

**1 January 1918 - 1919**

**The Diary of Lieutenant Colonel John Weightman Warden**

**Public Archives of Canada**

**MG-30 E192 LT-Col J.W. Warden File - Diary 1918-1919**

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*(Note: only right hand pages are numbered and all pages are numbered twice ie two page 1s two page 2s etc. The author wrote on both sides of each page and so the page backs are headed in bold and italic with the word "Overleaf" and the page number. The back of the second of two identical page numbers is indicated by the addition of the letter "A" after the number of the overleaf ie "Overleaf 1A". The diary has been transcribed exactly as written with spelling errors and grammatical errors. Where the writing has been illegible a guess at the word is printed in italics inside brackets. Square brackets [ ] have been used to add obvious omissions as per convention. Italics were not used inside square brackets. All italics is additional text not in the diary and has been added by the transcriber. Town names in boxes are to be read vertically bottom to top as the author wrote them. Where a passage is written covering several days, the author wrote vertically ie 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> beside the passage. I have indicated the separation of these dates by } brackets on top of each other to indicate the written bracket the author used but which covered several lines of text in the original. )*

Transcription, I.C.D. Moffat

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**MG 30 E192 LT Col J.W. Warden File - Diary 1918-1919**

**Inside Cover**

Lt Col J.W. Warden DSO  
102<sup>nd</sup> Can. Inf. Batt.  
(North British Columbians)

Opened on: Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1918

Closed on:

Sign of Spools for Loige Camera  
N.C.-6 exps - 3 1/4 X 5 1/2 - 122

Olive Warden  
222 McLaren  
Ottawa

## Facing Page

L Bombay 11 am 25<sup>th</sup> Jan  
Ar. Agra 9 pm 26<sup>th</sup> "  
L " 5 pm 28<sup>th</sup>  
Ar Delhi 10 pm 28<sup>th</sup>  
L " 1.13 am 30<sup>th</sup>  
Ar Cownpor 9 am 30<sup>th</sup>  
L " 1 pm 30<sup>th</sup>  
Ar Lucknow 3 30 pm 30<sup>th</sup>  
L " 9 45 pm 30<sup>th</sup>  
Ar Benares 10 am 1<sup>st</sup> Feb  
L " 3 pm 1<sup>st</sup>  
Ar Calcutta 7 am 2<sup>nd</sup>  
L " 8 30 pm 4<sup>th</sup>  
Ar Bombay 5 pm 5<sup>th</sup>  
L " 3 pm 13<sup>th</sup>  
Ar Colombo 11 am 17<sup>th</sup>

France Jan 1<sup>st</sup>/18      1(*Printed on page*)

Made application for my transfer from Canadian Corp. G.O.C. would not forward it on to Corp Comdt, as he would have to ask for an investigation, & he was not anxious to have one. He (*Odlum (Brig Gen)*) finally asked me if I would let him with-hold it & he would give me leave to England & extend it until I secured a situation myself. (this was after he had offered me a brigade in Eng., a staff appointment with both the Portuguese Army & the new American Army at Paris, also a Govt. situation at home, all of which I refused, as I would not accept anything from him) this I agreed to, this kept him at my H.Q. talking from 8 am till 1.30 pm, he also apologised (sic) very sincerely for the disagreeable way he had acted toward me & my Batt. & tried to dissuad (sic) me from leaving.

### ***Overleaf 1***

2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> spent in support

8<sup>th</sup> volunteered for service with secret mission to the east, in the Caucasus (sic), & interviewed Corp. Comdr. Lt Gen Sir Arthur Currie & Col Byron who was O.C. mission. Corp Comdr consented to my leaving & issued an order for me to be seconded to Imperials. I should never have left the Canadians, but for the fact, I could not stand my Brigadier Gen. Victor Odlum any longer nor Mjr Gen. David Watson Div<sup>1</sup> Comdr. Both very mercenary men & political with Pullens, who used their Comds to make to gain Public notice & repute. Odlum was the most clever schemer of the two. He was working for Watson's job, & was making balls for Watson to fix an order to make him (Watson) unpopular, & Watson was not smart enough to know it, & fixed the balls, a most incompetent (sic) officer, & Odlum is a most avaricious (sic) decoration hunter, as are most of the staff.

9<sup>th</sup> Packed my kit preparatory (sic) to my departure on the morrow.

10<sup>th</sup>

Left my batt. & France for England. 8 am, this is the hardest thing I ever had to do in my life. I have the best Batt. In France, there never were men touer (*sic for tougher*), braver, more loyal, more capable, more loved by CO, the finest fighters. It just about broke my heart, I could not say goodbye to a single one. God, how I loved them. They called themselves "Wardens Warriors" & the rest of the British Army called us, "The Death or Glory Boys" & no Brit was more entitled to the name, I wish them the best of good luck.

11<sup>th</sup>

Reported Argyle House, ordered to report to Col. Byron at Tower.

12

Reported to Col. Byron at London Tower.

13 to} procuring kit & making ready to leave for Mesopotamia. Col. Steel (d?) lectured

28 }us & ou[t]lined our locality & duties

***Overleaf 1(A)***

29<sup>th</sup> Left London from Waterloo station 11 56 am arriving South Hampton 3 pm  
Sailed 4 20 pm arrived Sherborg (sic) France 10 pm. Remained aboard all night.

30 disembarked 7 am. Marched to rest camp

31<sup>st</sup>

entrained 2 30 pm train pulled out 3 pm on first stage of a eight-days run.

Feb 1<sup>st</sup> passing through very pretty scenery S.W. of France, my compartment good, took Capt Murray in with me & also allowed Capt Petrie to sleep on floor during nights. We have quite a band consisting of one accordian (sic) one violin, two bandolines (sic), one fife, one flute, one banjo, one snare drum, one symbles (sic) & Graphaphone (sic). very lively party thus far but do not care for many of the officers and N.C.O.<sup>s</sup>

2(*Printed on page*)

I do not think they are the right kind for the work we are to carry out.

2<sup>nd</sup> Detained at St Germaine for men to get nights rest. As they are crowded & cannot sleep very comfortably, we are issued most delicious American tinned beef. (Bully Beef) from the Americans who are training all along our route. Why do not the British Govt procure good fat tin[n]ed meat.

Rest camp good, went for long walk to top of hill then returned & had nice dinner in company with Lt. Cmdr 2<sup>nd</sup> in Comd of the armoured cars party at an old ladys (sic) house. Went to very nice concert in evening by our own Party.

Entrained 10.30 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Sounds like it too. Bells all ringing, & etc. people dressed in their best & walking to church. How I would love to be walking to church with

## ***Overleaf 2***

my wife & daughters now. It's a glorious Sunday too.

4<sup>th</sup> on the Riviera (sic), beautiful scenery what a beautiful sheet of water the Mediterranean is. Picked up a friend of Capt Gilmour's niece (?) Josephine Bolfe at Cannes. She came as far at (sic) Monacho (sic) (*Monte Carlo?*) crossed the Italian border at 11 pm.

5<sup>th</sup> On Italian Riviera (sic). Very pretty. Trains handled far better here than in France, but they smell strongly of garlic, quaint towns but friendly people, far different from the French, who are not friendly, only so far in so far as they can make money out of you.

We are being hauled by electric engin[e]s, much faster & more powerful than steam & leave no coal smoke in the many tunnels or your compartments.



The Italians are a very homly (sic) & contented also industrious folk & appear quite happy.

6<sup>th</sup>

Passing through the interior of Italy now very level & well tilled no Alps in view, could hear the guns going along the battle front. We passed closer to the front of the Austrians. Haulted (sic) at Faenza for six hours. The A.P.M. Capt Clark was a most unpopular official & very insulting in his remarks. He never had colonials through before & was afraid of them, he must be used to a very rough lot going through. entrained 8 pm cold.

7<sup>th</sup> 7 am on the Adriatic Sea. Calm as a mirror, & beautiful warm sunshine, very pretty scenery running along coast, villages & vineyards nestling under the hills, & the Italian Alps now in view in the background covered with snow, we haulted for lunch at 11 am at Montepagarre, left again at

## Overleaf 2 (A)

one, pm also left Col. Donnan the O.C. Train, so I'm O.C. for the time  
The Proprietress of the hotel where we all lunched asked me to waltz with her, which I  
did, much to the amusement of the others. She was a very beautiful dancer, & she did it  
as a compliment to the British Officers.

Col Donnan overtook us at 6 pm, on a siding; by the mail train.

8<sup>th</sup> Arrived in Brindisi, breakfasted at Europa hotel. Very different people in this part of  
Italy. The South appear to be very poor, & if you do not know values they pile it on &  
cheet (sic) one frightfully, dirty Dogs.

Left 11.45 for our final stopping place Taranto, where we embark on shipboard for  
Alexandr[i]a or Suiz (sic)

Arrived 7 pm with the usual utter confusion in detraining which we have

experienced ever since starting from London. Finally got in quarters & dined, & retired very early.

9<sup>th</sup>

work after a delightful nights sleep, beautiful day went into T[a]ranta, in company with Mr. Johnson (a official especially employed proceeding to India on a secret mission) (*written vertically beside this para "found out he was a fakir later"*) also Lt. Col Smiles. T[a]ranto is a very nice city, the best I have seen since leaving France. Interviewed embarkation officer & secured a first class cabin on Promenade (sic) Deck. Went to Italian opera & listened to some beautiful singing. All Italian.

10<sup>th</sup>

began to embark on SS Malwa at 9 am & managed to get aboard at 5 pm, this day is the limit, for absolute incompetance (sic). I never met the like of the Englishman called officers such as these were here. Each officer had to handle his own baggage, &

### Overleaf 3

the row & chaotic mob while 600 black troops looked on, 100 officers instead of 25 men of a fatigue party. However do we manage to hold our own in this war. For incompetence (sic) & unqualified ignorance of his duties in war, the average (sic) English officer is easily (sic) the winner of first place.

There are 39 nurses on board & a very representative lot, well bred & very well trained, they go to East Africa

11<sup>th</sup>

out on the blue Mediterranean sailed that morning 7 am Lt Gen Jan Smuts just ahead on a destroyer bound for Egypt & Palestine, met him in T[r]anta, first time since 1904 in S.A. he remembered me at once.

This ship is a very comfortable one. Lessons in Russian & Persian also games kill time very fast during the three days

3(Printed on page)

out at sea. Boat drill was very thoroughly rehearsed twice each day, we are beginning to  
12<sup>th</sup> } acquire a very humerous (sic) staff & ships inspection was very rigorously (sic)  
to } carried out by Pistol Pete.

15<sup>th</sup> } Sighted Alex noon, saw Hun subs five miles off shore, passed in O K Docked 4  
PM Col Smiles & I went up town & dined at Savoy Hotel, then went sightseeing, went to  
a show, not very good, got back aboard 11.30 pm

16<sup>th</sup> went to see sights of Alexandr[i]a, visited Kadive Palace then went to the  
catacombes (sic) & saw the remains of the ancients among them "Pharoh, his wife,  
daughter of Moses fame. The gold Bull which was over Pharoahs (sic) tomb all now in  
the museum, Pompaii's Piller, the two Sphinyx (sic), the Roman atter (otter?) & bones of  
Bullocks which

### **Overleaf 3 (A)**

were sacrificed & many old things all thousands of years old, a very quaint town & dirty & just as one read of it in Bible hour, Arabs and Mohammadans (sic), Mosalems (sic) and & their womenfolk with their veils (sic) covering lower half of their faces & others all but their eyes covered. They look very pretty & amorous (sic). The natives are very dirty & the most consummate thieves (sic) liars & swindlers I have ever met.

7 pm nurses left for Cairo

7.30 pm we left for Suiz (sic) we travelled (sic) 6 to 8 in a dirty compartment originally built for 4. Sat up all the way, Arrived 7 am 17<sup>th</sup>

### 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday

Beautiful morning but some disorganization. It surely seems as though the average (sic) English Staff officer or representation of the British Govt & war Office cares absolutely nothing for the men who are doing

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the work, making all the sacrifices, taking all the risks, going through agonies of suffering privations & want, to say nothing of losing (sic) all his property, his health, perhaps his life, & the best years of his life separated from his family & loved ones on the contrary they only care for a soft-job well away from the firing line, help themselves bountifully from stores intended for the poor beggars at the front. Capt Gilmour (Can) & Capt Bray (Russian) left at Alex arrived during the day.

Went straight aboard & had breakfast on S.S. Nile, a very dirty ship, the dirtiest I ever traveled on, sailed at 7 pm as soon as Capts Bray & Gilmour got aboard by tender.

Saw Mt Sinai & Holy Lands in the distance. Also place where Moses is supposed to have stopped the Red Sea & brought the Isarelites (sic) through on dry ground. I think the tide was out at the time.

#### Overleaf 4

Maj. Gen Rees, R.A.M.C. also Brig Gen (*note ditto marks used under "GEN" of Gen Rees*) Woods but he was ordered ashore again for another boat Brig Gen Byron was on board & staff.

18<sup>th</sup> }  
to } oversight of land, delightful weather, language classes all day & bridge tournaments.  
21<sup>st</sup> }

22<sup>nd</sup> Passed the Rocks in Red Sea called Twelve Apostles

Have Lt. Col Bridges and Smiles in my cabin. Fan in the cabin. Not so very hot in Red Sea as I had expected. Wore my winter cloths. Sighted Porirn (sic)(?) and Adan (sic) & passed out of Red Sea into Indian Ocean, or rather the Gulf of Aden, an Arm of the Indian Ocean.

The bar was entered last night by one of the armoured car men assisted by two of the marines, who are on board with us, & stole £41.0.0 & cigarettes & tobacco.



Pistol Pete does not know how to locate them. I found out first thing this morning & reported the matter but he would not act on my information & held an investigation & got no further. I am positive we have many who will make a mess of things for us amongst the inhabitants where we are going. I could have selected a far superior lot of officers & N.C.O.s out of my own battalion alone, but it is only another instance of the laxadasical (sic) way the war office officials fumble along with their duties. There has been no ordered role of speciallists (sic) recruited & when we get there we shall be minus, signallers, quartermasters, clerks, stenographers, blacksmiths, horseshoers, & etc, etc, etc.

23<sup>rd</sup> nil

to

24<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Services by Capt Harris, a Weslean (sic) who was wounded while trying to save a wounded soldier. He was awarded the Military Cross & a wooden leg.

#### Overleaf 4 (A)

Lecture by Capt Bray (Russian) Subject "the Caucasus"

25<sup>th</sup> } Entered the Persian Gulf & we sighted Arabian Coast on left & Persia on right &  
to } such beautiful moonlight in the evening & brilliant phosphorescence the brightest  
26 } I ever saw. We ran by a sea snake, about 15 ft long. Somebody called it a sea  
serpent. The Gulf & Indian Ocean are full of them & they are very poisonous. We  
anchored at an island called at Naf-Sham for coal 4 pm

27<sup>th</sup> Coaled & left for Kuwait at 4.30 pm

28<sup>th</sup> Coal (*cold?*) & breezy some officers are seasick.

March

1<sup>st</sup> Cold windy morning, sighted Kuwait noon, also S.S. Evinpura (*Erinpura?*) which is  
to take us to Basrah. Kuwait is a very good

Turmini for Baghdad Railway. Transhiped (sic) & left Basrah 1 pm. A hospital Transport ship very clean & tidy. Food well cooked & tasty. What a contrast to the S.S. Nile.

2<sup>nd</sup> Passed up river Shat-el-Arab which is the River Tigris & Euphrates in one. They join forces at Kurna (the site of the old Garden of Eden 100 miles upstream) no boat over 18 ft of draught can enter the river owing to a Bar at its mouth. 30 miles up on left bank is the Anglo-Persian oil Co's plant & a mile farther up same side is the Castle of the Sheik of Mahamerah's where he lives. He is the most powerful sheik in Arabia, Mesopotamia or Persia & most friendly to the British. The country is very flat & river banks dyked (called Bunds) all the way. Date Palms growing along its banks, for Arabs living along the river. Passed the three large steamers sunk by the Turks just above the

## Overleaf 5

Sheik's Palace in order to block the river, but our swang (?) down stream before sinking & left the channel clear.

Arrived at Basrah at noon. Plenty of shipping & quite a busy place. A large clean hospital in a sheik's palace. Mud huts & a lot of dirty ragged Arabs, Kurds, Persians running about.

Disembarked 3 pm & were posted in small lots in different places. I was sent with 30 other officers to Medical Reinforcement Depot at McKena, the best quarters of the lot, O.C. & N.C.O.s & few officers went to H.Q. Barracks at Ashura.

3<sup>rd</sup>

Sunday

This seems a very quiet place, plenty of staff & medical officers with nothing to do, all operations seem to have come to an end.

Reported to Q.M. G. Base Lt. Col. Jacobs, a very nice officer of the old school (not many of them left) met Pistol Pete who was still carrying (sic) his revolver. I wonder when he will shed it. The officers call him "Jessie James" The nurses call him "old Beattle Face", but officially he is Transportation Officer. Took tea with Matron-in-Chief for Mesopotamia Miss Jones and her assistant Miss Collins & several other matrons & M.O.s also a few Gen<sup>ls</sup>, met Capt Armstrong from Nelson B.C. of the I.W.T.

4<sup>th</sup> Rained to beat the Drill all day. Went to Ashur & got a suit of Drill. Went to dine on board with Capt Armstrong. Several officers accompanied me. We had a pleasant evening. We had a quiet dance with the nurses on board.

5<sup>th</sup> }  
to } uneventful, rained most of the time, & the whole place  
6<sup>th</sup> }

### **Overleaf 5 (A)**

One sea of mud, & when it rains, no transport is permitted to move on the roads as there is no mettling (sic) & one sinks up to ones knees in muck five minutes after it starts to rain

We were invited to dine with the Sheik of Mahamerah on the occasion of the marriage of his favorite son.

Mar 5. We (about 20 Officers) went down on a boat called the Arab (placed at our disposal by Brig. Gen Hughs, O.C. I.W.T.) about 20 miles below Basrah. We arrived at 7 pm & was met with a burst of brilliant lights on shore & this warship. He met us personally & conducted us to his reception room & introduced us to the son which is the Bridegroom & heir & several other sons. (He has 35 wives & about 100 children) The sons never sit down in their father's presence & the wives & daughters are not

allowed out of the Haram (sic)  
women are merely (sic) for man's use & not a companion here in this country. The Sheik pays no dues to the Shah of Persia, but draws a fat one - £20,000- from England, Hevie (sic) his loyalty. Several other guests were present among them the the (sic) British Consul & wife & several of the officials of the Anglo-Persian Oil Coy & Bank Staff. I however was the principle guest & sat on the Rt hand, the marriage ceremony consists of dinners, native Persian dancers, fireworks, theaters & concerts which go on for weeks, as long as the bride's father cares to keep it up. in case it ends in a day or two after over a month's run, the bride, is a young Virgin 12 years old.

We enjoyed ourselves very much. The Sheik informed me I was the Sheik of Mahamerah & everything he had was mine. I was therefore the possessor of 35 wives just for the night, but

## **Overleaf 6**

I did not get an opportunity to visit them. However I beat him for numbers as I had his 35 & my own one at home.

He waited on me personally & conducted me about his grounds & had two servants following me about with wine & smokes. He would taste the wine first & then hand it to me & light my cigars & hand them back to me to show me everything was okay. After being introduced to all we were ushered into a larger banquet hall which seated about 200 with an illuminated British : "Jack" in one end. Dinner consisted of 12 courses, then we went to see the fireworks which were manufactured on the premises. They were very good. Then we went to the Cinema (sic) show after which we went into the dancing room which has a raised dias.



6 (*Printed on the page*)

All around the sides, & first dancing boys danced, & very good to even better than the girls, which came on after. The dancing was very suggestive (sic), particularly the Turkish musical dancer.

At 2 pm we retired & arrived back at 6 am. Breakfasted & was inspected by Gen. Macmunn. Each day onwards to 16<sup>th</sup> was much the same. Wet nearly vvery day, fine days we went for a paddle in Balhams (sic ?) & went down to the Hospital to afternoon tea with the sisters.

There is no place to ride, drive or walk. Nothing to make roads with. They could dump all the ashes though from the Ry (*railway?*) & steamships & soon would have a fair roadbed; no system or organization, 1000 officers doing about 50 officers work. All running after the nurses joyfully killing time just as they do in India in Peace time. I think the British are the most hapless lot of muddlars (sic) I ever heard of in these outlaying (sic) parts of the Empire.

**Overleaf 6 (A)**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| A | They will not be taught anything. Very happy in their ignorance. The head man in the financial dept. of India is a bred & born German & still they keep him on after all the disgraceful events of this war here & well knowing Germany is behind the unrest in India. My God is there not one man capable & strong enough to rise up like Cromwell & save the Empire |
| R |   |
| S |   |
| A |   |
| B |   |

16<sup>th</sup> Embarked 4 pm on S.B. 89, & pulled into stream & anchored

17<sup>th</sup> St. Patricks (sic) day. We left at 8 am with a barge on either side. River is very sluggish (sic), & with a current of 3 to 6 miles per hour & 20 ft deep from about 20 miles up stream. Officers camped on the open deck & N.C.O.s on on (sic) one of the barges & freight (Iron water tanks)

on the other, there were 9 cabins occupied by the senior officers, we were to cook our own food but finely arranged to have it done by men from the rest camp.

18<sup>th</sup> Passed sight of original Garden of Eden at the confluence of the Rivers Tigris & Euphrates. The village of Qurra now stands on the banks. We were shown what was said to be the tree of knowledge of good & evil, but I think the fruit Adam partook of was produced in Eve's garden, possibly her pea patch. It may have been a very pretty garden then, but only Palms & etc growing now. The river narrows to 100 yds & the boat bumps first one side then the other, & Arab women come along side & sell eggs, butter, fowls & silver trinkets & beg for "Bacsheese" (money). The women are very graceful. They carry everything on their head.

## Overleaf 7

19<sup>th</sup> Passed Ezra's tomb on right bank of Tigris, its large enamel dome rising from an enclosure surrounded with date palms, is very pretty.

There are many ruins of ancient cities built from 3000 to 5000 B.C. They are only large mounds, which resemble large sand dunes (sic) in the Belgium Coast. Very quant (sic) irrigation System in evidence (sic) every 1000 yds or less, over sees two dirty half nude Arabs with a sort of basket on the sag of a doubled rope & they swing it back & forth, that is out over the water & back in over the spillway & as they swing out they drop it a little & fill it with water & on the inward swing dunk it & so it goes on like skipping, but they bail out a lot of water.

7 (*Printed on the page*)

Now we see Arabs plowing with the root of a tree just like they did 5000 B.C. It is made by digging up a small tree with a large root & putting a piece of steel on the point of the root & cut off the tree about 3 ft up & hitch an Ass & a cow together & there you are.

We are now travelling through the oldest part of the world. There are traces giving conclusive proof that there were a highly civilized race of people inhabiting this part of the world 6000 B.C. & long before the dawn of History. This was a flourishing (sic) commercial busy place, now a land of desolation & waist, with wild treacherous nomads & natives ecking (sic) out a living by steeling (sic). They raise a few camels, sheep, cattle & very little grain or vegetables (sic) & carry their products by Mahailas on the river, with a little dyking & irrigation worked out properly, this can be made one of the richest countrys (sic) in the world.

**Overleaf 7 (A)**

20<sup>th</sup> Amara

Stopped to exercise the men at Amara

21<sup>st</sup> } uneventful. Passed earth works when British tried to releave (sic) Kut-el-Amarha  
22<sup>nd</sup> }  
23<sup>rd</sup> }

24<sup>th</sup>

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arrive Kut-el-Amarha where Gen Townsend was captured by Turks. I walked about & visited Gen. Townsend's H.Q. & defences. Saw the monument erected by the Turks (Two miles below Kut) to commemorate the victory of the capture of the British, but the British returned so quickly they did not have time to unvail (sic) it, so we did the unvailing (sic) when we retook it, to commemorate our victory.

Left Kut at 4 pm

25<sup>th</sup>

Stoped (sic) along side bank & cleaned Fires & took men for exercise march.

26 } Usual river scenes. At 4 pm today we landed & walked over the ruins of the ancient  
& } city of Etesephon (St. Stephon) built 600 B.C. The Arch which still stands some 125  
27 } ft & built by the Parthens was interesting.

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28<sup>th</sup> Arrived at Baghdad, or at Hinadi Sta. 15 miles below the city at 8 am & began to settle down. Very hot, we will be very comfortable here.

29<sup>th</sup> } Raining cats & dogs all night. = 6 in water in my tent. All my baggage floating  
to } about. Went to Baghdad to see the city. Built about 2000 years ago. Has a  
31<sup>st</sup> } population of 150,000 & made up of Arabs, Persians, Kurds, Chaldeans,  
Armenians, etc, etc, etc. Dirty, Stintsing (sic) (*stinking?*) City, just the same as  
everywhere else. Women ware (sic) vails (sic) here also, several styles.

## Overleaf 8

Largely mud & sundried brick building. The main st. has been widened by the British & now becomes the Promenade (sic) for all the ladies. Some wear (sic) black Abah all over their face, some only half over, some the married ones wear a gauzy shad over their faces which projects like a sunshade, but the unmarried jeunesses wear (sic) a very thin lace veil (sic) which one can see through & they are very pretty.

They are very sharp with customers in the Bazaars. They will ask you 100<sup>0</sup> percent (sic) above what they expect to get & if you are not informed or familiar (sic) with their tactics they will cheat you. There are every kind of tradesman, making everything by hand & feet as he uses his feet to hold on with as much as his hands. They do very fine work.



April 1<sup>st</sup> } spent in killing time part of our party having gone forward, we got the worst  
to } of culls from the Remounts & nobody could ride them & now we have another  
4 May } lot. Ye Gods

The Indian Administration is surely the place for tired service men. This is the  
convelescent (sic) home for insufficient officialdom of the British Army.

We are nobody's child. Every one is wondering why we came here from France  
& where one party is very anxious to secure the other fellow's job. The result is the  
command does not receive proper attention. It was so with South African Constabulary  
when Gen. Kitchener & Baden-Powel were not pulling together. We suffered badly for a  
year or more.

## Overleaf 8 (A)

The remount officials think it a grand opportunity (sic) to get rid of their old Cocks of horses instead of providing us with the best. As we are going into the wildest part of the country to do & dare & need the best of horses & equipment & men. But in 95 out of every 100 cases it is the reverse. They pushed off the worst officers & N.C.O.s which they wanted to get off. Same with equipment & horses. This G.H.Q. requires to be renovated badly from the top down. On the evening of May 4<sup>th</sup> we entrained for one more leg of the journey. Left at 9 pm changed trains at Bahguba 2 am

5<sup>th</sup> arrived at Ruz 10am. A military depot & supply station, close under the first line of Persian hills. Very pretty here after the tiresome flat country for the last 9 weeks. Its good to see some hills & green

fields

Went to draw our ration of beer & found Capt Richards who was already here when we arrived, had drawn our allotment & drank it all the night before we arrived. He drew 200 bottles of beer, 24 bottles of whiskey & a lot of soda which was for the whole Dunsterville Party of 300 of us & gave some to his advance party of 20 men & consumed or hid remainder. Now that is the style of English & Australian Gentleman we are travelling with. They are not all like this of course.

6<sup>th</sup> } normal camp life. Lost two horses. Sgts on grazing guard were responsible. I  
to } expect they lay down & went to sleep & some of the Cavetry (sic) hereabouts  
8<sup>th</sup> } stole them. Or Arabs. They will loose everything in camp, if they do not wake up  
& make the N.C.O.s do likewise.

## Overleaf 9

- 9<sup>th</sup> Very hot had to come to 3/4 rations day we arrived & this morning we are on 1/2 rations. This is due to poor organization of the transport system. There could be plenty of food & supplies up here if the staff had any ability to organize. I hear it gets worse the further we go forward. Lt. Col Donnan left camp for a run up the line for fifty miles
- 10<sup>th</sup> Mail arrived. What a shout went up on hearing the mail orderly call "mail". I received 3 from home & 9 from France & some papers.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Ye Gods, but its hot. Received orders. We will move forward on 16<sup>th</sup> inst. On foot as no cars are available.

12<sup>th</sup>

Sunday

Spent day in Pyjamas trying to keep from melting. Frightfully hot & flies & mosquitoes are as thick the very air one breathes. One has to cover ones mouth when yawning in order to keep from inhaleing (sic) & swallowing a few doz.

13<sup>th</sup>

Unit I/C officers party on a route march. Started at 3 am returned 8 am. That made 5 hours on an empty stomach which was too long but orders are orders. I think I should march by night, while more up country, to avoid the heat. Starting about 6 pm. Usually

**Overleaf 9 (A)**

Answered all my mail & generally prepared for the move. This is without doubt the hottest day yet.

I

MEMO

Received following memo from C.O. ÷ "the C.O. wishes to know why the party which you were in charge of was so late starting"

X      replied = the party moved off[f] as normally, according to hour of parade.

II      note ÷ C.O's watch was 1/4 hour faster than orderly room times & moved 3.10 ÷ pd 3.30

MEMO      The Comdg Officer needs a report in writing as to the reasons why you did not march the party under your comd. This morning to Kurdarrah & back as laid down in Batt orders no 2 of 12.5.18 Please.

X      Replied - because five to six hours marching was to (sic) far or long without breakfast.

Re  
CO's  
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ion

He is a priceless Ass, if I have ever met one. When I returned I went to C.O.'s tent & reported back & explained that I did not go to Kusdarrah as it was 3 miles further then where we went, which to take at least 2 hrs longer to go & return, & I felt it was too far to take the men on an empty stomach (about 16 miles there & back) & as we had gone two hours hard walking to where we were it would take two to return. & I was of opinion that was sufficient, & he agreed with me & was perfectly satisfied & offered me a drink & an Orange.

14

Capt Roughton D.A & Q.M. G. Dunsterforce arrived from Baghdad by motor. Notified I am to take over charge of Party & proceed by 16<sup>th</sup>. Transport due tomorrow (30 carts & 270 Persian mules) not nearly sufficient.

## **Overleaf 10**

For requirements of Party in my opinion, & I shall report accordingly & ask for 200 more mules. They say the Devil helps those who help themselves.

15<sup>th</sup>

Capt. Roughton left camp to try & secure 200 more mules returned pm & reported he thought he had them. Wired G.H.Q. evening. Reply came giving authority to get the extra mules.

16<sup>th</sup>

Mules will not arrive for several days yet. As we shall not get away for some time.



17<sup>th</sup> Advance Party of Armoured Car arrived. (Lt. Porter). Ballance (sic) to arrive tomorrow.  
Col. Donnan leaves tomorrow with D.A. & Q. M. G. We have secured 1170 additional mules & 10 carts. The first of the armoured cars arrived.

18<sup>th</sup>  
Lt. Col. Donnan left with Capt. Roughton D.A. & Q.M.G.

19<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday  
Col. Left with his party of armoured cars for Hamadan.  
I went as far Kanikin to look over the road. The distance is longer than reported I think. It is not going to be an easy march. Had lunch at 14 Div. H.Q.

**Overleaf 10 (A)**

20<sup>th</sup> Began giving the men & officers early morning exercise & the same in the evening. They will need it badly I think. We have had it very hot 116° in the tente (sic).

Expecting our mules to arrive tomorrow

Called parade tomorrow morning to illustrate mt<sup>l</sup> warfare.

21<sup>st</sup> for officers absent from Parade, light were burning till one o'clock this morning. Discipline very bad. I shall have to make some changes. Adjutant is not strong, & there lies my trouble. Paraded the absentees & told them the next officer or officers who disobeyed my orders would be sent back bag & baggage.

with an adverse report. There is to be no second chance. I'm going to be obeyed or some one will suffer. I also paraded the orderly officer for not attending to his duties & seeing that all lights were out according to orders. Then I relieved the adjt. Of adjt's duties & appointed Capt. Lewis adjt. Shortly after Capt Rogers (the ex adjt) came with a note from M.O. requesting I let he (Rogers) Capts. Robinson & Burbage proceed by a motor if available as they were all sick. I think the only sickness that is troubling them is O.C. sickness as I have relieved them all of their jobs & they are sore, but I am going to have order & discipline or know the reason why. No motor available for them. They may remain behind.

## **Overleaf 11**

21<sup>st</sup> Capt. Rogers took exception to my remark that "I considered the he the adjt was largely responsible for the slackness in camp & poor discipline & asked to be paraded to Gen. Dunsterville. I acceded (sic) to his wish. Later he wrote an application to be forwarded on to the Gen. asking for a investigation which will be duly carried out also poor chap, he must have had several conference in a hurry after being relieved.

22<sup>nd</sup> balance of mules arrived. We shall now leave tomorrow evening. Very hot. Saw some Arabs being flogged for deserting a working party. Terrible dust storm set in 5 am. Cannot see accross (sic) inside closed tent.

Capt. Robinson sent to hospital & struck off

A Russian taken on strength by order G.H.Q. I guess they pushed him off on us to get rid of him.

**Overleaf 11 (A)**

23<sup>rd</sup> Last 33 mules not yet arrived. Cannot get off till they come.

Capt. Rogers left by motor for Hamadan. I gave his application back to him to take to Gen. Dunsterville personally. Horse for Capt. Johns arrived. Capt. Robinson returned from Hospital.

Q. branch 14 Div rang up & ordered me to get balance of mules from the 190 now at Ruz, which are to carry grain to Persia. He did not know whether they had actually arrived here yet.

I sent for them & found they had come & gone again two days ago.

They do not seem to have any organized system of keeping track of their transport.

They wanted me to get out of camp at once (4 pm). It would take 2 hours to have got the mules had they been here & two hours to pack & some to load. I would not do this so then he wanted to get me out in the morning & march in the heat. This I would not do. I told him I would leave tomorrow evening if the mules came today.

They seem to be in an unusual hurry now, after leaving us dilly-dallying about for five months when one month would have landed us here from London, by direct travelling. Everything points to inefficiency and poor organization.

## Overleaf 12

24<sup>th</sup>

Empire Day  
(Thursday)

Received wire from 14<sup>th</sup> Div saying our mules left Kan-I-Ken yesterday at noon. So we shall get away perhaps this evening if they get in early.

Capt. Petrie & his clique of camouflaged gentlemen made the night hideous with their noises. As usual there was plenty to drink. God only knows what Gen. Dunsterville can do with men of their calibre (sic). They are not even fit for N.C.O.s. The Australians are absolutely an undisciplined mob. My experience was the same in South Africa during the Boer War, also in France in the present war.



I think they would make the best fighting material (sic) in the British Empire if they were properly trained, educated & disciplined, both socially morally & there seems to be something radically wrong with their home training.

### Started from RUZ

25<sup>th</sup>

Mules reported in, at last. Will start on our long 300 miles march tonight at six pm to avoid the heat.

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Left 7 pm. One mule died before starting. Forced to leave some 25 mule loads under care of Capt. Gorst (who was convelesening (sic) with bad toe) owing to insufficient number of mules

Arrived at Kis-el-Rabart. Rest camp midnight (12.10 am) & found Capt. Smith & Capt. Tracey with advance party & tents & the

## Overleaf 12 (A)

Cooking utensils had gone on to Stoney (sic) Bridge & drew rations there. We camped & turned in. Distance approx. 14 miles.

26<sup>th</sup>

Sunday

Rations sent for & came OK. Rested during day & left at 6 pm very hot. Lt. Watson left with his lot at 4 pm. Arrived Khanakin 1 to 2.30 am 27<sup>th</sup>.

27<sup>th</sup>

Arrived Khanikin 2.30 am. 7 men fell out & brought in by M.O. It was a very hard march. The officers & N.C.O.s were very tired. The dust was bad & road was very rough. I shall remain here a day to rest.  
10 am. reported in & was ordered to proceed on to Kasi-I-Shirin tonight. The D.A.& Q.M.G. (Col. Marshbank) of 14<sup>th</sup> Div (India Service)

was very dictatorial & disagreeable & authoritative. He would not discuss the point re overloading of transport & refused to allow me any more & refused to allow me to rest the men who are footsore & exhausted. He was exceedingly nasty. I thank Almighty God I'm not an Englishman or Staff Officer. They are (with exceptions of course) the most perfect samples of camouflage I ever saw. They are the very best finished gentlemen to ones face & the reverse behind ones back. I wonder will this war change them as a nation or individually. I do not think so.

Left Khanikin 7 pm. Arrived 5 pm having march 24 miles. The road was very stoney (sic) in places & very dusty in others, also it was only a track or trail. The motor road being much longer. The men are exhausted & the pack animals also. The D.A. & Q.M.G must

**Overleaf 13**

Have felt he was harsh as he called me up & said he would place 10 cars at my disposal for footsore men.

odd  
28<sup>th</sup>

Arrived Kasr-I-Shirin 4.30 am marching from 7 pm. To 4 am. The men came in remarkably well. The cool morning air was most refreshing. Reported to Mjr Todd (Persian Ls of C) Very hot here. I shall rest here till morning of the 30<sup>th</sup>.

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14<sup>th</sup> Div again on the scream. Sent Bd Maj over to know if we were going to proceed tonight. It seems to me I am not under their orders but they must give me protection on the march through their area. They have been very very disageeable & unaccommadating (sic)

I have had to wire ahead to stop my officers from going further on. They are not very considerate. I allowed them to ride from Ruz to Khanikin, as they were not too well. As soon as they got there they told the O.C. they were under orders to proceed to Gen. Dunsterville as quickly as possible & demanded six cars & got them & went on & repeated at each station. If I can catch them by wire they will not get much further that is certain. One would expect an officer to play the game.

Mjr Todd called & gave us instructions re our march. These are the first real clear definitive orders we have received.

**Overleaf 13 (A)**

29<sup>th</sup> went for a swim in the Ab-I-Eloend (?) River. Cool & very refreshing. Marched off 7.30 pm. Road was very good & the night cool. Men came along splendidly.

30<sup>th</sup> Arrived "Seripus" 1.30 am. Six hours marching sixteen miles. Very good indeed. My staff are not equal to the task. & they are very selfish. I cannot get reports & only disagreeable manners from them. I wish this was a Bat. I would cashier them.

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Seripus is a very good camping ground with plenty of good water & fish.

Am a bit off colour today. Drank too much water yesterday.

31<sup>st</sup>

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left camp at 8 am. & marched to Surkhadiza-Khan, two mile east of Taktigar pass (which was a heavy climb as we rose 1500 ft in two miles). 17 miles covered. This was our first march during the day, having had half the night of 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> so all had a fair rest. This place is a good camping ground. Plenty of good cold water.

Picked up balance of our freight which we left behind at Ruz & Kasi-Shirin & which was forwarded on to us by 14<sup>th</sup> Div.

## Overleaf 14

June 1<sup>st</sup>

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Marched off at 8 am. Uphill for about 6 miles then came on a beautiful plain & camped. A Karind 8 miles further on. This was 14 or 15 miles.

First part very stoney (sic), latter portion good.

Very nice camp sight but very stoney (sic). Very cool & delightfully restful after the very exhausting heat of the lower country.

Plenty of water & good fishing. Fish were of excellent quality like trout.

Town built in the Gorge & a filthy dirty place full of Typhus fever.

2<sup>nd</sup>

Sunday

Rested today.



3<sup>rd</sup> Marched off at 8 am. to Khorasabad 14 miles. Good road men marched well (7 fell out). Capts Gwatin & Campbell missed camp & went on to next camping sight. (12 miles) & returned 3 pm. Very good camping ground. Water fair about 1/2 mile from camp.

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4<sup>th</sup> Marched off 7.15. Made a quick get away this morning. Good road. We arrived 11.30 at Kharunabad. Good camp sight but the water was shut off by the

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**Overleaf 14 (A)**

Native tribes on E. side of Road up in the hills. Also cut our telephone (sic) wire. Putting on a strong guard tonight. Taking no chances.

5<sup>th</sup> Marched off 7.15 am. No water. Still cut off; cart transport went around by motor road & mule transport by short trail. Cuts off 8 miles. Mules arrived at Chenar-Zehab 1130 am, carts 2.15 pm. This just through the pass 8 miles beyond the hault(sic) specified in orders. The hault (sic) ordered had not enough water & left 24 miles for next days march. So I went on through the

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pass & found abundeness (sic) of water & good camp sight on eastern slopes of range. Lt. Watson shot 5 partridge here. Major Sutter was sniped at 3 miles from camp by some hillsmen & I also when I rode out to reconnoitre (sic). I had a nasty close call. My swift Arab horse saved me. These hill tribesmen are poor sportsmen.

6<sup>th</sup>

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marched off 7 am. The road was very good. Our halt (sic) for today was ordered to be 3 miles beyond the village of Mahadast but no water at all. Went 8 miles further on & found water just at foot of pass leading into Kerminshaw. Camped there. Water not too good or plentiful but could easily be conserved and made into good camp sight there a good spring near rest houses.

## Overleaf 15

More troubles over meat rations. I think they are trying to get at Major Suttor, who is prone to talk too much.

We shall make Kerminshaw tomorrow. Officers & N.C.O.s are badly in need of a rest. We have now marched 175 miles in 13 days & on iron rations at that. We were supposed to be able to purchase plenty of food but absolutely nothing but goats can be had. & the native people are dying of starvation by the road sides. Its (sic) a pitiful sight to see them come & beg for food & one has to refuse owing to shortage of rations. & we have been on  $\frac{1}{2}$  rations for (*unreadable word*) month.

7<sup>th</sup>

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moved off at 7 am. Very steep climb for about a mile. A raise of about 500 feet then down grade all the way to Kerminshaw. Eight – miles march arrived 10 am. by short cut which saved six miles. Very nice camp. Town is out of bounds owing to Typhus fever & other deseases (sic). Reported to Col Copper I/C here. He wanted me to proceed as soon as possible, but I will take four days here to rest the troops who are footsore & the animals need shoeing & men's boots must be repaired.

Kerminshaw is as dirty as all the other towns. Worse I think, one can count from five to 20 corpse (sic) laying in the bazzars (sic) almost every day. & our food being obtained from these same places.

**Overleaf 15 (A)**

They die of starvation & fever. Met Maj. Gen. Thompson Comdg 14<sup>th</sup> Div, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corp Cmdr Lt. Gen Fenshaw arrives tomorrow. They seem to be on a trip of inspection (Cooks Tourists).

All Canadian Officers were invited to tea at the American Mission with Rev & Mrs, Stead. We had a most delicious tea & cakes. First since leaving Eng. Six months ago. They were very nice. Mrs. Stead is from Nova Scotia (Canadian). Mr. Stead is an American. A Miss Cawdon is there also. An American.

8<sup>th</sup> This has been a real day of rest. Every one sleeping nearly through the whole day. We are purchessing (sic) our food now. It consists of mutton, suttice (?) (*suthie*) (*luthie*)(?), rice, tea, native cheese, Chupatties (made from black native flour). Its (sic) not very filling but the best that can be obtained. All Canadian N.C.O.s were invited to tea at the American Mission today,

9<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday Another day of peaceful rest  
Gen Beckeroff (sic) C in C of the Russian army in these parts called & had tea . Rev & Mrs Stead also called & took tea. Then held religious services.

## Overleaf 16

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Went for ride to see the carvings on the rocks at Takibuistan. About seven miles north of Kerminshaw under the side of the mountain. A most wonderful piece of work performed 400 A.D. Consists of figures, hunting scenes (stags & Boars) also the King of Persia of that date & many other figures. Cherubims & Angels & etc & a stream of pure water coming out from under the rocks. About a 100,000 cubic feet per minute. A underground river. Delicious drinking water. Here is where the camp should be & not in the town.



11<sup>th</sup> moved off on the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of our march to Hamadan at 2 pm. In order to devide (sic) our long march tomorrow. We marched 5 miles today 18 tomorrow. Mrs Stead came to breakfast & brought me some bread. Camped about 4 miles out side the town. Plenty of water.  
Major Suttor returned at 1 am. (12<sup>th</sup>) & reported having been chased into camp by tribesmen. He is a daft coward & N.G.

12<sup>th</sup> Marched off [f] 7 am. A very long march. Arrived at Bihistan 2.30 pm. The meat ration was small. There was deliciously cold spring water in abundance here. A very fine camping sight.

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**Overleaf 16 (A)**

13<sup>th</sup>    Marched off 7 am. This developed into a long march also. We arrived in camp 3 pm. All very exhausted. I personally was also, as I gave my horse to Capt Robertson who was exhausted. He is not a strong man & should never come on this expedition. & there are a number of officers like him. Each with some weakness or old wound which bothers them. & others who are “swinging the lead”. (as they call those who could carry on & who pretend they cannot nearly to get a ride.) They are not good for this job. This camp sight – (Sheneh is not a good one but as water

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had to be considered, there was no other suitable sight available. Meny (sic) men with sore feet & Dyheriah (sic) (or Desintry (sic)). Then the rations were scarce & poor. The Chapatties were uneatable (sic) all mildewed & sour. Made from bad wheat with straw ground up in it. All musty like. Had a great many complaints from officers. Men have not made any yet. I tried to secure more & better but could not. I am getting no help from any officer. All are complaining & helping to add to my difficulties.

## Overleaf 17

14<sup>th</sup> Marched 7 am. with over 50 footsore on mules & horses. This was reported as a 16 mile march but it is 20 miles if it is a foot & one of the hardest. A steep pass to cross & the whole road gravelly. Arrived at Kanqaver 4 pm. All ranks very much exhausted & foot sore. Plenty of rations were available but we have to supply or rather provide ourselves with four days rations, as no more are available this side of Hamadan.

This is not a good camp sight, but may be improved by cleaning up stone & increasing water supply. The usual nonsensical complaints, such as "saying they had Goat meat & it was the fo[u]rth day running they had had it & it

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was good fat mutton all the while.” This is one of many such ridiculous complaints. I’m getting rather tired of them. Am going to stop it.

Leg X trouble



15<sup>th</sup> marched off 7 am. good road and a short march of 14 miles. Arrived at 11.30 am at Assadabad. The day was very hot & all ranks very fatigued. My old leg (right, back of calf) trouble began to trouble me again. I wonder what it is, a sprain or Rhumatism (sic) or from my old wound. No Dr. can tell me what it is. It comes & goes.

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**Overleaf 17 (A)**

But it worries me some. I was told by one Dr he thought it was a touch of phlybitis (sic) (or flea-bite-us) spelled phonetically. I hope he is wrong. This is a very nice camp sight & plenty of water. There is a good spring about a mile back, for drinking purposes. Plenty of grazing for animals & nice grass to camp on. Everyone quite happy tonight. Plenty of rations.

16<sup>th</sup>

Sunday

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Marched off 7 am. good road. Arrived at Zachia (just at foot of pass called Pituck) at 11 am. A very poor camp sight for large party. No grazing but plenty of good water for animals & good spring for drinking.

men wanted me to open or tap one of the barrels of rum, but I will not do so, as they do not require it. My leg seems O.K. again very strange what it is.

I must warn the guard to keep a sharp watch on those barrels of rum, as some thirsty beggar may try the straw trick on them. Capt Gorst passed us here with baggage left at Ruz in his car. Will arrive Hamadan today.

17<sup>th</sup>

Marched off [f] 7am. The Pass is a very heavy grade but a well made road helped. Came along well. Arrived at 1 pm. Good camp sight. Villiage (sic) headman was very kind & friendly & gave us good supplies.

**Overleaf 18**

17<sup>th</sup> con

Capt<sup>s</sup>. Searry & Van de Veld tried to get at the rum last night, but the Sgt on guard stopped them. They are a nice lot to send out on a task that calls for trust & honour. I would have them & one or two more cashiered. They never should have had Com<sup>s</sup>.

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Capt Griffith came out with a car from Hamadan for me. Handed over to Maj Hunt & left.

Very bad road from here in to Hamadan about the worst we have met with.

Dinned (sic) with Gen Byron after having had tea with Mr. McMurry the bank Mgr.

Warned to be ready to proceed to (GHQ) at once as soon as transportation is available to take over Commandants



17<sup>th</sup> con

duties temperarily (sic). I must carefully select an adjt. & quartermaster, do (?) sgt & orderly room clerk.

This city seems to be quite a pretty place. About 80,000 inhabitants, but one dare not go about without a revolver, & its unhealthy to go to town alone. Groups or parties are much more to ones liking. Also the average Persian is a masterpiece at stealing & one must go to sleep with the first finger on the trigger of ones (sic) revolver in order to save ones (sic) kit. Col Donnan lost his kit & revolver last night. The beggars will have to go some to get any of mine. Dined with Gen Byron. He looks poorly.

**Overleaf 18 (A)**

18<sup>th</sup>

went down to Col Donnans (sic) office to get a pointer on L of C<sup>s</sup> duties & also Comd<sup>s</sup>. Not much to learn. I shall have to pick it up. Warned to be ready to leave for G.H.Q. Kasvin 4 am. tomorrow & take an Adj. Q.M. Q.M Sgt, Orderly Room Clerk & four other N.C.O.s with me. I am to be Commandant at G.H.Q., taking over from Major Hay. Have taken Capt McVilly "the Australian Oarsman" (world Champion) for Adj. & Capt Render for Q.M. Could not get my kit together (sic). It promptly got lost as soon as I left it. Warned I cannot take more than fifty lbs of kit with me, but I'll take my bed & tent at least. I'll bet I could take it all if I only knew the piticularys (sic)

or the transport & etc. This red tape is simply killing our efficiency. If we only had a staff running the army half as efficient as the Germans we should have had them whipped long ago. It deserves to be immortalized (sic) by Rudyard Kipling. Retired to bed 1.30 am (19<sup>th</sup>)

19<sup>th</sup>

up at 4 am. again to catch car going off at 6 am. It did not come along till 8 am. & then I found I could have taken all my kit if I had brought it along.

We came through very prosperous (sic) looking country for some miles. The road was good all the way.

## Overleaf 19

To Kasvin. Halted for the night at toll station kept by Russian. Very pretty place. There are hot mineral springs & baths here a sort of health resort.

20<sup>th</sup>

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Started at 8 am. arrived 3 pm at Kasvin. The time is two hours faster here by Gen Dunstervilles (sic) orders, as a daylight saving arrangement.

Reported to Gen. Dunsterville.

Went to billets. Met Maj Hay who wanted to hand over before I had lunch. He knows a few old soldiers tricks anyway.

This town seems to be a very nice place. Seems to be plenty of food for sale. Some very nice residences & gardens.

21<sup>st</sup>

had my first nights rest for over two months & feel like a boy. Called on the Paymaster & drew my two months pay & sent it to Cox's to deposit to my acct. Maj Hay handed over his duties this pm. & Gen Dunsterville called & took Capt McVilly & myself out & showed us around town & gave me some idia (sic) of my duties. He is a genial old soul. I think I shall like him very much.

Dined with him at 10 pm. He is a very genial officer. I think I shall like him. He has a very social staff about him & kindly also.

**Overleaf 19 (A)**

Its (sic) a indication that a Comdg Officer is a good & capable one & fair judge of human nature when he sectects (sic)(*selects*) capable & popular assistants.

Capt Seawright arrived.

22<sup>nd</sup>

day occupied familiarizing (sic) myself with the town & getting furnature (sic) for the offices & living quarters. Prices are high, one table & two benches cost 20 tomans (about \$35.00 & at home would cost about \$2.00). Its (sic) going to break me here on this job. Met the Chief of Persian Police, A fine looking man & extremely pleasing in his manner. Says he has to be very careful as his Govt. will not allow him to do anything for either the British or Huns,

as they do not yet know who is winning they are a poor outfit. One Batt would whip the whole lot of them in a fight  
The town is not so bad as most of them I have seen in Mesopotamia or Persia & is one of the most important centers (sic), as all roads lead through here.

23<sup>rd</sup>

Sunday

made a tour of all the city gates, there are (8) eight of them & quite pretty. I must place guards on all of them. Will take tea with the Russian Consol (sic) (*Consul?*) this evening. Very quiet here. A sniper takes a shot at you once in a while but they are rotten shots. It is so very

## Overleaf 20

Tame as compared to the war. Now & then a man is killed but nothing to keep up excitement. I am frightfully bored. I hope I shall get home before long or back to France, where things are moving. Col Gibbons called & reported for billets.

24<sup>th</sup>

Very busy hunting billets all day, and generally organizing the Administrative Commandant's (sic) staff & office. I expect I shall just about get it going good when I shall be sent on fa[r]ther. General addressed all the officers here at my H.Q. tonight.



25<sup>th</sup> ordinary day of Routine. Major Hunt arrived. He is to understudy me with view to taking over from me or some other town.

26<sup>th</sup> Large convoy accompanied the General to Enzeli. Capt Seawright went along too.

**Overleaf 20 (A)**

27<sup>th</sup> located new quarters for myself as there is not enough room for both of us (Supplies & Comdt). Capt Ross is acting as Billiting (sic) Officer until I get another one.

28<sup>th</sup> Ordered two shirts which cost 150 K<sup>s</sup> (£5.10.6 or \$25.50). That is going some when at home they would cost me \$8.00 at the most for A.1. shirts. Everything in proportion. I am loosing (sic) money here like anything. I think about £60.0.0 per month.

this through loss of Command pay & allowances & the extra cost of living. I'm sick of the whole business. I do not think we shall get to the Cacausus at all. The British War Office "as usual" are behind time. We should have been sent here last August or July, a year ago & even now they will not help us. They want to know "why" & "please state your reasons for wanting so & so". Oh! They make me sick & tired. They are such a muddling lot. They are nice socially but poor business managers except in their old groov[e] made thousands of years ago. They are living in the past. Glory & deeds of their great ancestors, but they will get a nasty knock soon if they do not wake up & take a lick of advice from some colonial cousins. & that they never will do. They

## Overleaf 21

are to[o] Pigheaded & stubborn & conceited in their own history & ability. Its (sic) a good job their forefathers made their history & made the British Empire Great for the present generation could not. They are not made of the same material but their womenfolk are unbeatable, far more capable than the men. The men do not respect their womenfolk enough. They are artific[i]ally polite towards them. Of course there are exceptions, but as an empire they are going to Hell fast. Or to decay if you will.

29<sup>th</sup>

Moved to my new billits (sic) this morning. Not to[o] bad. Could be better of course. Capt Jackson, mess sec bal. My act & charged me 131 K.<sup>s</sup> for nine days (14-5 K.<sup>s</sup> per day). Sent Genl<sup>s</sup> letter to H.Q. brought from Hamada & should have delivered at once. I was an ass to forget it.

30<sup>th</sup>

Began familiarizing myself with my duties. This is not the work I left France for. This will ultimately turn out a second Jamieson Raid affair, I still think there is no unity or coordination of action between the G.O.C. Dunsterforce & the C in C Baghdad. In fact Baghdad seems to

**Overleaf 21 (A)**

put all possible obstacles in Gen Dunsterville[‘s] way. Although the Gen will not admit it, it is patant (sic) to everyone.

July 1<sup>st</sup>

to

9<sup>th</sup>

These last few days were ordinary with no unusual occurrences except that there were three deaths from cholera. I read the service in each case. This is only what I told H.Q. would occur from the fact there was no proper care of sanitation. No supervision of water supply, or food or latrines. Now the A.D.M.S.&M.O. are flying around & making sug[g]estions which I told them the second day I was

here should be done. They have been (& I also until I investigated the source of our supply of drinking water) drinking water which natives have been washing the dead in. Also their dirty clothes & they even relieve nature in these water courses & then wash their private parts. All kinds of rotten deceased [*diseased*] filth is constantly being deposited in these water courses which supply water for the town. It is no wonder cholera, typhus, plague & all manner of vile decease (sic) break out in all these countries from time to time. They are so damnably rotten dirty. Ye Gods, I shall be glad when I get out of this country if the Almighty permits me. The Persian is a born thief & is deceitful to a

**Overleaf 22**

1<sup>st</sup>

to

9<sup>th</sup>

con.

Degree, & even murder. The longer I remain here the more the Bible seems a mythical book. These people are so full of Holy Superstition & they have many legends of happenings of a religious nature which are the most ludicrously insane impossibilities & to think we are still taking these superstitions as our articles of faith. I cannot easily swallow it.

Sunday

I believe there is a Supreme Being. One who rules the universe, but I cannot get any further at present. The conclusive proof that Christ was on earth in Palestine only 2000 years ago seems not in sufficient evidence

The 7<sup>th</sup>



since they have the proofs of things & peoples 5000 years earlier (B.C.) why are there not some one conclusive relic of the Christ or his deciples (sic) preserved & recorded. I trust no one will be persuaded or influenced by these notes. They are only my leasure (sic) thoughts when trying to analyse (sic) these things. I hope & pray I shall rest in peace at the end of my earthly life. My religion is my dear old mother's as she taught me when a boy at home, & that is the "Golden Rule" (Do unto others as ye would that others would do unto you, do ye even so unto them) if I do that I shall be as good a Christian as the most of the world. I think I'm going mad. I am having a little trouble with my bowels

**Overleaf 22 (A)**

but seem better again. Everyone is having this trouble.  
Lt. Col Rawlinson, a Bro of Gen Sir Henry Rawlinson, arrived in Kasvin  
& I billited (sic) him with me. He's got the "Dhulia Tak" or as the yankee  
says "He's sure bughouse". Just another misfit sent to some outlaying  
point of the Empire to get rid of him.

10<sup>th</sup>

to

13<sup>th</sup>

Cholera has broken out again. Some deaths. Nothing of interest to record.

14<sup>th</sup>

Sunday

Sunday is as every other day here only that we have a record of it. One would never know what day it is, or month & I think even the year.

## Overleaf 23

15<sup>th</sup>

to

20<sup>th</sup>

The days go monotonously (sic) by & one wonders why one[']s days are to be spent this way away from ones dear ones at home. War is truly a cruel thing. I wonder what part in it the Almighty plays. Some say he orders it & some that He permits it. I wonder which?

War

Clouds

The Jungaliese under Kuchik Khan attacked Resht today. They were reported 1500 strong & succeeded in taking the city except the Bank Premiere where our men are still holding out. We had one officer of the 1/4 Hants killed & fifty wounded while we have counted over 125 dead of theirs laying about insight & there

are many out of sight. Besides the number wounded so he paid well for it & we will make him pay a lot more for interest.

The President of the Bolshevicks (sic) from Baku arrived here from Resht today. I wonder what is on now.

Officially G.H.Q. is dead. G.O.C. is away in Baghdad. The Q.M.G.- 1 is in Hamadan, the D.A.Q.M.G. – 2 is sick. The G.S.O. 1 is sick & all the Staff is ill including the A.D.M.S.&S.M.D. & they have never organized a medical outfit here. Only the Armoured Cars Medical Staff are the only outfit here. Had they not come we would be without any medical assistance.

I never saw anything to equal this Dunsterville Expedition. No organization & out 600 miles from our base. Good road & plenty of cars & petrol to be had from Baghdad. There are over 6000 to 8000 cars out here.

### Overleaf 23 (A)

Yet here we are with about 300 to 500 cars , & half of them out of action through breakages & all without petrol & we cannot move. & G.H.Q. Baghdad will not do anything except refuse everything asked for. Had a row with a priest or mullah last night. He was praying for the people during this "Fast of Ramhadam" & I was trying to sleep. He was shouting & I did not know it was a very religious affair. & I took my interpretor (sic) & asked him what that damn fool was shouting about, & he said "He is praising & praying to his God". I had my revolver in my hand & I said "well you tell him if he does not shut up & get out of here I'll send him so close to his God he'll only need to whisper". I was very angry. So the mullah lelf (*left*) . I was sorry afterwards as I did not know it was a religious ceremony.

21<sup>st</sup>

Sunday

Perfectly quiet day. No further news of Resht.

22<sup>nd</sup>

Everybody seems to have had a very enjoyable time at Resht. They killed over 200 Jungaliense & have been bombing every day since.

The month has been spent in ordinary routine work. Many soldiers coming & going.

31<sup>st</sup>

I handed over my duties to Mjr Darrell & warned to stand by for Baku. It is a queer situation. The Turk is in precepts (sic) (precincts?) of town & the Bolsheviks are now afraid of him & have asked us to come & help them.

## Overleaf 24

Aug 1<sup>st</sup>

This is the most disorganized show I have ever been on. Gen. Dunsterville has not the vaguest idea of organization, & most of his Staff is worse. I am sure that unless G.H.Q. Baghdad takes hold of us, we shall be in a mess this winter. Supplies & food, transportation & etc. Then we shall require plenty of ammunition & medical stores & personell (sic). I am getting very worried. I do not mind fighting if I have a chance, but I object to being forced into committing suside (sic) (*suicide*).

This is the biggest game of Bluff I ever saw played.



Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>

to

Aug 28<sup>th</sup>

Time drags on very slowly. I wander about aimlessly & ride out evenings with Capt McVilly my Adj. He is a champion sport & good fellow, thoroughly efficient & resolute. I would place every confidence in him.

Gen. Dunsterville has gone to Baku & is sailing about the lake (Caspian Sea) on a pleasure trip. Got fired at by the Bolshevicks (sic) gunboat & fled back to Kazian for guns. Lt. Col Keyworth is in Comd at Baku. (Ye Gods & Little Fishes). I fell ill with sandfly fever & got left behind. Have been ill now for two weeks. I feel very badly. I wish they would send me back to my unit in France. I hate to be loafing here when I could

**Overleaf 24 (A)**

[be] doing plenty there. & this is a sort of second Jamieson Raid affair. & will fail through bad organization like Jamieson did. Englishman always seem to finally get there but they always pay a high figure & blunder well first. They are the limit for muddling.

Money is being thrown away like water. They invariably pay more for anything they are purchasing (sic) than the seller asks. Just to make good fellows of themselves at Govt. expence (sic) & I would not be surprised if a little rakeoff was the order of the day.

Aug 28<sup>th</sup>

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Left Kasvin for Baku via Kazian. Beautiful ride of 105 miles through magnificent scenery, a mountain pass over 100 miles long with deep gorges & the Rd cut out of the sides of the rocks in places.

Resht was very pretty with rich vegetation (sic) & crops. It is 50 ft below sea level & Caspian Sea is 86 ft below or 100 perhaps.

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Kazian & Enzalei are very nicely situated on the shore & quite pretty. Enzalie is still full of Kutcha Khan's robbers & most unfriendly although I went over & walked all over the town unarmed. An arm of the sea 500 yds wide seperates (sic) Enzalie from Kazian. I walked along beach with Mjr Whitmarsh & we saw many men & women in bathing together without bathing suits on. Some sight I assure you

**Overleaf 25**

Aug 29<sup>th</sup>

left for Baku 8 pm. Had a delightful trip. Only I was feeling very ill.  
Arrived Baku 7 pm. 30<sup>th</sup>

Aug 30<sup>th</sup>

Arrived Baku 7 pm. Very fine city under electric lights at least. Put up at Hotel Metropole.

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Aug 31<sup>st</sup>

Reported to Gen Dunsterville & then went for a walk in city.  
Baku is a well built city of stone mostly & well lighted. Has some fine churches, clubs & public buildings & is a very rich town. Private houses are gorgeously furnished & everyone dresses with excellent taste & especially the women, who are mostly Armanians (sic) & they are rotters. The men I mean.

I do not blame the Turks for killing them off. They are worse than the Jews or Bolsheviks. They will not fight nor defend their women folks or children (who are very pretty). They are cowards but they will get controal (sic) & fleece one & all out of every cent one has even while the Turks are drawing their knives at the door to cut their throats. They have controal (sic) here are grafting on a large scale. They represent they have 45,000 men in the line & draw rations for 70,000 saying the balance are in town in reserve. When they only have about 3000 all told & pay is draw[n] accordingly also & clothing. The balance is easily disposed of to civilians for a consideration without a doubt.

**Overleaf 25 (A)**

Sept 1<sup>st</sup>

to

Sept 5<sup>th</sup>

I am appointed to be Inspector General of the Russian & Armanian (sic) armies. (Which is a Lt.Gen<sup>s</sup> grade). Some Job. I am responsible for the disposition, defences. M.[achine] Guns, equipment, discipline, clothing, moral, & anything else one might mention in the military line.

I have no Staff of course. Capt Robinson the most useless man in the whole Force is attached to me as Staff Officer. My good gracious what am I to come to next.

Each other Senior Officer has a Ford Touring Car & others a Ford van, but I am not to have any at all still I have a front line 30 miles long & the nearest part to the H.Q is 3 miles. It is impossible to walk & get anywhere in a day & yet the Staff keep their cars & never go out anywhere. I am now walking over

26(*printed on page*)

twenty miles every day. Of course that is good for my health but not for the accomplishment of my many duties. If I were of the Indian Services, I could get anything but being a Colonial, I am of no account in their opinion.

**Overleaf 26**

Sept 6<sup>th</sup>

to

Sept 13<sup>th</sup>

The Turk made a very determined attack & drove us in. The Russians & Armanians (sic) ran away. The 39<sup>th</sup> Bde made a frightful mess of things. No organization or any preparation though they saw the Turks massing for 3 days in front of them. Out total casualties were  
Now we are in a beautiful mess. Gen. Dunsterville on coming here should have taken charge & made all parties obey his order & they would have fall[en] into line without a word, but he has done nothing & is not I/C here & we are of all things, working under the Russian workman's orders "the damned illerate (sic) (*illiterate*) peasant who has been the cause of Russia['s] downfall & the cause for keeping me & millions of others at war for over two years now.



longer than necessary, had they remained loyal to the cause. We are having an opportunity to observe the results of Socialism having its own unlimited way & authority. No human being could imagine (sic) the chaos which exists here, if they did not see it & try to work with these fools.

Arab officer with Turks deserted & came to us. Gave a lot of first hand information. Said Turks were going to attack tomorrow morning about 4 am. near the Wolf's Gate on our left flank. That there were only about 7000 A.1. Turks & balance of about 5000 were local Tartars (sic). That they had brought up 10 new big field guns (6") & a few cavalry (sic), that our defence line was a first class one & hard to take. If our troops would fight, but Turks [k]new that Armanians (sic) would run & that there were not many of us.

The Staff knowing all this did nothing to meet the situation tonight at least. I cannot move anyone.

**Overleaf 26 (A)**

Sept 14<sup>th</sup>      Turks attack (sic) 4 am. as deserter said & at the very place he mentioned. I did not know anything about it till 6 am. when an orderly came to my room & said Col Keyworth wished to see me. I heard the guns & firing & asked what was up & orderly said Turks were coming. Keyworth ordered me to go up to firing line & reorganize the Russian & Armanian (sic) troops as he had heard they were not holding their ground & was running away. That the attack (sic) had started 4 am. but he had not received any reports from anyone yet. Two hours after battle started & I was told afterwards all the Staff was still in bed. I went up to Soleansky Barraks (sic) & found the Russian Brigd Comdr tearing his hair & acting like a man who had lost his mind or sense.

also that two of his Batts had ran away, boulded (sic) when the first shot was fired by Turks who then clim[b]ed up on to the Ridge & occupied our trenches & then had advanced about one mile into our position (sic) & was only 2000 yds from city & whole line (ours) falling back & men running away everywhere. I drove Ration Ford Van right into the front line & tried to pull the men together. I got them to form a line & take up a position but it was too hot a corner to keep a motorcar in & I did not want to loose (sic) it by getting my driver hit & also I wished to visit the other part of the battle line. So I jumped in & drove along behind the crest we were holding. H.Es. & 18 pdr shrapnell (sic) was falling very thick about us. I found a hopeless situation. Everyone falling back & many running away on this part of the front. (the enemy's right flank).

## Overleaf 27

Our artillery was doing nothing. No good whatever. They were in hollows, very poor positions & no direct or indirect observation & could not see enemy & nobody to tell or show them where to shoot. Capt Gwatkin (who by the way put up Staff tabs & a crown without any authority & called himself C.R.A. & is a useless N.G) sat in the hotel & did nothing. Keyworth who is an artillery officer & also was in Comd of all operations did even less. He had four armoured cars at his disposal & never did anything until I phoned in & asked him to send them into action. He did not even know where they all were. Finally they came out of hiding & ran up to within 1500 yds of firing line & turned about & came back without firing a round from their machine guns.

They are a very conceited outfit & not worth a pinch of snuff. N.G. also, Well the day wore on in this chaotic state. I got a egg & piece of black bread from a Russian sister in the line. That was all I got today. The Turks eventually got all high ground & closed in around city & at 5 pm. Their rifle bullets were spitting against the sides of the streets all over the city & they shelled us out of our H.Q.s in the Hotels Europa and Metropole & we began to move towards boat. I came in 5.30 pm & found everyone hurrying to the boats which were being held to evacuate us on. The 39<sup>th</sup> bde was holding on till dark, then they retired & came aboard. I lost my horse & saddlery (sic) tent & part of my kit, my revolver was stolen a few days previously. Very few kits were saved. All armoured cars & motor cars were left on the wharf & could have been

**Overleaf 27 (A)**

brought away. I never expected to witness such chaos among British military, especially the regulars. They did not appear to have the vaguest idia (sic) of what to do or how to do it or when, where & etc. They stood about looking helplessly at one another. Baku could have been held by good sound management & organization but Gen. Dunsterville was not capable of doing either & his Staff was far worse. Not the slightest move was made to meet the enemy during last night & when the attack (sic) developed (sic) (*developed*) nobody bothered to find out how it was going until I went out. & to keep four new armoured cars & never put them in action when we were being driven in & then leave them on the dock was in my opinion criminal, & Keyworth should be cashiered for it.

Mjr. Gen Dunsterville should be made a full Gen & knighted & kicked out as they do everyone who makes a mess of his job.

Well we got away from Baku at 10 pm. & headed for Enzeli (Kazian). They left Mjr Suttor & the Russian Col who was I/C of our armoured cars & the French Col behind. We came away without any op[p]osition. The fighting by this time had got into the outskirts of the town.

**Overleaf 28**

*Blank*



Sept 15<sup>th</sup>

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Arrived Kazian during evening. Remained aboard. The troops disembarked & went into sheds. There were many ships loaded with refugees in the harbour. Our men had lost everything & they were turned out to let the refugees in & they will get ill.

Sept 16<sup>th</sup>

Warned 2 pm to be ready to proceed to Krasnovodsk to take over from Lt Col Battine. Left 8 pm. Capt Coosmaker came with me as intreporetor (sic) while in Enzeli. I could not gat any messing arrangements made & they treated me rotten.

**Overleaf 28 (A)**

17 Sept on the Caspian Sea. Delightful trip.

18<sup>th</sup> Sept Arrived Krasnovodsk. Met by Govt Comt. Afterwards drove to H.Q. with Col Battine & went over the situation & took over. This is a very pretty town. High mountains around it, with a beautiful sandy beach & southern aspect. My stomach is beginning to go wrong again. Very ill during the evening. Mr. Cruys & wife (our interpretor (sic)) arrived from the island. He is extremely ill with fever.

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Sept 19<sup>th</sup>

to

Sept 21<sup>st</sup>

Very ill with dessiontry (sic) (*dysentery*). Dr. came to attend me.  
Received wire Gen. Ardnis was coming on 21<sup>st</sup>. Still very ill. Gen. &  
Comd<sup>gr</sup> Norris arrived midnight

Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>

Gen & Comd<sup>gr</sup> call to see me. Went into details of situation, then met  
Presd Kunne of the Crises Com or Govt Com & discussed whole situation.  
Invited to dine tomorrow evening with them at club.  
Gen wired for permission to go up the line to look over situation there.  
Did not get permission. Was ordered back to Enzeli  
Dined at 6 pm. Am feeling better.

**Overleaf 29**

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>

Gen & Com'dor left at noon for Enz[e]li. 2 pm. Heavy gale has come up.  
Boat will have to return.  
8 pm. Gen. returned. Terrible day.

Sept 24<sup>th</sup>

Gen. again visited me at H.Q. & we again discussed many points regarding supply of food & quarters. Also transport prospects of future policy. There is a very limited supply of foodstuffs here now & we must arrange to have more sent here or town will be in distress to say nothing of the large numbers of refugees constantly coming in. I shall take hold of situation now as I am beginning to feel quite O.K. again.

The north wind has blown the sea out of the harbour to the extent of lowering the harbour 4 ft.

Mr Cruys very sick. Shall have to send him to the hospital, I think.

## Overleaf 29 (A)

Sept 25<sup>th</sup> In company with Capt Gilmour, I went to top of mountain on E. side of city (it is about 1000 ft) & got a good idea of lay of the land & the whole situation. The city wharves, Ry & Harbour line. Also surrounding country lay like a large scale map below, or large area photo. I got an excellent idia (sic) of the whole situation. Wished I had had a shorgun as I saw a great many chakor ( a sort of hill partridge (sic)) about 25 in one lot & a doz in another & many others of twos & threes & etc. They are delicious eating. Received wire from Askabad that British had taken over 18,000 Turks & German prisoners in Palestine also that Lille in France had been taken by British.

Situation is improving. I hope I get back to France at an early date. They will surely release me now that Dunsterforce has been disbanded. I am too senior for their benefit (sic). The old regular soldier gives nothing to the Colonial soldier if it can be avoided. & in this case it can be by sending me off to some outlying part & forgetting me. As I do not enter into their organization & any plums going will be handed to the (Indian Service) Regulars or promotion either. & If they were half decent now they could give me my Brigadier's rank & return me to France, & it would not interfere (sic) with their establishment whatever.

**Overleaf 30**

Sept 26<sup>th</sup>

to

Sept 28<sup>th</sup>

very quiet. Nothing to do. Gave a dinner to Presd & members of the Govt Com. Here at club last evening. Very good affair with dancing. Mr. Cruys very low tonight. He is our interpretor (sic). Received wire Col. Fleming & Warricks are coming on 30<sup>th</sup>. I hope I shall get away home now.

Sept 29<sup>th</sup>

Sunday

5am. Mr Cruys died. Buried this afternoon 5 pm.  
Mrs Nicoli Nicolivich made a flag for covering the coffin.



30<sup>th</sup>

Lt. Col Fleming arrived on S.S. Kruger with his Batt (the 9<sup>th</sup> Warricks) 266 strong & went into the military barracks here which are very good. He has no transport or machine guns with him. His officers are in my opinion not the first class type. Some are passable. His M.O. especially is a cheep fellow & a uncrupless (sic) women chasser (sic). The standard of the British regular officer has very much depreciated during this war. Of coarse (sic) as time passes manpower grows less & less & the officer to replace casualties is drawn from the ranks which is not improving with time.

**Overleaf 30 (A)**

Oct 1<sup>st</sup> Left (5 pm) for the front line (at Khaaka) 500 miles east of Krasnovodsk. Lt. Col Fleming took over in my absence.

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> On the train travelling (sic) through a country as flat as a table. Dry. No water. Never rains here or snows either. No springs or rivers. Only in widely seperated (sic) areas there are small streams flowing out of the Persian hills (along which the railway parallels & runs within two miles of). The soil is very rich silt but must be irrigated before it will produce. It has been the bed of the Caspian in ages past.

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A most delightful climate. I [feel] better already. My stumack (sic) has been bothering me for over three months with Diarrhrea (sic). I wish I could get rid of it permanently.

Lt. Col Battine is with me & has his lady love along with him. The customs as practiced in this country (Russia) are most remarkable. When a man travells (sic) here, he takes a girl or woman along married or single does not matter with either sex. Free love seems to be the order of the day. It must have been somewhat the same prior to the war, or they could not have become so depraved in such a short period. I am very glad I am cannot speak their language. As a result I am unable to understand them & they leave me religiously alone. The Russians would be a very fine race of people had [they] educated the masses. The men are fine

## Overleaf 31

Big strong men & good hearted in many cases & their womenfolk are the best I have yet seen. They are ignorant, but hard workers good thrifty housekeepers & brave to a degree. I could not help admiring them under heavy fire in Baku. They carried as though they were washing dishes in their homes in peace time. The Russian soldier & the Armanian (sic) were the most cowardly lot I have ever seen. The Armanian (sic) especially are awful cowards & no good whatever as soldiers but they are worse than Jews to do any business with. They were grafting in Baku on a stupend[ous] scale.

Arrived Askhabad 7 pm & military train for Khaaka was waiting, so my private coach was hooked on & we left in an hours time. & arrived at front (Khaaka) at 3 am. 3<sup>rd</sup> We had a

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consignment of munitions on board for Lt. Col Knowles who is in Comd there. He has a Regt of Punjabs, two sqd<sup>ns</sup> of Indian Cav<sup>l</sup> & batty of Arty with him. A very nice man socially but will never lick the Bolshevicks (sic) or set the world afire. Just the same as all the rest of the British officers of the Indian Service. N.G.

Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>

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4 am. arrived Khaaka. M.O. Capt Smith found the hospital train sitting beside ours & changed over & remained there, as the Batt of Warricks had a M.O. with them in Kradsnovodsk. 2 i/c Lt. Stanton remained also with ammunition. Lt. Col Knowles car was attached to train at once & I did not get off as he & Staff were

**Overleaf 31 (A)**

leaving by the train I had arrived on in half an hour so I came right away again & gathered all the information I required from Col Knowles. The Front is the same as all the way from Askhabad line of both sides run from mountains out onto the plains about 10 miles. The enemy are about 20 miles from us & have 3 armoured trains with guns which out range ours. They have about 7000 men & 6 squad<sup>m</sup> of Cav<sup>r</sup> & plenty of Arty. Personnel mostly ex Austrian prisoners all out for loot & Russian soldiers here are the very same as at Baku. N.G. They run away on hearing the first shot & the Turkomans (who by the way are in Comd. I met the C-in-C, an old dirty chap & our force is under him) are far worse. They (the enemy) & the Russians & Turkoman on our side) all go forward on their armoured trains & as

as the first shot is fired they all run for their respective trains, get in & go to the rear as fast as steam will take them. Its (sic) a hopeless case trying to work with them. There is only the one sure way & that is to bring in sufficient troops of our own & artillery, or clean up the lot, keep the local Russians in order as well as the Bolshevicks (sic). At present we have two small armoured trains with old guns which are outranged by enemy's. They are doing nothing on either side. Lt. Col Knowles is what I call "living in a fools paradise". There are many things they could do, tricks, decoys, bluffs & etc & fool the enemy & beat him, but they are of the Indian Service, which explains all.

**Overleaf 32**

Oct 4<sup>th</sup>

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Arrived Askhabad noon. Will remain here till tomorrow noon. Car is switched to siding.

Lt. Col Batteni did not meet as promised & I went for a walk into city, which is a fairly large well laid out city & well built with about 50,000 population. Every one looked prosperous being well dressed & very stylishly too. A nice band was playing in the park. Many very stylishly dressed ladies & gentlemen were much in evidence. There were no signs of any working people in the city & I did not find any one working. Many signs of decay were visable (sic) on every hand. Ry engines were squeeking (sic) everywhere. Carriages going to rack buildings falling into bad repair.



Streets needed repairing badly. Parks & trees were untended. Large percentage of business hours closed. Those open had very little for sale. Very small food supplies in evidence, plenty of local troops walking about with their rifles & etc who should be at the front. There are enough of them in the city to drive the Bolshevicks (sic) out. There is my opinion to be done, that is:- as soon as the Germans surrender & peace is assured, the Allies should send punitive armies all over Russia & clean out all these murderous bandits & restore order & put a Govt in & leave an army of occupation to insure the Govt carrying out law & order. Also make Russia pay a larger share of the war indemnity. They are the ones responsible for the prolongation of the war for the last two years at least.

**Overleaf 32 (A)**

Oct 4<sup>th</sup> con I find Gen. Mallison who is in Comd here has never been here since he was placed in Comd. He has remained at Meshed (Persia) over 150 miles from his field of operation & knows nothing of the situation or people. He is also an officer of the Indian Service & a political agent & does not seem to know anything of war or organization or administration or tactics. He is in my opinion mentally effected (sic) & should be releaved (sic) at once. He is half mad. Then Capt Teague-Jones, his under study at this city is still worse. He is living with a Russian girl & speaks Russian fluently. Is a conceited fop. In most impertinent in in (sic) his conduct toward senior officers. He is not attempting to keep

in touch with his own duties & his front but is always wireing (sic) in Russian to the various Russian Comts to ask them to report on the British on their conduct, & as to what stores, ammo, supplies & etc we have & whether we brought any away from Baku arsenal in addition to our own, & etc. That is serious enough to have him shot as a spy or cashiered at least for a consummate fool & demented ass. The Indian Govt certainly have a fine collection of camouflage officers, all no good. Genl. Mallison spends his time sending out reims (sic) & reims (sic) of news which is manufactured by his own sun cooked hair brain & any scare rumour he hears from any unreliable source, he promptly keeps the wires humming for hours in all directions with it. He is a conceited fool.

### **Overleaf 33**

Oct 5<sup>th</sup>      Left Askhabad at noon for Krasnovodsk. Mrs Cruys returned with Lt. Stanton & I. She brought some mess stores. Col Batteni had not yet received any orders. The whole lot up here are living in a fool[']s paradise.

Oct 6<sup>th</sup>

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Arrived Krasnovodsk 9 am. Found situation normal. Mr. Lacey arrived from Chillakan Island & gave us some information about Turkomen & their poor opinion of the Russian Comts & gave us his opinion, which was very sound. His advice is well worth having. He is the manager of the Chillakan Island Oil Wells Corporation & speaks Russian fluently. I have sent in reports & my recommendations among which I have recommended Mr Lacey for a Com & to be imployed (sic) here as advisor & Staff Officer. He goes to Enzali tomorrow.

Presd Khun left for Askhabad with an agent from Bitcherackoff to interview H.Q. Committee there. We (*one?*) a working together (sic) agreament (sic). This agent is a Bolshevick (sic) spy or German spy. He is a Damn spy of sorts at least. & I will watch him.

**Overleaf 33 (A)**

Oct 7<sup>th</sup>

Sunday

Ordered Capt Gilmour to proceed to Kazvin with dispatches via enzali with Mr Lacey. Boat left midnight (or 1 am. 8<sup>th</sup>)

Day passed quietly. Just like the Sabbath (sic) should. Went to a (spectackular (sic)) theatrical performance in the Ry club. There was a dance & dinner after. It ran on till 6 am. 8<sup>th</sup>. It started 8 pm. I was trying to intertain (sic) Presidents Kuhn's (sic) wife at his request while he was absent. Also had my house keeper along (she is the widow of Mr. Cruys who we took on here & who died on the 29<sup>th</sup> Sept last Sunday) & neither of them can speak a word of English & in fact nobody there could & I could not speak any Russian. So I had a most distressingly disinteresting evening or night of it. They would play a act & then go & dance, then

come back & watch another act, then dance again. They keep this for a doz acts then have a dinner & concert till daylight. It's the very divel (sic). My housekeeper & Mrs Kuhn both got d[r]unk & left me & picked up a couple of young fellows. I accompanied them to Mrs Kuhn[']s house where I left my drunken housekeeper.

Oct 8<sup>th</sup> Day passed normally. No unusual occurrence (sic). Mrs Cruys returned at noon. Very penitent.

### **Overleaf 34**

Oct 9<sup>th</sup> Presd Kuhn arrived by 1 pm train from Askhabad & left for Petrofsk at 5 pm. In company with some of the Askhabad Committee to interview Bitcherakoff. They had a German spy with them I am sure but they did not know it.

Oct 10<sup>th</sup> Just received a wire I am to hand over to Lt. Col Batteni & proceed to Kazain at once or as soon as the Col arrives. "HURRAH" now I am off for France I am sure, with my military career badly warped by this confounded Dunsterforce. It was an awful outfit.



The Suvala arrived with mails & troops. Also supplies for four months.

Oct 11<sup>th</sup>

to

14<sup>th</sup>

Usual daily work. No particular event to record. Presd Kuhn's departure appears to be the signal for a general holliday (sic). Nobody has worked since he left.

Oct 15<sup>th</sup>

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handed over 1,430,000 rubles & furniture of mission to Col Fleming also Comd of Krasnovodsk & sailed on S.S. Askhabad for Enzlei (sic) at 3 pm. Capts Cousmaker & Gilmour leave with me. I was very glad to get away yet sorry to leave the city. It was a very pleasant place after

**Overleaf 34 (A)**

Persia & Baku. The people were most friendly & a better class of Russian than any I had previously met. I am sorry no political official was left there. If we withdraw all the British, the inhabitants will become anti-British

16<sup>th</sup>

&

17<sup>th</sup>

Arrived Enzeli 4 pm. Reported to Brig Gen Andras. Received orders to proceed to Kazvin tomorrow.

Went out to view the parade of Persians who were celebrating the feast of Maharrem, the most horrible spectical (sic) I have ever witnessed

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They had 12 corpses (which had been sacrificed for the feast) which they carried on a bier on the shoulders of 4 men. Dozens of with their heads shaven & cut with swords & wearing white surpluses so the blood ran down on the white cloth & they were soaked (sic) (*soaked*) in gore. Some 10 of them died from loss of blood & shock. Then others came along beating themselves with chains (sic) (made like a cat-o-nine-tails) on the bare back, which were all cut & bleeding. Others beating their left breast over the heart which were all red & swollen. Others beating their heads others with iron rods sharpened & ran through their skins for 2 or 3 inches & out again, also with darts & daggers stuck in their bodies. Behind each of the dead heros was led their charger or war horse & all their fighting armour & equipment. Then

### Overleaf 35

little girls of 4 to 6 years in cages carried on mens shoulders then some men passing in & out through the parade giving water to the actors & others running after them knocking the water out of their hands. Still others were throwing perfumed water on all as they passed. Some did not appear to appreciate the little touch of Methodist baptism & tried to dodge it. All the women were on either side of the streets & did all the weeping & wailing. Everybody keeps up a chanting all the while. It was a gruesome sight.

Oct 18<sup>th</sup>

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Left Enzeli 7 am. For Kazvin. Made a good run until 2 miles from Menjel when steel brace for front wheels broke & we very nearly went over a cliff of over 1000 ft. The outward front wheel dropped (sic) over the edge. I walked in to Menjel & got another car & proceeded on to Kazvin Where I arrived at 5 pm. & was invited by Gen Thompson Comdg Norporforce to stay with him while there. I was intertained (sic) royally. This run is 160 miles.

**Overleaf 35 (A)**

Oct 19<sup>th</sup> Spent day making reports out & settling (sic) accounts of British mission at Krasnovodsk & calling on some of the officers & foreign consols (sic). Medical conditions were very bad. I was informed that we only had 300 men there & they were dying at the rate of 10 per day, there was no graves when I went to Kazvin first in July & now there are a great number. I did not count them but there must be over 200 & men dying now faster than before.

Oct 20<sup>th</sup>

Left Kazvin 6 am. For Hamadan where I arrived at 5 pm. Made very quick run without a mishap.

Met some medical officers (specialists (sic)) with car brok[e] down half way to Kazvin. They were being sent up from H.Q. Baghdad to cope with the sickness at Kazvin & Enzeli.

Billited (sic) with Adm Comdt Capt MacLean.

My car is not to proceed farther, so I must get another.

Got one going straight through to Baghdad leaving in the morning. Over 1000 cars stalled owing to no petrol & all came down from Enzeli where there is some millions of poods of it ( a pood is 36 lbs) & never brought a bit along for spare. Over 500 officers N.C.O.s & men here hung up on account of no transportation. What organization. Worse & worse.

Norporforce

**Overleaf 36**

Seems to be worse than Dunsterforce. I call them Dunsterfarce & Napoofarce. Men dying at rate of two to four a day owing to bad medical organization. Nobody with ability to organize.

Oct 20<sup>th</sup> Cont

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Arrived Hamadan 5 pm. After run of 150 miles & some small engine trouble.

Found many of the old boys there waiting transportation to Baghdad. Billited (sic) with an R.C. padre. Good sort. Gave him an order to get all parcels which may come after I have gone. It will do the poor fellows good.



Oct 21<sup>st</sup>      Spent day looking about town.

**Overleaf 36 (A)**

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>

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left Hamadan for Kerminshaw at 9.30 am. After much adoo (sic) about getting order for leaving. Made a good run got well in before dark, at Bisi then we drove car into hole 6 ft deep in the dark & I thought the car was smashed to bits but I had forgotten it was an American Ford & was pulled out by Persians & went merrily on. Arrived Kerminshaw 8 pm. Put up with Col Green at H.Q. He was very nice.

Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>

left Kerminshaw 9.30. Had some trouble at secure petrol. All the Staff was still in bed or not yet breakfasted. How very happy-go-lucky every one is. Don't care a damn whether the poor devils up the line ever get any cloths, mail, or rations & medical supplies or not, & they up the line are going sick & dying every day for the need of them. What a priceless lot of Duds. Got as far as Pituck without any mishap except one of the sparking plug wires which burnt out & it took us a full hour to locate the trouble. The O.C. Rest Camp was a hog without bristles. Had to go without any dinner & sleep in a dirty muddy tent. Only another Indian Service officer & outfit.

**Overleaf 37**

Oct 24<sup>th</sup>

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Left Pitak at 5 am. For Baghdad without any breakfast. Got breakfast at E.F. canteen at the town of Khan-i-Khan at 10 am. Then pushed on. Met some reinforcements going up country, marching like I did in May last. I am sorry for them. Near Ruz one of rear wheels (Rt one) broke & we waited for a convoy coming behind. I went on in to Ruz & waited. Driver got the car a new wheel in about 3 hrs & came on, but it was too late to proceed as it was 4 pm & we were 62 miles from Baghdad still, so remained at Ruz for the night where the O.C Rest Camp Lt Winfield was most kind.

Oct 25<sup>th</sup>

Left Rus for the ancient city of Baghdad at 9 am. Came through Baqueba where all the refugees are some 50,000 women & children. A very pitiful sight. They fled in front of the Turks who were asking to cut their throats at Tabriz, like he did at Baku where he & the Tartars (sic) together murdered about 30,000 defenceless women & children. Oh they are a cowardly lot & the cowardly Armanians (sic) are just as bad. They cut the throats of some 10,000 women & children of the Tartars (sic) just before we landed there at Baku. They are all alike, the women are a long way superior to their menfolks, which are cowards & each time ran away & left their women to be helplessly cut down & raped & killed

Overleaf 37 (A)

Arrived  
back at  
**Baghdad**  
Oct  
25<sup>th</sup>/19  
(*year  
appears  
to be  
wrong*)

I have no further grace for the confounded Armanians (sic) nor the whole lot from these regions. The civilized world would be better off both morally (sic) & Financially if the whole bally lot were buried for as long as they live. We shall fight & spend money over them & they are anything else but worth it.

Arrived Baghdad noon & lunched at the Club. Took room at the Hotel MAUDE & turned in early. Do not feel good. Think my stomach (sic) is going wrong again.

Oct 26<sup>th</sup>

Sick as the dival (sic) in my stomach (sic) only with dyhoreah (sic). Sent out for Dr. who sent me to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Stationary Hospital & began treating me for Cholera or something but they are all exceptionally kind & its so restful in here after ones experiences in the north. If I was not so anxious to get home to Xmas, I could willingly remain here as long as it pleased them to keep me.

**Overleaf 38**

Oct 26<sup>th</sup> very much improved today but I may not sit-up. It makes me laugh, as I am not otherwise ill.

Oct 27<sup>th</sup> }  
“ 28<sup>th</sup> } ditto  
“ 29<sup>th</sup> }

Allowed up. Feeling A.1. Had a case of smallpox in ward this morning & all last night. Now we are told we have been quaranteened (sic) for 3 weeks. This is the limit & I was to have gone out tomorrow & on home in time for Xmas with my darling wife and daughters.  
Just heard Turkey has surrendered unconditionally & Austria-Hungary is all in & negociating (sic) for peace.



Oct 30<sup>th</sup> Austria-Hungary has signed unconditional surrender. What-Ho. Now we are moving fast.

Oct 31<sup>st</sup> Smallpox case removed this morning, making the second case in two days. I am A.1. again. First case of smallpox died today of internal hemeroage (sic)

Nov 1<sup>st</sup> usual routine & sleep waiting for smallpox to expire

to

7<sup>th</sup> notified I may go out tomorrow which is my 47<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Overleaf 38 (A)**

Nov 8<sup>th</sup> My birthday. Was to have left hospital today but will not until 10<sup>th</sup>.

9<sup>th</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> Nothing to record except that Germany & Austro-Hungary has surrendered. Finnis (sic) the war. Left hospital today. Raining like old billy-o & they sent us out to walk 2 miles in the rain & hunt for quarters & no transport for our kit. Very careless indeed. I got a room at the Maude Hotel for 4 rupees per day & dine at the officers club for 7 rupees per day. My servant has not arrived yet. As soon as he does I'm off home.

Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Nothing to record, just killing time waiting for my servant, who seems to be lost somewhere between Hamadan & Ruz  
to

14<sup>th</sup>

15<sup>th</sup>

went to dine with Col Crowford, O.C. Armoured cars & remained all night as we are going to visit Babylon tomorrow.

16<sup>th</sup>

Left for Babylon at 8 am. In company with Capts MacDunna & Martin. We arrived at 3 pm. (fifty miles) after getting stuck in the mud several times. We had a large Voxhall (sic) car. We put up at the rest house in Hillah a city as old as Babylon.

## Overleaf 39

Nov 16<sup>th</sup> Cont

Not very good rest house. Run by Arabs.

Hillah is a small Arab town, same as all others & has been H.Q. of the British in the Babylonian area since we arrived in these parts

My two officers asked me to try & arrange for them to obtain a bottle of whisky as they were in great need of a drink after our arduous journey.

Everyone is on rations of ( $\frac{2}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ ) two thirds of a bottle per week per officer. The Staff Capt (a young English Knut (?)) would not oblige me with an order to the canteen sergant (sic), as he said they had not enough for themselves & I found out their establishment was 46 officers & they had their weeks rations & there were 18 cases

in the canteen. Spare & another 36 cases on the train to be delivered tomorrow. Also that 15 of their 46 officers were away on leave, sick, & duty so that they had about 832 officers rations for 31 & he would not even offer us a drink at their mess even after I asked him to. I call that about the meanest thing I have heard of to date but the English officer is renowned for his meanness all over France & here. No working officers appear to be about, all playing tennis & joyriding. Only N.C.O.s & men working.

### **Overleaf 39 (A)**

Nov 17<sup>th</sup>      Went out to the Tower of Babel & took some photo. Returned to breakfast. It is about 10 miles from Hillah. After breakfast went to see Nebuchadnezzars (sic) Palace. He was king of Babylonia. We spent some four (4) hours then returned to Hillah & went to Babylon after lunch took some Photos of both & returned to Hillah for the night. I picked up several very pretty stones & souvenirs (sic) & got one of the famous bricks with Nebuchadnezzars (sic) statement that he made the brick & built the palace marked on them.

It was exceedingly interesting to me. Only one should take a month in Babylon. There is so much to see & examin (sic). New Babylon is built along side old Babylon & very nice Arab town. Dirty of coarse (sic).

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Nov 18<sup>th</sup>

Returned to Baghdad & began making arrangement to proceed down river on my way to France.

to

20<sup>th</sup>

## **Overleaf 40**

Nov 21<sup>st</sup> went aboard P.S. 56 (the Steamer) & on coming ashore to go to canteen I met my servant just arriving in Baghdad so I pushed him right aboard & we sailed for Basrah at noon.

Nov 22th  
to 26 sailings down river with 300 Turkish officers (prisoners). Dilightful (sic) weather. Nothing unusual to record, except that it is the dry season & the dead low water season on the river & very different from high water as it was when I went up. Passed Ezra's toomb (sic) on 26<sup>th</sup> & took some more Photo.



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also of Garden of Eden  
(Kurna)  
Arrived Basrah 5 pm 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 1918

Nov 27<sup>th</sup>

Billeted at Ashar Barracks . This is a very badly run mess. The Adjt is mess Presd & sec with no mess Com & there are about 75 officers & 400 men in Barracks all the time. There are no extras except eggs on th etable (they cost 2 annas each by the piece) 4 annas & the mess dues are 2 rupees 8 annas per day???

**Overleaf 40 (A)**

There is great evidence of waist (sic) & inefficiency in every department. All Staff & employed officers at this base "like Baghdad G.H.Q." do nothing but drive nurses about in their cars & dine them & entertain them & the nurses do not wish to return home for this very reason. At home they are only pebbles on the beach & out here they are pearls of great price as there are no other white women in the country. – Officers have been waiting here for over a month to go home & the Staff at base & L of C say "there is no accommodation" & I have seen 10 shipes (sic) sail with accommodation for from 10 to 50 officers on the various. The trouble is the base does not apply for passage & the L of C does not notify ships are need

Then they have no arrangement to pay us of the Dunsterforce who are from outside Mesopotamia & have to arrange to get my money from England, & in order to pay my mess bill of £4.0.0 it will cost me over £10.0.0 to get it out by cable.

There are many ships laying here doing nothing owing to inefficiency of the Staff. There has been no improvement in billits (sic) accommodation since 1915. Everything is a quagmire of muck & mud & water. Roofs all leek (sic) & etc. But the Staff are in A.1. buildings.

The engineers park has I should say approxamately (sic) £10,000,000 worth of stores & 60% of it will never be used by the military & they intend to hand it over to civil authorities who will sell it to a private contractor for next to nothing.

**Overleaf 41**

To The Dunsterforce is in bad oder (sic) here also because we are outsiders

26 Dec Nothing to do for a whole month but kill time & what a place to kill time in.

Trouble at Ahawaz & Anglo-Persian oil fields. South Persian Rifles mutinied. We shall have to go to the garrison's assistance.

Dec 27/18 Left Basrah for Ahawaz by P.S. 33 at 2 pm. Stopped for night at Mahumerah. Foggie (sic) today. Left noon  
28<sup>th</sup>  
29<sup>th</sup> running through flat open country just like Tigris area. No palms or  
30<sup>th</sup> people  
to  
31<sup>st</sup> arrived 31<sup>st</sup> at noon & had pleasant time at military sports in afternoon. Had a good dinner with A.S.C. whom I was billited (sic) with.

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Mgr Gen Younghusband (formerly Col Younghusband famous expedition to Tibet) invited me to lunch. He is in Comd here. He is lame, has a damaged hip. A gentleman through & through.

**Overleaf 41 (A)**

*(Blank)*

## New Years Day

1919

### Ahawaz - Persia

Jan 1<sup>st</sup>/19      Left Ahawaz 10 am. & came back to Basrah on same boat arriving on  
&                    Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> & went back to Ashar Barracks.  
2<sup>nd</sup>                    Notified I was to go to Vladivostock by next boat via India & Japan.

3<sup>rd</sup>    }      Busy getting kit packed & getting ready. Left three spools of Philms (sic)  
&       }      with Victors & 1 with man across St. Left money with Mjr Rose to get  
4<sup>th</sup>    }      them when finished & mail them to me.

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**Overleaf 42**

Jan 5<sup>th</sup> Left Basrah for Bombay at 1 pm. On board the S.S. Jedah. Not a bad boat  
to at all & a champion skipper named Capt Leak, a Scotchman. We had a  
most delightful passage. Very smooth & warm. We had some 30 officers  
aboard & played deck games all the way. Arrived at Bombay 1 pm. Jan  
10<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>.

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Jan 11<sup>th</sup>

sighted land at 7 am. On port bows. This is my first trip to India. Arrived 1 pm.

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12<sup>th</sup>

Disembarked & put up at the Alexandra Hostal (sic) for officers. 5 chips per day.

**Overleaf 42 (A)**

Jan 13<sup>th</sup>/19      Moved to Taj Mahal Hotel. Far nicer place & quiet. 7 chips per day.

17<sup>th</sup> went to F.T.C.O. & drew my detention allowance to today inclusive from 12<sup>th</sup> inclusive but they did not pay me my full allowance. I shall take my contract down & make them pay me the full amount.

18<sup>th</sup> went to Aliphantah Caves. Forgot my camera. Must go back & take some Photos another day. They are very old & wonderful being cut before the Cuniforme age. It is a sacred temple & contains beautiful carved work & figures & is some thousands of years B.C.

Overleaf 43

Jan 19<sup>th</sup> went to hospital with my confounded old stomach complaint  
to again. Remained in four days.

22<sup>nd</sup>

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>  
to  
24<sup>th</sup>

Returned to Taj Mahal Hotel from Hospital. Dr. never examined me or my stools or urin (sic). I had been very bad the day I entered hospital in the evening. Never kept me in bed till morning of forth (sic) day & then told me I was at liberty to leave the hospital. I came away & was feeling extremely unfit.

Jan 25

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| On }<br>train } |
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In company with Capts McDonna & Donohoe I left Bombay for the north of India at 11 am. to find cooler weather. It is simply melting. How people from Eng. & home or anywhere from a cool place can remain here & like it is more than I can understand. Everybody looks as though they had been on a long drunk.

**Overleaf 43 (A)**

Women looked worse than the men & all they all do is to swill whiskys & sodas or some killing sort of cocktails & make eyes at every new comer

The country we passed through on the way to Agra was very flat & looked very rich, if water was available. Plenty of temples to pray in were in evidence all along our lines of travel. There are some (1000) one thousand different kinds of religions in India & each would like to exterminate all the others. They are most fanatical in their fervour & I am of the opinion that all the missionaries from their first appearance to the present date have never converted one single soul to Christianity. Some are most inconsistent in their believes (sic), forinstance (sic)

one sees a man sitting inside a round circle with his food inside the circle & his left hand outside. He will not allow the left hand inside as it would pollot (sic) his food, owing to the fact that that hand is unclean, as he washes his bottom after stooling with it. Yet his bottom is inside the circle which is the dirtier of the two. Can one imagine (sic) anything more inconsistant (sic) than if a Brahman (sic) is eating & a white man's shadow falls accross (sic) it he will at once throw it away as it has been polloted (sic)

We saw many wild peacocks, monkeys, blackbucks, aligators (sic), large turtalls (sic) some 4 ft in length & 3 ft wide.

**Overleaf 44**

Agra  
Jan 26<sup>th</sup>  
To 28<sup>th</sup>

Arrived at Agra 9 pm. & stayed at the Cecil. Met Mjr Gen. Dunsterville there. He is I/C there & has been awarded the C.S.I. for his damnably bad muddling in Persia & the Caucausus (sic). His wife is very nice & he is also socially. He gave me a piece of inlaid marble, which is one of the industries here. There is some very rare work done here.



27<sup>th</sup>

Went to see the famous old fort where all the old kings of ancient India used to live at one period.

The carved & inlaid marble is really beyond discription (sic). It is very beautiful & all inlaid with precious stones both in the floor, walls, pillars & ceilings. It reminded of what the bible said the Holy City is like & much of it overlaid with pure gold. Nothing like it could be constructed today for in those days the marble & precious stones & workmen were all presented to the king by his underlords or maharajahs. No wonder they had several wives in those days. Anyone could love very much in a beautiful palace like the fort.

**Overleaf 44 (A)**

The british (sic) have their H.Q. in a portion of the fort but not in the old Royal appartments (sic). The Bazzars (sic) are much the same as the Persian & Arab bazzars (sic) only perhaps cleaner. One could gather many very valuable things for one[']s home very cheeply (sic) here, but I had neather (sic) money nor time much to my sorrow.

The famous tomb of the last King of India & his wife, the Taj Mahal, are here. We visited it by moonlight, & I must say it was the most magnificent sight I have ever seen. It is built of pure marble & inlaid with all kinds of precious stones & is surrounded by beautiful gardens & pools.

28<sup>th</sup>

Left Agra for Delhi at 5 pm.

Went to the Cecil Hotel there kept by the same people as at Agra.

29<sup>th</sup>

Went & visited all the scenes of interest the old Capital, the present city & the sight of the new. It must have been a beautiful old place in its day.

They had great artistic taste in those days. We left Delhi at midnight of 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> & slept on the train for Cownpore where we arrived at 9 am. on morning of 30<sup>th</sup>.

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**Overleaf 45**

Jan 30<sup>th</sup>

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Arrived Cawnpore 9 am. & proceeded to see the historical sights at once. Went to the old Church where the garrison during the Indian Mutiny made their great stand. Went to the point on the River Ganges where the mutineers threw the women & children in & many of the men, then to the field where they killed the rest & threw their bodies in the well. They have raised a very beautiful monument over the bodies which still lay buried in the well which the mutineers filled in at the time. What frightful horrors they went through.

Jan 30<sup>th</sup>

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We left Cawnpore at 1 pm. For Lucknow arriving at 3 pm. Here we made a very hurried tour & visited the residency which is where the British made their famous stand. We were shown through it & I stood on the spot where Jessie had her dream when she woke & said "The Campbells are coming I know for I heard the pipes" & when they laughed at her she laid down & went to sleep, & dreamed it again, & sprang up saying she

**Overleaf 45 (A)**

Heard the pipes again. The next day they came. It is a beautiful old city. I could have remained there for a month. I left my companions here as there was to be a great house raising day tomorrow & they wished to see it. So I went on alone leaving at 9.45 pm. For Benares

Feb 1<sup>st</sup>

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Arrived Benares at 10 am. This was one of the Hindoos (sic) most holy days & Benares is the Holy City of India, & I think there must have been millions bathing in the Sacred River Ganges & in the temples. I got into a frightful row with one worshiper who was praying at the river edge, when I went to step ashore from the boat I was sailing in on the river & my shadow fell across him & his grub. & there was a dickens of a hub bub & he threw his grub in the river & jumped in & washed & was angry as the chice (?)

They drink the water of the river and believe it will cure any disease (sic). One strange thing about it is microbes die in it & will flourish (sic) in any other water in India.

## Overleaf 46

Left Benares 3 pm. For Calcutta where I arrived 7 am next day.

Benares is noted for its beautiful gold work & silk. I passed into several Bazzars (sic). Also saw the famous Temple of Gold with a large sacred bull in front. The Indians worship the ox which they wander in & out of the streets & stores & are fed & when they feed one they cross themselves. Peacocks & monkeys are sacred also.



Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>

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Arrived in Calcutta 7am. Put up at the Grand Hotel. First time I had a good sleep since leaving Delhi & had a good bath.

Calcutta is a European city & nothing particular to see, except the monument which stands over the spot which was the Black Hole during the mutiny where 150 men, women & children were crowded into a room about 20 ft square & low ceiling & in the morning only 10 were living.

All the rest had smothered. It was an awful death surely. What villins (sic) the Indians are, & they will repeat it if Britton (sic) does not change her methods.

Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>  
& 4<sup>th</sup>

**Overleaf 46 (A)**

Feb 4<sup>th</sup>

Left Calcutta for Bombay 8.30 pm. Where I arrived at 4 pm on 5<sup>th</sup>. The country was very hilly in places & much more under cultivation in these parts.

The R. Rds have no check or system (sic), just as the military & Government has none. I travelled all over India without showing a ticket. I could travel (sic) for months & go any where without a ticket, in uniform of course.

They have no system (sic) of handling the passengers. They loose (sic) hours & hours while the Indians at each station runs up & down the length of the train several times till they finally find some pal or friend they decide to travel with. & all those English who make India their home grow just like the Hindoos (sic) in their manor of getting around & killing time, growing into a useless incompetant (sic) lazy being. I have yet to meet the officer who has been in India over a year or so & intends to remain there that is worth a pinch of snuff. They are N.G.

**Overleaf 47**

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> Arrived back in Bombay at 4 pm. Went back to Taj Mahal Hotel

To

13<sup>th</sup> Reported at Alexandra Docks No. 3 shed & was notified boat sailed 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.

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I went to Alexandra Hostel & found Cpts McDonna & Donahoe who had just got back. They did not go on to Calcutta.

We went to the Races today. They were very good. My damnable stomach is off again. It beats me what sets me off. I am O.K. for days on end & then away it goes again, & I as care

47(*printed on the page*)

ful as can be all the time. I think its this infernal heat. When I get into cool weather again I shall be O.K. I think got a pair of reading glasses today. Also am getting a pair for long distance to kill the sun[']s rays. Its ruining my sight.

**Overleaf 47 (A)**

Feb 13<sup>th</sup>

to

17

Went on board the Dilwara at 1 pm. Boat sailed 3 pm. For Hong Kong China. She is a dirty stuffy small boat. There are 62 B.O.R. & 22 Officers. Also an Indian Mountain Battery on board with all their mules & what a smell. I cannot lay out straight in my birth (sic). Its so short & cabin so small the door can only just open in the stateroom. Plenty of civilians on board mostly American missionaries & what a queer lot they are. They would never impress any native let alone a white person. Also two Russian nurses also going to Vladivodstock (sic). & the officers picked from the Indian Army in Mesopotamia are just like those

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They sent us for Dunsterville's outfit. I am making a proper mess of my career. I would have been better off in France even Odlum & all I think, but its done now. No use my crying over spilt milk

A major comdg an Indian mountain battery is O.C. troops & I am glad of it. I do not want it any more, but he does not know his job & does nothing. Why Worry.

One missionary is leaving his wife at Colombo & they sit & hold hands all day. She looks like a Tarter. ?

Everyone is looking at the other one trying to study them. They will pair off shortly.

My word, but its hot. I'm like a wet rag.

## Overleaf 48

17<sup>th</sup> Arrived Colombo 7 am. went ashore, took Gilmour my servant along on pretense (sic) I required him in order to get him on shore.  
Colombo is a delightful place. I surely must bring my wife & daughters here on a tour to see it. It is simply a heavenly place of palms & green see (sic) & cool shadey (sic) places, drives & nice people. So different from India & Mesopotamia & Persia. The reason is it's a Crown Colony & the Planters are the officials who govern & not the indolent military. I with Capt Tarr ( a would be baronette (sic)) motored out 20 miles around the coast & back through the interior; just got back in time to go on board, (as the boat



48(*printed on the page*)

only remained in Colombo (5) five hours) & such a drive. The most gorgeous I ever had the preivilidge (sic) of enjoying. The place is so clean & sweet, all Bazars (sic) in Colombo City were so clean & tidy as any store at home. Then the beautiful villas of the Planters among the tropical shade palms & trees & such sweet scented wind from the vegetation (sic) & sea. It was a little bit of heaven after what I had been through since last Jan 1918. We sailed at 1 pm. After taking on board some 10 officers & several civilians also a Theatrical Co, the Frawley Co. They seem very quiet & nice. They are an American Co. & not a bit like the Laura Greta Co. of Bombay who were very raw, I may may (sic) as well say rotton (sic) & absolutely vile to talk with.

**Overleaf 48 (A)**

I could not stand them at any price.

18<sup>th</sup> } we are going on in the same old way of all the Ocean Steamers who carry  
to } passengers & freight. A limited deck space & plenty of games so one must  
23 } take part in the games or not get moving room on deck

21<sup>st</sup> Last night I got socked (sic) to the very bones. I sleep out on deck (as my cabin is  
the worst on board with a coal shoot right under my

49(*printed on the page*)

bed & hot as hades) & the rain came down in torrents & I thought it would stop every minute . I got wet so quick I lay there in it & it simply came in a deluge for two hours & then the moon came out & I wolke (sic) up next morning with the sun on me & quite dry & had a good sleep after all.

22<sup>nd</sup> Had first view of a China junk this a.m. We passed two also the sister ship of this one.  
Every one has got very nicely acquainted (sic) now & clicked off in pairs & quartets (sic) & Choruses & etc. The missionary's wife is trying to find a companion but it['s not so easy. She is too very stout & short & purrs to much.

## Overleaf 49

23<sup>rd</sup> We are now about 100 miles from the equator & wind has left us & ye gods it is hot. Every one is trying to get into the coolest & thinnest (sic) clothes they have & some of the fair sex have exceedingly thin clothes on this morning. Still I would have on thinner (sic) cloth[e]s if I had them, but I unfortunately only have my thick khaki. I must get a suit of white duck at Singapore tomorrow. We arrive there about noon & sail again about 6 pm.  
There has not been any love affairs or incidents worthy of note so far.

Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>

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Arrived off Singapore at 8 am. but as the pilot took us around the islands (the wrong way) & then back again, in through the western entrance we did not dock until 10.30 am.

Went ashore with the Station Staff Officer & paid the official visit on the Officer Comdg Major Gen. Ridout (who is a Canadian also) who was very nice. I tried to get some money for the men but it was Sunday & every one had locked up & gone off somewhere so the Gen wired Hong Kong to have \$1000 ready for me on our arrival there. He also gave me his car & ordered the driver to show me every part

**Overleaf 49 (A)**

Of the Island. Sent the Bde Major along also. Had a most delightful drive right around the Island & through the Botanical Gardens. Also the main thoroughfares of the city. It[']s a very pretty place. It poured & rained like the very dickens & flooded the hotel & we were in a fine mess at tiffin at the Europe Hotel. The best hotel there. It is very hot there. I was socked (sic) with perspiration (sic) all day. We left at 5 pm. Took on some passengers & coal. The man with the dirty teeth left us here. Queer little chap. I think he is a German. Singapore ranks among the most beautiful places I have visited. There was a mutiny here in 1915 when the garrison (at least a portion which was Petans from India;) refused to go to France & turned on their officers

& murdered them. Some seventy five being killed including B.O.R. & civilian men & women. They held up cars in the St & cut the women[']s throats & the missionaries turned out with rifles & assisted the whites to control the Indians. & it was accomplished only in the nick of time. The Petans who were led by some Dutch and Germans intended to murder every white man woman & child of British birth. They (the leaders) got away in a launch & slipped (sic) over on the Dutch Islands that lay near by. The Dutch planted over 350 mines for the Germans off the coast here. They are a dirty lot. They have been pro-German all through the war & have been supplying the Huns with every manner of war supplies right up to the end of the war. Sailed 5 pm. For HongKong.

## Overleaf 50

Feb 24<sup>th</sup> A beautiful day. Not so hot. We are headed for HongKong. Nothing to  
to record. 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> was a little windy. A few of the passengers did not put  
in an appearance.

27<sup>th</sup>

This evening we had a competition on the Choris (sic) K-K-K-Katie.  
Some of them ran as follows. :-

1<sup>st</sup> by Major Wheeler, V.C.

K-K-K-Kaiser  
Dodering Kaiser  
Your (sic) the sillyM-M-M-  
Man that lost the war  
When the R-Rope's tight  
Over your Hun neck  
We'll be done with you  
For ever M-M-M-More.



2<sup>nd</sup> by Molly Malin the operetic (sic) star  
C-C-C-Colonal (sic)  
Darling old Colonal (sic)  
Your (sic) the only M-M-M- Man  
That I adore  
C-C-C-Colonel. Jolly old Colonal (sic)  
Tell the Russians that its M-M-M-  
Me ye adore.

No 2

C-C-C-Colonal (sic)  
Mon C-C-C-Chère Colonal (sic)  
Your (sic) the only P-P-P-Pianist  
I adore  
Playing your rag time  
M-M-M-Made my heart thine  
When you left me at the  
C-C-C-Cabin door.

**Overleaf 50 (A)**

3<sup>rd</sup> by the Officers

C-C-C-Colonal (sic)  
You lively old Colonal (sic)  
Your (sic) the finest Sp-Sp-Sp-  
Port we ever knew  
When we M-Meet you  
Over in HonhKong  
What ajolly old S-S-S  
Sing-Song we shall have

4<sup>th</sup> by Guss

M-M-M-Molly  
Jolly old Molly  
Your talks a thing that  
W-W-We must endure  
When you S-Sing dear  
Oh-Oh-Oh- Hell – P  
You'll see us running  
For the C-C-C-Cabin door

5<sup>th</sup> by Mr Carleton (the Agt)

G-G-G-Gussy  
Sporting old Gussy  
Your (sic) the only M-M-M-  
Man who sleep the forty winks  
When the D-drinks come  
In the Sm-Smoke room  
That[']s the time you W-W-W-  
Wake for K-K-K-Keeps

6<sup>th</sup> by us all  
(the O.C. Battery)

Sk-Ka-Ka-Kelton  
Battery Skelton  
You're the only M-M-M-  
Man in charge of mules  
When the M-Mules bray  
On the Dilwara  
The only place to live is on  
The P-P-P-Poop

**Overleaf 51**

7<sup>th</sup> by the Col (myself)

B-B-B-Billy  
Where is your Katie  
She is over F-F-F-  
Flirting in the pub  
Go over & tell her  
Not to make eyes so  
Or there'll be a  
Dreadful row and  
Hub-Bub-Bub-Bub

8<sup>th</sup> by the Capt.

M-M-M-Molly  
Darling old Molly  
Your (sic) the only  
Gr-G-G-Girl that  
I adore  
When the M-Moon shines  
On the Dilwara  
I'll be waiting at  
Your C-C-C-Cabin door

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& so we killed the evening. Tomorrow we make ready to land. We are due on Mar 1<sup>st</sup> in the morning.

Feb 28<sup>th</sup>

Thick fog off Hong Kong. Laying too (sic) waiting for clear weather. The trip a very quiet one.

March 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>

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Arrived Hong kong at 11 am. Thick fog prevented us from coming in earlier.

We were met by Mjr Cassels the D.A.A. & Q.M. G. who put us up at the Peak Hotel on top of the Heights (a very pretty place) at \$6.00 per day, but fares on the mountain tram line to & from cost daily \$2.00 & chairs \$2.00 extra. Then the Rickshaws cost us another \$2.00 so it works out at \$12.00. Not very cheep (sic). They know how to charge here even 10 cents for a little small newspaper.

**Overleaf 51 (A)**

Books marked 4 pence are 30 cents here & a whisky & soda 50 cents. A dinner \$6.00 in the grill & so on. They are theaves (sic) & robbers. The tram is only 4000 feet long & they charge 30 cents one way & one has to take a rickshaw & chair each at the bottom & a chair at the top & each charges 20 cents. Making a five minutes ride of 300 yds cost one 90 cents each way & they say they are not making money.

Met Norman L. Railton of South Africa here the first thing when I landed. He invited me to ~~come~~ go to his place & be his guest while I am here. His wife is dead. He looks just the same.  
Went to races in afternoon

52(*printed on the page*)

went to Deep Bay with Major Cassels & Col Crisp. It[']s a delightful drive in motor. Had tea. The Gen<sup>ls</sup> daughter accompanied us also. She is very charming

Next day we all went to the golf coarse at Happy Valley. Got some clubs & started playing golf to kill time, also tennis.

We were all made Hon members of the Clubs in Hong Kong. It[']s very nice of them.

**Overleaf 52**

Mar 5<sup>th</sup> Moved over to Kowloon to Railtons, & got lots of Tennis. Went to Fan  
Ling to the golf links there, with Mjr Cassels & Col Crisp. A most  
to delightful drive of 23 miles through the mountains. It[']s just like the  
maritime Alps in south of France. Remained here till the 8<sup>th</sup> when I  
7<sup>th</sup> moved over to Hong Kong Hotel as Railton has a reputation which I could  
not afford to ignore.

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Mar 8<sup>th</sup>

This is a very nice hotel but very expensive, from \$7.00 to \$25.00 per day. They charge me \$7.00 & then it costs me another \$4.00 for extras & chairs & Rickshaws, as one cannot walk up & down the steep mountain side where everyone lives.

23<sup>rd</sup>

The people here are very social. They are entertaining us most lavishly with dances (sic), parties, drives, golf, tennis, picnics & etc. besides theatres parties & concerts. We shall always remember Hong Kong as one of the bright spots in our long journey around the globe.

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**Overleaf 52 (A)**

Went up to the paymaster to draw allowances. He said he would not pay us anything, as we were not of the Indian Army, (the confounded Indian Service officer again). All the officers are without money yet he will not pay. I had him wire Gen. Knox for authority to pay us. He received it, but would not pay unless Gen Knox placed the money to his credit here. He is an Ass.

I have played golf every day in the forenoon & most afternoons, & have dodged most of the dances, so I am quite fit & hard again. I played 45 holes yesterday & was quite fresh at the finish. This is the general daily routine (sic).

March

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Went to Canton today. It is a weird city of Chinese. A wonderful city but would not care to remain here long. Saw them carving ivory & painting the laquor (sic) work. Saw many old temples, City of the Dead, the Temple of the 500 Genii, which are the 500 Chinese Gods, the Private Temple some 800 years old & all the life on the river. There are

### **Overleaf 53**

Some 3,500,000 Chinese who live on sampans (little boats) on the rivers. They are born, grow up & die on there (sic) boats. They live by fishing & carrying freight on the longer boats.

Dined at the Victoria Hotel & returned by boat again. Cost me \$30.00

Mar Went to a Chinese dinner (Chaw) where they had some 40 courses. Every one  
ate out of the same dish. I nearly died.

26

28<sup>th</sup> Went to dine at the Chinese Club with the best Chinese of Hong Kong. One  
& would never know they were Chinese if one was not told. They like Europeans  
& speak English perfectly, & are very charming.

29<sup>th</sup> Had tea at Mr Ho Kowang's & his wife & their womenfolks who are very refined  
& very nice & hospitable.

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Had another try for money but no good. Had to draw on my private  
account again, & loose the discount, which is 1/3 on every dollar. The Govt now  
owes me about £3000. I do not know if I shall ever get it. They are so queer, I do  
not see how they have ever made themselves a nation.

### Overleaf 53 (A)

I suppose it is through silly ass's (sic) like me who do it for love of country & die a poppur (sic)(*pauper*). If ever I get home I'll look out for myself in future & let them whistle.

Mar 29<sup>th</sup>

left Hong Kong for Shanghai by R.M.S. Empress of Asia. Due to arrive there on 31<sup>st</sup>.

Had a very pleasant trip up. Very many nice Americans on board, who made it very pleasant for us. Weather was delightful & ocean smooth. A very nice ocastera (sic) played every afternoon & evening. Some very nice tallant (sic) on board.

**Overleaf 54**

Mar 31<sup>st</sup>

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Arrived Shanghai at 11.30 am. Got to the Palace Hotel at 2 pm & had tiffin. Men were billeted in quarters & the officers in the German Engineering School bldgs. Major Manners was very nice, & began to make us very much at home at once. He put us up at all the clubs & had invitations sent us at once to dine. Dined at the Astor House & went to the Official Ball given by the American Consol. Was put up at the Palace Hotel at &8.00 per day.



Apr 1<sup>st</sup>

to  
5<sup>th</sup>

All officers were invited to live at private homes & given dances every evening & I promptly got the flue & went to bed in my room where I remained till the 5<sup>th</sup> when Dr sent me to hospital (isolation).

6<sup>th</sup>

to

9<sup>th</sup>

Remained in hospital till the ninth, where I had a very nice time being nursed by Chinese nurses who were very nice. Did not have a very bad attack and got out of doors right away & felt better at once. Mrs Bruce of New York was very kind & sent me some beautiful flowers & books & others sent books also, so time passed quickly & I got permission to leave hospital on ninth. Dr. Jackson attended.

**Overleaf 54 (A)**

10<sup>th</sup>

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Went to stay with Lady Fraiser (sic) at British Consol[<sup>e</sup>]s home. She was most charming & kind. I felt rather badly but said nothing as I wanted to get away with the mission party on the 11<sup>th</sup> (tomorrow). Went to a Dinner & Ball at the McBain[<sup>e</sup>]s with Lady Fraiser (sic). Had a nice time but did not dance as I was still feeling very poorly. My head felt as large as a bucket, & my chest raw, & generally I felt as if I was getting worse. I purchessed (sic) \$100.00 worth of kit & food which they told me I had to get here. It seems a vary badly run show if they have been there a year & have not yet got any thing to cook on or with, nor any food supplies in stock.

11<sup>th</sup> went on board the R.M.S. Monteagle at 9 am. Takes 1 ½ hrs by tender to  
to go from city down the river to the stream. Got a two-berth cabin with  
Major Shuttleworth. Very small. No 202. out kits which were sent down  
o[n] another tender the night before. Was down in the silk room locked up  
& we had to go without our kits. Just like the military; they told ships  
officers we were not wanting the kits on board. Had a frightful job sorting  
13<sup>th</sup> out the baggage. Put all mine in the Orderly Room. Had a delightful run  
over to Japan. We call in to Moji to replenish our coal & water & et[c].  
Arriving there on the 13<sup>th</sup> at noon. Church service held at 11 am. as we  
was (sic) entering the Inland Sea of Japan by missionary.

**Overleaf 55**

13<sup>th</sup>

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Arrived Moji, Japan at 12 noon & began to take on coal & water also food supplies.

Went ashore after I had been critically examined by the little brown Germans of the Pacific. The Jap. official would not permit me ashore till I produced some official papers to prove I was a British Officer, even though I was in uniform & I/C of a large party of British Officers on a British Troop Ship. He was most insulting but one could not say a word as we were in their port & under their guns. However, I got past him & saw the town. One of my officers, Capt Halpin, was arrested for taking a photo of the street, & as nobody went to bother about him they released him

after taking his film. Had I gone to them they would have made a fuss & kept him much longer. I did not intend to go near them at all. I was going to make them come to me & as soon as they found I was not interested, they lost interest at once.

They are a rotten lot. & their (sic)[they're] our allies. Suffering cats. Received a wire from Gen Blair to have nominal rolls ready, also to tell off into three parties, one for Russian Island & two for Omsk.

Overleaf 55 (A)

14<sup>th</sup> Left Moji 4.30 pm. for Vladivodstock (sic). See (sic) smooth but raining.  
15<sup>th</sup> bright & clear & cooler north wind. We are due about 4 pm. tomorrow.  
& 2 pm. Beginning to grow very chilly or cold. We have now left the warm  
15<sup>th</sup> current & got into the cold waters from Behring (sic) Sea.

16<sup>th</sup> Arrived Vladivodstock (sic) at 11 am & disembarked at 3 pm.  
A very nice harbour & it was entirely clear of ice & quite warm, about 35°.  
I was billeted at the Hotel & dined at Hd. Qutrs mess.  
This I s a typical Russian town. Dirty as can be & no regard for comfort  
or convenience was considered

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when being built or the streets laid out. It is full of Bolshevicks (sic) & criminals also. One is not at all safe out after dark. There are murders & robberies committed every night & everything costs frightfully. What one could purchess (sic) for one rouble in pre war days, now costs anywheres from 10 Rs to 30 Rs.

The Canadians are not liked by the British Staff here, & the British is detested by the Canadians. The same applies to the Americans, Japs & French & etc. Each branch of the Allies is suspicious (sic) of the other. Each is afraid the other will get a little more foothold than he & there is no semblance of unity, which augures (sic) very badly for the success of the Allied endavoures (sic) to make law & order.

The British are very weak in their personel (sic). Just like Dunsterville was with

## Overleaf 56

His Staff. Knox does not know nearly as much about organization as Dunsterville did & he did not know anything about it at all. Knox has also gathered about him & promoted to all the chief positions his particular pals & friends regardless of their ability & most of them have had no war service at all, & have not the vaguest ideas of their duties. There is no organization here at all. Both missions are noted for their complete absence of written orders. As usual senior officers are not wanted as they wish to promote their own pals. They do not know what to do with me at all. They are as close as clams. I do not mind, in fact I shall be most pleased if they will send me on home, as I am very



homesick & fed up with the Indian Army Service English Officer. He is very deceitful & jellious (sic) of any one who is liable to get something he might get if the other fellow was not in the way, & so he knocks him behind his back & is most polite & cordial & friendly to his face. The English Officer in France, England & elsewhere are not that way. These officers on these mission jobs seem to be a lot of gentlemen who are not required in their own Regts.

**Overleaf 56 (A)**

Apr 17<sup>th</sup> Spent most of my time trying to get material to take up country & warm  
kit. Have bought over \$100.00 worth of food stuffs cooking utensils &  
To 20<sup>th</sup> etc. Was notified verbally to be ready to proceed to Tomsk by Sunday  
night's express on the 20<sup>th</sup> to take charge of the British mission there. I  
endeavoured (sic) to get some report of the general situation in Siberia &  
Tomsk in particular from Gen Blair & Col Wickham but could not  
succeed. They are very peculiar indeed. The Canadians here are a very  
cheep (sic) lot mostly too. I wonder at the Canadian Govt sending such  
men. The R.N.W.M. Police are the best of the lot. The remainder are  
mostly the conscripts & remain at home or those who were

falions (sic) & sent home with cold feet from France. Of there are some exceptions but generally speaking they are not representitave (sic) Canadians.

Apr 20<sup>th</sup>

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Left Vladivodstock for Tomsk by the Omsk Express at 10 pm. The R.T.O. had secured me a 3<sup>rd</sup> class passage & said that was the best he could get three days before as everything was booked up. I found after the train had started 8 first class compartments unoccupied & 4 in the International Car attached to the train & paid the difference of some 500 rubles & moved in. I shall have that R.T.O. exchanged or dismissed when I get to Hd. Qrts. He did not even come down to see the train out. He was out to dine somewhere & could not be bothered with coming away early.

**Overleaf 57**

to

That is the way they are all working.

Apr

We were (8) eight days on the train. I was ordered by wire to proceed on to Omsk & had to pay my extra fare some 500 Rs. It's a fine way to run things. Not one R.T.O. put in an appearance at any station along the

27<sup>th</sup>

whole 3000 miles. We had mail for all of them. Some we found & others we could not & brought their mail on to Omsk with us.

We arrived 3 am. at Omsk.

Apr 28<sup>th</sup>

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Arrived 3 am. Not a soul to meet us, & no intreprator (sic). We sat on the Stn Platform until six o[‘]clock am. & we had not the vaguest idia (sic) where the town lay. As it was not insight anywhere, & someone had told us it was about 5 miles from the Ry Stn.

I started to find it & left Major Shuttleworth & my servant to guard the baggage. I found the 9<sup>th</sup> Hampshires Hd.Qrtrs after walking for 1 & a ½ hours & every one in bed & they neither could or would tell me where the mission Hd.Qrtrs were, nor would they give me transport for my baggage. So I went on for another hour & found Hd.Qrtrs & every one asleep here also. They had no arrangements to meet us or get our baggage up. I was just a little bit angry & told them what I thought of

**Overleaf 57 (A)**

Of the lot of them.

Finally I went back & hired a couple of Droskies & got everything up. Gen Knox was up to the front about 1000 miles farther (sic) on. Gen Bows had gone down country, & Col Harvey said he did not know what Gen Knox would do with me. I may be given a Batt. Or I may be put in charge of a school; either job is only a Capt's so I do not think I am long for this place. I must wait here till Gen Knox returns in five days & in the mean time I can amuse myself any way I please.

I slept all the afternoon & went to a cinema (sic) in the evening. It was rotten.

This is the dirtiest Russian town I have yet been in, about 300,000 population of refugees & pasents (sic).

- 29<sup>th</sup> Began to write up this diary & a few letters. It is very warm here about 45 or 50 above & bright sunshine.  
I expect I will go up to the front at the finish. I am frightfully fed up. The Staff here are just like all the others in Mesopotamia, Persia, Caucasus, India & all around. All are from the Indian Service & not worth a pinch of snuff. If I were in Comd here they would wake up, or they would not last any longer than a snowball in hell.
- To They are very deceitful & will talk behind one's back & say things that are untrue, & they do fancy themselves a bit.
- 31<sup>st</sup> Everything costs enormously (sic) here. Oranges 40 roubles each, eggs 50 Rs for 10. One bottle of whisky 1200 Rs. Butter per lb. 100 Rs. Tea per lb. 500 Rs.

*(note he wrote this up after the fact and has a date of 31<sup>st</sup> April which is obviously an error)*

## Overleaf 58

May 1<sup>st</sup>

Gen Knox arrived last evening. Came up to Hd. Qrtrs & then returned to train again. I did not see him.

Very dull walking about with nothing to do. Capt Cousmaker who was my Staff Capt at Krasnovdski came in today. He walked from Caspian to Omsk. He came right through the Bolshevick (sic) Country. He deserves great credit. He is an able fellow & speaks Russian well, but is conceited & does not care for me. I am sorry he will queer me with t he Gen as he has been taken on his Staff.



May 2<sup>nd</sup>

to

4<sup>th</sup>

Turned very cold. I have been walking all over the town & there is nothing of interest here. Only refugees everywhere of the poorest type. Have not seen Gen Knox yet. He comes up to the office but will not see me. His A.D.C. invited me down to lunch today but the Gen said he would rather I would come another day. That is just what I was told in Baghdad to expect from him. I was told he had no use for Colonials or even English volunteer officers and English officers of the Indian Army where (sic) the only officers he would have here & what I see here already proves it to be only too true.  
I am taking a very bad cold I think. I shall retire early tonight.

**Overleaf 58 (A)**

May 5<sup>th</sup> I[n] bed with a cold & nobody to treat me. They have no medical organization as usual. There is an American Hospital with Russian attendants, also a Canadian ditto, both going away. What we shall do to without one, nobody can say. I cannot understand them being so short sighted & incompetant (sic). Ther is no organization in the whole mission from Vladivodstock (sic) to the front.

May 7<sup>th</sup> A Can. Dr. came up to organize some sort of hospital for the mission today. He came to see me & said I was to remain in bed & continue taking aspirin which I have been taking for three days. & tomorrow perhaps I may get up.  
Col Harvey came in & said the Gen wished me to proceed back to Vladivodstock (sic) & take charge of Russian Island Training School.

& asked me if I cared to do it. I told him I was a soldier & therefore was here to do whatever Gen. Knox wished or ordered.

May 8<sup>th</sup> Got up today. Did not go out. Overheard Staff grousing about letters & tellegames (sic) not being in their places, & from what I heard they have no system of filing & etc.  
Officers are all fed up here & nobody knows what he is to do.

May 9<sup>th</sup> Gen Knox received me & told me he wished me to take over Comd. Of  
to Russian Island Training Camp at Vladivodstock (sic) temperairly (sic) &  
to proceed by next Sunday evening's express. Well, Thank the Lord they  
have found something for me to do at last.

**Overleaf 59**

May  
10<sup>th</sup>

I do not think I shall be there long. They have had three C.O.s in three months & it's a move to get rid of me anyway, as I am too senior & a Colonial. Gen. Knox does not like Colonials. He has invited all the English Officers down to dine with him, but not a single Colonial???

That is not good diplomacy at any rate to say nothing of bad policy & very bad foresight.

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Left Omsk today at 7.45 pm. for Vladivodstock. Before leaving I dined with Gen. Knox, Gen. Jack & some Russian Gen. also present . Listened to much conversation re mission policy. Gen. Knox's idia (sic) was to switch his base from Vladivodstock to Archangle (sic) as soon as we connect up with

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the force operating from there & sort of leave this to the Russians to take care of. He did not seem to know exactly what he did want to do. His conversation chiefly ran along lines of criticism (sic) of other officers. I am quite sure I am in amongst the same lot when I am absent.

Gen. Knox has a most elaborate (sic) & luxurious (sic) train made up of wagonlees (sic) (or Internationalls (sic)). There were seven of them & on his Staff five Russian speaking officers (he also is a Russian linguist) while the H.Q. have none & most of the schools have none. Only very inferior Russians who speak English very badly & cannot translate. I do not understand why he requires so many when he speaks

**Overleaf 59 (A)**

Russian so fluewantly (sic) himself.

All the other missions are the same. Gen Jack[']s railway mission with two of such trains. Then there were several Russian Generals and Minister trains, the French, Americans, Japs, Czechos, Italians & others too numerous to mention. All living in luxsery (sic) & at half the cost of our mess as they purchess (sic) the food when it is cheapest (sic) while running up & down the line which they are doing all the time.

The officers at Omsk & at Vladivodstock are absolutely unorganised. They cannot find their tellegrames (sic) or letters when required as they have no proper filing system & cannot start one. Also nobody is working, all are running about

60(*printed on the page*)

very busy but when one asks them what they are doing, they say “well I really did nothing, I have been very busy killing time. The whole show is a farce.”

Now the Gen<sup>l</sup> is trying to form or organize a Brigade of eight (8) Batt<sup>s</sup> with English officers only, to absorb the British Officers here, as the schools are a farce. He is putting all officers of the India Service in charge, & most of them have never seen any war service.

**Overleaf 60**

*(page left Blank)*



- May 11<sup>th</sup> Left Omsk & took eleven days to reach Vladivodstock (sic). The Bolsheviks (sic) wrecked five trains ahead of us & took up five miles of rails & ties. We were stalled two days while they built a new track but otherwise nothing of interest occurred enrou[t]e. I met Brig Gen Blair at Erkutsk (sic) (*Irkutsk*). He was proceeding to H.Q to take command of the Brigd. I told him I was dissatisfied & wished to come back to the front or go home. He promised to do what he could to get me back up with him. (I wonder if he really meant it?).
- to
- 21<sup>st</sup> Arrived Vladivodstock (sic) at midnight last night. Slept on train, woke at 7 pm. (*am?*) this morning to find train had been backed out six miles to first river & had a very ackward (sic) time getting back into town. Cost me 600 Roubles.

**Overleaf 60 (A)**

May 22        Spent Day getting cloths (sic) cleaned & making ready to proceed to Russian Island.

23<sup>rd</sup>            Proceeded to Russian Island & took over from Col. Sir Edward Grogan Bart. C.B. A very fussy old fellow. I do not care for him much. He ran over much matter in connection with the school, & went into great detail & repeated it many, many times. Could not make head or tail to most of it. He certainly does not understand organization. Everything is in a frightful mess here. Adjts doing R.E.s work. Sgt Mjr Huges running canteen without a check; it[']s a fine mess for a Staff Colliage (sic) Officer to be running.

- Sat 24 H.M.S. Kent football team played here last & us
- 26<sup>th</sup> Col Grogan left for Vladivodstock (sic) to take over Gen Blair's position. I'm sorry for them in Vladivodstock. He is an out & out conceited ass & does not know his duties a little bit.  
Mrs & Col Rodzianko, Cmdr Edward s & Mrs Robertson to tea. Sgt Salmon taken on strength.  
I assumed command
- 27<sup>th</sup> Sir Charles Elliott, the British High Commissioner paid me a visit. He is the same old chap I dinned (sic) with at Sir Edward Fraiser[']s (British Consol) at Shanghai en rout[e] here. He is one of the old school.
- to
- Went back to Vladivodstock with him & remained there until 29<sup>th</sup> noon.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Trying to get some things from the H.Q. & the Canadians for our quarters here. They have promised me a car, motor cycle & gramophone (sic). I also want a motor launch to get back & forth with.

**Overleaf 61**

May 30<sup>th</sup> The Danish representative (sic) of the Danish legation came to visit me. & remained all night. Have had a walk around the various barracks & the  
To grounds & took a walk on the Island. It is very pretty here, but a prison. I shall go mad here if they do not change me soon or let me return home.  
31<sup>st</sup> Col. Rodzianko took the two horses away. He promised me two others from Canadians where he received them but I'll never get them. It[']s the way of the Staff in the Army.

June 1<sup>st</sup> This island is getting to be a regular St Helena to me. I cannot stick it. H.Q. will not give us a single thing such as motorcars, motor boats, horses or musical box of any kind & they have their own messes all filled & plenty of every means of recreation, here none except to walk through the woods which of coarse I enjoy very much. This class has been passed & only await orders to leave. The same daily routine never vairies (sic). We get a visitor of a week end, very uninteresting in most cases.

to

3<sup>rd</sup> Gen. Knox has taken away all the Russian speaking officers & now we only have Russians who cannot speak English very much. I had trouble with Capt Rier (*Pier?*) & returned him to Vladivodstock for absence without leave.

**Overleaf 61 (A)**

do

We dine noons & evenings at the Subranja (the Russian Mess) & get our breakfasts at home. Also Saturday (sic) evenings & Sundays. Went to Vladivodstock (sic) a couple of times but its worse there than here.

The Russians here at the school are a very good lot of men young healthy, but the instructional staff are a poor lot with one or two exceptions. The Comd. Of the school is very weak (Col Pleshkoff) & his adjt Capt is N.G. & very much disliked by the Russians themselves. I want both shifted.

do

Then there are plenty of stores & supplies in ordenc. (sic) stores here on the island but the engineers will not give us a single thing. So hereto fore the O.C. has been getting material from our own stores while the Russian engineers are selling theirs. So I have stopped anymore coming from stores & tell them when they furnish us with the amount of material required by them for repairs or new construction, I will have the work done at once. Now they are asking for lots of repair work to be done in a hurry & I am sitting tight. They will come around to my way of doing business soon I'm thinking. They have been making a very fat thing all along out of their supplies selling them & pocketing the proceeds.

## Overleaf 62

do

The officers & men of H.M.S. Kent have been very kind. They have on many occasions come over & put on sports to amuse the Russians when they may have enjoyed themselves much better elsewhere & also have allowed us to bring over 100 cadets twice a week & show them over the ship.

However they are leaving on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June for home. I wish I was going also. I am very fed up here now. It[']s just like the Dunsterville show. Their (sic) (*They're*) all alike when the Indian Army has anything to do with it.



- 3<sup>rd</sup> Evacuated to Eng R.S.M. Hughs, W.C.s, O.M.S. Townsend, Sgts Gutteridge, Murray, Cramp, & Ellis & to Canada Sgt Salmon on compassionate grounds.
- Official rate of exchange 120 Roubles to the £.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Major Ritchie takes over R.E. duties from Adjt who has been doing this work while the R.E. did nothing.  
Permission granted to proceed with construction of a classification range & enlargement of the parade ground now under construction.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Handed over to 36<sup>th</sup> Regt the Branch Canteen there.

**Overleaf 62 (A)**

14<sup>th</sup> Arrivals nil  
Departures 30  
Total Strength 600

Time advanced one hour

17<sup>th</sup> Two side cars arrived for my Dept.s use but we shall not be able to use them much as the roads are impassible (sic) for want of repair.

21<sup>st</sup> My servant Pte Gilmoure returned to duty at Vladi. He is N.G.

Sunday}  
22<sup>nd</sup> }

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Arrivals recruits | 5   |
| Departures “      | 24  |
| Total Strength    | 573 |

28<sup>th</sup>

Lt Haldeef (Russian Intrepretor (sic)) left for Omsk

29<sup>th</sup>

International parade to celebrate aniversary (sic) of Liberation of Vladividstock (sic) by Czechs. Russian Island Detachment of British Mission was never notified & we did not take part or witness it.

30<sup>th</sup>

Capt Squire returned from Vladivodstock (sic) & reported he had heard peace had been signed. No confirmation.

**Overleaf 63**

Con Canteen profits for the month of June; Rs 18137.88 Kpks.

July 1<sup>st</sup>

Large parade of all the Allies in honour of the signing of the peace treaty by the Germans. 120 cadets & Col Rubetz went over to represent the school. No intivation (sic) (*invitation?*) was sent to the B.D. here by the mission & we only heard of it through the Russians accidentally. We have received no notice of peace having been signed yet.

**Overleaf 63(A)**

2<sup>nd</sup>

Mjr. Gen Sir Knox K.C.B., C.M.G.

“ “ Sokaloff (Russian Army)

Col Sir Ed. Grogan Bart. D.S.O.

Mjr Cameron D.S.O. & Capt Vincent visited the school & the B.D. attached to the school as Instructional Staff.

Gen Knox presented t[w]o pairs of expensive binoculars to the two best shots at rifle & revolver practice. They were 1<sup>st</sup> Lt M.A. Kooskoff (revolver) & 1<sup>st</sup> Lt I.E. Konovaloff (rifle). I told Col. Grogan I did not approve of giving such expensive prizes. & especially as the cadets had finished their class & was not expecting any prize. Also no competition could now take place & the object of a prize to improve the whole class by competing for prizes was not attained. But he apparently (sic) wished to ingratiate himself with the Russians, as he had promised the glasses while here as O.C. – B.D. – R.I.

3<sup>rd</sup> Capt Squire left school to be demobilized & proceed to Japan. Capt W.  
Honey M.C. take[s] over the duties of Adjutant from him.  
to Gen Knox held reception. It was a very tame affair. The British are so  
reserved they cannot come out of their shell even as hosts. Everybody  
5<sup>th</sup> was bored stiff.  
A detachment of cadets left under Comd of Col. Sapiegen to quell a  
Bolshevike (sic) rising near Souchan.

**Overleaf 64**

6<sup>th</sup> Capt Kititsin & Staff visited school. He is in charge of the naval school here  
7<sup>th</sup> A very fine fellow. A very capable Honest & loyal  
8<sup>th</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> Capt J.W. Carrington, D.S.O., RN visited school. He comds H.M.S. Carlisle.  
to  
10<sup>th</sup>



11<sup>th</sup> Col Warden visited Vladivodstock (sic) to act as Pres<sup>dt.</sup> Of a F.G.C.M.

&

12<sup>th</sup>

Sunday

13<sup>th</sup> Party of Armenian Red X visited the mess & were intertained (sic). (about 20 present)

14<sup>th</sup> Sgt Davis left for Omsk to ~~bring a horse back for the C.O.~~ (*note: strike through is in the diary by the author*).  
Sgt Jackson left for Harbin for horse.

**Overleaf 64 (A)**

|                  |                            |              |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Strength of school to date |              |
|                  | P of W = 365               |              |
|                  | School Staff (Russian)     | 96           |
|                  | Officer Students           | 131          |
|                  | Other Ranks                | <u>549 =</u> |
|                  |                            | 776          |

Col Warden & 20 N.C.O.s also

Col. & Madam Pleshkoff (the Comdt) & his wife) were intertained (sic) by Gen. Knox at the theator (sic).

16<sup>th</sup> I went with Col. Rabitz in serch (sic) of lumber to 33 Regt. There was plenty to be had from old buildings & stores, but we shall never receive any of it. The engineers (Russian) block our endeavours (sic) at every turn of the road.

17<sup>th</sup> Our football team won a match from the team from the H.M.S. Carlile 3-2

- 18<sup>th</sup> Band & Party of men from Middlesex & naval W.O.s visited B.D. & intertained (sic) cadets & played a game of F. ball.
- To P of W gave concert at 36 Regt. It was very good.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Party of cadets under Capt Williams visited H.M.S. Carlisle for instructional purposes.
- 
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Tried a Turkish P. of W. for assaulting a girl & sent him back to Russians to be delt (sic) with.
- 
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Reduced act, Sgt Keech to ranks again for being away & drunk. Played Middlesex F. ball today & won 1 – 0. fine game.  
Out (sic) (*our?*) cadets are improving very fast. The physical exercises are telling now in their favour.

**Overleaf 65**

24<sup>th</sup> Cols Pleshkoff, Rubitz & the officers of the B.D. accompanied me to Vlad<sup>k</sup> to dinner at the British mess.

To

28<sup>th</sup> Major Dunlop visited B.D. to try & arrive at some method of finding a balance sheet of the canteen before we took over that is up to first of June. Did not succeed. No accounts were kept & Sgt Major Hughs put all the profits in his pocket & as near as I can get at it, there is a deficit of 27000 Rs up to my taking charge. I have paid off the deficit & cleared 18000 Rs so far.

&

29<sup>th</sup>

to

31<sup>st</sup> Sent 400 beds from Podnojia to Vlad. To B.M.M.  
Rained like the dickens. It was really wet.

Strength of school on 31<sup>st</sup> July

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Russian Staff Officers | 106        |
| Officer Students       | 100        |
| Other ranks            | <u>806</u> |
|                        | 1012       |
| P. of W.               | 382        |

Rs K

Canteen net profit for July 24066. 10

The canteen under Capt Honey[']s watchful eye is making money. This is the result of proper method good organization & putting the proper men in the right place.

**Overleaf 65 (A)**

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Aug 1<sup>st</sup>

To      Col Grogan & Capt Savory visited R. I. To look for Barracks room for Knox's  
6<sup>th</sup>      Mission which is to come down. They are going to try & form a Brigade here on  
The Island. A sort of a glorified (sic) school. It will never work. The Russians  
will knock it & it is not workable.

**Overleaf 66**

7<sup>th</sup>    Capts Elliot T.S.    = M.C.    }  
      "    Coomber A.B.                    }  
      "    Compion O. St. L.                }  
      "    Landells J.R.R.                    }  
2/Lt   Perrott W.R.                    }  
      reported for quarters. Awaiting Orders  
      Capt Elliot posted for duty with this detachment

|    |
|----|
| C. |
| M. |
| A. |
| R. |

8<sup>th</sup>    Went to look for hospital site. Also inspected Russian Island Hospital. Found it  
To    frightfully dirty. Sent a report covering M.O.s report regarding it to Hd. Qtrs. &  
      asked to have old Rus. Dr. removed. He is N.G. & lazy.  
10<sup>th</sup>    Capt Gow reported as Bombing Officer to B.D. – R.I.



11<sup>th</sup> Gen Pereira C.B.-C.M.G. D.S.O. visited R.I. & school & dined with me. A fine interesting old chap. Wish he was C. of Staff instead of Col. Grogan who is absolutely an impossible man to work with. He is so very unpopular he cannot get only the unpopular junior officers to visit or dine with him. & naturally they are glad to accept his invitation as these are the only ones they get.

**Overleaf 66 (A)**

- 12<sup>th</sup> Visited Cadets['] kitcheons (sic) & other mess cook house. They were filthy.  
Some of them awful.
- & I kicked up an awful row about them. It may do some good.  
Brig Gen Pereira C.B. – C.M.G. D.S.O. came to dine. Also Mrs Robertson came  
13 to visit for a few days.  
Two cases of medical stores & four bags of magazines arrived . These are the  
To first stores or books we have received & I had quite a lot of trouble to get them.  
60 cubic sojens of wood taken over from eng for winter fuel.
- 14<sup>th</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> Capt Coomber ordered to report to 13 M.M H.Q. Vladi.

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| School Strength (Rus.) |             |
| Office[r] Staff        | 104         |
| Officer Cadets         | 62          |
| Other ranks            | <u>1125</u> |
|                        | 1297        |
| P. of W.               | 371         |
| Rus. Workmen           |             |

16<sup>th</sup> Col. Robertson O.B.E. visited Island & returned to Vladi with Mrs R.  
Middlesex Band & F. ball team arrived also some H.M.S. Carlisle  
to W.O.s Played school team to a draw 1 – 1  
8 P. of W. (Arabs) arrived

17<sup>th</sup>

**Overleaf 67**

18<sup>th</sup> As bank refused Omsk notes (rubles), I ordered the canteen closed pending authority from C. of Staff B.M.M. to hand over to Russians.

To

20 Hungarian P. of W. given a holiday in celebration (sic) of the introduction of Christianity into their country by "Holy Stephan".  
Capt Corrington & Capt Kittison dined (sic) at mess.

21<sup>st</sup> Our horse arrived from Harbin. Sgt Jackson bought her for use of C.O. – B.D. – R. I. Received instructions to send names of all those who wished to stay with the mission as volunteers (sic). Done. All officers except

22<sup>nd</sup> myself volunteered (sic). Only ¼ of N.C.O.s volunteered (sic). Received a bal. Sheet of canteen at last & it is what the Americans call "Cooked for your life". It is a slick peace (sic) of workmanship to cover Col Grogan's incompetancy (sic) & laxity & bad organization & faulty administration.

**Overleaf 67(A)**

23<sup>rd</sup> Had American movie man come & take the school at work as an advertisement (sic) for the school in obtaining recruits. Everything was carried out well.

To

26<sup>th</sup> Sent Ford car to Vladivodstock (sic) beyond repair. It has been out of repair for over two months. I have not had the use of a car or motorboat since I came here (of my own). I have borrowed the Russians['] several times.

27<sup>th</sup> began renovating quarters as I wish to open the mess to all officers & dine here at home. The Russian mess (Sobronjie is getting very poor. We get no decent (sic) food ever, & now it is getting very small in quantity & worse in quality.

## Overleaf 68

28<sup>th</sup> Received some cloths (sic) for P. of W. Lorries sent to Podnojia to move young Public School Cadets to their new quarters under Col. Polukin. British paid in Kharinskies Roubles today for first time. One of them (Kherenskies) is worth two Omsk roubles, & this has been the state of affairs for over six months. We should be paid in Sterling. We are supposed to be drawing the value of 30/- in roubles per day amounting to 45£ per month or 4500 roubles. But the 4500 roubles are only worth 9£ so we are loosing (sic) each month 36£. All through the incompetancy (sic) of the Staff & particularly Gen Knox & Capt Sandleson the PayMaster.



they are a most incompitant (sic) lot as ever I met. It is to bad.

$$\begin{array}{r} 36 \\ \underline{\phantom{0}6} \\ 216 \\ \underline{\phantom{00}5} \\ \$1080 \text{ lost} \end{array}$$

**Overleaf 68 (A)**

29<sup>th</sup> 2/Lt Perrott posted to School. It is presumed as an interpreter (sic), but did not say so in authority from H.Q. He cannot intreprate (sic) any better than I can.  
to

|                  |                   |             |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 31 <sup>st</sup> | School Strength   |             |
|                  | Offi office Staff | 101         |
|                  | Cadets            | 58          |
|                  | Other ranks       | <u>1047</u> |
|                  |                   | 1206        |
|                  | P. of W.          | 378         |

Capt Creig R.E. posted to the B.D. as engineer to replace Mjr Ritchie who is to be demobilized soon.

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## Overleaf 69

- Sept 1<sup>st</sup>      Went to Vladivodstock (sic) & changed all my roubles (32,000 Rs) into Khrenskies from Omsk.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>            Mjr Ritchie handed over to Capt Creig R.E. & now awaits orders to proceed to Canada. (Lucky fellow)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>            Visited Russian F.G.C. martial. They are trying a prisoner for refusing to obey any & all orders. He was shot at by his Coy officer, is now convelescent (sic). He is pure Bolshevike & no doubt be shot by C.M. order. Their C.M.s are vastly different from ours. The witness tells his story as fast as he can speak & then stands there for fifteen minutes until the clerk writ[e]s it all down. Others get up & prompt him. Public is allowed in (that is; the military public)

4<sup>th</sup>

Prisoner found guilty & shot this morning at daybreak.

Went to American Hospital to see if I had Cholera germs, was feeling ill.  
Remained here for 10 days.

14

went to Vladivodstock & & made arrangements to go home - fed up to  
the teeth with this place & rotten outfit.

**Overleaf 69 (A)**

15<sup>th</sup>      Left for Vladivodstock (sic) & tried to have a friendly conversation with his "All Highest" but it[']s no use. He is making a cessationest (sic) out of me.

to

16 }  
    }  
    }  
    }  
to }  
    }  
24 }

remained in Vladivodstock (sic) awaiting passage

24<sup>th</sup> sailed for Japan noon. Trip smooth & uneventful.

26 arrived Tsarruga Japan 4 pm. & was quarintened (sic) for three days  
to until 29<sup>th</sup>.  
29

Left Tsarruga for Yokohama. Little trains. Could not lay out straight in bunk.

Police officer came in & rode in my compartment because he said wished to talk & improve his English. They are awfully cheeky.

30 arrived Yokohama & put up at Hotel De France. Plenty of bed bugs here. House crowded & expence (sic) very high for the service.

## **Overleaf 70**

Oct 1<sup>st</sup> remained here till 11<sup>th</sup> Oct when I sailed for Vancouver, B.C. arriving there on 20<sup>th</sup> Oct

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*Last updated, 3 April 2007*