

Diary of Major James McCarroll – 1915 – Egypt – Gallipoli – Malta – United Kingdom.

Transcribed by Steve Butler for the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Association – 2007.

Friday 1st January
Training. No holiday

Saturday 2nd
Training Squadron

Sunday 3rd
Colonel Begg, Colonel Mackesy, Major O'Neil and self visited Helliopolis Obelisk.

Dates 4th, 5th 6th - entries all state:
Squadron Training.

Thursday 7th
Trek to Ma'adi in sandstorm via Virgin's Breast – Moses' Well
Bivouac near Q.L.H. [Queensland Light Horse] Camp Maadi.

Friday 8th
Return trek via Arron's Gorge – Petrified Forest – Virgin's Breast.

Saturday 9th
Dismounted Training.
Hon J. McKenzie inspected troops.

Sunday 10th
Went to Sakaraha, she is well worth seeing.

Monday 11th
Regemental training.

Tuesday 12th and 13th
Regimental training and letters from home.

Thursday 14th
Regiment trek to Askanda Shakara – slept in the desert.

Friday 15th
Return to Camp.

Saturday 16th
Dismounted Parade.

Next entry Monday 18th
Vaccinated today.

Tuesday 19th

Field training with poor results.

Wednesday 20th

Attack on position. General Birdwood looked on.

Thursday 21st

Defence.

Friday 22nd

Mobilisation. Good turn out.

Saturday 23rd

Musketry and Conference of Officers. General line.

Sunday 24th

Duty J – O.

Monday 25th

Brigade training all day. Attack.

Tuesday 26th

B – T [Brigade Training] Skirmish between CYC & AMR.

[Canterbury Yeomanry Cavalry and Auckland Mounted Rifles.]

Wednesday 27th

Field firing.

Thursday 28th

Parade cancelled. Striking Infantry tents. Pitching Aus [Australian] tents
Infantry 2nd reinforcements arrived.

Friday 29th

Attack with artillery.

Saturday 30th

Dismounted training. Sports in the afternoon.

Sunday 31st

St. Andrews Church. Barrage in the afternoon.

Monday 1st February

Attack and defence.

Tuesday 2nd

Attack

Wednesday 3rd

Dismounted Parade.

Thursday 4th

Attack at number 3 town, we were flank guard.

Friday 5th

Attack, trenching at night.

Saturday 6th

Dismounted.

Sunday 7th

At home.

Monday 8th

Rear guard, and trenching at night, home at 11.30.

Tuesday 9th

Inspection of trenches by daylight.

Wednesday 10th

Divisional attack – we formed outposts.

Thursday 11th

Dismounted work at Camp. D [Duty] Field Officer today.

Friday 12th

Regimental training.

Saturday 13th

Inspection of saddlery.

Monday 15th

Brigade training.

Tuesday 16th

Brigade training. Taking up a line of outposts and trenching same.

Wednesday 17th

Dismounted Parade. Visited by Reverend Gillan.

Thursday 18th

Brigade in attack.

Friday 19th

Divisional training. Attack on a position.

Saturday 20th

Inspection of equipment.

Tuesday 23rd

Trek – left at 10 am lunch at Bivouacked at Nawa – left at 8.45 am.

Wednesday 24th

Trek – see why Corps, many went home. No water to drink. Stayed at BELBEIS.

Thursday 25th

Trek back to NAWA.

Friday 26th

Back to Camp, fought our way back. Got 2 letters from home.

Saturday 27th

Dismounted.

MARCH Monday 1st

Reconnaissance.

Tuesday 2nd

Staff ride for S [Squadron] leaders.

Wednesday 3rd

Divisional attack.

Thursday 4th

In Camp organising.

Friday 5th

Clipping horses.

Monday 8th

Attack, N.Z. Brigade up against A [Australian] Brigade.

Tuesday 9th

Watching operations. N.Z. Infantry Brigade against Aus Brigade.

Friday 12th

Attack on Aus Brigade.

Saturday 13th

In Camp.

Monday 15th

Early attack on Aus Brigade.

Tuesday 16th

Resting and dismounted work.

Wednesday 17th

Dismounted work. A.M.R. Concert.

Thursday 18th

Dismounted work.

Friday 19th

Mounted Division operations.

Monday 22nd

Inspection of Division by Sir W. McMahan

Tuesday 23rd

Went on trek to Barrage.

Wednesday 24th

Swimming horses over Nile at the Barrage.

Thursday 25th

Umpiring CYC against A.L.H. [Australian Light Horse] Brigade.

Saturday 27th

Dismounted.

Monday 29th

Inspected by Sir Ian Hamilton. Sat on Court Martial 5 pm.

Tuesday 30th

Court Martial at 9 am.

Wednesday 31st

Brigade attack.

Thursday 1st

In Camp.

Friday 2nd

Left on leave for Alexandria.

Saturday 3rd

At Alexandria.

Saturday 10th

Finish 1 book of Diary – sent home.

Monday 12th

Killing time. Infantry leaving for ?

Tuesday 13th

Advanced Doull 100 PJ – paid back.

Thursday 15th

Paid £1 to mess account.

MAY, Monday 3rd
Went to Barrage.

Wednesday 5th
Returned from Barrage.

Thursday 6th
Orders to go to D--- dismounted.

Saturday 8th
Left Camp 8.30 pm. Trained 10.20 pm. Regiment 508 – Squadron 158.

Sunday 9th
At sea

Monday 10th
At sea. Splendid trip.

Tuesday 11th
Arrived off Siddal Bar. Heard and saw first guns in action. Saw the S.S. River Clyde.

Wednesday 12th
Climb on H.M.S. COLNE 6 pm. Arrive HELLES PT. 6 am. Left 4 pm camped in gully.

Thursday 13th
Retired Naval Brigade in the trenches in support.

Friday 14th
In trenches. Returned 3rd Squadron.

Saturday 15th
In trenches firing.

Sunday 16th
In fire trenches.

Monday 17th
In fire trenches.

Tuesday 18th
Returned by 4th Squadron. Captain Bluck and S.M. Marr killed.

Wednesday 19th
Fierce attack by Turks. Gould, Hill, Sullrah, Williams, Watts killed. Logan wounded.

Thursday 20th
Woods, Finlayson, Johnson, Leslie wounded with shrapnel. I got hit with shrapnel.

Friday 21st
On board ship.

Saturday 22nd
On board ship.

Sunday 23rd
On Hospital ship for Malta.

Monday 24th
On Hospital ship for Malta. Arrived Malta.

Tuesday 25th
Arrived Malta. St. Andrews Officers Mess Hospital.

Wednesday 26th
In Hospital

Thursday 27th
In Hospital

Friday 28th
Went to Valleta for a run. Left watch for repair.

Saturday 29th
In Hospital.

Sunday – onwards
In Hospital.

JUNE, Friday 4th
Hospital. Lecture on Malta.

Sunday 6th
Went to see wounded at Contaneva.

Monday 7th
Sent cable to Harrouth 6-4, Sent cable to West 6-0, sent cable to Plugge 3-8
Sent cables to West and Plugge 10-0, Stamps for Plugge 6-11.

Tuesday 8th
Hospital

Wednesday 9th
Get book on Malta by Percy Badger or V. Busnettil.

Friday 17th
Hospital Malta.

Friday 18th

Send badge to Mrs G. Painter. Send badge to St. Georges, Malta.

Saturday 19th

Dennis and Moria. Received £10 since coming to Malta.

Sunday 20th

Went to Maori Camp

Monday 21st

Paid 30/- [thirty shillings] to men who were short.

Tuesday 22nd

13/232 pm W.J. Budsall died at Valletta MALTA.

Wednesday 23rd

Left Malta for England, via Hospital Ship S.S. NEVASA.

Thursday 24th

Beautiful weather.

Friday 25th

Colonel Plugge – 8 Cavendish Avenue, Finchley.

Saturday 26th

Captain French, 2nd West Lancashire Brigade Artillery – Canterbury.

JULY, Thursday 1st

Arrived Southampton and London Royal Free Hospital.

Monday 5th

Got £10 from High Commission.

Thursday 8th

Passed by Medical Board and given 3 weeks leave off. Got £20 from High Commission.

Friday 9th

Left London for Ireland. Stopped at Leeds, staying the night.

Saturday 10th

At Huddersfield, Thongsbridge, Netherthong, Holmfirth underbank. Stayed with Mrs Preston.

Sunday 11th

At “Oaklands” at Holmfirth.

Monday 12th

Went for a motor drive round this country.

Tuesday 13th

Left Oaklands for Leeds and on by train to Heysham.

Wednesday 14th

Arrived Ireland 7 am.

Thursday 15th

Morning with Harry Mc Whenney – up to Broadway and Cemetery in the afternoon.

Friday 16th

About Port Rush and G [Giants] Causeway. Wet day.

Saturday 17th

Went Garrick.

Sunday 18th

Church at Garrick – built 1064.

Monday 19th

Whitehead.

Tuesday 20th

About Belfast.

Wednesday 21st

Went to Balgor.

Thursday 22nd

Queen's Island and Broadway. Hawthornes [or Hawthornes] arrived from Scotland in 1671 [McCarroll's early family].

Friday 23rd

Left for Dublin.

Saturday 24th

Left Dublin 8 am. Hollyhead arrived Liverpool 3.30 pm via Chester.

Monday 26th

Left Liverpool for London.

Tuesday 27th

About London.

Wednesday 28th

About London.

Thursday 29th

London went to [left blank]. M [Medical] Board, put on for 1 month duty in England.

Friday 30th

Left for and arrived at Weymouth Camp.

Saturday 31st

At Monte Video Camp. Paid 14/- [fourteen shillings] mess a/c [account].

AUGUST, Sunday 1st

Dorsetshire – went for a ride villages in

Monday 2nd

At Weymouth Camp.

Tuesday 3rd

On Court Martial all day.

Wednesday 4th

Went for motor trip to Bournemouth. Artillery sports in the afternoon.

Thursday 5th

In Camp all day, very wett [plus pencil rubbing out].

Friday 6th

Inquiring into complaints in Hospital.

Saturday 7th

High Commissioner came to Camp.

Sunday 8th

Went to Uperey. [spelling?]

Monday 9th

In Camp.

Friday 13th

Went to Hadden [Hudden] and Elm Tree Inn.

Saturday 14th

Got wire to go to France.

Sunday 15th

To London.

Monday 16th

Left for Folkstone – Boulounge – St Omer.

Tuesday 17th

Chineery – La Basse – Vermails – Betticiem Aire

Wednesday 18th

Bruog – Curnoy Busane.

Thursday 19th
At Ypres.

Friday 20th
St Omer, Boulounge, London.

Saturday 21st
London.

Sunday 22nd
Went to Devonshire, stayed at Globe Hotel Exeter.

Monday 23rd
Arrived in Camp.

Tuesday 24th
Garden party at Camp. Sent home my Diary.

Wednesday 25th
About Camp.

Thursday 26th
Camp sports at Dorset Camp.

Friday 27th
Camp all day.

Saturday 28th
Left for Southampton on board S.S. Nauratama. Left at 5.30 pm.

Sunday 29th
At sea.

SEPTEMBER, Thursday 2nd
At sea passed Malta.

Friday 3rd
At sea, arrived at Lemnos.

Saturday 4th
At Lemnos.

Sunday 5th
Left for Anzac, arrived 10 pm

Monday 6th
Breakfast with General Godley. Joined Regiment.

Tuesday 7th
At Chishire Ridge.

Wednesday 8th
Chishire Ridge. Turks quiet.

Thursday 9th
Chishire Ridge.

Saturday 11th
27th Battalion A I F came to relieve us.

Sunday 12th
Short Service Australian and Mounted Brigades.

Monday 13th
Mounted Brigade left for a rest at Lemnos. Left me with 4 Officers, 50 M G [Machine Gunners], 16 Engineers.

Tuesday 14th
Making terraces on Chishire Ridge.

Friday 17th
Saw General Godly.

Saturday 18th
Feint attack by Turks.

Sunday 19th
Church Service. Captain Steavens. Blanures.

Tuesday 21st
Howitzers doing good work.

Wednesday 22nd
Dr. Buck came to see me here.

Thursday 23rd
Went down the beach and saw Colonel C [Chaytor?]

Friday 24th
Chishire Ridge.

Saturday 25th
Chishire Ridge.

Sunday 26th
In the trenches.

Monday 27th
Left for Anzac.

Tuesday 28th

Left Anzac to join Brigade at Mudros. Stayed at rest camp.

Wednesday 29th

Arrived and joined Brigade at Murdos.

Thursday 30th

Quiet time at Mudros.

OCTOBER, Friday 1st

At rest camp got inoculated for Typhoid.

Saturday 2nd

At Mudros rest camp.

Sunday 3rd

Went to Castro.

Monday 4th

Reinforcements arrived last night. Band arrived and plays soothing music.

Tuesday 5th

Organising Squadron.

Wednesday 6th

Training. General Russell arrived.

Thursday 7th

Assumed Command of the Regiment.

Friday 8th

Training by troops. Rain in the evening.

Saturday 9th

Training, swimming in afternoon.

Sunday 10th

Stakk walk.

Monday 11th

Training by troops.

Tuesday 12th

Training by troops.

Sunday 24th

General Godly and Colonel Rhodes here today.

Monday 25th

Regiment work. Captain Whitehorn reported.

Friday 29th

Training still, false start for Infantry.

NOVEMBER, Monday 1st

Squadron training.

Tuesday 2nd

Regimental training. Night attack Church Hill.

Thursday 4th

Advance party left for (returned).

Friday 5th

Route march to Thirmos.

Saturday 6th

Machine guns and bathing.

Monday 8th

Big mimic attack. The Brigade climbed Thirmos hill 1,300 feet with packs on.

Tuesday 9th

Swimming. Rumoured K of K was here.

Wednesday 10th

Left for Anzac.

Tuesday 16th

W* B line up hill 60 with good effect.

Friday 19th

Making dugouts. 1[one] 3rd man [AMR] wounded at G.H.Q. We mined Walker's Ridge.

Saturday 20th

Visited 3rd Light Horse Appex. Turks mined Hill 60.

Sunday 21st

Visited Artillery saw good shooting.

Thursday 25th

No Artillery shooting today.

Friday 26th

Making terraces in Waterfall Gully.

Saturday 27th

Took over Bedford Ridge from 162 Brigade 1/10 London 5th Norfolk.

Sunday 28th

Corporal Ross killed. 13/2166 Carroll John 13/2163 Brown James went out to assist
Corporal – Ross was bad. Heavy snow storm.

Monday 29th

Freezing hard.

DECEMBER, Friday 3rd

Very heavy firing North and South of here and Australians fired with effect from F's
Post.

Saturday 4th

Intense Bombardment South. G.O.C. here today.

Sunday 5th

Terrific bombardment of our lines by 7.5 Two Casualties.

Monday 6th

General Birdwood, Godly and Russell here today.

Tuesday 7th

Erected tombstone over H. Mackesy's grave.

Sunday 12th

Church Service.

Monday 13th

Orders to go to Imbros, relieved by 16th Battalion left for Anac.

Tuesday 14th

Left Anzac for Imbros and arrived at Lemnos, transferred to H.M.T. Knight of the
Garter at 1400.

Wednesday 15th

Onboard K of G [Knight of the Garter].

Thursday 16th

On board K of G.

Friday 17th

On board K of G left at 1800 for Mudros East.

Saturday 18th

At Mudros EAST.

Sunday 19th

In Camp Mudros West.

Monday 20th

In Camp Mudros West. Lat men off ANZAC. Big storm tonight.

Tuesday 21st
In Camp Mudros West.

Wednesday 22nd
Embarked on Hororata for

Thursday 23rd
On board HMT Horoata left 1400 and anchored at harbour entrance.

Friday 24th
Left Lemnos at 0800 for

Saturday 25th
At sea had Xmas dinner.

Sunday 26th
Arrived Alex. Sent 9 Officers and 173 men to Zietoun.

Monday 27th
7 Officers and 149 men entrained for Zietoun.

Tuesday 28th
Colonel Mackesy took over Command of the Regiment.

Wednesday 29th
Meeting old friends.

Thursday 30th
Organising Regiment.

Friday 31st
Training Regiment.

[End of James Neil McCarroll's 1915 Diary. The only other entries are seven addresses in the United Kingdom and some pen ledger entries. Diary dimensions 75 x 130mm. Red leather cover contains a metal slide to keep the diary firmly closed after use. Inside is the original 100mm long oval pencil held in place by a metal cir-clip attached to the binding. Diary supplied "with the compliments of James Buchanan and Company Limited" printed on cover. Fly-leaf printed: "James Buchanan & Co. Ltd. Scotch Whisky Distillers by appointment to King George V. Black & White Whisky."]