th</sup> Coy. Paraded at 1545 for another practice raid and got back about 2000. Wrote Dillo again.

Aug 7

Battn Watering Officer. Left at 1200 – back at 1700. 2 camels of 13<sup>th</sup> Coy died and 2 more were very sick. Back about 1700 and at 1800 we went out on another practice raid. Home about 2300.

Aug 8

Quiet day. Grooming and ticking in aftn. I went on as Battn O/O at 1830.

Aug 9

Battn O'dog. Camels were watered again. We sent no officers – Rose and Adolph were both on boards. Gorringer, Dean and Cain called over in evg. We had a game.

Aug 10

I was Coy O'dog. Rose and I took aftn parade – route march of about 4 miles. I went over to 15<sup>th</sup> in evg. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battn went off for the stunt, but to our anger and mortification we had orders to stay behind. Anniversary of leaving N.Z.

Aug 11

I took early morning parade. We were inoculated for cholera in aftn. Jim's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Aug 12

Church parade before breakfast. Rose took camels to water and had to stop out all day. Heard results of Raid – 9 Turks killed, our side 1 killed, 4 wounded.

Aug 13

Ordinary routine. Letter from Annie Dalton

Aug 14

Adolph took camels to water. I was on ration convoy. Big mail in. I got letters from Dillo, Jim, Lizzie and Ferens.

Aug 15

I was in charge of Brigade grazing guard – left camp 0600, back at 1800 – a very monotonous 12 hours and very hot.

Aug 16

Rose took camels to water. Adolph took mornnig parade. I the evening one. Wrote Dillo. Got 2 Presses and a "Ford Times" from Jack.

Aug 17

I took morning parade. Parade in aftn – inspection of rifles, saddles etc before evg stables (grooming). I went on as Battn O/O in evening and had to go and post the Outposts as we are Duty Battn. However I borrowed a horse from the 15<sup>th</sup>. Wrote Lizzie.

Aug 18

I was Battn O/O but I took morning parade as Rose was on convoy and Adolph on drinking water. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Battns paraded in aftn and were addressed by Gen. Chauvelles.

Aug 19

I was in charge of Brigade Grazing Guard again – out at 0600, back at 1830.

Aug 20

I took Coy camels to water – most wearisome trip owing to irksome new rules. Left camp 0600, got back 1300 – 7 solid hours. The 15<sup>th</sup> Coy joined this Battn and we went over to welcome them. Receipt from A, M and Co.

Aug 21

I took morning parade (route march). Semaphore and stables in aftn. Over to 15<sup>th</sup> again in evg. Wrote Mitchell.

Aug 22

Adolph took camels to water – both parades washed out. Gorringe and Weston came over in evg.

Aug 23

I took Convoy – Adolph Drinking water and Rose Brigade Grazing Guard.

Aug 24

Set off for the beach again, getting there about mid-day. Watered camels in aftn and had a dip – very pleasant down here.

Aug 25

Exercised camels and had rifle inspection. 3 swims – sea rough, big breakers. Remounts arrived – 23 for this Coy, not a bad lot (Sudanese)

Aug 26

In water great part of the day. Church parade in evg. Mail in – one letter from Dillo, and a long one from Breeds.

Aug 27

Still on beach. Higgins and another chap came to dinner and stayed the night.

Aug 28

Rafa beach. I dined with Reid (1<sup>st</sup> Squadn Canterbury). Yerex got a horse.

Aug 29

Quiet day. Rifle inspection and 2 or 3 bathes. Murray was here to dinner.

Aug 30

Still on beach – Reid and Laurance here to dinner. Got 2 more horses. I was on a Board of Enquiry. Letters from J.G.C, I.C.C and Ferens. “Cant. Times” from Dillo.

Aug 31

Rafa beach. Quiet day. I was on this infernal Board again nearly all day.

September 1

Rafa beach. Rose and I rode up to the M.R. Bd and visited Wellgtn, Auckland and Canterbury Messes. Hatrick and 2 M.G.Sqn fellows here to dinner.

Sept 2

Watering in mng as we saddled up at mid-day, left about ½ past 2 and got back to our old plain about ½ past 6.

Sept 3

Back at the old routine. I went on Btn O/C in evening – rode roan horse out to outpost.

Sept 4

Batn O/O. Rose with Brigade watering – Adolph on convoy and Boscawen grazing guard. Wrote Dillo and sent photos (5) to her and 1 to Breeds.

Sept 5

1<sup>st</sup> day of sports. No finals, no band, no refreshments, but a pleasant quiet day. Our Coy did well in the heats. I got 2<sup>nd</sup> in my heat of Officer Camel Trot and in the final but don't think I have a hope.

Sept 6



I took Coy camels to water.

Sept 7

2<sup>nd</sup> day of races. A very enjoyable day's sport, followed at night by an excellent variety show concert affair by some men of the H.A.C.

Sept 8

I was Convoy Officer. Rose drinking water – Adolph grazing. Boscawen Battn O/O. Sent Sports Programme to Breeds. Wrote J.V.C and MacKenzie. Sent photos Lizzie – and a lot (Fillud's and Brophy's) to Dillo.

Sept 9

Drinking water officer morning and afternoon

Sept 10

Moved out to Fara at 1500 for 2 days' patrols. Watered camels in evg.

Sept 11

Reveille at 0330, had breakfast and went out on Esani patrol. Saw a few Turks but no shots fired.

Sept 12

There was a reconnaissance in force and we went down to Khalasa and held some hills – saw a few Turkish cavalry and some Bedouins on camels. One shot fired at our screen. Back to bivouac about 10 pm tired and hungry.

Sept 13

Watered camels and left Fara about 0900, getting back to camp about 11.15. 200 cigarettes from Harry.

Sept 14

Mounted parade in mng. Adolph went on as Battn O/O. Got a magnificent cake from Dillo and parcel from Marion.

Sept 15

I was Battn watering officer, Boscawen Coy do. Rose on drinking waer and Adolph Battn O/O

Sept 16

Rode down to Sheik Muran in mng with Gorringe after church parade. Keasels here to dinner.

Sept 17

Mounted parade 0730 to 0930. I went on O/O in evg and had to post outposts. Rose went to Rafa. Boscawen on drinking water. Great change in weather, much cooler. I was warned for Lewis gun school (El Arish unfortunately). Wrote Mitchel.

Sept 18

Duty Coy. I was Battn O/O, Adolph Brigade W/O, Rose Battn W/O and Boscawen on drinking water again. I went over to 15<sup>th</sup> in aftn for Lewis gun instruction. Dinner with 18<sup>th</sup> Coy. Sent photos I.C.C (mess and camels bathing). Horrible gale and dust storm all day.

Sept 19

Gorringe and I working on Lewis gun morning and afternoon. Wrote Dillo.

Sept 20

Lewis gun instruction morning and afternoon. Parcel (food stuffs) from Marion and cigarettes from Harry.

Sept 21

Lewis gun instruction morning and aftn.

Sept 22

All packed up and ready to leave for El Arish school, when word came down that we were not to leave till tomorrow.

Sept 23

Did a little gun drill in the morning. Gorringe, Mitten, Bennett and I left in aftn for El-Arish Training Camp. No one to meet us at El-Arish and we slept beside railway line.

Sept 24

Up at 4am and walked out to the school (about 2 ½ miles) Paraded (unwashed and unshaven) at 0630 and all managed to pass our much dreaded Entrance Exam.

Sept 25

Hard at work on the gun all day. Poor accommodation, a rotten mess and very hard work.

Sept 26

Gun all day. 2 hrs more instruction at night.

Sept 27

Gun all day – 2 hrs extra at night. Interrupted in aftn by “war scare” and were all armed and rationed and formed into units (4000 Turks said to be in Wadi El-Arish)

Sept 28

1<sup>st</sup> exam “Tests of E.T.” Did our first range firing.

Sept 29

Exam “Stripping”. Firing at night by Very Lights.

Sept 30

Exam in “Immediate Action”. Tuition aftn and evg. 3 letters from Dillo. 1 from Jack and 1 from Dixon.

October 1

Exam “Description and Mechanism”.

Oct 2

Field Firing. Exam in aftn (written). Smoke Concert in evg. - rather wild night. Results out about 11pm. I got 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 15 officers with avg of 92% - quite good – 8 more marks in written exam would have given me a D. Gorringe got 87%

Oct 3

Marched out from school at 0700 – arrived Sheik Muran at 1300. Had to walk out. Mac is back, and Treweek has arrived. Tobacco from Harry, also from Breeds, and parcel from Ferens. Photos and letter from Mitchel.

Oct 4

Struck camp and left for XYZ redoubts at 0700. Treweek went out on Tel. Line patrol – I took over L.G section. Treweek has No 4.

Oct 5

Left XYZ Redoubts about 2pm and went to Fara.

Oct 6

Reveille at 0315 and moved out about 0500 on Goz-Mabruk-Esani patrol. Back about 1845.

Oct 7

Goz-Mabruk-Esani patrol again.

Oct 8

Drew drinking water and watered camels and got bak to XYZ about mid-day Mag and papers from R.W.O

Oct 9

I went out on Tel.line patrol – 0430 to 1830

Oct 10

Had some very good practice of Observation of Fire with Lewis guns from one of the redoubts.

Oct 11

Had to go over to Bgde H'Qrs and alter map and take Itelligence notes. Back about 8pm tired and hungry.

Oct 12

Left XYZ and came back to Brigade, but to a new site near 3<sup>rd</sup> Battn.

Oct 13

Had an attack practice in mng. Adolph came bak from El-Arish school. Letter from Dillo, and photos etc from Jim.

Oct 14

Church parade in mng. Reading and writing all aftn. Went up to boxing in evg. Wrote Dillo. Sent

photo (self at Mess) to Dillo and some of camels bathing to Marion

Oct 15

Instructed our 12 men in mng but had to cut it out in aftn owing to camel watering. Treweek took watering. Tait came to dinner. Sent photos to I.C.C (19 of Camel Sports) to J.G.C (Ford car and mess), and to A.M.

Oct 16

The Brigade went down to a position near Rafa and practised communication with aeroplanes. Back at 1230.

Oct 17

Inspection of rations and ammunition in mng. Instructed L.G class in aftn. Went on as Battn O/O in evg.

Oct 18

Battn O/O – also O.C Coy as Mack went away with the Col and others on a reconnaissance. Boscawen was Brigade W.O and Treweek Battn. do. Sent “Barracks” to Pah. Club (2), J.G.C and Stephen.

Oct 19

L.G instruction class in mng – Test of E.T etc. Got word at mid-day that we must be ready to shift at noon tomorrow, travelling light. Bivvies, panniers etc etc all to be dumped.

Oct 20

Making preparations for move. I took camels to water in aftn. Yerex came back from Port Said. Parcel from Dillo (socks, collars, handchfs, biscuits etc)

Oct 21

Moved out about 1530 and the whole Brigade proceeded to Ghalyun, getting there about .....

Oct 22

.....0530 after a tedious and bitterly cold night march. Had a bit of a snooze during the morning and then had to take turns with working parties, digging wells etc. I was on from 2 to 4 and 8 to 10 (1400 to 1600 and 2000 to 2200) and we saddled up again at .....

Oct 23

.....midnight (2400) and moved to Khalasa. On arrival there our Coy went on as reserve to Outposts during the day and took up part of front Outpost line at night, where we dug in. I had rather a bad touch of fever and felt very seedy.

Oct 24

Came into our camping ground about 0700. Had a spell all day except Treweek and a watering party who were away from about 0730 till 1500.

Oct 25

Stand to at 0415. Out on day-post all day. Saw about 300 Turkish cavalry, evidently doing reconnaissance but did not come to blows. Back to camp about 1730.

Oct 26

Digging reservoirs etc at Khalasa.

Oct 27

Shifted camp again and went on outpost at night till about 2am when we were relieved by the Mounteds. Started back for Sheik Muran shortly before daylight.

Oct 28

Reached Sheik Muran soon after mid-day – had a feed and settled down.

Oct 29

Everyboy busy refitting with water, rations and clothing Paper mail – also got parcel from Dillo - wrote Dillo.

Oct 30

Watered camels at 7am and moved out about 9am trekking straight through to a position about 2 miles from the Beersheba trenches. Had an arduous night, digging in, on very hard ground and had just finished when we had to shift and hurriedly dig in again before daylight. Everyone dog tired.

Oct 31

The "battle of Beersheba". We had a good view but did not play an active part. On our side of the town it was mostly an intense artillery bombardment from our guns. The town was taken about 7pm – the Mounteds entering from the other side. About 2000 prisoners were taken.

November 1

Got on the move at daybreak and trekked through B-sheba to a place about 7 miles north. Heard that Ashton and Johns were killed yesterday.

Nov 2

Moved off again about mid-day and trekked out towards the new battle-front. Mack, Treweek and I with about 40 men went on outpost and had a most unpleasant night on a rocky, stony hillside – no blankets and a biting wind. Kessels (of 18<sup>th</sup> Coy) badly wounded.

Nov 3

Had a pretty trying day. The Coy split up into 2 or 3 parties, all under fire. Mack, Treweek and I were on another rocky hillside – short of water, a blistering sun and plenty of bullets. Only 2 men (MacMahon and Duncan) were hit, but we were very lucky not to get more. Moved away about 4pm and got shelled coming out. Trekked till midnight when we arrived at

Nov 4

Beersheba – had a sleep. Watered our camels – drew drinking water (and had a good drink ourselves for once) and moved off again, camping at 6pm. We were moved again at 11pm, drew 4 days fodder and rations – moved off again.

Nov 5

Camping again about 3.30am with orders to "stand to" at 4. Moved off about 2pm and marched into some hills close to enemy. Completely lost ourselves – left camp and advanced on foot over rocky hills for miles

Nov 6

At last found where we were – found Bgd H.Qrs, and moved up to a position in some hills (Ras-el-Magb) where we relieved different Regts of the N.Z.M.R Bgde. Poor Saunders was wounded in the stomach (died in Beersheba) Yerex and I on one section, Mack and Treweek on another. Things pretty hot – snipers pretty hot and plenty of overs. I had two guns but had to send one up to Mack, giving him 2 altogether under Sergt. Langlands.

Nov 7

Same position all day. The top post (17<sup>th</sup> Coy and Mack and Treweek's crowd) were rather fiercely attacked at night, the Turks actually getting right among them and using hand grenades. Of our men, Gorrie, Friend and Fillard were killed, Corvett wounded. Pilmer was also wounded up at our post.

Nov 8

Treweek was sent down to take camels to water at Beersheba – an aeroplane attacked them with a machine gun, killed 8 camels and wounded 2 men, Padden and Greig. I went up to Mack's post in mng and got my 2<sup>nd</sup> gun back. We took 3 prisoners, well set up men, well equipped, quite fair skinned.

Nov 9

I went with a burial party to bury a poor Yemoman chap we found and got back to find our ½ Coy had shifted – couldn't find them or Battn H.Qrs, so I went up and joined Mack. 18<sup>th</sup> Coy sent out 2 patrols and got badly smacked up, leaving 19 wounded out till night time. Fairweather badly hit. Sandford, Williams and Bagwell wounded. Things pretty hot all day up at top post. I rejoined Yerex in evg.

Nov 10

Strangely quiet in mng and we sent out patrols who found Turks had cleared out during the night – only a small battery annoyed us a bit with shrapnel. Sent out search parties who found 64 unburied Turks in front of our Battn line. Our Battn casualties 59. 16<sup>th</sup> Coy = 4 killed, 9 wounded.

Nov 11

Handed over to some Infantry in mng – went down to the led camels and trekked to Sheria.

Watered camels, drew water and rations and trekked on about 8 miles north, bivouacking about 4.30am.

Nov 12

Shifted camp in mng and had a wash and a shave – the 1<sup>st</sup> wash of any kind for a week. Moved out again about 1pm and trekked (whole Brigade) till about 1am. Very heavy thunder-storm just as we turned in. The daylight part of this trek very interesting – past late Turkish H'Qrs – dead mules and horses and abandoned wagons etc everywhere.

Nov 13

I seem to have lost count and got a day ahead. Moved off at 1am and trekked from Esdud to Yebna where the Yeomanry Dvn were fighting. As we got near the village we got 3 H.E. Shells, the 1<sup>st</sup> quite close but did no damage – the last a dud, but the 2<sup>nd</sup> fell right in the middle of No 1 Section killing poor Budge and wounding Duncan, L.C. Anderson, Martyn and Burgess and killing 8 camels. Several men and camels also received slight scratches. We camped at Yebna, a very pretty little village.

Nov 14

Yebna. Got a lot of oranges – green but very welcome. Out on Observation Post all day. N.Z.M.R. Brigade came out past us and are having a lively little scrap close by as I write. Lovely country up here – near the sea and we are now N.W. of Jerusalem – a tremendous advance. Watered camels and drew drinking water in evg.

Nov 15

Moved out to some sand dunes in mng. Moved in afn close to a village with large orange and lime orchards and we got as many as we could carry. 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Coys separated from the Btn at night and moved across some rather rough contry and through Akir and some miles beyond across Ry line where we camped for a few hours. Got 1<sup>st</sup> issue of rum.

Nov 16

Moved off again at dawn and came on to Abu Shusheh where we found Bgde H.Qrs and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battns. Shifted ½ a mile at mid-day and had a very quiet day. Heard the N.Z.M.R. Bgde had heavy casualties the other day – especially Auckland. Poor old Stuart was killed – also Herrick. Tait wounded.

Nov 17

Still same place – about 2 or 3 miles from Ramleh. I took out a salvage party in afn to collect saddles etc from dead Yeomanry horses, but all the horses we saw were stripped.

Nov 18

Moved off about 1pm and had a most exceptionally interesting trek (about 10 miles) passing through miles of well-kept vineyards, and then through a village with quite nice bungalows etc. Camped at Khirbet-El-Fur. Rained very hard at night.

Nov 19

Moved on again at 1pm to a place about 2 miles W. of Ramleh. Very wet again at night.

Nov 20

Wet and cold – didn't move thank goodness. Wrote J.G.C and Dillo, and afterwards got letters from both (up to Sept 12<sup>th</sup>)

Nov 21

Still near “Richon Le Zion”, one of Rothschild's settlements. Mac took camels to water and tried to get some wine but couldn't. Weather cleared and we got our blankets dry.

Nov 22

I left at dawn with 25 of our men and 25 of the 18<sup>th</sup> Coy to do some job with the Engineers. Got sent back as Brigade has orders to move. Moved out about 1pm to a place about 4 miles S. of Jaffa.

Nov 23

Yerex and Treweek rode in to Jaffa and lunched at “Hardegg's Jerusalem Hotel”. Mac and I stayed

quietly in camp.

Nov 24

4<sup>th</sup> Battn rode down to the beach and had a bathe. This was supposed to be good for the itch which is driving most of us nearly mad, but it seemed to have the effect of making it worse than ever.

Nov 25

Reveille at 2.30am, moved off at 4.15, to a position in the front line near Yuhadie, which we reached about 10am. The Turks made a counter attack on our left and regained ground lost yesterday, and we had to improve our trenches and take extra precautions at night, but nothing happened

Nov 26

Had a slack morning. Improving trenches in aftn. I took charge of a 3<sup>rd</sup> post in centre of line.

Nov 27

Stood down at daylight and started breakfast but there were signs of an attack developing and we had to man the trenches. Things got warmer and warmer – very heavy artillery fire, covering our infantry attack until at last we were driven back, with very considerable losses, especially from Mack's post. Retook ridge in evg with bayonet charge. McSkinning and Tucker killed and about 14 wounded.

Nov 28

A pretty solid day again though we only had one more casualty (Barker shot through the head). All feeling want of sleep very much as we were digging again all last night – 3<sup>rd</sup> Battn relieved us about 8pm and we came back about a mile and a half to reserve trenches. Casualties now 42.

Nov 29

Had a quiet day in reserve trenches. The 15<sup>th</sup> made a raid on hill 265 after dark and only got 3 casualties.

Nov 30

Had a quiet day in reserve trenches but I had to take a party of 40 men up to Nobbs in front line after dark, and dig shelter trenches. The men put in over 5 hours very hard digging, and we got back about 2430. Heard poor little McArthur had died. Gooding in very critical condition. Saw Gorringer – he is not very bad.

December 1

Quiet day in reserve trenches. A long range gun got on to our dump and killed poor Hallam.

Dec 2

Quiet day reserve trenches. Wrote H.E.V.C, J.G.C, and Ferens. Sent Xmas cards to Connie, Pah.Club, Ferens, Marion, Breeds, Lizzie, Robt Wilson, Stephen, Jim and Bax.

Dec 3

Another quiet day in reserve trenches. Parcel (socks, handkerchiefs, sugar, boracic etc) from Dillo. Wrote Dillo. Sent cards Katie Lillicrap and James.

Dec 4

Still in reserve trenches. The 17<sup>th</sup> Coy raided 265 at night and got it very hot – about 37 casualties in about 10 minutes. Brown, Moor and Cassyn and Sergt. Jones were wounded among others. They sent a lot of shrapnel over our trenches but no-one was hit.

Dec 5

Were to have been relieved at 8pm but didn't get away till about 10.30, moving to a point a few miles S. of Jaffa which we reached about 3am (Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>) The N.Z.M.R. Brigade relieved us.

Dec 6

Moved out again at 5pm and trekked to Yebna which we reached at...

Dec 7

.....12.30am – camped all day and moved out again at 5pm – pouring rain and country a swamp. Struggled along a very few miles and turned in wet through.

Dec 8

Moved on again at 1pm – pouring rain – camels and gear abandoned everywhere. My poor old camel jacked it up and I had to leave him. Trekked right on till about 3pm and turned in wet

through again and bitterly cold

Dec 9

Off again at 7am and trekked right through to Hareira which we reached at dusk. Much better day but fearfully cold and a sleety shower soaked things just as we got in.

Dec 10

Last stage of an indescribable journey. Fine, bright, cold day. Came through from Hareira to a point a few miles west of Shellal, where we are apparently to camp for some time to try to get both men and camels cured of mange.

Dec 11.

Cold but fine. I took Battn camels to water in aftn.

Dec 12

A sharp frost followed by fine bright day I was Battn O/Officer. Treweek took drinking water. Boscawen went out to meet Mawer who is not yet in, with a lot of stragglers.

Dec 13

Fine and cold. I took Coy camels to water. Boscawen came back.

Dec 14

Fine but very cold Put in fresh indents for L.G parts etc.

Dec 15

Fine but cold – my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. I seemed to be buzzing about fairly busy most of the day. Had dinner with 17<sup>th</sup> Coy. Letter from Nancy.

Dec 16

Lovely day – quite warm again. Paid out. Went down to canteen in aftn and bought the mens' stuff for Xmas. 15<sup>th</sup> Coy played 16<sup>th</sup>. 16<sup>th</sup> won 6 – nil. Wrote Nancy.

Dec 17

Watering most of morning. Prepared for a kit inspection by D.O.S in aftn, but he didn't turn up. Lovely morning but cold gale sprang up towards evening. Letter from Connie. Wrote Dillo and Editor Barrak.

Dec 18

Shellal – nothing much doing.

Dec 19

Preparing to move to Rafa tomorrow. Had a great inspection of camels by G.O.C.

Dec 20

The Brigade shifted to Rafa. I was in charge of Battn details to clean up camp and proceed by train. Got to Rafa about 6pm and had a long wait for camels. Finally reached new camp about 10pm.

Dec 21

Black got word that he was returning to N.Z Great jubilation! Farewelled him in evening.

Dec 22

Nothing much doing. They put up a marquee and started a sort of Battn Officers Club – an excellent idea I think.

Dec 23

I was O/O – took camels down to be mange-dressed in the morning. At night about 7pm got suddenly warned that Adolph and I were to go on leave! Caught 11pm train. Gorringer, Weston, Howard and Reynolds also came down from this Battn.

Dec 24

Reached Cairo about 2pm. Gorringer and I went together and had a great rush round – twice out to Kasa-el-Nil for pay – to Abassia for kit etc etc. Gorringer, Weston, Adolph and I all in one room at Continental. After dinner we four and Black went out to Aotea.

Dec 25

Gorringer and Weston and I went out to Aotea and then on to 27th Gen Hosp. Saw Sgt Wilson and Adams. Also Reid, Anderson, Couchman, Pilmer and a few others. All doing well except Adams who is very bad Out again to Aotea with Black for “Xmas dinner”.

Dec 26

Pyramids with Gorringe in aftn.

Dec 27

Lunch at Mena House.

Dec 28

Sisters Early, 2 MacDonalds and Madame M came to dinner with us and on to the Opera House where we saw "Eliza Comes To Stay".

Dec 29

Lunched at Turf Club with Hine and Tate. Caught 6.15 train for home.

Dec 30

Arrived Rafa about 7am. I have caught a beastly cold. Yerex, Mack and Treweek all left on leave by night train. 2 letters from Dillo.

Dec 31

Lecture in mg by Vet Officer. In aftn we started Bombing and L.G instruction. 2 parcels from Marion, 1 from Connie.

## **1918 (Egypt and Palestine)**

January 1

Rafa. Yerex, Mack and Treweek all away on leave. I am temporary O.C. Have a beastly cold and don't feel too good. 4 "gift parcels" per mail from N.J.

Jan 2

Started L.G. Class mng and aftn. A parcel – choice tinned stuff a plum pudding and a fountain pen from Connie and a large cheese and a parcel of tins from Marion.

Jan 3

L.G. Class mng and aftn.

Jan 4

L.G. Class mng and aftn. Wrote long letter I.C.C. Also to Mr. Burr

Jan 5

L.G. Class in mng. Wrote long letter Connie and also to Mrs McArthur.

Jan 6

Showery and very cold. Church parade in mng. I rode in to Rafa and had lunch with Burland.

Jan 7

Bitterly cold and raining nearly all day Mack and Treweek came back. Yerex sick in Cairo. No parades. Bad bout of fever in evng, 1<sup>st</sup> for a long time.

Jan 8

Showery and very cold. I was in charge of mangle dressing for Battn. Went on as O/O in evng.

Jan 9

Battn O/O I have a beastly chronic headache – evidently the result of influenza and catarrh – most trying. No L.G. Class as we were Duty Coy.

Jan 10

Lovely day. L.G. Class mng and aftn.

Jan 11

Lovely day. L.G. Class mng and aftn. "Togo" Reynolds and I had our names sent in for this new Irreg ! Force.

Jan 12

Jan 12

Cold wind. L.G. In mng. None in aftn. Thorby arrived.

Jan 13

Church parade in mng. I went for a walk over sand-hills in aftn. Very stormy day – bitter wind



with heavy rain towards evng.

Jan 14

Fine but very cold. L.G. Class mng and aftn. My head still bad and I arranged with the Dr. to send me to hospital tomorrow.

Jan 15

Lovely day. L.G. Class in mng. Football (A v B) in aft..I got all ready to leave for hospital at mid-day, but felt so much better, I didn't go! Mac and I had dinner with No. 7

Jan 16

Lovely day. I was astounded in the mng to get orders to report at once to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battn! I am off tomorrow but I very much hope it is only temporary. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battn marched in.

Jan 17

I left by 11pm train, taking Trembalt with me.

Jan 18

Proceeded to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battn H.Qrs at Ismailia. They knew nothing of my movements so I came back to F.I. Ferdan (15<sup>th</sup> Coy H.Qrs) They have a very snug little camp on the E. Bank of canal.

Jan 19

Gorringer went off on a 3 day patrol. Weston was busy all day. I did a sheer loaf. Wrote Mac.

Jan 20

Hooker, Moore and Mainchester came over from Moascar and stayed all day – very decent chaps.

Jan 21

An R.N.V. R. chap called Creasy came to see us and took Davis and me down to Port Said on an M.L. Boat – very interesting trip. Stayed night at Rest Camp.

Jan 22

Back to Ferdan by morning train. Letters from Dillo, Jim, Jack and Ferens and parcel (food stuff) from Dillo.

Jan 23

Davis and Gorringer went off to Cairo. A flying chap (Hugemot?) had a forced landing and came along here and had lunch. Weston and I rode out to his plane and an R.F.C. (Major) who was there gave us each a “joy ride”. I enjoyed it immensely. Wrote Dillo and sent photos (snaps).

Jan 24

Rather a slack day. Weston and I got the fisherman's boat and went for a row. The Padre came and held a service. A very nice old chap. Wrote Jim and Ferens.

Jan 25

Col. Forth came out about 0900 and inspected the camp. He asked innumerable questions, many of which I couldn't answer. I didn't take to him at all. Davis and Gorringer came back in aftn.

Jan 26

The Major had to go and interview the Col. Weston went up to Bellah and Taboul with pay.

Jan 27

A quiet day, very unpleasant weather, high gale and heavy showers. Gorringer and I went for a walk in aftn and got soaked. I was warned to relieve Speight tomorrow at Taboul.

Jan 28

Showers. I left about 9am and came out to Taboul – via Bellah, reaching Taboul about 2.30pm. Gorringer lent me his mare. Speight left for Cairo as soon as he had handed over.

Jan 29

Showery. I rode down to No. 2 Camel Troop after lunch and was most hospitably entertained and stayed to dinner. The C.O. was particularly nice. Got home about 10pm and found the cook, Pollock, kicking up the deuce of a row and blazing away with a rifle.

Jan 30

Fine again. Rode out to far end of Sake Patrol with Sergt. Roberts getting back about 1pm. I was to have gone down to Camel Hosp again, but couldn't get away.

Jan 31

Burland came out to relieve me in aftn and we rode down to No. 2 Camel Hospital. Wrote Jack.

Feb 1

Left Taboul – lunched with Mawer, and then back to Ferdan.

Feb 2

Ferdan. The Major and Gorringer went to Ismailia. Wrote Marion, sent 2 photos. Also sent photos (canal) to I.C.C.

Feb 3

Weston, Gorringer and I rode up to see Mawer in aftn. Letters (Oct) from Dillo, Lizzie and Jack.

Feb 4

Cold with high wind. The Major and I rode into Ismailia and played several sets of tennis.

Feb 5

Rough and cold. I went to Cairo to draw pay. Had to report at Savoy, Kassel-Mil and Abbassia. Had dinner with O'B and a chap called Brandreth and went to Kursaal.

Feb 6

Out to Abbassia in mng. Had Brandreth to lunch. Spent a busy and strenuous day and came home by 6.15 train.

Feb 7

Fairly quiet day at Ferdan. The Major went to Ismailia.

Feb 8

Started out on a long patrol. Left Ferdan 8am, camped 6.15pm.

Feb 9

Long day. Left bivouac at 6am – long day – rough travelling – bivouaced at 6pm.

Feb 10

Left bivouac at 6.30am, reached Ferdan about 4pm. Long rough trip and all glad to get back.

Feb 11

The Major went to Ismailia again. I rode up to Bellah with Georgetti in the morning and again with the Major in aftn, inspecting track etc.

Feb 12

Rode down to Ferry Post with Georgetti inspecting track and stayed to lunch.

Feb 13

Sunny and quite hot for once. Gorringer went down to some sports at Serapuem. I took 2 men and put up kilo marks from here to K 70. Wrote Yerex.

Feb 14

Major Donovan came out and inspected Post. Church in evng.

Feb 15

Took 2 men and put up kilo marks from here to Bellah. The Dr. here to lunch. Re-infts arrived.

Feb 16

The Major and Georgetti went to Suez. Gorringer and I got very big hut shifted across canal.

Fearful gale at night. Wrote Jack – enclosing Cr. Notes.

Feb 17

Gorringer left on long patrol. L.G. firing in mng. I got orders to report back to 16<sup>th</sup> Coy. Duncan is coming here. I got news that I have my second “pip” from 28<sup>th</sup> Dec. Wrote Dillo.

Feb 18

Left Ferdan by the night train.

Feb 19

Arrived Rafa at 0530. Mac sent a horse in for me and I got out in time for breakfast. Got a great welcome from everyone. Just in time for 2<sup>nd</sup> day of sports.

Feb 20

Usual parades. (There are plenty here now!) Western came out from gas school and stayed to dinner. Football match A v B.

Feb 21

Usual parades mng and aftn.

Feb 22

Rough and cold with heavy squalls. Started 5 different parades but 3 were abandoned. About 35 re-inforcets arrived – making our strength 210.

Feb 23

Bayonet fighting competition in mng. after muster parade. Football in aftn v 1<sup>st</sup> Battn. B. teams 4<sup>th</sup>. 8? 1<sup>st</sup> nil A teams 4<sup>th</sup>. 11 1<sup>st</sup> nil

Feb 24

Ch. parade in mng. After lunch Mac and I went in to see some soccer in Rafa, afterwards going on to dinner with No. 7

Feb 25

I was Batt watering Officer in mng. Gas drill and pay in aftn.

Feb 26

I took L.G. Class (8 men) down to range in mng. Mounted drill in aftn and Treweek came back.

Feb 27

Yerex came back. Orders to move out again, I think on Friday. Attack practice in aftn.

Feb 28

No parades – preparing for move. Yerex and Mac were both on a Court-Martial.

March 1

Mac went to Shellal with the Advance party. I was Battn-O/O.

Mar 2

Left Rafa at 11.00 and walked to Shellal leading our camels! About 15 miles. Got there about 5.30pm

Mar 3

Quiet day settling down. The Col had a meeting of officers and talked over the coming stunt.

Mar 4

Had a fairly easy day – preparing to go out tomorrow. 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Coys went out for the 1<sup>st</sup> of the all day trips.

Mar 5

Up at 5.00am. Left lines at 6.30 and treked to a place east of Golieb. Did some advanced guards O' Posts etc. Back at 16.30

Mar 6

Our day in camp, parades and fatigues.

Mar 7

Another trek, about 20 miles all told with loads up. Out past X Y Z. Rough going – camels very tired.

Mar 8

Our day in camp. Usual parades.

Mar 9

Should have been our day out, but had a full marching order inspection instead. Cricket in aftn. Hear we have sudden orders to move out. Wrote Dillo.

Mar 10

Preparing for move.

Mar 11

Reveille at 0400 – moved out shortly after 0600. Hareira Beira-Hailekut – where we arrived about 1900. Very long day for soft camels.

Mar 12

Reveille at 0500. Breakfast at Julis, then on to Yasur for the night.

Mar 13

Reveille at 0500. Moved off at 0600. Halted for breakfast at 0915, then on to Furn. Passed NZMR

Brigade near Akir. They are going on another stunt near Jericho.

Mar 14

Camped at Furn. (S. of Richon)

Mar 15

Still at Furn. Mac and Yerex went over to see Tait at Mntd Details near Richon. Hear we move again on Sunday.

Mar 16

Preparing for move tomorrow. Wrote Dillo but couldn't get letter away.

Mar 17

Moved out 8.00am Terrific showers and mud over the camels' fetlocks. Treked right on till 1.30 the next morning when we lay down in the rain somewhere near Zacharia, having covered a little over 20 miles in about 18 hours.

Mar 18

Cleared up thank goodness. Moved off again at 8.00am and treked on, 1<sup>st</sup> through quagmires again but soon onto a steep track through the mountains camping about 6.30pm at a village about 4 miles from Bethlehem. Rained hard during the night and I got very wet!

Mar 19

Cleared again. Shifted in mng to a rocky hillside a mile or so further on. Walked into Bethlehem in the aftn. Church of Nativity very interesting. Bitterly cold night.

Mar 20

Still just outside Bethlehem. Yerex and Adolph rode into the town.

Mar 21

Moved off at 5.00pm and treked to Talat el Dum which we reached at 4.00am next mng. Passed through Jerusalem and saw a little of it in the moonlight.

Mar 22

Talat el Dum. Expected to move on but didn't. I was in charge of Batt. drinking water in evng and had a brute of a job getting back at 8.00pm. Yerex went out to Field Ambulance.

Mar 23

Yerex went to hospital. We moved out at 7.00pm and marched to the banks of the Jordan where we camped for 2 hours.

Mar 24

Moved on across the Jordan. Treked all day and all through the night – the night march being through a narrow mountain pass rising from 1200ft to 2000ft. Pouring rain a great part of the time.

Mar 25

Still treked on, pouring rain and mud up to the camels' bellies. Bivouaced about 3.30pm and moved on again at 8.00pm, again travelling all night through the mud and rain. Fearfully cold.

Mar 26

Daylight found us still leading our camels through the mud, all wet through and half asleep.

Bivouaced at 10.30am.

Mar 27

Started off to blow up the railway. Got held up for a while on the way. Were just starting back at dusk, when we were told to go and help the NZMR in an attack. In the end we camped for the night alongside the AMR. Wally Reay was killed.

Mar 28

“Stand- to” at 4.00am (after 2 hours shiver on a heap of stones) and had orders to advance. Did so for some distance but got held up by a lot of M.Gs We got off with no casualties but the 13<sup>th</sup> had 5 killed and 19 wounded. Tree and Togo both hit. We were all withdrawn after dark.

## **Lieutenant A.G.R. Crawford MC – notes on his World War I service:**

In 2018 I, Linda Cameron, transcribed the diaries of my grandfather which detailed his service in 1917 and 1918. (Unfortunately, if he kept diaries earlier during the War these have been lost.)

From copies of his military record I have gleaned the following information, which I hope is correct. Arthur Crawford enlisted in the New Zealand Forces in September, 1915 at Trentham, at the age of 37. His Regimental number was 16282. He entered training at the Military Camp in Featherston, where he was rapidly promoted from Private, to Sergeant, and then Lieutenant in December of that year. He was a member of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles initially, and left New Zealand on August 10<sup>th</sup> 1916, arriving in Egypt in September. He was then posted to the Imperial Camel Corps, New Zealand Section in October 1916, and served in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Companies. The Camel Corps served in Egypt and Palestine. Arthur was wounded on Hill 3039 at Amman on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1918, and died of his wounds on June 9<sup>th</sup> 1918, at Nazrieh Gen Hospital (also spelt Nairich) in Cairo. He is buried in Old Cairo Cemetery, grave no. 186. He was awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry in the Amman battle, and was informed of his award while he was in hospital.

In his diaries he regularly mentions letters written to, and received from, Dillo, and Jim. “Dillo” was the nickname of his wife, Isabel Crawford, and Jim was their son, my father.

### **Citation with award of Military Cross to Lt. Arthur Grant Ross Crawford, Imperial Camel Corps NZ**

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action. When the enemy made a determined assault and drove our men from their position, he rallied the men, and with great courage and daring led them back to the attack. All day, till wounded, he directed the fire of his machine-gun section, continually visiting different parts of the firing line under heavy shell, rifle, and machine-gun fire.