

Mr. Herbert W. R.

26 Battery,

7th Brigade, F. Ct.

N. P. 1868.

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Miss P. Dempsey.

"Booze"

Smith St.

Manly.

N. S. W.

Australia

Return to me.

Thursday 12/5/16.

Reveille 3 o'clock, Left the Warren 5:30  
o'clock, went on board 8 o'clock and  
laid out in stream until 8 o'clock, when  
we cleared Sydney heads in  
beautifully calm weather. Spent an  
hour in the evening watching  
porpoises over side. Turning in  
about 8:30 fairly tired out.

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Friday 13/5/16

Our battery on duty to-day,  
I was put on cleaning the  
deck with stones, and sand.  
Saw a couple of whales  
spouting in the distance.  
Wrote 3 cards to-day, one to  
Manly, one home & one to Sumner.  
The weather still very mild.

Saturday, 13/5/16

Mail taken ashore at midday  
to-day at ~~Port~~ Hobson's Bay by  
gunboat of which I took two  
photos. Sea beginning to  
get very rough now, and  
terribly cold wind on deck.  
We passed one troopship and  
a ship full of wounded  
soldiers returning to Sydney.

Sunday 14/5/16.

Weather very rough nearly  
all hands sea sick, but so  
far H.R. & I. alright. No church  
parade, as everybody  
too sick. Started to cross  
the Australian flag to-  
night.

Monday 15/5/16

Same as yesterday H.R. & I.  
still well.

Tuesday, 16/5/16

Still very rough and  
terribly cold, H.R. & I still  
well. Had a little drill  
to-day, but it was not  
much of a success, still  
in the "fight."

Wednesday, 17/5/16

Still very rough and cold  
but H.R. & I still well.  
Made a table to-day, for  
our orderly room.

Thursday 18/5/16

Weather a little milder

and not quite so cold. The R. is still well. Wrote two letters, one to Manly, and one to Home. Got news that we are bound for England, expect to call at Fremantle to-morrow.

Friday 19/5/16.

Fairly calm to-day, though not much different from other days, being 6 days out from land, and believing first call to be Durban. Sighted a ship away on the horizon, but lost sight of it in the evening. A. R. R. still well.

Saturday 20/5/16.

Had a full-dress parade to-day, with hammocks & kit.

Ship rolling a good deal this afternoon and shipping a few heavy seas, very slow travelling. No parade this afternoon, so find it fairly hard to fill in time, spent 45 minutes in getting to the canteen. A. R. R. quite well.

Sunday 21/5/16

Beautifully fine day, great change after last night. Had a church parade at 10 a.m. very interesting, spent a quiet afternoon reading, and had another fine church service this evening. Our battery went on duty this evening, till to-morrow evening. I am not at Swain's fatigue. A. R. R. quite well.

Monday 22/5/16.

Fairly rough to-day, I am  
put on stoning the deck,  
got two photos of it and  
one of the colonel's dog.

H. R. A. very well.

Tuesday 23/5/16.

Fairly mild weather to-day.  
I am "mess orderly" for a week from  
to-day, and am exempt from  
all other duty. We are having  
a concert on board to-night.  
Have not seen land for nine  
days. H. R. A. quite well.

Wednesday 24/5/16.

Beautifully fine day, and very  
calm. Had a full dress parade  
this morning. Pretty busy all  
day getting meals and

washing up. There is an informal  
concert on deck to-night but  
I spent the evening playing  
dominoes with Pot. H. R. A.  
quite well.

Thursday 25/5/16.

Much the same as yesterday,  
still washing up etc. I  
begin lessons in trumpeting  
and bugling. Spent the  
evening playing "patience".  
Have heard rumours that  
we are going ashore at Durban.

Friday 26/5/16

Progressing favorably with my  
trumpeting. We have a  
Zonophone donated by the  
comforts fund. It started  
playing at 6 p.m. and is still

going strong at 8.30. H. R. H. not  
feeling too well to-night.

Saturday, 27/5/16.

Slept on floor last night, and  
rolled round a good deal, on  
account of ship rolling, fairly  
rough all day. Had a foaming  
carnival on board this after-  
noon. H. R. H. still not feeling too  
brilliant.

Sunday, 28/5/16.

Church parade on board this  
morning, but I was not able  
to attend, as I am unwell.  
Spent the afternoon writing  
letters, one to Ruby, one home,  
and one to Mrs. Butler. H. R. H.  
letter to-day.

Monday, 29/5/16.

Fairly rough to-day, and  
boat rolling a good deal.  
Measles broken out on board,  
two cases being from our  
battery. Rumours of us not  
being able to go ashore at  
Durban, which will be a  
great disappointment  
to all hands. H. R. H. quite well.

Tuesday, 30/5/16.

Beautiful day to-day. Sent two  
post cards of our boat to-day,  
one to Ruby, and the other home.  
Also wrote to Len. The 9th Brigade  
are giving a concert to-night.  
H. R. H. well.

Wednesday 31/5/16.

On battery on duty to night till tomorrow night, I am on Stores-fatigue. The 9<sup>th</sup> had a boxing match this afternoon, I got a couple of photos of it. Had the bad luck to lose my watch to-night. Rather a good joke played on me to-day, but too long to detail here. Payday to-day.

Thursday 1/6/16.

Did about an hour's work carrying stores, meat, potatoes, flour etc. and then finished for the day.

Friday 2/6/16.

Went to trumpet practice this morning, getting along very well. We had a medical inspection this afternoon, to

look for measles, so we have a chance of getting off at Dartan. Then when the bugle sounded, we had to hurry below, get our life belts on, and get back on deck, then when the bugle sounded again, we went below, and got our hammocks and blankets, and had them inspected, then went below again, our day's work finished. There is a concert on board to-night. Everybody is changing leggings, boots, etc. in anticipation. It will be a great shock if we don't get ashore. We got some war...

news this morning by  
wireless, our first news of  
the outside world for 3  
weeks, although it was  
not very cheering.

Saturday 3/6/16.

First sight of land for 3 weeks,  
great excitement on board,  
taken into Durban to coal at 11.30  
A.M. and get general <sup>clean</sup> from 2 till  
10.30 p.m. Had a great time ashore.

Had a couple of rides in "rickshaws"  
and free trams, and then had  
tea at a hotel. After tea when we  
went to "Umgeni" by tram, and  
returned to the boat very tired.

Sunday 4/6/16. Sent two cables,  
to-day, one to Ruby and one home,  
also a book of views home.

Sunday 4/6/16.

Had a long march to the town hall  
where we had a church service by  
our chaplain, then we had  
general leave again till 10.30.

Rob and four other mates and  
I had a motor, and went  
about 3 miles out in the  
country to a pretty hotel,  
and had dinner. Then we  
motored 24 miles through

"nigger town" to a place called  
"Isapinge" where we met some  
Sydney people in a car. They  
were very nice, and when  
we were going we took their  
photos, and they invited us  
to tea to-morrow night. Then  
we had a fast run back to town.

at one part we were doing 42 miles  
an hour, it was a great spin. When  
we got back to town, we went to the  
Royal Hotel, the largest in Durban, and  
had a great tea. After tea we had a  
couple of rickshaws and rides  
and then came back to the ship, after  
a very pleasant day.

Monday 5/6/16.

Rather disappointed that we had to  
leave Durban this morning, we  
steamed out about 8 o'clock.

Terribly rough now, and a good  
many sick. Developed 4 films between  
8 & 9. We have bought a tank.  
H.P.R. not feeling too brilliant.

Tuesday 6/6/16

Rather uninteresting after  
leaving Durban. Printed photos

all the afternoon and wrote one  
letter to Ruby.

Wednesday 7/6/16

Had a full-dress parade to-day, a  
great nuisance, as there is no  
room to dress. The weather very  
rough to day, and very cold.

Received a wireless message  
from a passing ship, that Carl  
Hitchener is dead, very bad news.  
Passed the spot where the  
Birkenhead foundered, and the  
"Last Post" was blown, everyone on  
deck standing to attention.

Wrote seven postcards, which  
I hope to post in Cape Town.

Thursday 8/6/16

Arrived at Cape Town at 7 a.m.  
and went ashore at about 10.30



in groups, in charge of an m.c.o. but we soon lost them. It is a very cold and wet day, so not much opportunity for sight-seeing. Bought two books of views and posted them to-day, together with the others. Very bad behaviour among the boys to-day, on account of the hotels being allowed to serve the boys with liquor. Several fights on board, and also many rumours. We had to be back on board at 4.30 p.m. and only for the bad behaviour of some, we would have got ashore again till 10.30. I bought a fountain pen to-day, so shall have more satisfaction with my

letters. Did not enjoy myself as much as I did at Durban. Afraid I shall have to give up trumpeting, as I have loosened a tooth to-day. Very bad luck. We had a gun mounted on board to-day.

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Friday 9/6/16.

A very monotonous day to-day. We left the wharf at about 12 o'clock ~~to-day~~ and are lying out in the stream for some reason or other. Our battery is on duty to-night. Very cold here now.

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Saturday 10/6/16.

Very much the same as yesterday, as we are still lying in Table bay.

I was on stores fatigue to-day, getting the stores up from the hold, and taking them to the different galleys. Spent all the afternoon with Pot printing photos. Have heard rumours of us getting ashore again to-morrow, and hope it is true as it's very tiresome lying out here inactive in sight of land. Much rather get on to our destination.

Sunday 11/6/16.

Still lying out in the Bay, and no sign of moving yet. A few more troopships arrived here to-day. We were to have had a memorial service for Kitchener this morning, but the weather was unfavorable. I wrote a letter to

Daphne, and a long one to Ruby, and hope to post them to-morrow with the photos. Still some doubt whether we are going ashore to-morrow. Had a bit of a fall down stairs to-day, and got a bit scratched.

Monday 12/6/16.

Another idle day in Table Bay. We took more coal on to-day, and I gave my letter to one of the men to post for me. There are four other troopships lying here with us, and I believe there will be ten leaving together.

Tuesday 13/7/16.

We went on shore for a route-march to-day. We had dinner at Sea Point, and