

In Egypt

15.1.15

Up at 5.15a.m., a great scramble to get some coffee & bread & butter. Went off in boat, a sail up so went across in good time. Walked to station, stars v. bright especially one. Narrow streets, houses close together, small balconies round windows, no verandas. Saw child driving goats out of alley-way. Great scene at R. station, much talking, unable to get tickets, rushed for train. Lucerne, cabbages, crops, everything very green. Plains like at home. Trees like hose, pine trees. Donkeys, mules. People sitting v. far back on donkeys. Mud villages. Cemeteries to be seen frequently. Arrived Cairo, Dr. C. Ryan on station. Out to Mena H. in electric tram, five bridges over Nile. Passed some ----. Saw D Honman. Fine trees along tramway. Passed Zoo. Dinner at Mena House. Saw Miss Gould, remembered Uncle L and G, said they were very fine men. Pyramids, very very dusty & windy. Huge blocks of stones. Sphinx, weird looking. Huge blocks of granite & alabaster, took a piece of each away. Sphinx. Represented to the Egyptians a form of their god Horus. Carved out of solid rock.

Measurements

Length of body 150 ft.

“ “ head 30 ft.

Width of mouth 71 ½ ft.

“ “ face 14 ft.

Height of ear 4 ½ ft.

From crown to base 70 ft.

Length of Paws 50ft

Bet. paws, kind of temple discovered, reached by an ascending flight of steps.

Memorial tablets of Thothmes IV & Rameses II

In this temple a small lion & an altar, facing Sphinx. Returned home in tram, shoes cleaned on our way, large sum of 1d. Miss Green & I went for walk in Cairo, called at chemists, who said they are now speaking English in Cairo, on account of the ---- being there.

Had our hair shampooed, very necessary, as we were white with dust. Dinner exceedingly nice, hotel quite elaborate.

Wrote letters in evening.

16.1.15

Wrote letters before breakfast. Heard we were to stay in Egypt. Went to Museum in morning. Saw mummies Rameses II, nails, teeth, hair still to be seen. Jewel Room beautiful, saw the scarab said to be the finest known of. Carvings on different stones wonderful. Bought guide book 5/6. Walked in afternoon, streets very gay. In a.m. saw turkeys being driven along footpath, man & boy, when turkey went away boy would hit it under the head with a stick. Just after they passed a mob of sheep passed along. Motors, carriages, very numerous. Tram 4.15 good journey home, some difficulty in finding boat, no one knew where it was.

17.1.15

Muddling day, packing, all to be ready at 6.15 a.m. Monday.

Paid 7/-

Letters from home, Mother, Bess, Helen, also one from M. Howlett.

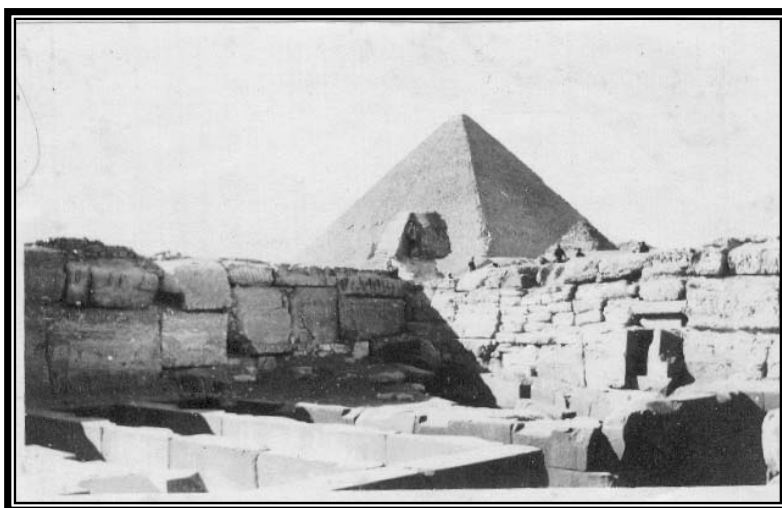


Figure 3: Sphinx - Taken from Temple of The Sphinx

18.1.15

Called 5 a.m., had tea & toast with S. O'Connor & Cameron. Carriage to be ready for us at 6.15a.m., we were to catch 7 a.m. train. Waited, no sign. Orderly sent for one, arrived 6.45 a.m. Furious drove to station. Carriage swaying from side to side. Arrived but saw train departing just as we alighted. Waiting room til 8.30a.m., argument with luggage porter re payment. Porter offered to wheel S.R. in wheel chair. Lovely day, saw numbers of camels, some quite hidden with brush. Arrived Cairo 2.30p.m., met by ambulance wagon, four orderlies in attendance. Four good horses. Beautiful drive through the avenue of lebbekh trees. Passed some soldiers on the way. Arrived Mena House 3p.m. - everyone very kind. S. Cameron & I went four beds about 4pm, after the luxury of a bath & a good cup of tea. Dark faces appeared at the door about 6p.m. Saw Captain Hurley in evening, looking very well. Having every consideration shown to us. Road from Cairo crosses the great Kair en-hil bridge & the south end of the Gezira, another bridge over the other arm of the river, dry during low Nile. Passes Zoo. This fine shaded road hastily made by Ismail Parke in 1868, so that his royal visitors, who came to the opening of Suez Canal, might more easily view Pyramids.

19.1.15

Night duty, a very trying night; went for walk before dinner.

20.1.15

Called early, moved our room to next flat. 2nd Aust. General Hospital arrived. Moved to new Dining room. Waiters appeared rather confused with the numbers of arrivals. Saw Dr. Honman, when returning from our walk, asked about M.H. people. He looks v. well, admired his hose. On duty 10p.m.

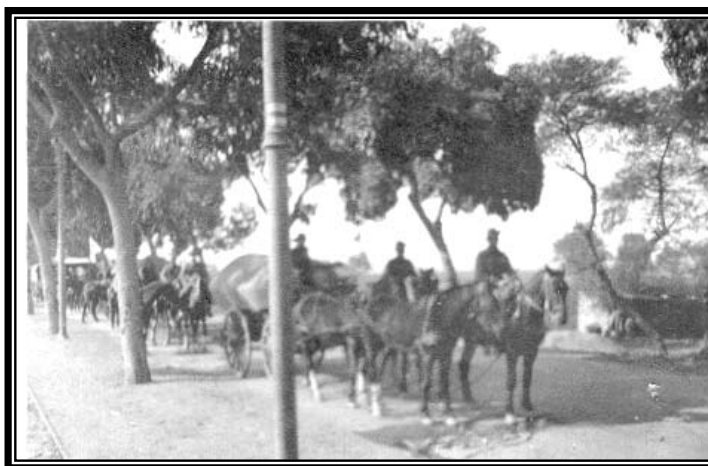


Figure 4: First day in Egypt - on the way to Mena

21.1.15

Walked round Pyramids and Sphinx in afternoon, on way home met Dr. Chambers, pleased to see him again, has not altered & looks well.

22.1.15

P.C. from Grace. Cloudy, little rain. Received notice from "Kyarra" re joining A.A.S. on 13.1.15 Returned paper.

23.1.15

L.R. had good night. Drs. S & L to see her in a.m. Dr. S. very cheerful. Sorted clothes and rearranged them before going to bed.

24.1.15

Grey misty sunrise, beautiful to watch. Mists on Pyramids. Saw horses in early a.m. being taken to water. After breakfast S.O.C. went to church. S. Jackson & I set out & after wandering about, found that the C of E. Parade was on, did not find the Presby. One soldier took pity on us & showed us where C. of E. were. Said we would see many things before we finished. When going met a party of four, two women beautifully dressed ambulance horses became v. frightened, one woman more so than the horses, result, she fell into a sand heap, great consternation, her friend looking v. worried at seeing her nearly hurried. Sat on balcony, numbers of people going to Pyramids. Home v. often in my thoughts. Walk before going to bed, offered a ride to Cairo in motor car. When asleep rather startled on waking to find a figure moving mosquito net, Carl there, had come to see me. S. Green & Geoghegan. Also came in. Matron had come----- All very grieved & vexed about her treatment.

25.1.15

Misty in a.m. Letter from Bessie Stewart - glad to hear all the home news, & to hear there had been rain.

26.1.15

Took train to Cairo in afternoon, just got into one tram, told it was not going, then into another, very high step. Chaplain in tram, who on arriving C. went with us to the P.O. & helped us with our buying of stamps & envelopes, and to collect our right change. After that walked with us to a teashop. He then went to a meeting & said if he were able to come back would show us round. Chose our own cakes, very nice & dainty, coffee good. 9d. Met S. Tait and Cuthbert & before we left S. Craig & Watt, pleased to see them & to hear their news. Then went & bought some trinkets, could easily spend heaps of money in these shops. A New Zealander there, who went with us in a carriage to the Bazaar. They are just wonderful. Shoes, precious stones, beads, etc. Narrow & became narrower when you get further from street. The carriage was told to wait, so left guidebook & to my horror the c. drove off, however a boy ran after & rescued my book from the hand of The Philistine. Went to one shop where our escort was well known. The owner greeted him as an old friend. Beautiful bags & silk work. Saw old weapons, one beautiful dagger, told us it belonged to the Sultan, fine handle, blade encrusted with precious stones. One long Sudanese dagger the man thought I would like. Were offered Turkish delight & later on tea was brought. Several in small glass vessels, no handles, on a tiny pink saucer. No milk with it, but sugar, tasted like dates. Passed on and came to a shop, owner named Cohen, saw two letters from L. Kitchener saying he was satisfied with all the good he had bought there. Saw two beautiful evening coats, gray worked with gold thread, scarves & beautiful little mats. Brass workers at work, saw them using their compass, then drawing like design in black, & then hammering it out. Saw jugs being mended. Drove & caught tram, had to follow tram up for some distance, but caught it. Two of hos. sisters in it. On our way out passed a tram, saw Carl & E. F. in it, sorry to have missed them. N.Z. told us that 4000 of their men went to the Canal expect to be fighting tomorrow. View of the Pyramids very fine & a good sunset. On reaching M.H. found Kate arguing with a motor man, L.A. had decided in the afternoon, to drive into Cairo. Sorry not to have seen our Matron & to hear what had been settled.

27.1.15

Duckie's birthday. Intended going to Zoo but too sleepy & it was a very dusty day. Wakened in evening. Home letters, from M.B.B.A.M.C. & Jean, one from B. Stewart, saying had sent a book for my birthday. L. from Mrs. Tuart. 55 points rain at "Alma" – One letter from Mother at Tumut. Bess at Barwon Heads. J & M in Sydney. Heard we were to go to Heliopolis. Mr Bird, his nurse & some of No. 2 nurses moved to Ismailia.

28.1.15

Packed in early a.m. A trying morning. Told to go to Heliopolis. L.R. left behind. Tram ride in & then came on tram to H. Some of the way just like a train & stations at which to alight. Arrived shortly after 5p.m., an immense place, wondered where we were to get in. Very glad to see them all again, especially A.K.H. & G.D. Found two Australasians waiting for me. Dinner 7 p.m. all wait till President goes in before taking seats. Waited on by orderlies, some of them had been in "Kyarra" hospital. Saw Dr. N. at dinner & after, glad to see him again. Looks very well. Quite ready for bed by 9 p.m., as we had been up since midnight.



Figure 5: No.1 A.G.H.Heliopolis - "The Palace" Christmas 1915

29th Friday

A fine, calm day. Put bedrooms in order, moved furniture etc. Told we would not be going back on Transport duty. In afternoon went into Cairo visited P.O. Had a tea. Visited one shop where they had

beautiful embroideries. Saw children playing marbles. Bought a pair of white gloves 1/6, much the same as we get in Melb—Paid 1486 P. 8m.

30.1.14

S. Forsyth & S. McKinnell left for Alexandria. In afternoon went to Egyptian Hospital to see S.G. Walked, asked several times if we were on right road, each time told “Just the next house you come to.” Went over Hospital, while on balcony saw The Sultan of Egypt Hasseim Kamel pass. Beautiful horses in his carriage & ridden by his attendants. Came home in tram, a nice ride, while waiting for tram watched a glorious sunset, pink. A.J. gave a farewell supper to S. Bleach in our room.

31.1.15

Church Parade in a.m. Not ready when we first went, while waiting saw a monkey appear, next thing found it on my shoulder, managed to get it off. S. Jackson did not fare so well, as it bit her hand. At dinner very glad to see Miss B. back. After dinner helped make 89 beds in medical ward. Wilkinson came in & later on Dr. Woollard. Glad to have some work to do.

1.2.15

Monday Very amusing letter from Carl - she informs me that all the cats in Egypt assemble in a square near her room & have glorious concerts when she is trying to get to sleep. Wrote home letter.

3.2.15

Went to Abbassia in afternoon. Very glad to be at work again. Letters from Mary & Jean. Very homesick.

4.2.15

John's birthday. On duty all day. Dinner when we arrived back from Abbassia, very slow waiters, long pause between each course.

5.2.15

Quite a Riverina day, off from 2 p.m. Across at Heliopolis Palace, saw the Chaplain from Mena Camp. Numbers of soldiers passed Abbassia. Quite an entertainment to watch the people while we are waiting for teams. One pretty picture, grey donkey with two baskets of tomatoes swung on back. One very odd, pants, then shirt (on outside), then what looked like a coat of a kilt, many buttons. Heard that the monkey has been misbehaving again, bit a little girl yesterday.

7.2.15

Went to The Citadel in afternoon. “Fortress dates back to 1166, when Saladin, according to Arab history, brought stones from the small pyramids at Gizeh to build it. Thought it commands the city, it is itself commanded by the surrounding Mokattan Hills & is therefore practically useless in these days of modern artillery. Ceilings very fine, small pictures painted at top of walls. View from balcony wonderful, across the city, & to the left The Pyramids & The Nile, we saw the sunset, fine colours.

9.2.15

Went over to Palace in afternoon. In evening, went with Grace & Miss Walker to concert. After leaving tram, took a ghani driver said he knew where to go, but after he had driven us hither and thither we decided he did not. Asked the way – was told we had come the wrong way, started off again, - at last a soldier when we asked, stood on the step & shows the driver. The driver had said he would take us for 3 fiasters, & we paid him that much to his disgust. Concert very good, like “The Pierots”. Non smoking, thought it would help keep the moths out of our clothes. Some familiar songs. When we came out not a ghani to be had, walked first in wrong direction, & inwardly vowed not to go out again in this country at night without an escort. Found the tram & so reached our dwelling.

10.2.15

On duty all day. Reached hotel feeling very tired & lonely, revived on seeing letters from Mother, Duckie, & Biggie. P.D. from Miss Rich. Holiday news from “Burnswark”. Biggie's letter just like her

dear self, she is a friend worth having. Glad to hear of Rowe & Billy. In the morning from 8 a.m. till about noon, troops passed by. A splendid sight, makes you proud to be an Australian-----

11.2.15

Day off. Went into Cairo with A.K.H. & G.F. in afternoon, walked round shops, bought a scarf, saw some beautiful ones –Sultan visited Hospital at Abbassia in p.m., great preparations & then he only visited two wounded Egyptians & the one Eng. Wounded----

12.2.15

In evening came to hotel in a ghani, tram not in sight. A tight fit to get in, we all enjoyed the drive.

13.2.15

In afternoon, went for donkey ride with Miss Frater, across desert to old cemetery, saw soldiers who had been digging. Got some beads taken from the mummies. Saw human bones, very brittle. Went to Obelisk, a nice ride up to it, through lebhekh trees. Said to be 64ft high, of red granite. Passed ostrich farm. Went into R.C. church, six pictures. Slaughter of the Innocents. Joseph told to go to Egypt. The Flight. By The Nile. Resting under the Tree & The Entrance to Heliopolis, fine colourings. Near it is The Virgin's Tree, and old sycamore, many names carved on it. The well, had a drink a very quaint old place. The donkeys travelled well coming back. Letter from Bessie Stewart, all well at home-----

15.2.15

Off in afternoon, went into Cairo with Sister F., bought some p.o. Went to afternoon tea with Miss A.D.- charming manners these people have. Room very nicely furnished. Saw Carl in evening.

16.2.15

Went into Cairo with AG.D. shopped, bought necklaces etc, for those at home ---- a beautiful day.

Letter written from the Front

Dear Boy,

Thanks ever so much for your letter which was forwarded me from home.

Of course it's jolly rough luck on you chaps being held up in Egypt when like the rest of us, you want to be fighting Germans. But that will come in time.

You won't think I am putting on airs. I'm sure when I saw that you need training. We are not soldiers by profession & when we were mobilized we spent three months in England slogging into field training – marching, open order, trench digging, semaphore & a host of other things which were irksome. But it's not good sending men out here who aren't absolutely fit. Just at present for example, the conditions are absolutely awful The papers give a splendid description of the trenches – not a bit exaggerated, & “up to your neck in water” is no idle phrase. Of course it has to be endured, but I often marvel at what is really takes to kill a man. So don't despair; you are booked for the front all right & this war won't be over before you get here.

Before I knew you were in Egypt I used to think that some day, perhaps, we should be relieved by the New Zealanders in the trenches & I might find you standing by the side of me. Following is a sketch of the trenches.

“It has been raining all day long (it has rained continuously for the last two months). You can see twenty or thirty yards up & down the trench. Every few yards a sentry stands with his rifle stuck over the parapet. The constant rain has caused the sides of the trenches to partially collapse & the earth thus loosened has fallen into the bottom of the trench & mixed with the muddy water already there. People are constantly passing up & down the trench with the result that the river underfoot is churned up into a ghastly sticky dough of mud. The rain meantime pours steadily down. Those not on sentry are hard at it, bailing out, digging out, building up – anything to make the trench tenable. The sentries look out across a mangolwuzee field, flat as a pancake, to the trenches opposite where no doubt the G's are

doing precisely the same thing as our fellows. Needless to say everyone is soaked to the skin & covered from head to foot in a coating, an inch thick, of mud.

Night falls, & every man "stands to" for an hour' that is he puts his equipment on & stands at the parapet in readiness for a rush, for at dusk and dawn most assaults are made. The double sentries are set for the night & work proceeds. Some are told off to go out of the trench & fetch rations – a drag of about a mile & a half to a farmhouse in the rear. Others go on digging, some go into an advanced trench to do "a listening patrol." This trench is cut T-shape from the trench with a short parallel communication trench.

You can see how near the enemy you get on that game – you can hear them talking.

Those who are lucky enough to be off duty for a couple of hours get into their dug-out – a hole cut in the side of the trench – or rather they get head & shoulders in with feet stuck out into the pond outside & try to sleep.

Morning comes at last & with it "stand to" again followed by an issue of rum.

The daily ration is issued & off we go again for the day. At last the final day comes & word goes round that you are going to be relieved. At dusk, you get your equipment & pack on, & stand to. Then you hear the new lots splashing along the communication trench. They pass along behind you till all are in their places. Then you change with them & get out yourselves. A few miles tramp & you get to your billet where you hope to get dry & have some sleep. And what an ungodly looking lot of scarecrows you are too! No one marches in step out of the trenches,. You just shove one foot in front of the other & hope that the mechanism won't give out till you get there.

Not all come back like that. From time to time in the trenches the word goes down "Pass the word for stretcher bearers". Then after a time the procession carrying something on a stretcher, "Who is it?" you say. Then "Don't know him", or "My god, poor old ____" Because when you get hit in the trenches it's in the head you usually go west.

And it's that that you want to come out to. Come on, boys, you are all wanted, but don't be in too much for a hurry.

I know I was the only boy at home, old man, but I had to come, same as a few thousand others. No particular credit due here.

So glad you met – Canall out there. How I want to know all about yourself & your doings so get on with it.

Yours all the way

Cyril

18.2.15

Wrote letters in afternoon. Very tired. S.Finlay went to the Palace – Letters rec. dated Dec 22nd.

19.2.15

On duty all day. Some of the sisters came to afternoon tea.

21.2.15

Day off. Went to All Saints with Grace. Night Duty. Rev. Horan inducted. A queer service, the clergy moving from place to place. Many memorials, amongst them one to General Gordon. After walked to St. Andrew's, a grey stone building, looks Presby. The minister & his wife glad we had called, invited us to see them. Had lunch & sat in gardens, returned to hotel 3p.m.

20.2.15

Day off. Went to Zoo in afternoon, beautifully laid out, paths some paved with small stones, each stone said to have cost ½ d. Gathered from the desert by a Sultan, who taxed the people heavily. Said to have cost him his crown. Giraffes very fine. Glad to see a galah & kangaroo. Other animals much the same as at Melb. Zoo.



Figure 6: Pathways at Cairo Zoo

23.2.15

In afternoon went into Cairo with Carl.

Took guide & went to Mosque. A beautiful one, small, windows deep colourings. Work inlaid with mother of pearl, turquoise, ebony.

Went on to Blue Mosque, 800 years old. Fine blue tiles, some have been stolen. A large courtyard, where the people are taught. Saw the blackboards. Good view of the people in the narrow streets. Saw a funeral, men in red & yellow aprons carrying silver vases with flowers walked first –

A hot day. Col. Maudesley at hotel to see us about vaccination.

25.2.15

Vaccinated at Hospital, Abbassia.

March

Sent cable to Biggie -----

5.3.15

Year today since V.R. died.

6.3.15

Moved from H. House to Palace. On duty, J.N. in afternoon. Did some shopping in evening –

7.3.15

Note from Carl!

10.3.15

Capt. Aspinall called to see S.W. in p.m., had had a letter from George last week.

11.3.15

Very hot day. Went to Lady Wilcock's in afternoon, went in Red Cross motors. She met us at gate. A nice house, first went into garden, given iced lemon. Saw round garden. Very nice afternoon tea, people v. good to us. Children's nannies perfect. Raymond very old-fashioned. One child very like Va. Letters, one from Aunt Peg.

14.3.15

Sunday. Day off, which I appreciated to the full. Had breakfast with Dug & Ethel F. Went to church St. Andrews. A very helpful service & hymns we knew well. Text "It is well", story of the Shunammile woman. In afternoon went with Carl to The Camp, saw the horse taken to water, also saw the pet kangaroo & monkey. A fairly cool day.

15.3.15

Told to hold ourselves in readiness to have our photos taken. Summoned to be ready at 11 a.m., & it was afternoon before we got back to our work. Sat on the marble steps wishing people would be punctual, however at last we were told to go out. Officers sat, we stood, when the elect moved away, we were allowed to sit. Got off about 3.20pm. sat with Grace in theatre. M.S. came over. S. Amy King operated on in evening. Rained in afternoon quite nice to see it again. Weird dishes we have at meals, tonight had fish in jelly, eggs very much used, we will be growing feathers soon -----

17.3.15

Letters from home. Heard about Click joining the Light Horse. Our domain visited by the O.C. & Maj B, got some information. Was sweeping the corridor and was asked if I were taking a little gentle exercise.

21.3.15

J. Bell came in in afternoon, looks very well & has been kept busy. In evening, went to church with E.L.F. & S. Tait. The church well filled, mostly our own soldiers singing. Very good sermon "what we owe to St John's Gospel." Quite cold going home in the tram. A man in white flannels, pink tie & red cap amused us. After dinner a Mess Meeting from 8.45 till 10.45p.m., no more mess meetings for me.

23rd

Saw a plague of locusts, said to be the worst for 20 years. The men ran round heating kerosene tins. Sisters went for drive in morning. Letter from Miss Mitchell thanking us for the present. Went into Cairo with G.G & E.L.F. in afternoon, saw the locusts again. Purchased a brown hat. Pestered by beggars while waiting for a tram some of the beggars amused themselves by fighting.

25th

Letters from home, also from Gran. B.S. Puddle Duck, the latter having a very hard time -----

27th

Morning hours on partly, off for an hour and a half. J. came in to see if we could go out in afternoon. Opened S.S.4 in afternoon, a real muddle, no notification of it, patients arrived, asked who was in charge.

28.3.15

Dusty windy day. Re ward. In afternoon went with G to Barrage, to Cairo by tram, saw a young camel. By train from Cairo to Barrage, from there we went by a quaint trolley pushed by Arabs, across the bridges. Saw The Model Museum, crossed Damietta & Rosetta branches of Nile. Flowers beautiful, May especially, brought away some Lupin seeds. On our return to R.S. had to wait over half an hour, amused by the crowd which collected two soldiers. Bought oranges – threw them to the kids one with a pink cap, had such a bright face. Dinner at Continental. On our way saw camel carrying bedstead, chairs, pillows, stools.

29

Our convalescents went to Review in p.m.

30.3.15

G & I went to Cairo in afternoon, shopped.

31

S. Richardson, Simpson, Sorenson went out. S.F. admitted. S. Wyse went to Mena, and had a very good day.

1.4.15

Mother's birthday.

3.4.15

Off in afternoon. Went with G. to Virgin's Tree etc. After returning walked to Baron Onto's villa, very much decorated, also to R.C. church, a fine building, very plain.

5.4.15

A very dusty day. Dorcas meeting in my room, binders, etc. G. also sewing. Band played in evening.

6.4.15

Gran's birthday. Letters from Home, a very amusing one from Buttons. Uncle S had arrived safely. Heard of Aunt S's new daughter. Letter from Sister Dobbs.

7.4.15

S. Jackson went on night duty. What will tomorrow be like! Grace went to Cairo in search of pictures. Wrote letters in afternoon. White operated on.

9.4.15

Turned out of war near theatre. Went to Bazaar with Grace in afternoon. S. Thomas & Paton went in by same tram. Bought p.c.s. of Pontoon on which the Turks tried to cross Canal, also of the arrival of T. prisoners at Cairo Crows in The Bazaar. Saw a funeral. Met Major Smith & Lieut. Hawker - one of their friends had been purchasing some shawls for them. We bought some beads, also brass tray & vases. G. some shoes - some native cloth. A. Tea at Groppis, menfolk much amused at the way we chose the cakes.

10.4.15

A muddle, surgical wards moving to our blocks - a beautiful morning.

12.4.15

Violet's birthday. Letters from G & Mrs Tuart in evening.

13.

Went into Cairo with S. Good, did some shopping, met Dr. S. Delivered S. Dobb's message. Found letters from home on my return.

14

S. Wyse operated on.

15.

Off in p.m. Read & slept.

16.

Heard that Mr S is leaving us, very very sorry.

17.

Heard that Wounded were coming, saw beds & mattresses being brought in. Dinner at 6 p.m. a very noisy meal. Train arrived about 7 p.m., white with crescent on each carriage. Medical cases - brought from train in hospital in motor ambulance.

19.

Called on with Grace. Met Mrs. Brown. Capt B. asked me if I were staying long. Went into Cairo - bought some groceries. Also ribbon 18/6 on Panama hat not lost to have its surface partly covered with ribbon tip to Left ear. Concert fine voices - Covent Garden 200 pounds a week.

20

On all day. S. Farquhar went to Mena. Letters from home, also from Gran & B.S.

21

Paid Mess account

22.4.15

Off in afternoon. Went to zoo with Grace, got out at wrong corner, had to walk a long distance. The grounds beautiful. G. took some snapshots. Had afternoon tea in sound of "running water". Coming back in tram had a very dirty woman sitting beside me. A dear little French baby made friends with us, played with the tram tickets. Called at Mrs. Maddison's.

23

Day off. Had breakfast with S.A.N. & Ethel F. Ironed & had a general tidy up. Went to Museum in afternoon, very interesting, bought a virgin's lamp which came from "The Soudan" for Granny. Very hot.

24.

Off in afternoon. Went to Mrs. Black's. very anxious to know how the H's were in evening. Mrs. Knowles sang. Saw Vernon at church, he hopes to return to Australia. Grace had a day off, bought her some nourishment on my way back, found my belt made for me when I arrived back.

25.

On duty all day.

26.

Papers from Burnswark – from Granny.

27.

G. went to a. tea at Mrs. Madden. Cam had a party & we went to see Sphinx by moonlight. A beautiful sight, moon came out in time, would like to go without so many people about. Pestered to have our fortunes told. S. Good had hers. Rode back on donkeys, my saddle kept slipping, donkey's name Moses. Carl on a donkey, & an Arab beside her, telling her fortune was too funny for words – Arrived back before 11p.m.



Figure 7: At Pyramids with S. Wyse. Donkeys

28.

Leave stopped. Convalescents transferred to Luna Park, ready for 300 who were expected from Lamnos. None wounded. Told that Capt. Lind had comp. fracture skull, do hope it is not true.

29.

Leaves topped. Train 3 p.m. wounded but most able to walk. Transport nurses working n & day. Mr. Syme given treat praise by the ones he had attended - Another train about 7 p.m., mostly stretcher cases. Sisters moved.

30.

A busy day. Train with wounded 5 p.m. All the wounded so cheerful, reading a few minutes after getting bed. Saw Johnnie B. for a second could not wait long. S. Isambert discharged. Doug. in theatre till nearly 4 a.m.

1.5.15

A very busy day. Train 6 p.m., with wounded – Oh, for a few minutes at the instrument cupboard in The Bowan. Don't know what we would have done without the Red Cross sewing. See that Major Downes and Capt. Cane are here. Wrote home letters – Mr Skerchley very sick. Hear that more nurses are

coming, they are badly needed. Our men at the Dardanelles given great praise. All the wounded so brave, poor Mr Patterson to have his foot amputated tonight. All so willing to help each other.

2.3.15 (Note: should be 2.5.15)

On all day. No train. Mr McDonald went out. Doctors came to do the dressings.

3.3.15 (Note: should be 3.5.15)

Still very busy – S. Plant adm. Allowed out in afternoon, out from 5.30 p.m. to 6.45 with Grace. Took a ghani, told driver to go to Suez Rd. We reached there after much talking & driving. Part of the way over sand which tried the steeds. A yellow sunset – the g. man very anxious to get more than his fare. G. went to Bootmakers for her shoes & he took our part. Saw J.B. as we were going out – sewed and darned, dusted room, to bed about 9 p.m.

4. Tuesday

On all day. Very busy. S. Wheeler adm. That makes the 5th sick sister, we are wondering how many will weather the storm. Letters from Home, Mrs. McClure (a beautiful one). G. E.A.O. Chuttie, S. Will etc. Bessie Stewart not well. Uncle G. over for Gran's birthday. Very sorry to hear she has not been well. Letters from the kids most entertaining. Got quite a lot of M.H. news.

5.

Much the same, plenty of work. S. Baker in sickroom now. G.O.C. came. Mr Patterson taken to theatre again, very very ill. Shortly after 6 p.m., went to Cairo with Grace, had dinner at C. and enjoyed it thoroughly, read our letters & discussed them. Quite cold coming back in the tram. Purchased some postcards, brown & black & white.

6 Thursday

On all day. Busy as usual. Mr S. seems a little better T. down. Hope it stays down.

7.5.15

S. Hart comes to take charge, am truly thankful. S. Wheeler went out. Off in p.m., wrote letters. Mr. Butler explained how the Queen Elizabeth was firing, showed me the map & when Australians, English & French landed – Col Downes looking after one side of ward –

9.

Went into church with S. Tait & Grace, not many at church, elders inducted. Had tea in room, bought some biscuits before coming in. Palace well represented in the shop. Train came in during the night.

10.

On all day. Train in afternoon., very busy. S. Quartermain went to Heloran.

11.

Very windy & dusty in morning. Off in afternoon, did nothing but sleep in bed, a little sewing. Grace off for a short time.

8.5.15

Saw Capt. N. for few minutes, said he was leaving that night -----

12.

On all day. Train came in about 8 p.m.

13.

Went into Cairo with A.K.H., did some shopping sent watercolour painting to B.S. for her birthday. A. tea at Groppis, some of the dresses most weird. Found letters from George, Ag. John and B. Turner, on my return.

14.

Did a few odd jobs. S. Knox went off in middle of morning. J. Mack came in, but saw my namesake instead of me.

15.

Off in afternoon, did the family washing, sewed, slept-----A bundle of papers arrived in the evening – 19.

Went to Ghezinh in afternoon to see Myra Wyse, she looks much better for the fresh air. A fine view of The Nile from the back. Saw Miss Gould. Very tired. Ag's birthday 17th. Home letters.

20.

Heard of Dr Mathieson's death, not able to realise it.

21.

S. Hart warded. H. Knox much better. Letter from Mrs Black.

22

On all day. Very busy.

23.

Off in p.m. Went to Mrs. Black's & then to church with G.F., not many there. Organ went wrong, so we finished with a very small one. Had dinner in town. Pestered to buy while waiting for tram to go, roses, chocolate, flowers, oranges, papers, tickets. Some soldiers in carriage, only been here a week -----

26.

Off in p.m., retired to bed. Very hot & dusty.

27.

On duty in afternoon.

28.

Jean's birthday. Train came in after 8 p.m.

29.

Off in afternoon. Went into Cairo with Grace, posted book to Father for his birthday. Had dinner in town. A little cooler. 10 p.m. - can hear the darkies singing.

31.

Day off. Slept, read & wrote during a.m. Went to Helwan in afternoon. The drive most interesting, mostly along The Nile at one point Pyramids of Gizeh, Danshua & Sakkara can be seen. Saw oxen treading the corn. Saw S. Quartermain. The Hotel large & a glorious view from the hotel windows. Enjoyed the day.

1.6.15

On all day. My trial in evening, most amusing. Home letters, some written in Jan, one from George wishing me M.H. Returns of 17th.

4

Twins' birthday. Went with Major Elliot & Lieut. Combes & A.K.H.. to Zoo by motor. Drove back to Cairo in ghani, dinner at Continental.

6.6.15

Off in afternoon. Rested.

7.6.15

Matron, G & S.R. King went to Alexandria. Mr Wilton, Butler & Room came to say goodbye before leaving for Dardanelles. Train in evening, none to our ward.

8.6.15

Wakened at 1 a.m. by The Fall In for the orderlies. Patients brought by car from Cairo. Watched the cars coming along the Abbassia Rd. S. Richardson caused a sensation by saying The Fall in was a fire alarm. Mr. Morpeth, Mr McFarlane, Capt. Laming left in a.m. for N.Z. Mr Smart, Major Smith & Mr Barton for England ----- A busy morning getting things tied up. Trains in afternoon, some newcomers objected strongly to being admitted to hospital. Mr. Kersell very sick. Misses Frater & Walker came over to see J.M.Hart in evening. Very tired. Went to bed early.

9.6.15

Off in a.m. "Kyarra" people left.

10.6.15

On all day. Heard that L.G.V.H. was at the Front. Saw Capt. Fogarty, more reinforcements have arrived at Alexandria. Mr. Stead remarked tonight "That a fellow could stand anything as long as he got his letter from home", quite agree with him, as we are anxiously waiting for our mail which has taken a jaunt to Alexandria.

11th June

Letters came in afternoon, heard that Click was likely to leave at any time -----

13

Off in morning, slept in. After duty went for motor drive over bridges etc, enjoyed it thoroughly, a nice way to take the air without walking. Supper at C. & back to the Palace.

14.

A busy day. S. Bolton & Kerr came to call. Our optician to be attached to Head Quarters Staff "as well as his other duties!!!!!!"

Mr. Kessell very sick. Mr. W. more cheerful.

Lieutenant E. Morgan
11th Taranaki Com.
Wellington Inf. Regt.
NZ
Main Body

13. Off in p.m. Very hot. Major G. took A.K.Hart for drive, through avenue of gums. Passed through orange grove, beautiful scent, went over all the bridges round Cairo, past Zoo. Supper at Continental.

15.

Went out with Mrs. C. in afternoon. A. Tea at Groppis, motored to zoo. Saw the tontoons. Out to Mena, went round Pyramids, guide very funny re Sphinx & Maori. Dinner at Continental.

16.

Very busy. Heat strokes etc. Mr. Nancarrow came in. In the midst of getting seven new patients settled was asked if I were busy. Mr. Saunders wanted to know who it was that walked through the fiery furnace, said he knew it was Daniel, but his roommates were not sure. Major Elliot took A.K.H. & I to dinner at Continental, had taxi into Cairo. Mr Winslow also came to dinner, very anxious to hear about Australia. Went for motor drive after part of the way to Mena, passed Zoo, tire blew out just as we got near Heliopolis.

19.

Went out with Mrs. C. in afternoon, went to Mosque at Citadel, nearly tipped out of the motor going through the gate. Our drive by his good driving said to have saved us ----- Saw Cairo & all its mosques. Had snaps taken with the big shoes on – The lights in the mosque beautiful. Motored to Mena, crowds of soldiers. I suppose the new arrivals. Went to Pictures. When we came in saw S. O’Dwyer & T. Morrison there. Dinner at Continental, enjoyed The Band which was very fine. Motor drive after, enjoyed the outing very much ----- Re band programme.

20.

A busy day. S. Bicknell very sick. Train came in. Went to early communion. Special prayers for the soldiers. S. Knox & Hart look better after their trip to Alexandria. Grace went to A. – very lonely without her, hope she is better.

The Roll Call (Oriel in Argus May 8 1915)

We have tendered the toll, we have paid the price,
We have braved & battled & bled,
And set in the shrine of our brothers-in-arms
Are the names of Australia’s dead;
We have given our share of the grist that
Goes to grind in The War God’s mill
But every place that another has left
Is a place that you can fill!

Oh! Some were killed in the open boats
Before they had time to land,
And some were killed in the rally & rush
Across the sloping sand;
But whether they died in the breaking surf,
Or whether they died on the hill,
Yet every gap in the ranks this day
Is a gap that you can fill!

You scan the scroll of our sacrifice,
And you hope that the list will end
Ere you feel the throb that tears your throat
As you say “He was my friend”
And it’s “Poor old Bob I knew him well”
Or “Bill – my God! Not Bill!”
But every place that a pal has left
Is a place that you can fill!

Do you remember the day they left
That day they passed through town
When the bayonets glanced like a spray of steel
On a river of rolling brown?
And now?...in the same old town today
There are slackers who’re slackening still
The far-off note of a bugle call
And the pulse of a distant drum
Tell not the tale of the men who’ve gone
But the men who have got to come;
Oh! Duty is calling & vengeance is calling
Their cry shall never be stilled
Till the last of the gaps in Australia’s ranks
By Australia’s sons are filled!

21.
B. Stewart's birthday. Off in a.m., had splinter taken out of nail.

22.
S. Bicknell still very sick. Mr. Winslow left us, very very sorry.

H.P.W.
2nd R.N. Brigade
Collingwood Batt.

23. Wed.
Went out in afternoon to Barrage – a beautiful drive through the cultivated fields. Mr. Draper, the curator, showed us round, told us that only three trees were natives to Egypt. One tree grown from a seed brought from Peradengia.

(Some pages missing here.)

15.
Letter from F.- at Lemnos when written.

17.
Mail, letters from S. Dobbs, S. Wyse's mother

18.
Letter from T. – in the thick of things.

20.
Click came in in evening, expects to go at any time. Gave him my letters.

21.
Re. Faith in woman while taking temperatures – Mr. Baxter came in in evening, expects to go at any moment.

22.
Thought Click might be in. Went out to meet Mr. B, unable to get off duty.

23.
Went across at 5 p.m. to Heliopolis House Hotel, afternoon tea to Miss Bell, good number came.

25.
Two trains came in, heard from one of the men that LDSB's ?? had landed at Salt City.



Figure 8: A part of the garden at Heliopolis Palace

26.
Went into Cairo with A.G.D. & A.K.H. C. from Click.

27.
Click came in to say goodbye, gave me snapshots & message to mother re money, also for Mr Gunn.

28.

Went out with Mr Baxter in afternoon, spoke of Mrs. McClure. Volunteered for bomb throwing & one other. To send present to his mother.

29.

Went to early communion. Heard trains going out all through night.

31.

Letters, one very amusing one from Buttons, posted it to Click. Letter from Mr Baxter, saying C. had left 5 p.m. & they were to leave 2 a.m, Waiting for letters from the front.

2.

Train in during afternoon. Shanahan to go to Australia.

3. Called up 12.15 to go on Day duty. Rest disturbed by dreams & S. Bailey with cramp in her legs. Busy afternoon, everyone new. Very tired but revived when I found a good supply of letters, one especially. Photos from Mother, herself and Father also one of Agnes. Long letter from Mary. One from B. Stewart, first one for weeks. On going to my room, found that A.K.H.. had moved my goods & chattels.

4.

Off in p.m. Grace very energetic, decided to tidy & clean the room, even to the top of the wardrobe, & the bottle department. Much amused. Miss Conners came for supper.

5.

Three trains, filled all empty beds, very busy, all stayed on. Re beri-beri. Saw Capt. Griffiths, looks very well.

6.

Off in p.m. Went into Cairo with A. Jackson, bought lace for Mr. Baxter's mother, posted it from shop. Bought picture of Nile Bridge. J. bought a hat, some very pretty ones. A. tea at Groppis.

7.

On all day, things getting somewhat straighter.

Col. Newmarsh thinks George the finest man that ever breathed, a very fine character----

8.

An inspection by Colonel Maudesley in a.m. a few hints for tomorrow's inspection. Received photos of Click & George. Heard that Major Baker was well & very anxious to get back to the front again. Went into Cairo with A.G.D. who hunted all the shops for tent work. Bought pictures, could not get a good one of Our Bridge. Heard of Mr Groom's death very very sorry. Saw that Mr Franklin was wounded ---

9.

On all day. General B. expected, great preparations. S. Ken spring cleaning, esp. bathroom, did not appear. Letter from F. in evening, can see the Aust. from their position. Having a very trying time.

10.

Off in p.m. Put away pictures. Went into Cairo, re money. Letters – one from Major Baker, who is very well.

12.

Off in p.m. Went to church with S. Andrews, a doleful service. No one seemed to know the hymns. Sermon, Spring cleaning. War perhaps nec. to clear away evil, but some germs are lost in the clearing.

13.

Letters from home, re Mother's advice – Sister left for Lemnos. Sorry to lose S. Monger.

14.

Busy morning. Listened to concert in afternoon, slept & wrote letters.

13.9

Heard of Mr Franklin's & Mr Nancarrow's death. Little Willie wounded -----

14.

Great arguments at dinner about volunteering for England. Newell very funny. Miss Conyers' patient.

15.

Re. Capt. S. changing the sisters' time off. Into Cairo in p.m. did a little shopping, came home with Chris Murray----

21.

Very busy. New sisters came. V.D.

22.

Great indignation; old staff going to Miss Is. New sisters. On till 8 again. Busy but got finished – No letters yet.

20.

Off in p.m. Went into Cairo with Grace did some shopping- posted parcel to F. next morning.

24.

Letters from home. Mother getting ready to go to "Alma". Amusing letters from M. & V.

27.

Off in p.m., wrote letters. Hear that another mail is in. Piggott better today. Mail in evening, one from Click dated 9.9.15, very glad to get it. Letters from Mrs. McClure, Big & K. Edwards, all about the one thing. S. Wormcester & King came back.

29.

Went to dentist. Saw S. Thistlewaite & Martin while waiting for tram, heard about Major Baker from the latter. Met S. Ralston & S. Snelling & took tram to Mena. The crops wonderful, maize and cotton. The waters everywhere – The sunset wonderful – Dinner at Sault's; other red capes there, some of the new ones. Letter from Aunt M, also snapshots of Boysie & The House – At Mena Sisters had their fortunes told, most amusing. Took some snaps. Dead donkey.

1.10.15

Off in p.m. Called on S. Andres. Knitted. Trains in evening, two V.C. we hear.

2.10.15

Silence is the element in which great things fashion themselves together; that at length they may emerge, full formed & majestic, into the daylight of Life, which they are henceforth to rule.

3.10.15

Day off. Stayed in bed in a.m., slept & read. Went to Ghizeh Gardens in afternoon, very different to the last afternoon I spent there. Plenty of red capes about. Hear that Capt. Fleming died suddenly in N.Z. S. Stevenson saw Sunny Jim & Yanall while in N.Z.—

4.
Letters from home, & Granny.
Card from Click dated 18.9.15. Wrote in evening.

5.
Off in p.m., but on call. Two trains, walking cases in first.

6.
Find that outpatient Graham has been at "Alma", the year the new stockyard was built. Came in from "Culpataro" with wool. Came over from Singapore on A.E.2 - he says submarines are alright but they sometimes forget to come up. Graham went to Port Said.

7.
Off in p.m. Went into Cairo, saw about train to Alex. For Grace. Shopped for the Dardanelles people. P.C. from Long from Port Said, & letter from Chris. H.M.K. most entertaining at dinner. Hear that Capt. J. Nicholls has gone on to the Front.

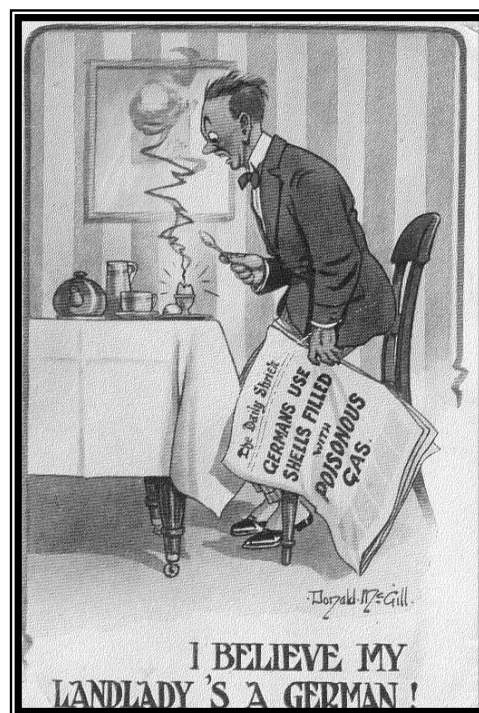


Figure 10: Click's postcard - See Letters From Click

9.
Off in p.m. One train in, some walking & some stretcher patients. Letters from home in evening, sent them on to Click. Grace went to Alexandria. Elsie to afternoon tea at Continental. Hear that Bulgaria has joined the enemy – Times, sent them on to The Front. Miss Conyers called in evening.

10.10.15

S. Davison warded in a.m. Major Zwar called in evening, looks very well – was able to go out on 10th day. He had seen Col. Syme - travelled over with him. His hand much better & able to operate. Colonel Maudesley wished to be remembered to us all. Called on A.K.H.. after dinner – she had heard from her young brother.

11.10.15

S. Robertson went to Henonian, sorry to leave our ward. Went into Cairo with G. Good, did some shopping, looked at water colours, bought one "A Nile Scene". Went to dentist 5 p.m., but found that he had been ill so unable to keep the appointment. A beautiful evening, moon for short time. Saw Wilkinson in C. – foot not healed yet, spoke of Capt. Matherson, also of Capt. Hurley. Glorified First Aid. Said we would not be home for five years, he was worried about Bulgaria joining the enemy.

12.

Letters from George. B.S. & Myra Wyse in evening. G. in S. Hospital, on duty at Randwick Military Hosp. for three days.

13.

Innoculated against cholera in afternoon. Called on S. Andrews & Davidson. S. Andrews up, but looking very tired. Dreamy Daniel left for The Front & McKecknie in a pair of dark purple pyjamas went to the Abbassia Hospital.

15th

Went to Cairo with H.M.K. in afternoon, to dentist first. A. tea at Groppis, saw Miss Green- after went to Steins to try on Panama hats, very large size. Letter from F. Went across to Imbros to rest but brought back again. S. Ripper went to Suez.

17.

Letter from Click, he was well – getting plenty of good food. Went to All Saints with S. Kendall & Cameron. Dinner after & back again-----

19.

Numbers of Patients left for Australia. Watson went. Went into Cairo in p.m. tried to get lamp for Click, but no success. Met L. Snelling. Late in evening, S. Ken brought along letters from F. & S. Monger, weather good at Lemnos. S. on night duty – 36 points. Most of the orderlies sick.

20.10.15

Rough chanter, etc, left for Port Said, all hoping they will get home to Australia for a trip. Re. Good night.

21.

Into Cairo to dentist. Letters from Big. & Home on my return & was then told that someone wanted to see me. Pte. Ashton – he had seen Click three days ago, said he was well & putting on weight. Said that a p.c. or letter was much appreciated. Lollies they want. Half bottle of water daily & most of this is needed to keep their eating utensils clean. All very cheerful & they share their gifts. Very glad to get the news. Elsie May called in evening. Saw Miss Conyers in afternoon. Austral very well.



Figure 11: Elsie May on balcony of our house at Ismailia. May 1916.

22.

Transfers to Ward.

Re railway from Salonika to Nish & Belgrade. In May 1914, a convention was signed between Greece & Serbia by which the latter country obtained on a 50year's lease a piece of ground on the railhead at the Port of Salonika to use for importing without control anything she req. This all important railway which only runs through Greek territory for 60 kilometres, is only a single line, but it has crossing places about every 20 kilometres & also possibilities of being further developed without much difficulty. Owing to this convention the Gov at Berlin has been unable to protest at Athens against the supply of munitions to Serbia via Salonika, & it is by this route that all war & hospital requirements have been furnished by her Allies since the outbreak of hostilities.

23.

Went out with G. Good, to Mouski, bought brass work after much bargaining, bought bands for Click. Dinner at Sault's, then bought biscuits & returned laden with parcels. No mail in. Mess meeting to be held. Will keep well out of the way after the last one we went to. Re Pyjamas. Saw Mouat, he was very sorry – his box of heather had not arrived from Scotland.

25.

To dentist then to Mouski, bought the three monkeys. Saw beautiful kimonos, one gray with pink blossoms.

26.

Letter from Thompson re Port Said, most amusing descriptions of temperature taking. Letter from Click in evening.

27.

Off in afternoon. A. tea in theatre. A.K.H.. to supper, her birthday.

28.

Letter from B. Baxter, great scarcity of water, not much doing where they are, he had seen his nephew.

30.

Left Cairo by the 9.30a.m. train for Bedresheim. Nile boats. Saw the most leading to Pyramids from Level Crossing. Arrived B & took donkeys, only one side saddle, so rode astride with grey apron for drapery. Most amusing cavalcade. Saw statues of Rameses, granite, 32 ½ ft. long. In small wooden building another statue, hard limestone. 42 ft. figures by side son & daughter. Step Pyramid Road by Nile & thoroughly cultivated fields, maize very high – Mariettes house, very hot before we got there. Lunch most amusing – eggs & bread in heaps. After went to Tombs of Sacred Bulls & tomb of Thi. Sarcophagus blackened granite on limestone. Donkeys from here to Mariettes & then left for station. Donkeys behaved well. Capt Rosenthal came off. Glorious sunset & fine view of The Pyramids – Citadel looked as if built at water's edge, colouring wonderful – Back in good time & found letters from home waiting. Re Candy Man.

31. Went into church in evening with S. Ashton & S. Bonnie. C. well filled. S. sang a solo.

1. (Note: November 1915)

Letters in evening. V. sorry to hear B.S. sick again. Letter from Click dated 20th Oct. Wrote in evening.

2.

Moloney, Hodge etc. left for P. Said. Re photo.

4.

Went into Cairo with J.M. Hart, went to Kussal.

6.

Grace's party. Home letters.

8.

To dentist in afternoon. Bought Xmas stores for the Front.



Figure 12: Savage left front, Brown and Maynard at back, Hainier front right

9.

On all day. S. R. King went to Alex. Lance-Captain Savage (16th Batt. B. Coy. 4th Brigade) came to see me, been at The Front since May, now at Ghysich for last fortnight. Mentioned in dispatches. Letters from Click dated 27 – 29 Oct. , was well tip top, also one from Mrs. Baxter. Letters from "Alma" & George. Miss Conyers came to see us -----

10.

Went to Cairo to get oilskin for Click, none to be had. Saw S. Robertson & S. Lehman.

11.

Capt. Tolhurst called, said Laura Baxter had asked him to, says he is anxious to go to The Front Locusts in myriads. McKenzie had a box from home, shortbread – Scotch words. Says he would not go to hear Harry Lauder for 1d. About the little boys who carried his trunks. Baker & Tukpen & their accounts of their shopping & also meals. D.B. Grace went to supper party. Posted P. puddings to those at Front.

12 Nov.

Went into Cairo to dentist, but found he had telephoned to say he could not see us. A glorious sunset, clouds.

14.

To church in evening, special service for Young Men & Women. Retiring collection for Red Cross – a good congregation.

15.

Letter from F, just out of firing line. Another star.

16.

Listened to concert, they played "The Rosary" by special request. St. J.
Went to Cairo with Elsie, sent oilskin to Click, registered parcel. Pat. Dressed in new blue suits.

17.

Bright moonlight. Aust. Mail said to be in -----

18.

Off in p.m. did up parcels for Front – cool.

20.

Went with G.M.A. to At Home at Continental given by Mr & Mrs Gillan. Afternoon tea, two small children handed round cakes. Pipers played. Sir A. Baird spoke, also Mr Rolland – songs. Letters from B.S, Mrs. McClure & Mrs. Hyndes.

21.

Wondering what G will do. On all day. Concert in afternoon. P.P.P.

22.

To dentist in p.m. Re Thanksgiving Day. Letters from kids, Jean & Aunt. Sent parcels.

23.

Train in afternoon. Letters from B.S. & Aunt Bess.

25.

Letter from Click dated 10th Nov, says he is very well & not feeling the cold too much. Very glad to get it.

26.

Letter from Mother. W.R. had been to "Alma" after measles. Letter from F. dated 12.11.15, admitted to hospital with diph. & going to hosp. ship. Into Cairo, bought electric torch & refills for The Front. Saw S. Ross & Yuille. Colonel Maudesley in Cairo.

27.

Finch, Piggott, etc left for Port Said.

28.

A year today since called up for Active Service, a full year ----- Inspection by Col. Letherston, but he did not call on us. Went to Zeitown to Mission school, drove in ghani. Miss Clinch has been at St. Hilda's. Took train from Zeitown, walked to church. St. Andrews day on Tuesday. Some English people said to have said that Presbyterians would not be satisfied unless they had a real apostle for their saint. Church well filled – On influence whether for good or ill. Mr. McDonald at church – Church decorated with flags - The R

2.

Telegram from A. in evening.

3.

Train 8 p.m. 19 to our ward.

4.

Went to Cairo with J.M.H. Christmas shopping. Home letters.

7.
Miss Griffiths called in afternoon, to tell me J.B. is in hospital Malta Blue Sisters. Lady Oakes also came along.
8.
Sgt. Horner called in morning – J.M.H.'s name on list for transport – so grieved.
9.
Pte Ashton came in & said he had seen Click 5 days ago & that he was very well. Quarter rations & water. Weather cold. Letters from C, sent plants & rose cup of 75mm. to send to Granny. V. glad to hear all the news - Ward to be emptied, hospital to have 2000 beds by Saturday morning – some to Port Said. N. Barnard & S. Haywood arrived in evening ----
10.
To Cairo with E. M.A. bought leggings & oilskin for Click registered them.
12.
To church in evening, very well attended, Dr of American Mission preached – Carl, J.M.Hart left for Australia.
15.
Day off. To Zoo in p.m. with Grace.
16.
Went for drive with S. Good.
17.
Hear letters to be censored. Aeroplanes in p.m. Leigh S. called, told I was out.
18.
Leigh came in, went out with him. A. tea at Groppis, then drove round Rhoda Island. Dinner at Sault's.
19.
Sent cable for Leigh.
20. Fixed maps. Heard Nick is back. Box from Australia- slippers, toffee, soap, scent, tape pins, shortbread, powder. Our room very noisy, visitors will come when we try to write -----
22.
Went into Cairo with E.M.A. & M.B.
23.
Two trains. Hot & dusty. In orders that the Mayflowers to be sisters from Dec. 1st.
24.
Pte Lawry came in with letter from Click, had seen him last Friday & said he was looking very well. To Cairo with E.M.A. Christmas Dinner. Rained in evening.
25.
Early communion. Went on early to let S. Bonnin go also. Wards decorated. Saw Miss Griffiths - G.B. in England with his mother. Saw Capt. Nicholas in afternoon. Dinner in room, did not go with others to Abbassia.
26.
To Zoo with E.M.A.. & Leigh. Church well attended. Christmas service.

31.

Letters from home dated Nov. 30th. L. came in p.m., thinner but looks well. Dinner at Continental to celebrate the chocolate stripes, went in with S. Plant, S. Knox, S. Miller. Saw New Year with A.D. & E.M.A..

1.1.16

New Year's Day. Went with Leigh & E. to Mena by motor, dinner in town. Letters from Mr Baxter & Mr Hyndes.

2.

Sunday. A.D. day off.

3.

Shopped – bad business people in Cairo

5.

To opening of Nurses' Club with A.D., a great honour. Bolting horses. General Maxwell ____ Hat

7.

Shopped with E.M.A..purse, etc.

9.

Went to Citadel & mosques with Leigh & E.M.A., to church. Refreshments to be given before & after, not during.

10.

Sgt. Came to tell me that Click was at Tel-el-Keba & was very well. S. came in evening.

11.

Leigh came in to say goodbye, great work to get leave. Telegram. Letter from Click.

12.

On all day. Very quiet.

13.

Went into Cairo with E.M.A.. Letters from George, B. Turner & M. Wyse.

14. S. Jackson came up to tell me Click was waiting in evening, looks very well. Unable to procure a sleep in good abode, so put up at 1st A.G.H. Kelly had supper party in our room, M.H. people to help eat her Christmas Cake from Australia. To Cairo with G in afternoon. Letters.

14.

Click to breakfast. Went to dinner with him after duty.

15.

Letters from home. To Zoo with C. in p.m., came back early & C. left for train. Had seen J.D. Mack.

16.

Cable from home. They had heard I was returning.

17.

To Cairo with Elsie. Got money order changed & one to send home. Tea at Club.

19.

Off in p.m., wrote letters. Saw Mr Hyndes.

20.
S. Dalrymple left.

21.
Sister Molray died in morning. Took over at 9B. then told in p.m. to get ready for No.1 Stationary. Ismailia. Packed.

22.
Left Palace. Saw Nick on way down. New houses.

23.
Went on duty in morning. Light duty alone –

29.
Drove to Canal -----

31.
Afternoon at Officers' Mess. O.C.'s birthday. After went for walk, shown over "Monitor", saw guns. Hamper from home, Letters dated Dec 13 & 20.

10.Feb.
Went to Arabia.



Figure 13: Port Said - View of the Canal

12.
Letters from Click.

12.
Saw Click, he went to Cairo. Mr. Hyndes called.

16.
Letters from home & Ida. Capt. Barton came in on 15.2.16.

18.
Called on Eye Spec. S. Larkin not well.

19.
Letters from home dated 19.1.16, all expecting me home.

20.
Visitors in afternoon ----

21.
To Cairo by 6 a.m. train, plenty of desert. Breakfast at Club, shopped. Funeral ghani. To Palace. Went out with Grace to Zoo. 5th Royal Scots. A. tea at Club & wild rush for the train. An amusing train journey. Capt. McK. met us, also Capt. Nerlet. Letters from Click & J. Dawson.

22.
Day duty in B. Very little to do. Saw Capt. Nicholas in morning. Hear that D. Webster is engaged. Wrote letters & sewed in p.m. Thistle & G. went boating.

23.

Worked in three wards.

Nt. went to 13th L. Horse for afternoon tea. Drove & saw balloon., Went over on pontoon bridge. Drove back through palm grove. Click's letters. Much traffic through day ----

26.

Spent a profitable afternoon sewing , writing, etc.

27.

Worked

28.

E.M.A.. & Thistle went to Port Said. Matron & seven of us packed into one motor & went to concert. Supper after.

29.

Five newies.

1 March

Lady Maxwell came to hospital.

2.

On all day. Very hot & dusty.

3.

Wrote in p.m. Went to jetty, saw the Sir Thomas Picton & heard their band. Saw Col Rosenthal who was in Palace last May ----

4.

All day on duty.

5. Sunday.

To concert in p.m. Lady Maxwell. The Rosary. Little Gray House in the West. Photo taken. To church in evening. Excellent address by Canon Reed, 13th 1st Corinthians – Hymns. D.H. there.

6.

Busy day. Gen. Birdwood came to Hospital, patients very glad to see him.

7.

Letters. Wrote in p.m. Bert. Baxter came in, had seen Click & says he looks very well----

9.

Day off. Went for walk with E.M.A.. in a.m. Elsie went to Seupkum –

10.

G went on night duty.

11.

Letter from Betty, had been to Luxor. Very windy & dusty, cold in evening –

12.

Click came in during afternoon, looks very well. Te Deum.

13.

Sent cable to “Burnswark” – Mr Cowan to say goodbye -----

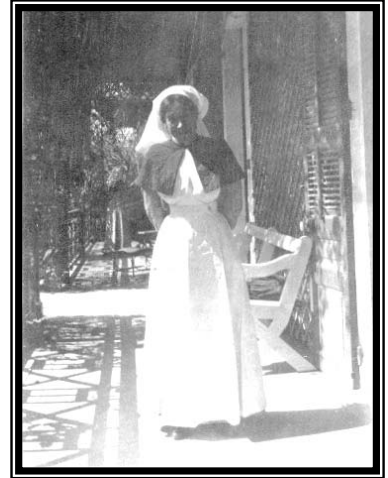


Figure 14: Thistle
(S. Thistlewaite)

15.

Letters from home. Went for walk with E.M.A..along avenue.

16.

On all day. Saw Capt. Lordanch in a.m.

17.

Sent letters to Click with Mr Catarin. Hot and windy.
21st at 6.30 pm.

19.

Went to church with S. Reward, v well attended. "Eternal Father".

23.

Prince of Wales expected, did not come. Dr Ceechi came to afternoon tea. A.K.H. & I went for walk along avenue. S. Plant went back to Cairo prior to leaving for Australia. Saw 13th. L.H. coming in.

24.

Great clearance in ward.

The Last Post

And now the hour has come
The Spirit takes its flight
To its eternal home
Lights out: Lights out.
Good night.
A long long night of rest
And in the morning bright
Reveille with the blest
Lights out.
Good night.
Goodnight.

25.

Letters from home.

26.

Prince of Wales came, also Gen.
Birdwood. Prince very young
looking.

27.

Went to Cairo to say goodbye to
Grace. Saw Mr Y. Walker. Grace
at station. Lunch at Club, then
shopped. Saw Capt. McLaren ----
- Some difficulty in obtaining a
seat in the 6.15.



28.

Gen. McCay visited hospital in p.m.

Figure 15: The Prince of Wales Edward VII, The Colonel,
Matron, General Birdwood, and Mr. McColl W.O.

The Soldier

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is forever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed,
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once her flowers to love, her ways to roam
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by news of home.
And think this heart all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less,
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights & sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends & gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under our English heaven.

29.

Went with S. Reward, also Elsie & Thistle to a tea at Belgium Club, a walk afterwards. Very hot. RE Bible in ward.

30.

Patients from route. March 240. Frank Lind came in.

31.

Printed photos in p.m. D.B. Glorious day. Cool wind after the heat. Pink leaved flower very delicate colouring.

Re wool. We have pleasure in sending you the above result. The wool sold excellently & was much admired by the buyers. The values realised in 3 instances represent record prices obtained in this market within the recollection of the present generation, viz,

	32 ½	Previous record	32 ¼
1 st pieces	31 ¾	Previous record	25 ¾
	24 ½	Previous record	22 ¼

April 1st.

Mother's birthday. On all day.

2nd.

Off in p.m. Busy a.m. Cain v. sick. Visitors in afternoon. Church in evening with S. Reward & Graham. Church full.

Why One Boy Enlisted.

*Why I enlisted is because I had no mother & my father never gave a penny to keep us. I did not see him till I was 14 years of age. My mother died on the 24th May 1915 & I was out of work at the time I enlisted. I signed the papers myself. My grandmother was going to bring me out of camp & I told her that she couldn't. So she said I could put up with the consequences if the Military found my age out. I landed in Egypt on the 8th Nov. 1915 & I have not been in good health since.
Pte. Swanborough.*

Made me think of another boy -----

3.

Innoculated in evening, candles for the occasion as lights failed – O'Reilly etc. went to Review, a march through the sand.

4.
Concert in evening. Flem. Sang, also members of No.1 A.S.H. Padres remarks- didn't approve of them.
Came home by Punt – One did not arrive, much perturbed.

5.
Juggler came in afternoon. Gulla, gulla, gulla.

6.
Gran 's birthday. Busy a.m. No letters & we expected them.

9. Sunday.
On all day. Elsie went to Cairo & to Barrage—

10.
Letters from Home, & B.S. - also Biggie, very happy. Mother & motor car.

11.
Innoculated 2nd time. Hear we are to go to Cairo before going on.

Faith must learn a deeper rest
And trust God's silence when he does not speak.

12.
Va's birthday.

13.
Very very dusty.

15.
Mr. Y. Walker came in -----

16.
Elsie had p.c. from Grace. Ward very busy. Re Thistle. Went to Church with O'Reilly. Bishop from Fuich preached. Greater love etc.

17.
Busy day, Winter better. Re "Another sad home". Letter from Leigh dated April 1st, from somewhere in France, said they were comfortably quartered ___ -

18.
Day off. Went to Seupkum with S. Graham in morning, fine cloudy day & quite cool. Feluccas very pretty. Passed Tousiorum & saw bullet holes. The water very blue. Soldiers diving. Back in time for first lunch, read in afternoon, wrote after dinner.

19.
On all day. Busy. Hear mail is in.

20.
Went for walk in p.m. Lilies very fine especially white ones. Mad dog. Pte Day called in evening, leaving at 8.30 p.m. 2nd Cas. Cleaning. S. Holdsworth came back.

If
If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs & blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all now doubt you

And make allowance for their doubting too;
 If you can wait & not be tired of waiting
 Or being lied about don't deal in lies
 Or being hated, don't give way to hating
 And yet don't look for good, nor talk too wise
 If you can dream & not make dreams your master,
 If you can think & not make thoughts your aim,
 If you can meet with Triumph & Disaster
 And treat those two imposters just the same,
 If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
 Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools
 Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,
 And stoop & build them up with worn out tools:

If you can make a heap of all your winnings
 And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss
 And lose & start again at your beginning
 And never breathe a word about your loss;
 If you can force your heart & nerve & sinew
 To serve their turn long after they are gone
 And to hold on when there is nothing in you
 Except the will which says to them "Hold On"

If you can talk with crowds & keep your virtue,
 Or walk with kings – nor lose the common touch
 If neither goes nor loving friends can hurt you
 If all men count with you, but none too much;
 If you can fill the unforgiving minute
 With sixty seconds worth of distance run
 Yours is the Earth & everything that's in it
 And – which is more – you'll be a Man, my son.
 R. Kipling

23.
 S. Bonnily - The family very devout, nearly all went to church. Very quiet day in ward.

24.
 Great budget of letters, darning needle in one. Mother had rec. cable saying both well (cable sent 13.3.16). Letter from Snelling, J.M.H. Andrews & Keys had left. Miss Conyers came – S. Bonnily & S. Bailey went to Port Said.

Say trouble at Kantara....

25.
 Anzac Day – on duty. E.M.A.. & others went to sports. A post.

26
 Very hot. Went to dressmaker with Thistle. B. hurt her foot.

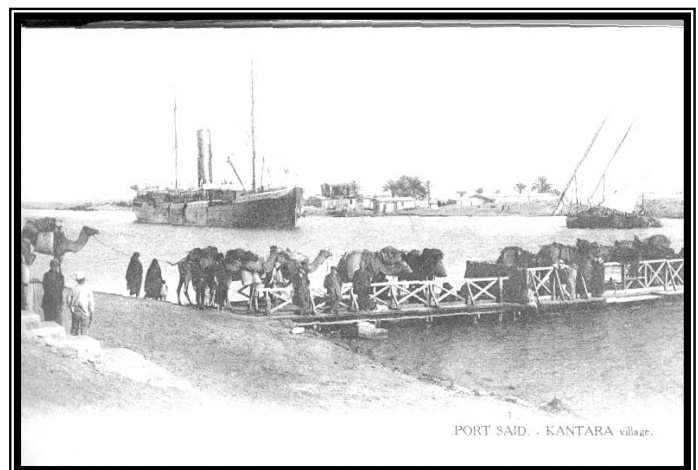


Figure 16: Port Said - at the Kantara village

27.

Gun practice. Letter from Galway.

28.

E.M.A.. took me to afternoon tea at The Canteen. To dressmaker after. Australian mail said to be in.

30.

Went out with S. Graham in afternoon at Belgium Club, & drove to Ferry Post. Saw Charlie. To church with Elsie & Thistle. Mr. Glover called in evening.

1.5.16

Morning off, sorted things to go to Australia.

3.

Went to Duke of Sutherland 's yacht The Kataina, across in a motor launch . Band playing when we arrived. Rec. by Duke, shown by doctor over ship. Boxing.

4.

Took some snaps in p.m.

5.

General Watson expected.

6.

General came in a.m., first we knew of his arrival was that he was there, so for once the hospital seen as it really is.

7.

Morning off. Re tickets.

8.

Left by 6 a.m. train. Major Rosenfield travelled part of way. E.M.A..& I went to Club & then to Miss Conyers. Saw S. Green. Then drove to No3. J.M.H. Andrews & Keys there. Lunch – tea. Saw S. McFadgen & S. Ball, Allen & Proctor. Into Gropkis, and after having snap taken. Saw Col Stawell. To Helmiel in tram, Palace very deserted, not like this time last year when so many wounded were coming in. Drove to Helmiel. Very comf. Gramophone & to bed.

9.

Went to Cairo by train, hundreds of camels. Jacaranda trees in bloom. Met Jim. H & shopped. Barney had lunch with us. Drive in p.m. & then to train. Saw S. Ruth Allan & Heywood. Saw Capt. Steele in train. Motor from Ismailia St. Letters on return.

10.

To Eye Department in a.m.

12.

Busy day. Eyes requiring much attention. Col Crookston called.

12.

Off in a.m. Flamboyant trees coming out. Letter from W. Stewart at Jel-el-Kelin.

14.

Off in p.m. Went to church. Mr. Crookston preached, a fine address, "Sea of glass mingled with fire". Elsie played the hymns, & God Save the King.

15.

On all day. Dwyer very sick. Went & heard the practice for the concert.

16.

S. Bonnilly came on duty. Walk after dinner with E. Bright moonlight very pretty on water. Thistle.

17.

Ag's birthday -

18.

Acted as bridesmaid at Dorothy Moss' wedding, bride & her sister arrived from Suez, luggage late, Mrs. Harris dressed and undressed several time. General Godley gave the bride away – Padre Tape took the service – Lunch at Club. Bridal couple left for Cairo by 2 p.m. train.

Went to concert given by members of No1.A.S.H. Flem sang. Concert held in open. Dark room entrance acted as platform.

19.

Letters from Mother & Click. Click had rec. his letters. Letter from Lambkins, they had 600 beds ready, no patient but expected them at any moment. Doug in theatre. Capt. Smeal came from Suez, looks v. well, all well when he left England. After duty went for drive in Motor Amb, road very fine. S is going. Through Saide St.

20.

Off in p.m. P.C. from Betty, at Rouen. Some sisters at Clearing St. Went with E.M.A.. & S. Menhewitt, afternoon tea at Canteen & drove to Ferry Post. Afterwards called on Miss Clinch, who told us about a native wedding.

21.

Willie Stewart came in p.m. - went to dinner with him after duty. Very hurried as W. had to catch 8.30 p.m. Cooled our coffee & tea with our ice cream. Letters from Home & B.S.

22.

Printed photos in p.m. To dinner at Club with S. Holdsworth, Capt. M & Major Suth.

23.

Letter from Leigh dated May 3rd. Comfortable billeted in France. Young came across, much better after he went to Cairo. Motor drive - Wrote some letters.

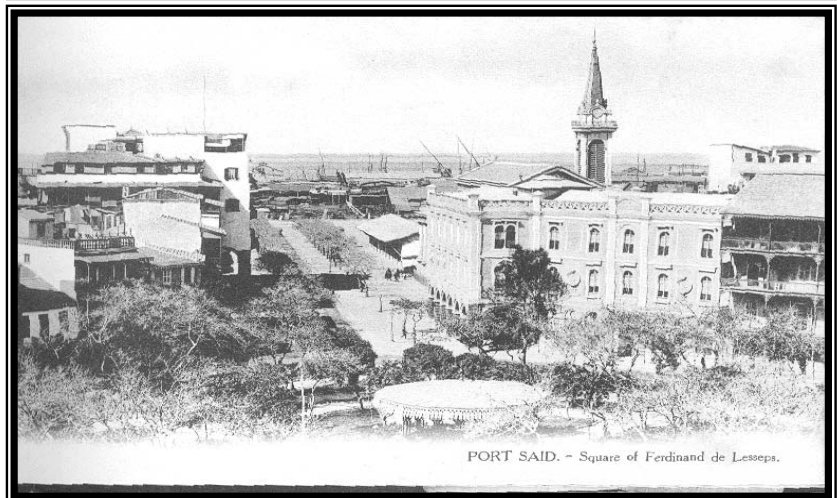
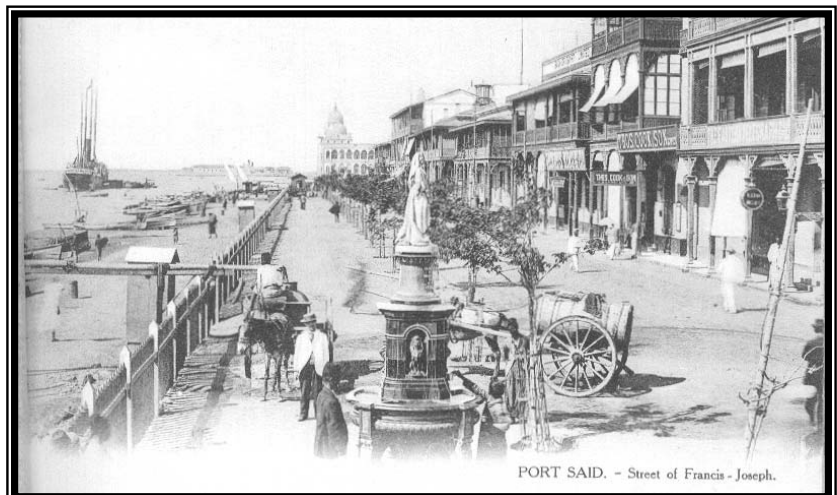


Figure 18: Top: Port Said waterfront shops

Figure 18: Lower: Port Said - Square of Ferdinand de Lesseps

24.

To Port Said by the 10.30a.m train, quite cool travelling. Went to casino for lunch. Little kid with hair cut American fashion. Walked along Breakwater to De Lesseps' Statue. Drove to see where bombs were thrown, not much to see. Visited shops. Afternoon tea at the Exchange. Room brown furnishings, mottoes on wood. Over door "Will ye no come back again." Train journey back & saw a glorious sunset.

Re Lieut. Richards who thought Gallipoli would be one wild rush up the hill & then glory, instead for a month he was road-making at Mudros. Letters from Chris & Jean Simpson when I came back.

25.

On all day. Sgt. Pent brought the copy of his week spent in an Aust. Hosp. Motor drive after dinner. Sister from Suez spent the day here.

26.

Thistle had day off. We went for walk in a.m., lunch at Canteen, very amusing. Took maps of R.B. on our way back. Dr. Bullen called. Night Duty.

28.

Went out with E.M.A. & S. Menhewitt in p.m. 53rd Eng. Div. passed in early a.m. Part of 8th came from F.P. Letters from Geo & Buttons. J's birthday.

Recessional 1897.

God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle-line
Beneath whose awful Hand we hold
Dominion over palm & pine
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget – lest we forget!

The tumult & the shouting dies;
The captains & the kings depart:
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble & a contrite heart.,
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget – lest we forget!

Far-called, our navies melt away
On dune & headland sinks the fire
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh & Tyre!
Judge of the Nations spare us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget!

If drunk with sight of power, we loose,
Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe,
Such boastings as the Gentiles use
Or lesser breeds without the Law –
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget!

For heathen heart that puts her trust
In reeking tube & iron shard
All valiant dust that builds on dust,
And guarding calls not Thee to guard,
For frantic boast & foolish words-
Thy mercy on Thy People, Lord!

1.6.16

Went out with E.M.A..in p.m. Sister Watson very sick.

2.

S. Watson died, all very grieved. S. Deire brought word from Cairo that E.M.A.. Keenan, Munro & Gordon were going on transport duty. Saw Capt. Honman in evening ----- V.D.

Vitai Lampada

There's a breathless hush in the Close tonight
Ten to make & the match to win –
A bumping pitch & a blinding light
An hour to play & the last man in.
And it's not for the sake of a ribboned coat
Or the selfish hope of a season's fame
But his Captain's hand on his shoulder
Play up! Play up! & play the game!

The sand of the desert is sodden red
Red with the wreck of a square that broke;
The Gatling's jammed & the Colonel dead,
And the regiment blind with dust & smoke
The river of death has brimmed its banks
And England's far, & Honour a name,
But the voice of a schoolboy rallies the ranks
Play up! Play up! & play the game!

This is the word that year by year
While in her place the School is set
Everyone of her sons must hear
And none that hears it dare forget
This they all with a joyful mind
Bear through life like a torch in flame,
And falling flings to the hat behind –
Play up! Play up! & play the game!

3.

Elsie, Keenan, Munro & Gordon left by the afternoon train. Bonnily went to Serapum to say goodbye to her brother.

S. Watson buried in afternoon –

7.

Went out with S. Menhewitt in p.m. re the Scotch piper who said he was an Australian. Matron told us at dinner that Kitchener was said to have been drowned.

14.

Wounded from bombs came to hospital.

15.

E.M.A..& others came back from Cairo. E. looks very tired – S. Bonnily off duty with some ear trouble. Went out on lake with Thistle & Mr. Wylde, a good sail. Hear that S. Menhewitt has The Royal Red Cross.

16.

Hear that A.G.D. has Very hot. Wrote letters in p.m. Posted parcels to Click & W.S.

23.
Went for sail on Lake with Thistle & Mr. Wylde, very calm coming back. Staff gave Concert in evening.

25.
Major Gardner not so well, throat. T. high.

26.
Major G. much worse, died in evening. A tragedy. S. Bonnily went on duty.

(Several days missed out here)

9.
Went for sail on Lake with A.K.H. & Mrs. Gregory & Kemp, enjoyed it very much. A quick sail & got rather wet. To church at 6.30 p.m. no music, singing not bad –

10.
Mr Campbell went to base, also 6 others including Mr C or the fat man.

11.
Very quiet. Light out.

12.
Went to afternoon tea with S. Menhewitt, for walk & drive. A very hot day.

15.
Bacheesh night off.

16.
Came off the Night Duty. Went for sail on Lake with A.K.H., the Col. & Mr. G. Came home quite dry. Church 6 p.m. E.M.A. at the piano. The minister knew Dr. Marshallson's son.

17.
Went to Le Cairo with E.M.A. Breakfast at Club. Shopped. Lunch at Shephard's & thought of Leigh. Drove to No.3 and saw Proctor, McFadyen & S. Ball, the last in sick room. Back to Cairo & Ismailia.

18.
Off in p.m. Went in motor amb. For drive.

19.
Went to lecture on mosquitoes by Col. Balfour.

20.
Printed photos & fixed them. Went shopping.

21.
Saw Max Yuille. Marjorie not invalided.

24.
S. Graham & S. Holdsworth went to Alex, nearly missed train.

26.
Printed photos in p.m. Aeroplanes Bristol & deHaviland.

27.

Father's birthday. Capt. W's party. Major Neish, gums in Jamaica. Motor drive to El Feidan. Elsie lost her cap but found it again. Saw some of the 8th L. Horse.

28.

J's birthday. Day off – Letters from home. Granny better, able to sit on verandah. Letter from K. Edwards, Mrs. Mc & B. Biggie better.

Noises heard by one patient at night.
Frogs croaking, Camels groaning,
Dogs barking, Whistles blowing,
Crickets dancing, Trains shunting,
Cats murdering, Syrens sounding
Donkeys braying, Orderlies washing up
& the gentle tread through the wards.

29.

O'Reilly went to Cairo. Sisters for England.

30.

Decided after much thought to go to England. To go forward. Church -----

31.

Patients to Base. S. Campbell & S. Lecly came by 9.00p.m. train, great wondering as to when we will move.

1.8.16

Letters from Bert Baxter & Leigh Stewart, the former not enjoying life. Letter from Leigh Stewart: Hear from sisters are coming tomorrow & Miss Wilson on Thursday, awaiting results.

2.

Printed photos. Given swap of "Pals".

3.

Bombs dropped in early morning, one nearly on S.H.2. Capt. Grant Dalton came in to give us the news. Miss Wilson came, all who volunteered to go to England ---- She was taken motoring in morning & boating in afternoon.

4.

On all day. Went to dinner at Club with Mr Stock Lawsen. Mr. Chanter came in. McD. Stupley, Larkin, R left.

5.

Busy a.m. S.E.M. Smith sick. Fighting said to have begun on Thursday night at midnight----- L. Horse said to be engaged.

6.

Had own photos taken before our departure ----- Told at lunch that wounded were expected, three came to us. Major Mill, Capt. Harris & Mr Gordon, the fist two wounded, action started midnight Thursday – said to be 70000 Turkish prisoners. L.Horse very sorry for their horses.



Figure 19: Companions in Egypt

Heard that Capt. Grant Dalton had attacked four enemy aeroplanes, lost two fingers, shot through ankle & thigh but brought his machine safely to Kantara. Told this by an airman who came in as an O.P. He had been up with Mr. Freeman in the a.m. Motor drive in evening, a halo round the moon.

7.

Busy a.m., patients (7) to Base. Off in p.m., but on call, went on 7 p.m., 5 wounded all to be x-rayed 8.00p.m. Very cheerful. Sister Keith off. Dinner at Club with Capt. Harris & Major Mills, short ghani drive after. Moonlight on Timsah very fine.

8. On in a.m. till the other sisters arrived. Photos taken----- Left by afternoon train, most of the medical staff, Matron, O'R & Deere there to see us off. O'Reilly & Fifi caused great amusement. Went to dinner at Continental with Capt. Snedley & motored back.

9.

To Sick Room, S. Ball came to see me. Hear that we are to sail on Tuesday next. Thistle, Robertson & two others went to Abbassia IV to muse The Turks.

10.

S. Robertson, Larkins, Keenan came in p.m., very happy where they are. Discharged in p.m. Have enjoyed the rest to the full -----Had our hands read, shy, so have missed a lot of pleasure, work never troubled if had to be done & could always forego pleasure for work.

11.

To be ready this evening, then changed to Sat. morning. Went to Cairo with E.M.A.. & Madge, shopped, lunch at Shephard's drove back. Sent cable home "In hospital for two days, quite well now." S. Allan brought me early morning tea in bed -----

12.

Breakfast at 6.30 a.m., left Cairo 10 a.m. , travelled in hosp. train, very comfortable. Orderlies fed us with tea & biscuits, beef tea & chocolate. Arrived Alex. About 1 p.m, went straight on board & thanks to Ninn's advice, got beds near the door. Bess O'R & Rees came down with Mr Campbell allowed off boat. Drove to Gropis & had a tea. Keenan & the pup -----

Drove to Nouza Gardens, as fine as ever, cannias especially----- Came back & had dinner at Majestic. E.M.A., Mr. C, Mr Wynne & self, then drove to boat----- May things turn out well, wherever we go. Very noisy, very little sleep.

13.

Sunday. Up early. Wrote home letter, Bess O'R & Rees came down after we had waited a long while for them. Mr. C. got them passes, he & Mr Wynne came on board & took our letters to post. Letters. Mother. Sailed 1p.m., niggers nearly killed when big gangway fell. Very calm & water smooth.



Figure 20: Anne with patients

Leaving Egypt

14.

Boat drill, very funny appearances in Life belts. Saw one man from “Embden” – Slept part of day. Boys had concert in the evening.

15.

Boat drill. Read and slept.

16.

Sea very smooth. Arrived outer harbour at Malta. Fortification. Small boats came round & boys dived for coins.

17.

Went to Grand harbour, almost land-locked. Valetta. Allowed off in p.m., went with E.M.A.. & Mr Scotland, rowed to shore & went up in lift. Before reaching lift passed under huge archway cut out of rock. Lift 205 ft. high, fare ½ . Fine view on leaving lift, many monuments in gardens. Shopped, rode in carozzi, higher than ghani, one horse. Went to Temple of Bones. Chapel of the Skulls. Went to St. Johns, hangings of rich crimson, glorious shade. Seven chapels, English, Fresh, Italian, German, etc. Paintings on roof by famous Italian painters, depict the life of St. John. A fine picture of the Virgin Mary, necklace of precious stones. King’s chair kept George V. Large silver gates darkened in Napoleon’s time, so as he would not know them to be silver. Altar, lapis lazuli, large silver candle sticks. The Knights of St. John lie buried beneath the floor being composed of thin slabs – Back to the water by the street & step. Some hasty shopping, then ton to a boat & back to the “Kanowna”, reported to O.C. Left Malta 5 p.m. Saw two large troop ships, men boarding one.

18.

Rather rough in a.m. Passed Cape Bond in afternoon & a lighthouse. All the family very sleepy in p.m. E.M.A.. & two others only left on deck. Seeing African coast all day, coast of Morocco. Saw several vessels. Boat drill.

19.

Troop ship said to be going to Salonika came back, on account of submarine.

20.

Church Parade. Convalescents at one end of deck, sisters in double file along deck.

21.

Arrived Gibraltar 2p.m. Rock stands out very clearly. Cement on rock to catch water. Enough water in reservoir to last three years. An Imperial sister came on board, pointed out the hospitals & the old Moorish tower. Three things found on Gib.- Union Jack, a small plant, ape, said to come by a subterranean passage from Ape point in Africa. Several people have tried to pass this passage, several killed. Now forbidden. Three German subs said to have been destroyed by our guns on New Years Eve – Saw Algeisus, Spanish town. Saw old Moorish forts on Morocco coast as we were passing through the straights. A fine sunset, & the glow lasts longer. Passed Cape Trafalgar. Governor’s cottage seen when approaching the Rock.

22.

Boat drill, wrote letters.

23.

Concert in evening.

25.

Passed Ushart about 8 a.m. Our ward the scene of packing during most of the day.

26.

Ship anchored when we awoke. Up early, saw Isle of Wight, Oshome House, Netley, (corridors 1.4 mile long). Arrived Southhampton about noon.



Figure 21: Group of nursing sisters in Port Said
(By permission of the National Library of Australia)