

If any of my friends  
care to read this account of my trip  
I will be pleased, and if they consider  
the reading interesting I will be  
more than satisfied. I have endeav-  
oured to write the foregoing of  
the incidents that occurred and the  
places that I visited, although I am  
not very faint.

Swansea Camp.

P.S. I know that anyone of my  
friends will take care of this book  
for my sake.

Amount of my trip

Wednesday May 10<sup>th</sup> 1916

Last day in camp prior to sailing. I  
spun the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade to journeyed to Booths for  
for Review before State Commandant, splendid  
left, dismissed @ 4.30 pm. came home,  
several friends came to say good bye,  
felt it very hard to leave the old home,  
Trains came in to camp to sleep, was  
pairs about 11 pm, the whole camp was  
very noisy, no chance for much sleep.  
went to bed about 1.30 pm.

Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup> 1916

Reveille was blown at 7.15 am, 1916 was  
called, went back to our tents, got our  
kys ready & had breakfast, proceeded  
before breakfast and left the camp  
5.15 pm. got a splendid send off by  
the rest of the camp marched to Victoria  
and boarded special Trains, Misses  
people here the first time we proceeded  
and finally arrived at <sup>the station</sup> ~~the station~~  
about 7 pm. again with <sup>the station</sup> ~~the station~~  
several of the ~~the station~~ we went on

heard about 7.30, misters were not  
 allowed on the boat till about 8.30  
 however we on the boat, we left the  
 wharf at 8.50 and were on the boat  
 some 60 or 70 of my first school mates  
 to an excellent party, the men were all  
 over the boat at this night and at the  
 of the mast, we had dinner in the room  
 my little sister was at 8.50 pm  
 the service followed us right to the  
 and there were exchanged as we parted,  
 the ferris party with Long Lane, and  
 seemed very nice, all the lake got on  
 some prominent points, to catch the  
 last glimpse of dear old Sydney, the cap  
 felt it very much leaving, but they  
 were very cheerful, and I feel proud  
 to be with such fine fellows, we left  
 Sydney under favourable conditions, the  
 weather was lovely, and outside, there was  
 only a gentle swell on the water, and  
 one could hardly tell the ship was moving

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The (A.8) Arjishere is a fine  
big ship of some 12 or 1300 tons  
and to look from end to end, she  
seems to be a tremendous length,  
and she has the name of being  
a very good sea boat, the 28<sup>th</sup> Bat  
are allotted to D deck, we are  
down in the hold, fairly well  
ventilated, with hammocks to sleep  
in, possibly better than bunks in  
rough weather, we are supplied with  
Tables for our meals. 14 men to a table,  
the most inconvenience is caused us by  
our feet, there is not much room to put  
our feet, our hammocks are marked  
with our respective numbers, so we  
will get the same ones every night, we  
are given two blankets, quite suffice  
down here, our meals are very fair  
and we are also supplied with butter  
at big consideration, all meals are  
inspected by the officers, and we are  
asked "any complaints"?

"after dinner I had a smoke on deck  
and heard a chap playing a violin,  
he played splendidly, and shortly  
some 3 or 4 hundred men gathered round  
he played some of the good old songs,  
my old Kentucky Home, Indiana Home, and  
Dinner Laurie, poor old Jeff, all the lads  
joined in and sang, it seemed to us to  
be the best music I ~~to~~ ever heard.  
I saw many men with their hands  
over their faces, it brought tears  
to my throat, the concert lasted till  
about 8 pm, when we all retired  
retired to rest.

Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 1916  
Retired @ 6 am, fold up our  
hammocks, and stay on deck till 7 am  
when the roll is called, breakfast  
@ 7-15, no work to do, unpack  
and properly down, spent  
the evening reading up on my  
books.

was received that letters would  
be posted @ 5 pm, boat would call  
for them from Melbourne, wrote several  
good ideas, no postage stamps, require  
300 5 pm, and then a yarn until  
8 pm when time for bed 50 50 50 50

Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> 1915

up @ 6, Roll blankets & hammocks  
parade @ 6.30 till 7. heard 2.30  
7.5, not far from Port Phillip,  
ship makes a bit going through  
the Straits, enters Port Phillip  
12 noon, do not strike the eye like  
Sydney Harbour, and passage through  
not much to see, after midnight  
Torpedo Boat "Countess of Hopetown"  
met us, brought two deserters on  
board, only stayed a few minutes  
and then steamed back towards  
Melbourne, she is very small, and  
of ancient make, quite out of date,  
we then crossed out, and sailed again

she signalled that the "Reunio" was  
coming behind as a hospital ship  
carrying sick & wounded soldiers  
back to Sydney she passed us some  
1/2 hour later, at a distance of  
about 1/4 mile, her decks were full  
of cheering boys, the sound was  
carried over to us, we exchanged  
cheers, and this ship signalled us  
good luck, many of the lads re-  
marked they would not mind being  
on the other boat homeward bound  
after doing their bit. (felt like it too)

Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup> 1915

up at 6 am not feeling too good  
was detailed as butcher's fatigue  
worked till 7.15 & had a rest  
day was turning out miserable  
raining & very cold, decks were all wet  
& slippery, as the day drew on it felt  
worse, & began to get worse, and  
at 6 pm when carrying the load

lot of work, got too weak to walk  
down the stairs, did not eat hardly  
anything all day, & went to bed  
7 pm. Dead heat, barely slept, and  
to 6 am yesterday was still in a  
lot of bed.

On Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> 1916  
was unable to get out of bed, & Doctor  
came to see us, after an examination  
ordered us to the hospital, had to be carried  
(no easy job) and was again examined.  
He informed us I was suffering from  
Gastritis, my temperature was 103.8  
very high, I was placed on milk diet  
(horrible tack) the hospital is right  
amidships and is very comfortable.  
The beds are splendid, big change from  
hammocks, & cold that I had when I  
first went in, soon began to develop  
into Bronchitis, I then had the two  
complaints together, and between the  
two I was pretty crook.

to the West, block of...  
found out, found...  
& Anchor", many of the men have  
lost...  
all...  
the...  
left alone, we...  
on board, a...  
"Get", were...  
friendly with...  
a pure bred...  
skin, and looks...  
handicraft, both...  
sea sick, poor...  
foot yet, did not...  
for three days...  
beard off, but all...  
to wear. Now's, our...  
28<sup>th</sup> go on duty @ 4 pm, and will be  
on duty every 10 days after this, about  
3 pm passed Steamer Ayrshire,  
sister ship to our ship the Argyllshire.

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went in any game going, he mixed  
 with his men freely, but they all  
 swear by him, he often came in  
 to the Hospital at an afternoon and  
 argued with us patients, the first  
 5 or 6 days I was in the hospital  
 the food was a little diet, and  
 fearful stuff it was too, the milk  
 was made of powder with hot  
 water, and was scandalous stuff  
 to the taste (worse than Senna Tea)  
 but after a while I was given hard  
 food, much more acceptable to me  
 and improved waters greatly, every day  
 was much the same as our mother  
 on Wednesday & Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>  
 I was allowed to walk about for  
 an hour in the middle of the day  
 and on Friday morning the Doctor  
 after examining me allowed me  
 to leave the hospital, I felt pretty  
 weak after my eleven days in

15 Monday 15-5-16 Friday 26-5-16  
 Each day now became very much like  
 one another, I was unable to get out  
 of bed for 3 days, and then was prob-  
 ably blown my leg, I could only stand  
 for about 5 minutes and then back to  
 bed, all the boys were very kind and  
 frequently came to see me, Stan Scobie  
 was especially kind, bringing me, apple  
 Chocolate, Lollies etc, a typical act  
 on his part, I did not have a shave  
 for the 1<sup>st</sup> week in hospital, and looked  
 like the man from out back, when I  
 did shave it pulled like a son of a gun,  
 on Sunday all denominations held  
 service, the only Chaplain on board was  
 a CofE, but Colonel O'Mahoney  
 read the Epistle & Gospel for the day  
 to the R.C. Section, and gave them a little  
 lecture and some good advice, I of course  
 could not attend, but I heard several  
 hundred men singing "Near my God to the"

10 it was pronounced very much  
it was the nicest thing I ever heard, attendance  
at one service or the other was compulsory  
and some of the lads attended Church  
who had not been for years, some when  
asked what Church they belonged to  
stated they did not believe in Gods of  
any kind, the Hymns sung at night  
sounded well on the water, some times  
for an hour of a morning, teams  
would be trying to pull out  
my window, and great interest was  
shown by the men, on board there are  
a lot of men to teams, comprising  
A.S. & G. & Queensland  
Some of them are very  
in general are to find out the  
other men by strong men, and  
know the art of the game, their Command  
Colonel O'Connell gives them every  
encouragement, he is a fine fellow  
and a first class, always taking

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12  
except for some time

Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup> 46  
this is the day allotted for our battery to  
do our washing, there is not much accommodation  
for so many, but they have to be hung any  
where at all, and trust to luck for them to  
dry, however our laundry list is not an  
extensive one, so it does not matter much,  
at 2 pm Exhibition of Boxing were given  
by about 20 lads of the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade,  
and provided a splendid afternoon  
sport, many of the lads were merely  
amusing, but others were very willing  
and knock on being kept out,  
and many of the lads their carry  
black eyes with them for a day or two,

Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup> 46  
The only bands on land are  
bands, even though they are  
was excused on account of just coming  
out of the hospital, I was not sorry

or it meant getting dressed, and with everyone pushing & jostling one another it is good to avoid it if possible.

29-5-16 Monday to Friday 2-6-16

No physical drill, but were given several lectures by our officers, and were also given a lecture by our Doctor on Hygiene, and explained the cause and effects of Typhoid, Enteric Etc. on Wednesday afternoons. Exhibition spars were given by the 9<sup>th</sup> (Australia), they were fair, but not up to the standard of the New South Wales, while the contests were in progress, heavy rain fell, but the boys & girls were too busy to mind the weather, they all stayed & got wet; on Friday night, a concert was given by the 10<sup>th</sup> (Australia), and by a company of several items were exhibited, and the music was also very good, being supplied by piano, 2 violins, Flute,

trumpet, for it was the first we had seen for 20 days, seemed like as many months. We expected to berth at 11:30 a.m., we were met by the pilot, and escorted inside, there is no harbour, but a breakwater has been constructed, a long wall being run some distance out to sea, we ~~anchored~~ <sup>berthed</sup> at the wharf at the Bluff, on the opposite side of the Bay to the town, the bluff is a very high headland, running right back inland, thickly-forested with scrub wood, and is very thickly wooded, there is a high house on the extreme point, right on the coast, after a lot of preliminary arrangements, we were informed, that we would be allowed on shore, and needed to say some public, we were marched off to boat on to the wharf, and were taken across to the quay.



excursions, the musicians were good, and played selections from the favourite Comic Operas, they also rendered separate Solos and a patient Artist finished a most enjoyable night, we all went to bed, anticipating our arrival at Durban, where we were due to arrive at noon Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 6-16 (KING'S BIRTHDAY) Saturday 3-6-16

Up a bank and our first act on getting on deck was to look for land. but was disappointed, for we were steering straight for Durban, and would not sight land until we were some 20 or 30 miles off, we were not inquiring if we would be allowed ashore, and anticipation ran high, we were all dressed in uniform, ready for any emergency, about 10 am we sighted land, when about 30 miles off Durban, and our spirits rose

in spite, we were under way and were allowed leave till 10.30 pm, the first thing to take our eye, was the Zulius with their Rickshaws, a sort of small sulky, and they man the shafts, I rode into the town proper, some 12 miles away, and cost me 6<sup>s</sup>, I and a friend in our car and Colonel McQuire & Lt Harrison raced each other, but my man was just beaten at the post, got out at the Post office, a fine building, up till 10 years ago was the Town Hall, but the Town Hall was then but a insignificant building. The first for King's day was I remember seeing it in my life, not so large as the building in Durban. But the Architecture and design is really good, the building consists of Town Hall, Museum, Art Gallery & Municipal offices all

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more, and this no doubt accounts  
 for it being possible to have such  
 a large building in a town of  
 only 25,000 white population,  
 Hotels are numerous, and of two  
 kinds, Private & Public, the private  
 have a bar, but only supply  
 their own boarders, offenders against  
 the laws are very severely dealt  
 with, in most cases for the first offence  
 a fine of £100 or 6 months, and for 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 6 months without the option, no blacks  
 (Zulus, Kaffirs, Etc) are allowed to own  
 loaded arms, for with very little training  
 they become good marksmen, and are liable to  
 cause great trouble, whites are punishable  
 for it but not as severely for the same  
 offence, for example, a white  
 driver, they order to carry a gun, because  
 it is his then, the punishment for  
 this offence is the same as that before  
 mentioned, all matches are limited to

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The trams are electric, and are double  
 deckers and seat about 50 or 60, they  
 do not travel so quickly as those  
 in Sydney, and on account of  
 their height, they wobble about a  
 good deal, what we call, sections  
 they call stages, and cost 2<sup>s</sup> to travel  
 from one to another, their longest  
 ride is 6 miles and this journey  
 costs 4<sup>s</sup>; they resemble one of our  
 Bus's in Sydney in build, and a  
 splendid service is maintained both  
 in town & suburbs, most of the bus-  
 iness people reside in the suburbs  
 and their houses are built  
 on high ground, all the houses  
 are laid out on a gridiron plan  
 and the streets are very  
 wide, and the pavement  
 usually up to 25 ft wide, & a  
 this is the general plan right through  
 for the Parkies,

18, more modern, some very very nice,  
comparing favourably with Sydney's  
leading hotels, and are furnished  
beautifully, the stores are very nice  
but are not much bigger than our  
Suburban Stores (or principal country)  
West Street is the principal thoroughfare  
but there are many other fine streets,  
the Esplanade, running along the  
Bay is lovely, many streets have  
trees growing in the centre, and are  
very wide, the roads are maintained  
and are as level as a cycle track,  
great care is taken of them, and on  
account of the small amount of traffic  
on them, it is possible to always  
keep them in tip-top order, but after  
the suburbs are left behind, the roads  
deteriorate rapidly, and are like the  
rocky roads to Quevedo, in Town  
motoring is a delight, in the country  
it borders on the impossible.

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and after writing a couple of  
letters, joined a few pals and  
took a run out in the tram to  
what is called the "Berea" the  
high class residential part,  
the tram gradually works uphill  
and passes some beautiful houses  
built well back, and in front  
are well kept lawns, with all  
kinds of Peris, palms, trees etc  
growing abundantly (Tropical growth)  
the people nearly all sleep out on  
the Verandahs or Balcony rooms  
for in summer the heat is intense,  
when we arrived at the top of the  
hill, we had a splendid view of the  
Town and surrounding country, ~~and~~  
it is a beautiful view, really hard  
to beat, we passed the Zoo, very good  
too, but of course could not be com-  
pared with that in Sydney, after



22 we were invited by private people to stay with them as guests while in town, I was invited to all meals except one, the whole two days, and the meals are very expensive, seldom less than 1/- and runs up to 7/6, I had dinner on Sunday with a business manager from the Praesidal at a very high class hotel, 8 courses, very nice too, met him while in the train, and as we were going along he invited us to dine with him, we spent the afternoon in his company, and he was very kind to us, he had a very nice train, and we were very much pleased, and took liberal amounts of it, and on the Saturday night, a big concert was given in the Town Hall, to which all soldiers were invited.

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be surpassed, we were the first troops passing through on their way to the front, but several other batches of wounded chaps had stopped on their way to Australia, our only passing through the previous week. I was on parade at 8 am Sunday and was not dismissed until 11-45 am when we given leave till 10 am, a president, invited us to morning tea and afterwards we took a run in the train along the beach, Durban has a very fair beach, but it is only possible to swim in the bay water, but for the swimming, we are quite close in, many people through carelessness have been taken, and now it is a crime to be the outside the bounds allotted for the purpose, there is also a very fine bath, built of marble walls, and is very nice.

27  
is eyes free to face the squad, but  
he was tied to a chair and blind-  
folded. A circle was formed around  
him (this was the target), six  
of the rifles were loaded with live  
ammunition, and the others with blanks,  
after all was over ~~five~~ five bullets  
were found right in the centre of  
the circle and one just outside,  
he died brave, & made a speech  
just before his execution, his followers  
were tried differently, some being  
let off, others were imprisoned,  
I was very interested in their con-  
versation and learnt a great deal  
about the history of South Africa  
and learnt a good deal about  
the hardships the men are under-  
going with our aggressions in  
German East Africa, the land  
is swarming with Nalarias, and  
our men had to be taken

25  
long, they are very fine, easily beating  
the Germans. As this is daylight in ap-  
pearance but not in size for they are  
not quite so long as wide, down <sup>at the beach</sup>  
there is a kind of wood-baited city, very  
go-rounds, side shows, etc, patronised  
by a big crowd, there is also a fairy  
lawyer, and in the centre are two  
fountains, throwing water up about  
20 feet, through all different-coloured  
lights, and looks fine, coming back  
from the beach, a visitor to the city  
chummed up with us, and invites us  
to dinner at his hotel, he manages  
a mine in the Transvaal about 400  
500 miles from Germantown, he was  
down recuperating after an  
illness, he was a fine fellow  
and treated us splendidly, I went  
on duty @ 4 pm, and with 11 others  
patrolled the streets for 2 1/2 hours  
but it was unnecessary and

all it did was to ~~make~~ us tired  
we had tea, and then went out  
for another 2 hours, we had the  
police station for our headquarters  
and while there I got into conversation  
with several Military Police, they  
are a mounted Rifle Corps, and in  
times of war are the Country's first  
line of defence, one of them was  
in the charge that captured Maritz's  
rebels, (180 in number) they charged  
across the open Veldt, and ten of his  
corps fell before the rebels sur-  
rendered, Maritz himself got away  
but surrendered the next day, he  
and his followers were weak  
from starvation, and hardly had  
a stitch of clothing on, Maritz  
was court-martialed in Pretoria  
and was shot in the Police yard  
by a firing party of 12 men  
he pleaded to stand up and have

<sup>28</sup> hundreds of miles out of their course  
to avoid the fever belts, but now  
we have them surrounded at  
practically so, and their sur-  
render is expected, the course of  
the war has been the (20) most likely  
besides the white police there is also  
the Black guardians of the peace, the  
latter deal only with <sup>our</sup> black  
brothers, they consist of Zulus & Kaffirs  
and are paid about 10/- per week,  
when a Zulu catches a Kaffir (bending)  
at any wrong doing he gives him a  
rough tiding of it & vice versa, the lash  
has lately been introduced, on account  
of serious crimes becoming too numerous  
with good results, these are not  
frequent, and it is only in the most  
serious cases that a person wishing  
the lash and ~~being~~ being  
of imprisonment generally uses  
the case.

...names of Arrivals' and other  
...west office ...  
through from Cocos Island saying  
"good luck to the Arrivals" and  
...the boats were to  
...and were very  
...about it; all day  
we ran through heavy seas, with  
... very sick, and  
... on this trip I have been  
... breaded Mat-de-ur,  
our sea came right over the nose  
of the boat, carried away portions  
of the forward rigging, and caused  
a good deal of damage, one of  
our lads was washed off his  
feet, and was banged against  
some woodwork, his forehead  
was cut, and he had to have  
several stitches put in ~~the cut~~  
many of the boys got wet to the  
skin, but I kept well to the back  
of the boat, and remained dry.

up till the past few days  
Cape ... ~~the~~ ... was  
...  
... named  
the South ... Rifles,  
but interest ...  
it, and in consequence, it deteriorates,  
General French's son served for some  
years with the Cape Mounted Rifles and  
many other units in English ...  
in times of peace they act as mounted  
police, mostly stationed in the Country  
and at certain periods they go into  
camp and ... work,  
I was very interested with the con-  
... and was in the ...  
... marched from  
the police station, and special  
trains conveyed us back to the quay  
we finally got to bed @ 11.30 pm