

diary of voyage to Egypt. 1914-15
 Enlisted Dec. 12th 1914 and sailed on Dec 16th 1914.
 Left Newcastle about 7.30 pm on Friday night and arrived
 in Brisbane 24 hrs later. Met a few Soldiers on the
 Station and then proceeded to Enoggera Camp.
 The two men were Sgt Choat & Cpl Garbutt. The first night
 in Camp slept in Sgt Wilkinsons tent who afterwards
 became my bosom pal. Another Sergh in the tent who
 did not receive me too kindly. In the morning had
 a shower about half a mile from the camp near
 the Ymca. That evening (Sunday) I received a small
 basket which I carried all through the Campaign
 and brought back home with me. On the same
 day rode col Beaus pony (Kibag) to Pinkenba
 and back. Next morning had to go through a
 riding test by Sgt Mjn Woolan of the R.A.G.A.
 Then on Tuesday we proceeded to Pinkenba and
 camped just on the edge of the stream alongside
 the boat. Embarked our horses and all our baggage
 & left Pinkenba Wharf at 7.30 am on December 16th
 just before the train from Brisbane had time to
 meet us & many were disappointed at not seeing
 us off. Had a very calm trip to Sydney and
 arrived at 7 am on the 18th. Lay in the stream
 all day until next morning then we drew up
 alongside at Milsons Point. There we took aboard
 a number of Light Horsemen & horses belonging to
 the 6th & 7th Light Horse Regts. Left for Melbourne at
 3.45 pm. Father & Mother just in time to see me off.
 Two horses died on the trip from Sydney to Melbourne.
 Arrived at Melbourne about 5 pm (21st) & stayed about
 24 hours & embarked a mixed force. Saw Sgt Scott
 of Wallasea & Lieut Gardiner going aboard the S.S.

Ulysses. Took two men for our unit Spe Field & Spe
 Left for Albany about 4.30 pm. I was made Troop Deck Sgt
 for our Corps. On Wed. 23rd we were in the Right
 Pat Routine for the day was Early morning Parade
 Physical Drill. Breakfast. Stretcher drill. Afternoon
 dismissed. Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day. Bright and fine Sun shining
 gloriously. Church parade 9 am. Afternoon tea
 every day at 4 pm then dinner at 6.30 pm
 Sgt Snow made Ship's Sgt Major. 32 sergts in the
 Mess. On the 27th went into the Hospital for duty
 Time 8.25. Entering Albany. There were a number of
 other troopers here. Received a letter here and reported
 one home.

31st Left Albany for an unknown destination at 9.30 am
 Saw the submarine A.B. 2 in the Harbour. There
 were 18 ships in two lines. The names being as
 follows — Flagship. Ulysses, (Phalz, German) Agrodire,
 Hobart, (German) Condaat (German) Berrima, Themistocles
 Port Macquarie, Vestalia (German) Ceramic, Suevic,
 Persic, Knight of the Garter (N.Z.) Borda, Willochra (N.Z.)
 Monarch Prince (N.Z.) Ajana and another German I didn't
 know the name.

1st 1915. Awakened about 5.30 am to go to hospital. A man
 died (acreman) He was buried at sea at 12 noon.
 all the troops being massed on deck & the burial service
 read by Major Windyger & the last post sounded. He lost
 2 horses the same day.

Lost another horse.

Sunday. Parade 6.30 as usual R.C. Church parade 7.30
 others 9 am. Vaccinated.

No water available. Orderly Sergt for the day.

coming into the tropics and getting very hot. Nothing unusual. Issued with limejuice for first time on Jan. 8th

9th crossed the line. Father Neptune got busy. I was the 2nd man ducked. We had a concert at night.

10th inoculated the 3rd time.

12th Went down below and did an hours stoking.
13th Arrived at Colombo. A very fine sight. Boats of all descriptions. Very funny sight. Katamarangs are the native boats. Natives very frightened of dogs. Roll call. 10 men missing. At night time harbour very pretty. Reminds one of Sydney.

14th Rose 6 am. At 8 am got ready to go ashore with Captain Buchanan & 4 other Sergeants for requirements. Saw hundreds of Rickshaws. Went to several stores. Browns, Colombo stores & Clinicks stores. Went to the General Post Office and changed a sovereign into silver. Went into a kind of bazaar and had a lemon squash. Saw some Sepoys on guard at Government House. Went Round the forts. They are terrible thieves and ask about 4 times the price of every article. There is a Japanese Hospital on a steamer near us. I bought a hammer for the farrier. and returned to the ship about 11 am. Didn't have time to see many of the sights. What I did see were great. We left Colombo at 1.30 pm. and lay outside for a while. Lay there till 9.30 next morning. and a steamer brought some leftbehind out to us. Had a scare at night supposed to be by the mis-interpretation of a signal message.

Jan 20. Saw an operation performed.

21st Col Bean got order to go to Kermistock. A lot of him aboard

- Jan 20th Sports in the afternoon. In tug-o-war team
- Jan 23rd Saturday. Arrived at Aden. Very well fortified. The cliffs are very high & beautiful. Left again the same afternoon.
- Jan 24th Going through the Straits of Bab. el. Mandeb. Church parade at 7 am for R.C.s. 9 am for Protestants. Orderly Sgt for unit. In the Red Sea. Passed the Twelve Apostles also Jabel Tier
- Jan 25th Had a bit of a change in the routine. Done stretcher drill instead of physical drill. Orderly Sgt for day
- Jan 26th Stretcher drill in morning then done bandaging after breakfast. In the afternoon a lecture on asepsis & antisepsis by Capt. Buchanan.
- Jan 27th Getting well on towards the end of our journey now. Full dress parade at 2 pm & Kit Inspection
- Jan 28th Revellin cam. Unit supplying duties. Arrived Suez 7.30 am. All kinds of trades here. Arabs & Egyptians etc. Selling dates & figs & biscuits etc.
- Jan 29th Going through Suez Canal. At the Entrance was the battleship Ocean. Passed the Minerva & Sresistible further up. Saw the Indians digging trenches right near Suez and all the way along the banks were fortifications. There were New Zealanders, Baluchis 126th. Australians & other Indian Regiments there. Chaff & rats were stacked on the bridge for protection from bullets opening. Anchored for the night in the bitter Lake Timsal. The Star of Triumph & the French battleship Brunet also in the Canal.
- Jan 30th Going up the Canal passed H.M.S. Swiftsure. Very beautiful scenery. Saw an armoured train at Kantara and arrived at Port Said at 4 pm
- Jan 31st Left Port Said about 1 am in the morning.

Feb. 1st Arrived in Alexandria in the morning and began to unload stores. All the horses were taken into a paddock on the side of the wharf and entrained into horse boxes. All the stores were unloaded and packed on to the train then we all set sail for Cairo. A few men were left behind for duty, Sgt Hammond & some were taken to hospital with measles & mumps. We arrived in Cairo about 10 pm and then had to unload everything. There were A.S.C. Waggoners there waiting to take all our baggage. Then we had to walk all the way to Madi a distance of 8 miles & lead the horses. However we arrived early in the morning & just lay down to rest when reveille sounded. We gradually got straightened up & in a few days were all ready for work. The horses couldn't be used for a month after their sea trip. Then we began to ride them bareback and exercise them over the plains & have races to see who had the best horses etc. When all the horses were fit, we had manoeuvres as far down as Helwan about 8 miles down. On the road to Helwan we pass a Coptic church on the banks of the Nile which had been wrecked about three times by the Mahomedans. The Nile Cafe is also on the banks of the Nile & when it floods once a year the water comes right up to the foot of it. Further round is the Egyptian Arsenal which was used as the Turkish prison. Several times I had to take prisoners from here to the Red Crescent hospital in Cairo. The next village is Ibra, where all the convicts are kept in a big prison & the police guard it with fixed bayonets & walk round

the top of the wall. There is also a sugar mill
 & quarries all down the Road. A Cement
 factory also. Helwan is famous for its
 Sulphur Springs & being the health resort of
 the Ancient Egyptian Kings. There are many
 beautiful Hotels & an Observatory at Helwan.
 From here you can take the boat that crosses
 the Nile to the village of Bedre Chen & then
 go by donkey to the famous Sakkara. At Sakkara
 are the famous Temples of Si, Not the Sapeuni
 or Temple of the 14 bulls. The Step Pyramid, the
 oldest in Egypt. I have been in all of these
 Temples. On the walls are paintings 4000 years
 old. From here you go to the great pyramids
 of Men-a. Cheops the largest is about 480 ft
 high. I have been halfway up the outside
 & right up in the King & Queen's Chambers
 inside. Then we come to the Sphinx & the Temple
 below the sphinx. At Sakkara are two enormous
 statues of Ramesis one is limestone & the other
 granite. The limestone statue has a shed built
 over it to protect it. There are always exploration
 parties unearthing something of note. In Cairo
 there are numerous things to see. The Citadel is the
 famous stronghold full of soldiers, then Kas-el
 Nil barracks, then Abbassia barracks one of
 the biggest in the world. The Zoological Gardens at
 Giza, Gezireh Gardens, Esbekieh Gardens.
 The house boats on the Nile, The Manshi bazaar
 where the Goldbeaters & weavers are seen at work, the
 rag gate, The walls of Cairo, the Aqueduct built
 by Julius Caesar, The Sultan's Palace

The famous Shepherd Hotel & Continental, the
 railway station, etc. Then Heliopolis is a fine
 city. The City of the Sun sometimes called. The
 Aerodrome Camp was here & Zikatan Camp
 close by. Running from Cairo to Heliopolis
 are an electric train and tram. One thing that
 strikes you is the fog horn they use instead of
 whistles. It is like a reed with a tin trumpet
 on the end and sounds like a toy balloon.
 There are churches of every denomination here.
 "All Saints" is the big English Church and
 "St Andrews" the Presbyterian. There are several
 Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic about.
 At a place called St Georges where most of the
 Christian Churches are, is the English Burial
 ground and where hundreds of soldiers
 are buried. The Coptic Churches are the oldest
 Christian Churches known and are supposed
 to be the followers of St Mark. Every year on
 25th April the English people used to cover all
 the graves of the soldiers with flowers. I helped to
 carry some of the first wounded from Gallipoli
 from the hospital train of the Red Crescent Society
 to our motor ambulance. In all the Churches are
 brass and marble tablets to soldiers who were
 killed in previous wars in Egypt. The habits of the
 people are very peculiar and one has to get used
 to them. They scramble all over the streets and claps
 anywhere yet I never saw an accident happen.
 Motor cars & trams and garries are everywhere.
 Cairo was supposed to be built on the model of
 a second Paris and it is very Parisian in

every way. The main street is called "Sharch Kamel". The name of the street where the English & Presbyterian Churches are is called Charch Boulac, and the place where Australian Head Quarters were was called Sharch Nubar Pasha. Then Sharch Kasr el Nil led to the Barracks. I remember the Egyptian Reservists being called up and the riot that took place in front of Khedive's Palace on the Midan or Square. All the British troops and Australians in Cairo were called out to quell the disturbance. The Australians had a large picquet stationed in Kasr el Nil Barracks on the banks of the Nile. When I first saw Kasr el Nil it had a large football ground in the foreground nearest the town and no buildings except the barracks themselves. When I left the whole place was buildings and no football ground remained. A soldier could always get a cheap feed here in the barracks when he didn't want to go into town. The police barracks called Bab el Hadid is right opposite the railway station where the "red caps" stay. The "red caps" were the British Mounted Military Police or the M.M.P.s known by the beautiful red cap they used to wear and the chain epaulettes on their shoulders. The town used to be a moving mass of soldiers at one time and the police & picquets had all they could do to preserve order. During my stay in Cairo I saw two riots. About the end of February 1916 we left Maadi & went on to the Suez Canal at Serapeum owing to an expected attack. All the Infantry Divisions were concentrated here and at Ferry's Post. Serapeum is about halfway between the two lakes.

Serpis Post is on the other side of the canal about 2 miles from Ismailia. Ismailia is a fine place having been laid out to be the chief landing place for travellers to Egypt but it was never used as such. From Serapum we used to swim in the Canal Every day.

Jan 1 1916. From Maadi I went to Army Ordnance Depot to draw clothing for the men who had returned from Gallipoli. Left at 8am & arrived back in camp at 6pm. Had lunch in Kasr-el Nil barracks. The ordnance had a very busy day fitting out the 2nd L.H. Brigade. I rode Capt. Pitchers horse today and in the evening I sat in the operating tent writing letters.

Jan 2nd. Sunday morning. Church Parade 9.45am in the Recreation Tent built by the people of Maadi. Had a busy day issuing clothing etc to the men. In the evening went to the artillery to try and get in. Met several fellows I knew in the Field Artillery Band. At night I listened to the F.A. Band at the Bungalow Hospital.

Jan. 3rd Into town again for a Medical Pannier all ours having been lost on the Peninsula. Took Jimmison, Short & Ratchiffe with me. A strange thing for Egypt it rained nearly all day.

Jan 4th Rained all night and the cooks had trouble to get the fires going. Went to Heliospolis to Base Med. Store. The roads were very muddy & reminded me of Newcastle on wet weather. Arrived back in camp at 6.45pm.

Jan 5th I was orderly sergeant for the day. Went to the Base Office & Kasr-el Nil with Sgt Guthrie. Met Capt Long an old Major in Newcastle at one time. Had dinner at the Pyramids Cafe & cups of tea in the Soldiers Club in the Esplanade Garden.

- Jan 5th 1916. In the garden they have every kind of tree and some I took
continued. particular notice of were Royal Palm trees. The grow
very high. Got back to camp in the 2:15 pm train. At
night we had some music in the Sergeants Tent.
Wrote a letter to Jack Hand, Post Training Batt. Zikou.
- Jan 6th Medical Stores again. Weather very cold at night.
Had to report to Major Croll who was sick in the
Bungelow Hospital.
- Jan 7th Went to Frank Ratcliffe for a box for W.O. Phillips.
Purchased a forge for 230 pt. at Aquilina Brothers.
Then went to the Government Workshop for a wheel.
Went a short cut through some very narrow streets
w/ Sgt Bowman & Corp Proctor.
- Jan 8th Went into Kasr el Nil in a motor car to see if some
stores were ready & rang up from the Devon's O.R.
to send 2 G. S. Waggon. Got some panniers & load
in a 7th Limber. Rode Sgt Hammonds. Horse (Dang)
back to Camp which chided a couple of times at the
Railway gates.
- Jan 9th Fairly busy giving out belts to men. In the afternoon
Cavanagh, Phillips, Thompson & I went to the Barrage in
a motor car. Had dinner at St James Hotel. Then
we went to the Pictures and returned to camp by the
last train. Killed a dog near Cairo Railway Station
bridge with the motor car.
- Jan 10th Mark Wilson & I went to get 111 ground sheets left
at ordnance the day before on a light wagon.
There was a very thick fog and we couldn't see 50 yards
ahead and we were saturated w/ dew. Cashed
a cheque at the Anglo Egyptian Bank.
- Jan 11. Got some gear for Lieut Lambert (Sinter) attached
to our Unit. Also Hobbs & Southgate.

- Jan 12th Saw Lieut Hookway in charge of a picket in Cairo
- Jan 13th Went to Abbassia to the Red Barracks w/ U.S. Stores
Drew Breches D.S. in lieu of M.S. Went to the British
Saddery & Kasr el Nil to draw clothing & Hospital
Requirements. Saw a most beautiful funeral of some
high Greek officials wife.
- Jan 14th Put my Gladstone Bag in Cooke for safe keeping which
remained there till I came home in November 1918.
- Jan 15th Three men transferred to other Units. Dunne Linton,
Macomachie No. 1 A.G.H. First day I haven't been to town
for weeks.
- Jan 16th Church Parade. In the afternoon went to town w/
Sgt Hammond & Cavanagh. New Zealand Band playing
in the Gardens. Met Ed Haywood opposite Shepherd's Hotel.
- Jan 17th Abbassia again. Had a touch of sore eyes and had some
drops. Put in them. Bought a pair of Goggles.
- Jan 18th Big route march to Helwan
- " 19. To Kasr el Nil with Colonel Croll.
- " 20 By motor to Cairo for tents sent wayn ahead. Hood
driver. Never got them. Waited for Col. outside the Savoy
Hotel. Inquired after Butter A/c at the Al Hayat
dairy instead of the Hygienic which was at Abbassia.
- " 21st Drew lanterns and took 4 men to Base Office
- " 22nd Had a day in Camp. Made out a list of shortages.
- " 23rd Brd. Sergt. At night went to the Recreation Tent & heard
a fine anecdote about a little boy giving an officer
a cup of cold water before the American Civil War.
- 24th & 25th Nothing of importance except a heavy rain storm.