

## **The diary of Robert Spence Stephenson, East Riding Yeomanry (1917)**

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Explanatory notes and additional background material are in square brackets thus [ ]. These include information from the Regiment's war diary showing where the ERY were on particular days and background information on named individual soldiers where they can be identified.

Place names are very variably spelt in the diary. They have generally been transcribed into their most familiar English form, but it must be appreciated that translating Arabic place names is not always straightforward and spellings differ widely between sources. Likewise, numerous abbreviations in the diary, often military terms, have been expanded here for ease of understanding.

Images have been added to illustrate particular places/activities or to show named individuals. Some of these are from RSS's own album. They are copyright of ERYC (Museums/Archives) or the Stephenson family as applicable.



*Lt. RS Stephenson, Costessey near Norwich, 1915. Private collection.*



**EAST RIDING**  
OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

## **31<sup>st</sup> December 1916**

Left Kan [Kantara, on the Suez Canal] 0600, arrived Z 11am. To C[airo] to lunch – dined out Colonel Wilkinson with us.

## **1<sup>st</sup> January 1917** [Regiment was at Dueidar, western Sinai]

Left ....08.30. Troop drill etc.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> January**

Squadron drill by troop leader. Sym[pson]\* F.W. & I into Cairo pm, shops closed. Wet, showery

*\*Probably 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas M. Sympson*

## **3<sup>rd</sup> January**

Outpost scheme under Major Tyrrel. V.T. Captain Clark, Lloyd and I in Cairo shopping. Dined out at S club. Wet.

## **4<sup>th</sup> January**

Officer patrol under Vine.\* No p.m. parades, very wet.

*\*an officer in the 12<sup>th</sup> Lancers – see entry for 13<sup>th</sup> January.*

## **5<sup>th</sup> January**

Squadron drill and dismounted attack through imaginary wood and high slopes.

## **6<sup>th</sup> January**

Out to Burka. Consolidation, exam at 12. Sym[pson], F. Lloyd and I into C[airo] at 3pm in morning... I dined with Pepper & Hurst(?) at C. Kursaal at night.

Sent Peg, Elsie a blouse.

## **7<sup>th</sup> January**

All to zoo gardens for tea. Dined at Shepherd's house by 11.

## **8<sup>th</sup> January**

Advanced guard under Major Rasch.

## **9<sup>th</sup> January**

Going through the gap.

## **10<sup>th</sup> January**

Rearguard

### **11<sup>th</sup> January**

Defence of position.

### **12<sup>th</sup> January**

Flank guard, Lieutenant Pritchard. Shopping in C[airo], pm.

### **13<sup>th</sup> January**

Squadron drill and exam. F & I to Heliopolis and train to C. I arranged with Kramer to do teeth. F & I to Moushy. Sent Eliza shawl and tablecloth.

Peg and Lisa shawl each. Vine 12<sup>th</sup> L[ancers], Pepper and Wilkinson dined with us at Continental. Stayed night there.

### **14<sup>th</sup> January**

I to All Saints, C[airo] in am. Lunch at Continental. EDM [Major Edward Duke Moore]. I to dentist in pm. Frank and I to Lunar Park and dined at Heliopolis Palace.

### **15<sup>th</sup> January**

I to dentist.

### **16<sup>th</sup> January**

To dentist

### **17<sup>th</sup> January**

Foggy, combined operation. I to dentist.

### **18<sup>th</sup> January**

Convoy scheme. Colonel Stewart to Qalag.

### **19<sup>th</sup> January** [Regiment moved east to Romani]

Exam on Water Tower Hill at 8.30am and paper exam at 12. All to Shepeard's and I to dentist. F & I dined at S then to Kursaal.

### **20<sup>th</sup> January**

Lloyd, Sympson, F.W. and I to Ismalia [?] and Gebali rest house. Derwani met us. Shot 19 duck at night.

### **21<sup>st</sup> January**

Shot [at] Baton, Akiril, Khargat. A good day. 60 duck, 6 snipe, 1 pigeon.

## **22<sup>nd</sup> January**

All out shooting since 8am. Left Ishmalia(?) at 4pm and Sheppard's 9pm.

## **23<sup>rd</sup> January**

Left C[airo] at 11, arrived Romani 19.30.

## **24<sup>th</sup> January** [Regiment carried out a tactical exercise under the eye of a senior officer]

Dismounted attack. Gen [eral.....]

## **25<sup>th</sup> January**

I took Peg to bathe. Footer match in pm A squadron versus Whitworth's team. A won 5-1.

## **26<sup>th</sup> January**

E & F.W. and I out for a ride before breakfast. Night operations, Colonel Woodhill, BWI? and Vaughan Williams dined with me.

## **27<sup>th</sup> January**

Exercise. Footer – Hants battery beat A 2-1.

## **28<sup>th</sup> January**

I to 6HC. [?]

## **29<sup>th</sup> January**

Scheme with flags. I exercising regiment.

## **30<sup>th</sup> January**

Packing up for Abd.

## **31<sup>st</sup> January**

Loaded up at eight. Train offline all day at Romani. Patterson, Barclay of LIY, Captain Stanley, Briggs and Brewitt and I together.



*From the album of RS Stephenson (ERYC Archives Service). Brewitt on the left, Stanley on the right.*

### **1<sup>st</sup> February**

Left R[omani] at 10, arrived [Bir El] Abd 16.30.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> February**

All tents up and settle down. Goodall and I for ride round.



*From the album of RS Stephenson (ERYC Archives Service). Lt. Goodall having his hair cut.*

### **3<sup>rd</sup> February**

I exercised squadron. Officers and sergeants on staff ride under Squadron leader. Goodall and Sergeant Sewell[?], 10 men to Kantara for remounts for Staff[ordshire] Yeo[manry].

### **4<sup>th</sup> February**

Frank W. Staveley for ride west. Corporal Johnson and I Hotchkiss\* in pm

*[\* i.e. practice on Hotchkiss light machine guns.]*

### **5<sup>th</sup> February**

Squadron exercise. I [at] Hotchkiss gunnery. Mail in.

### **6<sup>th</sup> February**

Regimental scheme – rear guard.

### **7<sup>th</sup> February**

Squadron exercise. I took recruits in troop drill. I on musketry in pm.

### **8<sup>th</sup> February**

Hothckiss gun firing. Mail in.

### **9<sup>th</sup> January**

I had young fellows out on troop drill. A. & C. musketry in pm.

### **10<sup>th</sup> February**

All officers out with G.O.C. Brigade. Footer match in pm versus RHA [Royal Horse Artillery] – we won 4-3.

### **11<sup>th</sup> February**

I to HC at 6.30. Then Wright & I ride around. Letters etc in pm.

### **12<sup>th</sup> February**

Brigade field firing day. H[othckiss] gun lecture by Major Williams in pm.

### **13<sup>th</sup> February**

H guns out in am.

### **14<sup>th</sup> February**

Squadron drill etc. HG's in pm. Major [J.F.M.] Robinson and I across to Australian camp, saw Captain Dick, Staffords. Joined up and dined with us.

### **15<sup>th</sup> February**

Troops at disposal of troop leaders.

### **16<sup>th</sup> February**

Left El Abd for Salmana. I commanded escort.

### **17<sup>th</sup> February**

Left Salmana for Tullil.

### **18<sup>th</sup> February**

IROO.\* Left Tullil, arrived Mazar.

*\*I regimental orderly officer*

### **19<sup>th</sup> February**

A squadron doing advanced guard. Corporal App[leton?], Corporal [Bernard] Byass and I went with Staff Captain as advanced party to El Arish. G.P. met us at E.A. [El Arish].

### **20<sup>th</sup> February**

Reg[iment] in, parcel mail in.

### **21<sup>st</sup> February**

All bathing and swimming horses.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> February**

Sandstorm. Struck tents etc.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> February**

Left E.A. [El Arish] for Sheik Zowaid.

### **24<sup>th</sup> February**

Regiment on outpost to Rafa. I doing advanced guard. Turkish aeroplane over us.

### **25<sup>th</sup> February**

Trenching. Outpost at night.

[Wrote?] for Major Blades.

### **26<sup>th</sup> February**

Trenching

### **27<sup>th</sup> February**

Wet am at 5. Trenching etc. Goodall and I with Australians on recce.

### **28<sup>th</sup> February** [war diary notes a reconnaissance by three officers on this day]

P..., F.W. & Scott with N.Z.'s. [New Zealanders], Featherstone\*, Highmoor\*, Jackson\*, Hawkins\*, Anson\* off to E\* for leave. Outpost at night.

*\*[These all appear to be men who had been promoted to be officers and were being given leave before taking up their commissions. They may be identified as follows – Sergeant Walter Featherstone, John G. Highmoor (then Corporal, later SSM), Stanley Jackson, Maurice Hawkins (private, later 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt) and Lance Cpl Harris Hartas Anson. "E" could be England or Egypt.]*

### **1<sup>st</sup> March**

Regiment in support at 255. [Towail El Emir according to the war diary]

### **2<sup>nd</sup> March**

IROO. Windy and sandy. Small mail in.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> March**

Bly with Australians. I trenching. Outpost at night. G.E.S. rejoined; Ellis put on PBII.

### **4<sup>th</sup> March**

Bathing etc. Sent watches to L & May[?]

### **5<sup>th</sup> March**

Reveille 4.30. 2 R[egiments] of Aust[ralians] and ERY to Khan Yunus.\* Mail in.

*[\*2<sup>nd</sup> Light Horse Brigade]*

### **6<sup>th</sup> March**

Div gen round [ Divisional general around?] Outpost.

### **7<sup>th</sup> March**

Squadron bathing.

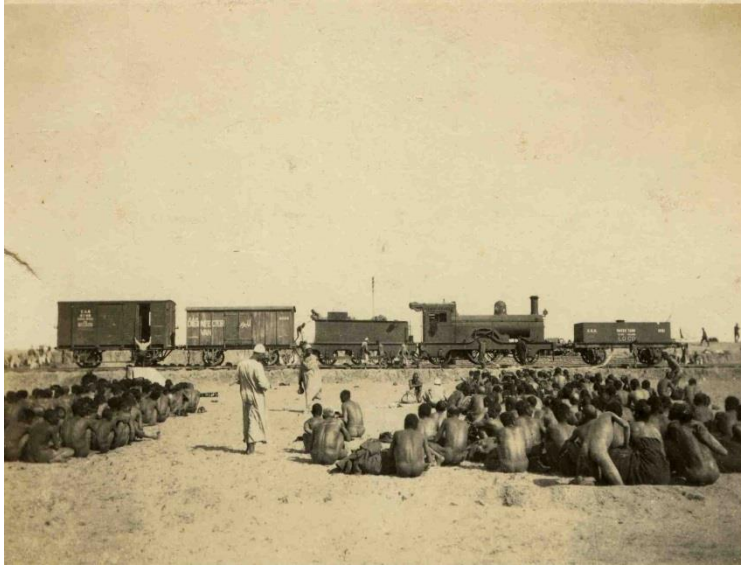
### **8<sup>th</sup> March**

Grazing. Bly and I to canteen. Brought Lt. Wilkins up for tea.

### **9<sup>th</sup> March**

Fumigating clothes. I with Brigade Major (Dunbar) to 183. Took over camp area. Brigade got fresh rifles [because the ERY were now brigaded with the Australians, who had a different pattern of rifle. The war diary notes discontent with the quality of many of the weapons!]





A disinfecting train, with troops waiting for their clothing to be deloused. *From the album of RS Stephenson (ERYC Archives Service).*

### **10<sup>th</sup> March**

Sympson and I with his troop and I with staff Captain to 183. Dug well and allotted camp area. Troop in at 3[pm].

### **11<sup>th</sup> March**

Bad sandstorm. GES out with Australians.[.....] I resting my foot; got remounts.

### **12<sup>th</sup> March**

Heavy rain and wind. Brigade off to Sheik Nuran at 8am. I doing RG [rear guard] out and AG [advance guard] home. Fine day.

### **13<sup>th</sup> March**

Fine. Bathed first thing.

### **14<sup>th</sup> March**

Bathing and grazing. Mail in.

### **15<sup>th</sup> March**

ERY out Khan Yunus. prot[ecting] well diggers.

### **16<sup>th</sup> March**

Std grouping [the war diary notes rifle practice on this day]

### **17<sup>th</sup> March**

A grouping[?] B + C [as above, the letters obviously refer to ERY's three aquadrons]

### 18<sup>th</sup> March

Goodall and I ride to Rafa race course. Grouping in pm.

### 19<sup>th</sup> March

Details grouping. Sergeant. Major Sthwell\* to no. 2. Mail in.

*[\*probably Sergeant. Major John Southwell, later 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.]*

### 20<sup>th</sup> March

I ex[ercise] squadron, bathing etc in am.

### 21<sup>st</sup> March

Gas lecture at BHQ[Brigade Headquarters]. All at races after. GES\* ran 2<sup>nd</sup> in G. Nat [Grand National] Searle\* 6<sup>th</sup> in Anzac chase.

*\*Perhaps Captain Gerald Eustace Smith and Lance Corporal Oswald Searle*



*The Rafa races. From the album of RS Stephenson (ERYC Archives Service).*

### 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Bathing. H[otchkiss] gun prep to go out. Stand by.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Goodall out on recon, me standing by all day.

### 24<sup>th</sup> March

Physical ex[ercise] and stand by. Left Mellal at 0200 for Beila [Deir El Belah, SW of Gaza]

### **25<sup>th</sup> March**

Arrived Beila at 0500. Recon[naissance] all day. Outpost until 11. Essex [regiment] took over and we back to Beila 12 midnight, and left at 0200.

### **26<sup>th</sup> March [1<sup>st</sup> battle of Gaza]**

Left Beila at 2am to work round Gaza. Foggy. Arrived opposite Gaza 12. 53 [Division] at Gaza. We galloped into action at 15.00. Dis[mounted] attack. 1st line under fire. Rendezvous at dusk. Set off to Beila, but had to stop in plain. Lost our way. GES knocked out, 1 man in B [squadron] killed [= Trooper Robert Throssell, from Howden], a few horses wounded, not serious. 800 prisoners [presumably the total number captured by the British forces as a whole].

### **27<sup>th</sup> March**

Arrived Beila 7am. Left Beila at 0800 for Wadi Ghuzze. There all day in support. A lot of shelling from W. Gaza. 53 and 54 attack Gaza. I guide at night to Brigade and Kent's etc. Across Ghuzze, set off at 12, finished at 4am. I stopped at BHQ.

### **28<sup>th</sup> March**

I left BHQ after feeding. Out at 0900 towards Gaza to recon trenches. B in action, A in support, back at 1600. Bathing & a night's sleep. One of our aeroplanes in sea, Smith helped get him out.\*

*\* Distinguished Conduct Medals were awarded to Lance Corporal Frederick Smales, of Hull, and Private Francis Sherwood, of Bridlington for gallantry in rescuing the British pilot from the sea under enemy fire, as reported in the Hull Daily Mail, 5<sup>th</sup> September 1917.*

### **29<sup>th</sup> March**

Moved from coast to Beila 0800. Settled in camp. Got some fresh meat.

### **30<sup>th</sup> March**

ROO [Regimental orderly officer]. Bathing etc.

### **31<sup>st</sup> March**

No bathing. Out at 11 to Sheik Nebhan. Outpost at night in trenches. Mail in.

### **1<sup>st</sup> April**

Watered horses at Beila and others trenching in AM. Back to camp 15.30.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> April**

Bailey digging out at Tel Jemme. Others bathing etc. Got new Hotchkiss packs. Mail in.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> April**

Smith digging. Others bathing etc. Goodall and I on picket duty at Beilah at 0730 (24 hours)

#### **4<sup>th</sup> April**

Goodall and I at Beilah. Returned at 18.30. Reg[iment] to Khan Yunus, then back and on outpost.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> April**

Moved camp from near lake to sea shore in AM. Mail in.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> April**

Outpost duty at 13.30. A in reserve.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> April**

Stood to at 0400. I on a patrol to Jemme. Back to camp at 15.30.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> April**

H.C. [Holy Communion] and service in camp on cliff top. Audas\* and Adams\* joined up. I wrote to Peel for books and to Pa.

*\*Lietenants. A.C. Adams and Frederick Ernest Audas.*

#### **9<sup>th</sup> April**

A squadron out marching. Night [.....]

#### **10<sup>th</sup> April**

Regiment in outpost reserve at night. Mail in. Parcels from Liz and Mrs D.

#### **11<sup>th</sup> April**

In at dawn. Saddle inspection etc.

#### **12<sup>th</sup> April**

A [wirin]g, B & C digging at Jemme.

#### **13<sup>th</sup> April**

In all day. Sent cheque 9-8-78=£5 to A-E Bm.

#### **14<sup>th</sup> April**

ROO. Regiment on outpost at noon.

#### **15<sup>th</sup> April**

Goodall to water, relieved at 14.30. Wrote Cox re paying into A-E.

### **16<sup>th</sup> April**

Getting ready to move out. Moved at 18.30. I and four men from B doing troop exercise.

### **17<sup>th</sup> April**

Inf[antry] did their job by 10am. Arrived Shellal 0430. Joined Reg, all out on recon. A escort to guns. In at 0130.

### **18<sup>th</sup> April**

Early AM moved horse lines. Turkey bombed us(?)

### **19<sup>th</sup> April**

I liaison o[fficer], I with Brigade to Shellal crossing. Regiment on outpost. I joined Regiment at night. Made demonstration against strong force of T[urkish] cav[alry].\* Outpost at night. Hiseia.

*\*the ERY's war diary mentions the enemy were in regimental strength.*

### **20<sup>th</sup> April**

Rend[evous] at Sheik Nuran. I am with troops to dig outpost trenches in PM. Back at dusk. Div[ision] bivouacked in PM. A good night's rest. Dug in against planes.

### **21<sup>st</sup> April**

Easy AM. Outpost at 1.30 across Ghuzze.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> April**

Off to water at 0600. Then to El Mundar to trench. Got a wash. Trenching in PM. Relieved by C at 21.00. Walker to hospital.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> April**

Captain L. to hospital. 1 & 3 on recon at 0600. 2 & 4 at 10. Left El Mundar at 19.30, arrived Abu Sitta 21.30.

### **24<sup>th</sup> April**

At Abu Sitta all day, cleaning up etc. Mail in. Cox handed WAE PT 18.30.3 [Presumably a map reference].

### **25<sup>th</sup> April**

At Abu Sitta all day.

### **26<sup>th</sup> April**

Trenching at Abu Sitta in AM. Outpost at Tel El Fara at night.

### **27<sup>th</sup> April**

Left outpost line in AM. Close to Tel El Fara all day and night. Lt. Audas rejoined. Sergeant Lyon into hospital.\*

*\*Harold Lyon, of Market Weighton.*

### **28<sup>th</sup> April**

Captain Bradley had breakfast with us. Horses to water at 7.30. On outpost across Wadi at 10. Trenching in PM. Captain Lyon back from hospital. Wrote to T & D for breeches.

### **29<sup>th</sup> April**

Men bath and washing clothes and general clean up in AM. 4<sup>th</sup> under Audas to C for wiring. Outpost at night.

### **30<sup>th</sup> April**

Trenching etc. Men off for remounts to Beila. Outpost 4<sup>th</sup> Audas, Fara.

### **1<sup>st</sup> May**

Trenching p.m. Outpost.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> May**

Quiet day. Outpost & trenching, got mail. On outpost.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> May**

Trenching, outpost at night. Tel El Fara.

### **4<sup>th</sup> May**

Trenching & outpost. I leader at Fara.

### **5<sup>th</sup> May**

Rejoin at Rev[eille?] Sqdn trenching up to 9.30. saddle insp[ection] in p.m. Outpost.

### **6<sup>th</sup> May**

Easy day. Cleaning arms etc. Sent dup[licate] orders to Peel & [Tate?] & Durr... Mail in.

### **7<sup>th</sup> May**

Foggy. I.M.D. [Imperial Mounted Division] recon to El Buggar. Grazing, Bela bombed. Lofthouse killed\* & Dr. [Hunton?] in hosp[ital.]

*\*= Trooper 884, Alvara Lofthouse.*

## 8<sup>th</sup> May

Grazing etc. Trenching. Mathieson and I to B & C squadrons. Goodall to Bela. Heard of Dick Ulyyott and draft being torpedoed. Lofthouse\*, Garside and Bell drowned. Outpost. Mark back from hospital.

*\* Cpl Charles Alvara Lofthouse, Trooper Reginald Waller Garside and Shoeing Smith Corporal David Bell.*



*Studio photo of C.A. Lofthouse. Loan from Private collection.*

## 9<sup>th</sup> May

Grazing etc. Outpost and trenching. D.Ulyyott\* and draft joined up at night.

*\* Lieutenant Richard Duncan Ulyyott, who like Stephenson, was of farming stock (his father farmed at Harpham). To judge from regular references to him, they were clearly close friends.*

## 10<sup>th</sup> May

Trenching. Chauvel [Major General] round. I not out with Squadron. Carbuncle on my arm. First parade I missed in Egypt. Outpost at night.

## 11<sup>th</sup> May

Trenching and outpost.

## 12<sup>th</sup> May

Heard of Greshman's\* death, outpost.

*\* Lieutenant Leonard Stanley Gresham, of Bridlington.*

### **13<sup>th</sup> May**

Small mail in and local parcels. Bly and I walked in AM. H.C. & D[ivine] Serv[ice] by Captain Holmes in Wadi Ghuzzee. I liaison, outpost.

### **14<sup>th</sup> May**

I over to B and chat with Ulyott. Outpost. 4 [troop] in support.

### **15<sup>th</sup> May**

Slight shower. Outpost. Mail in.

### **16<sup>th</sup> May**

Dick U[llyott] over in pm. Outpost (boots off).

### **17<sup>th</sup> May**

IOO [I Orderly officer]. Ex[ercise] in AM. Moved west of Fara 17.45.

### **18<sup>th</sup> May**

IROO [I regimental orderly officer]

### **19<sup>th</sup> May**

Sandstorm all day. Mail in.

### **20<sup>th</sup> May**

Captain Holmes took service. H.C.[Holy Communion], Dick and I walk in pm.

### **21<sup>st</sup> May**

Stand to. Water 0700. I liaison.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> May**

Corporal Simpson back from hospital. Division moved at 19.30 for demolishing R[ailway] A [Squadron] escort to D.A.C. [divisional ammunition column].

### **23<sup>rd</sup> May**

Arrive 6.30, 24.00 Stand to. 0330 Watered and fed and standby. Back to camp at 19.00. Des[troyed] viaduct.....

### **24<sup>th</sup> May**

IOO. Got drill tunic etc.



### **25<sup>th</sup> May**

IROO. G.E.S. to Khan Yunus shopping. Put mess tent up. Mail in.

### **26<sup>th</sup> May**

Gas parade etc. Mark and Bradley to dine.

### **27<sup>th</sup> May**

On recon at 0630. A to Goz El Geleib 510. I to 410. Got a bit warm.\* A deserter came in.

\* *The war diary refers to enemy rifle fire through the day.*

### **28<sup>th</sup> May**

I report to staff Captain Lloyd Sanderson at 0500. Took over camp area for reg[iment] at Tel El Marakeb.

### **29<sup>th</sup> May**

Bathing in sea first thing. Captain Lyon and I to Khan Yunus and Bela. Men dipped.



*From the album of RS Stephenson, ER Archives Service*

### **30<sup>th</sup> May**

Captain Anson dined with A., Mark, Bradley and Sidebottom in after[noon].

### **31<sup>st</sup> May**

IROO. Gas demonstration in pm. [name illegible] back from hospital and Reginald from.....[rest illegible]

### **1<sup>st</sup> June**

Goodall, Daddy and I to Bela canteen. Major Moore rejoined A. Lyon to B. Paid Large(?) and a.....[rest illegible]

## **2<sup>nd</sup> June**

D.U. [Dick Ullott] and I to Khan Yunus and Beni Sela to see M.M.G. Ashford. Audas away on course. Mail in.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> June**

Captain Holmes took D.S. at 5.30.

## **4<sup>th</sup> June**

Hothckiss gun and bombing. I exercise squadron. I to Khan Yunus to meet Ashford. Did not come. Goodall and I to concert at YMCA, Khan Yunus. Mail in; shirts came.

## **5<sup>th</sup> June**

Hothckiss gun firing. Campbell, Bradley, Simpson dine.

## **6<sup>th</sup> June**

Marching order inspection by CO. Mail in. Books from Pearl.

## **7<sup>th</sup> June**

Major Moore and leave party back.

## **8<sup>th</sup> June**

IROO. Left El Marakeb 0840. Arrived Fukhari at 12.00.

## **9<sup>th</sup> June**

Horses grazing in AM. [P...y] to Khan Yunus canteen. G.E.S. started A.A.

## **10<sup>th</sup> June**

Easy. Map reading etc. ... boots and shirts from England. Sent prints (Lyons)\*1 to Lis. Featherstone gazetted.\*2

*\*1 Perhaps a reference to Sergeant Harold Lyons (of Market Weighton), who took numerous photographs during the campaign*

*\*2 Staff Sergeant Major Walter Featherstone commissioned as officer in the regiment.*

## **11<sup>th</sup> June**

ISOO [I squadron orderly officer]. Handed rifles in. Mark VI. Goodall and I to Khan Yunus shopping.

## **12<sup>th</sup> June**

Drew new rifles – Mark VII.

### **13<sup>th</sup> June**

Inspection by General Chauvel.

### **14<sup>th</sup> June**

IROO. Squadron drill.

### **15<sup>th</sup> June**

Squadron drill.

### **16<sup>th</sup> June**

Easy day.

### **17<sup>th</sup> June**

Easy day. Regiment bathing.

### **18<sup>th</sup> June**

Prep[ared] targets etc. Regimental bathing.

### **19<sup>th</sup> June**

Regiment grouping on range [i.e. target practice with the new rifles].

### **20<sup>th</sup> June**

Squadron drill. EDM [Edward Duke Moore], Bly and Goodall sick.

### **21<sup>st</sup> June**

Regimental bathing. Sergeant Searle on leave.



*Sergeant Searle from the album of RSS, East Riding Archives Service*

### **22<sup>nd</sup> June**

Squadron drill. I off colour.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> June**

Grazing. I to hospital. F.A. [ field ambulance?], then to 53<sup>rd</sup> Welsh CCS [casualty clearing station] at R[afa?]

### **24<sup>th</sup> June**

Left R. for El A[riah]. 2 A. Gl. H. [possibly Army General Hospital]. Arrived 18.00. Chas. Wright and padre in.

### **25<sup>th</sup> June**

In hospital all day. Bath in pm.

### **26<sup>th</sup> June**

Chas. W. down line. Padre rejoin. Bridge and bathing in pm.

### **27<sup>th</sup> June**

Left El Arish 0800; arrived K. [Khan Yunus?] 1500.

### **28<sup>th</sup> June**

In hospital in K all day.

### **29<sup>th</sup> June**

Moved to isolation camp in pm. Innoculated for diphtheria.

### **30<sup>th</sup> June**

Stiff from inoculation.

### **1<sup>st</sup> July**

Mail in.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> July**

Quiet, nothing doing. I got box of books from base dump. A letter from Lofthouse's people.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> July**

Nothing doing.

### **4<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing. A letter from[ ...] Wrote one to Eric.

### **5<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing.

**6<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing.

**7<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing. A letter from A.H.G. 60<sup>th</sup> went up.

**8<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing.

**9<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing. I out for walk in pm.

**10<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing. General Allenby round inspecting hospital. Mail in.

**11<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing.

**12<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing.

**13<sup>th</sup> July**

Padre administered H.C. (holy communion] in my tent in a.m.

**14<sup>th</sup> July**

Mail in. I for swim after tea.

**15<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing. Swim in pm.

**16<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing.

**17<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing.

**18<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing.

**19<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing.

**20<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing. Convoy of wounded came in.

**21<sup>st</sup> July**

Got two letters.

**22<sup>nd</sup> July**

Nothing doing.

**23<sup>rd</sup> July**

Nothing doing.

**24<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing. Swab taken.

**25<sup>th</sup> July**

Swab negative.

**26<sup>th</sup> July**

Nothing doing.

**27<sup>th</sup> July**

Swab taken.

**28<sup>th</sup> July**

Negative.

**29<sup>th</sup> July**

Left isolation.

**30<sup>th</sup> July**

Left K for Port [Said].

**31<sup>st</sup> July**

Cole, 7<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots, Captain Genlis, Royal Warwicks, late Northumberland Yeo and I to Port Said. Eggett, Shropshire Yeo., Kitto DCLI, Meade N. Yeo and I bridge at night.

### **1<sup>st</sup> August**

All to Port Said.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> August**

To dentist. Eggett, Meade and I in P.S. Met Dick U[lllyott].

### **3<sup>rd</sup> August**

To dentist. Saw Headley in hospital. Met Dick in P.S. Hunter ICC [Imperial Camel Corps], MGC [Machine Gun Corps] later Scots Horse, died in hospital.

### **4<sup>th</sup> August**

To Port Said in pm. Met N.W.

### **5<sup>th</sup> August**

Kitt and I to C[airo] in AM. Eggett, Dick and I sail.

### **6<sup>th</sup> August**

N.W. & I to casino. P.H. [public house] for tea, then to aquatic sports at hosp. Dick and I dine at casino p.h.

### **7<sup>th</sup> August**

Oliphant and I sailing in pm. Dick joined us at tea. Mail in.

### **8<sup>th</sup> August**

Meade and I walk. [...] N.W. and I sail in pm.

### **9<sup>th</sup> August**

All in town in pm.

### **10<sup>th</sup> August**

Four of us to C.C.O. hospital. Concert at night, I with N.W.

### **11<sup>th</sup> August**

Left Port Said 12.00, arrived Kantara 1.00. Left at 6.00, G.O.C. in front. Kitto 1/7 RS [Royal Scots] and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Davey on train.

### **12<sup>th</sup> August**

I arrive Rafa at 6am. Walker met me. Breakfast with Sidney.

### **13<sup>th</sup> August**

Regimental drill. Mail in. Eliminating races for brigade sports at night.

### **14<sup>th</sup> August**

Squadron at disposal. Jumping at night.

### **15<sup>th</sup> August**

Eliminating jumpers for Brigade sports.

### **16<sup>th</sup> August**

Brigade sports. ERY – 4 1sts, 4 2nds, 4 3rds, 3 4ths.

### **17<sup>th</sup> August**

Packing up.

### **18<sup>th</sup> August**

Left 9½ at 0700 for El Shauth. Sandstorm. Will and I and 16 O.R. [other ranks] as standing patrol.

### **19<sup>th</sup> August**

Left at 6, camp at 8. Watered at Gamli[?]

### **20<sup>th</sup> August**

S.T. [stand to] 3.30. Quiet day, C squadron on day obs[ervation]. Dick and Bly back from Cairo.

### **21<sup>st</sup> August**

Stand to 0330.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> August**

ST. 0400. IOP at Goz Mabruk.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> August**

Left Shauth at 14.30 for reconnaissance.

### **24<sup>th</sup> August**

Left Rashid Bek at 0500. Got to 970, nothing doing. Shelled at night. Left 970 19.30, watered at Esani.



### **25<sup>th</sup> August**

Back in camp at 0830. Two horse to NVS [war diary notes two horses died of exhaustion]. Got some remounts [a string of numbers follows].

### **26<sup>th</sup> August**

ROO. Mail in. Breeches from T & D. [presumably in a parcel from England].

### **27<sup>th</sup> August**

Quiet day.

### **28<sup>th</sup> August**

ND (nothing doing). EDM\* dined with A [squadron]

*\*Major Edward Duke Moore, then of A squadron, later (1918) commander of the regiment.*

### **29<sup>th</sup> August**

SOO. Reg[iment] out operating around El Buggar at night.

### **30<sup>th</sup> August**

In contact and pursued T[urkish] cav[alry] in AM\*. Home by 11.00.

*\* Two troops, according to the war diary. They escaped unscathed, apart from one man being captured, according to a private account.*

### **31<sup>st</sup> August**

Left at 17.00 at 17.00 for Asluj.

### **1<sup>st</sup> September**

Left 770 0400, arrived Asluj. Back to Esani 19.00.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> September**

Home at 0800. Mail in.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> September**

Easy.

### **4<sup>th</sup> September**

Out at 7.15 to south of El Buggar. I doing A.G. to DHQ. Bumped into Turks patrol. Home at 24.00.\*

*\*24 enemy, who were driven back.*

**5<sup>th</sup> September**

SOO. Rest. Band of the 180 Brigade over playing at night.

**6<sup>th</sup> September**

ROO.

**7<sup>th</sup> September**

Easy, mail in.

**8<sup>th</sup> September**

Easy.

**9<sup>th</sup> September**

SOO. H.C. [Holy communion] at 10.00

**10<sup>th</sup> September**

Stand by at 10.30. Off at 15.00. I liaison.

**11<sup>th</sup> September**

Easy.

**12<sup>th</sup> September**

Left at 0550 for protective line round Baba [Beersheba?] Shelled, Bailey\* in action at night, returned to camp at 0200. Small mail in.

*\* The war diary notes one Sergeant wounded, which given the entry for 17<sup>th</sup> September, may well have been [Oswald] Searle. Lt. Robert N.M. Bailey, formerly a clerk with the House of Commons, died of wounds received in action on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1917.*

**13<sup>th</sup> September**

Easy.

**14<sup>th</sup> September**

ROO.

**15<sup>th</sup> September**

Rifle inspection.

## **16<sup>th</sup> September**

G.O.C. of Div presented Captain R[obinson] with M.C. ribbon at 12.00. Service at 19.00\*

*\*Major General Baron C.B., made the presentation.*

## **17<sup>th</sup> September**

Getting ready to move. I to see Sergeant Searle in hospital, gone down the line.

## **18<sup>th</sup> September**

Left Shauth 0900, arrived Marakeb 15.00.

## **19<sup>th</sup> September**

Bathing and settling down. Mail in.

## **20<sup>th</sup> September**

Bathing and exercise.

## **21<sup>st</sup> September**

GOO. Bathing horses.

## **22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Saddle inspection.

## **23<sup>rd</sup> September**

I to H.C.

## **24<sup>th</sup> September**

Musketry? (E.T.) Hotchkiss guns etc.

## **25<sup>th</sup> September**

Musketry (E.T.) Hotchkiss gun. Staffs gave a concert in YMCA.

## **26<sup>th</sup> September**

Musketry (E.T.)

## **27<sup>th</sup> September**

Grouping on shore.

## **28<sup>th</sup> September**

Grouping on shore.

## **29<sup>th</sup> September**

Regiment firing on big range. I down with F.W. and snipers at 16.00. Mail in.

## **30<sup>th</sup> September**

Service in YM [CA] at 18.30.

## **1<sup>st</sup> October**

Grouping on beach. London Brigade gave a good concert.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> October**

I and 40 ORs of Brigade left at 0330 for Rafa for remounts. Arrived camp 13.30.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> October**

B firing on [...] range. C. at 13. Left K.Y [Khan Yunus]. 17.30

## **4<sup>th</sup> October**

Arrived Kantara 0700. [...] Port Said 11.00. Meals at E.E.H. Shopping.

## **5<sup>th</sup> October**

Shopping in AM. Sail N.W. in pm. Concert in Eldorado at night.

## **6<sup>th</sup> October**

Shopping. N.W. dined at casino. Dance at casino.

## **7<sup>th</sup> October**

In camp.

## **8<sup>th</sup> October**

Shopping. I to hospital, saw Sergeant Searle, Thompson etc. Tea at hospital. Sail O. Mail in.

## **9<sup>th</sup> October**

Emp[ire] club in AM. Tennis in pm, sail N.W.

## **10<sup>th</sup> October**

May, Crawford, Barnes and I at Armenian camp. Sent [letters] to JSS, GSS, Lis, and N. and FWM. Tennis in PM.

## **11<sup>th</sup> October**

Shopping in AM. WDF, Lis, CB. Hospital in PM. Tea at Casino "O". Went to the end of breakwater.

**12<sup>th</sup> October**

Left P.S. 13.00. Lunch at Mrs Chisolm's at Kantara. I to base camp. Left K 18.45.

**13<sup>th</sup> October**

KY 0830. Camp 10.30.

**14<sup>th</sup> October**

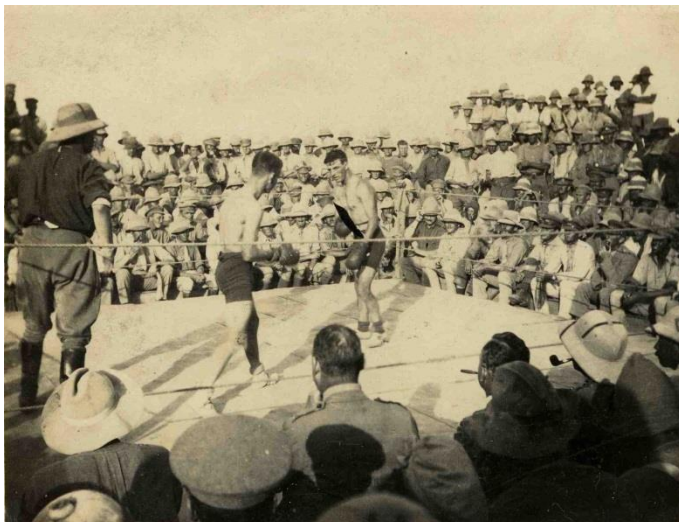
H.C. 10.00. Major's Wiggin, Foster and Lyon dined with A.

**15<sup>th</sup> October**

ROO. Musketry on beach.

**16<sup>th</sup> October**

Lecture on cavalry dismounted attack. Boxing in pm. 22<sup>nd</sup> versus 6<sup>th</sup>.



*From the album of RSS, ERYC Archives Service*

**17<sup>th</sup> October**

Musketry on range 0900 to 12.00. Regiment [on] night firing.

**18<sup>th</sup> October**

Scheme for aircraft communication. Easy day. I exercise.

**19<sup>th</sup> October**

Scheme for aircraft communication.

## **20<sup>th</sup> October**

Infantry attack. I on range with details. Singing concert at night.

## **21<sup>st</sup> October**

Will and I to Abassan to see 5<sup>th</sup> ALH moved out. Concert at 18.30.

## **22<sup>nd</sup> October**

Cavalry dismounted attack.

## **23<sup>rd</sup> October**

Hotchkiss guns. Concert by 53<sup>rd</sup>. Mail in. Heard from Sergeant Searle.

## **24<sup>th</sup> October**

Squadron sword drill mounted. Officers to Brigade to see maps.

## **25<sup>th</sup> October**

ROO. Mail in. PHY to Eng[land].

## **26<sup>th</sup> October**

Regiment dismounted attack. Wrote to Ptltd(?).

## **27<sup>th</sup> October**

Will and I ride to Bela. Wet night.

## **28<sup>th</sup> October**

SOO. Brigade to Shellal, I LO (liaison officer?)

## **29<sup>th</sup> October**

I reporting on Hueia [Tel Abu Hareure?] Met Musgrove, 53<sup>rd</sup> Div....Stewart, Craggy, Clarke and Capt. Wilkinson over to see us.

## **30<sup>th</sup> October**

Easy. I to water in pm. Clipping horses.

## **31<sup>st</sup> October**

Water at Shellal junction. A squadron out to outpost line. 5 10 320 280. 4<sup>th</sup> Y. in [...]

## **1<sup>st</sup> November**

Squadron to Goz El Gelieb. Reg all to water at Shellal. Goz El Gelieb at night. Mail in.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> November**

Water at Shellal twice. I relieved W.F. as escort to LRHA.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> November**

Sergeant Hall to water. I see Major Mcleod, LRHA.

## **4<sup>th</sup> November**

ERY in trenches at 630 to 510 [map references], Wadi Hanifish. I gallopers, lead water to trenches.

## **5<sup>th</sup> November**

Water at Karm, to Beersheba, arrived 23.00, left at 0012. Featherstone relieved me as gallopers. A line to Reg[iment] and home.

## **6<sup>th</sup> November**

Reg[iment] to 6087.....Took up part of line, dug in at night. Abu Jerwal. Took over from Dorsets. Bombed and shelled. [NE of Beersheba]

## **7<sup>th</sup> November**

Nice cool day. In trenches all day. Shelled and shot at, horses no water.

## **8<sup>th</sup> November**

John gone. [i.e. the Turks had retreated]. Brigade advanced 10 miles towards Khuweile. Arrived Sheria 0230, watered.

## **9<sup>th</sup> November**

Left Sheria 0645 to Simsim via Huj. One squadron of Wk\* and one squadron of (?) charged guns at Huj, captured 12 F.G.[field guns], 2 howitzers and 7 MGs [machine guns].

\* Warwick Yeomanry, who were in action with the Worcestershire Yeomanry.

## **10<sup>th</sup> November**

Left Huj at dawn. Watered at Tel El Nejile. Then on to Arak El Husein, bivouacked at Menshiye.

## **11<sup>th</sup> November**

ERY and BHL to Keratiya. 3 and 4 doing flank guard. Watered at Hatteh. Drew forage and rations and left foe Mejdal. Watered and settled at 1am. Lost when watering.

## **12<sup>th</sup> November**

Reveille at 0600. Left Medjel at 1000. 6 and 22 in support of 8<sup>th</sup>. Bivouacked at Jisr Estdud. I guide and covering party to Regiment, watering at Sukerier. Two horses drowned. [in a muddy area in a wadi].

## **13<sup>th</sup> November**

Left Estdud at 0700. Galloped hills between Yebna and Akir. Took 100 prisoners of war, 8<sup>th</sup> took 1000. Dug in, I got Wigglesworth killed [ i.e. he was in Stephenson's troop and was killed in action]. Next AM went to Rothschild Jewish colony. Breakfast at Akir.

## **14<sup>th</sup> November**

Cunningham hit. A squadron took Naane. I north of village on outpost all day. Heavily shelled. Corporal Byass killed, Bailey, Brown, Riley hit, Major Lyon / Richard.\*

*\*the war diary recalls 1 killed and 13 wounded. Bernard Byass, Frank Riley, Fred Brown*

## **15<sup>th</sup> November**

6<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> took Abu Shusheh by 10.00. I escort to LTR BTR. [an artillery battery] I ....regiment at 1400 and took over Abu Shusheh. Reg[iment] to Naane at night. Letter from Peg and JSS.

## **16<sup>th</sup> November**

Hot. Regiment on reconnaissance to Kubbil and Amwas. [Lt. G.E.] Smith heavily shelled, 4 casualties. Brigade to Ramleh for night via Annabe.

## **17<sup>th</sup> November**

Hot and close. Reveille 0630. Had a bath. Moved to Ludd at 1030. My troop to see if Kulah was held. Heavily fired on by MG, Thomas's horse killed, Rollins and .....hit. Colonel Wilson re-joined from England.

## **18<sup>th</sup> November**

Close. Left Ludd for Jerusalem at 0615. Watered at Ludd in among the hills. Brigade bivouacked at Shilta. A on outpost, bought some sheep.

## **19<sup>th</sup> November**

Brigade via Suffa to Wadi Arik. A left flank guard. Tough journey. A on outpost. Very heavy rain. 4<sup>th</sup> troop in cave on left of Lincolns. No rations or forage.

## **20<sup>th</sup> November**

Brigade moved up Wadi, A on left. Took Bir Izbzia & Ain Arik. I first into both places. Brigade into latter in pm. A on 2435. Very wet night. Relieved by B. No sleep, too wet, no rations or forage.



## **21<sup>st</sup> November**

Brigade moved up to 2435. Heavily shelled. A in advance, A on outpost. Started to withdraw at 0100, very cold night.

## **22<sup>nd</sup> November**

Ain Arik looked very fine in early morn, a fine wadi. Waterered at Ain Arik. 4th T[roop] doing rear flank guard on foot. Rough job. Arrived El Tahta at 1200 via WAdi Arik. Mail in, forage issued – first time since Ludd. Horses and men tired. Plenty of forage and rations.



*The Wadi Ain Arik – photograph by Sgt. Harold Lyon, ERYC collection*

## **23<sup>rd</sup> November**

Rest day. Got clean shirts etc. Local mail in and one out.

## **24<sup>th</sup> November**

Good night. Bath etc. Regiment moved out dis[mounted] beyond Foka and back to Foka to bivouac. Horse back to Ludd.

## **25<sup>th</sup> November**

I took regiment out to make road for guns from Foka to Tahta. Dismounted from Foka to Tahta at noon. Had tea and watered then into outpost line east of Tahta. Long tiring walk.

## **26<sup>th</sup> November**

In outpost line all day. Quiet, a few shells and shots. SSM Wilson\* wounded in leg whilst Trooper Thompson stuck bayonet in his leg [presumably by accident]. Cold night.

\* *Squadron Sergeant Major Ernest William Wilson*

### **27<sup>th</sup> November**

Outpost all day. Flemens(?) parcel came by post. C squadron relieved A at 1700. A to Reg[iment] from [out]post.

### **28<sup>th</sup> November**

A took over Staff's line at 0330. Staffs made a demonstration against Zeitun hill. 6<sup>th</sup> took it, could not hold it. 22 and 6 [Brigades] withdrew at 1600 to Wadi Sund [another place name illegible], between Foka and Tahta. Lost my kit.

### **29<sup>th</sup> November**

Fine and warm day. Sniping all day, no shelling. A Turk patrol fired on at night. Relieved 6 H.L.I. at 2200 [Highland Light Infantry].

### **30<sup>th</sup> November**

Arrived Bit Siria 9am. Tea and got down to it. Left at 1200. Shelled badly, no casualties. Arrived Annabe 1700.

### **1<sup>st</sup> December**

Horses came to Annabe for us at 1100. Arrived Ras Deran 1700.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> December**

Easy day, washing etc. Moved lines, big mail in.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> December**

Will to fetch remounts and draft. Cyril Lloyd, Shaw, Adams, Woodhouse, Rickaby, Hickson rejoined. Kit inspection, washing etc. Remains of mail in. I got a letter from S.P.

### **4<sup>th</sup> December**

Shaw OO [orderly officer]. Stables etc. Will and I into Ras Deran, shopping. More letters.

### **5<sup>th</sup> December**

I ROO. Brigade parade for Corps Commander.

### **6<sup>th</sup> December**

Wet day.

### **7<sup>th</sup> December**

Wet day. Captain Robinson and I on board .....Lincoln packs at Brigade headquarters. Had lunch in restaurant.

### **8<sup>th</sup> December**

Wet day. Squadron O.O. [orderly officer]

### **9<sup>th</sup> December**

Wet day. Physical drill half hour. Corporal Appleton and I took for rifle range in pm. Will sleep at wine press....of Brigade.

### **10<sup>th</sup> December**

Fine. I with A squadron draft. Lecture by EDM [Major Edward Duke Moore]

### **11<sup>th</sup> December**

I left Ras Deran 0700 with advance party to Sukeira, regiment in at 1300.

### **12<sup>th</sup> December**

Cold frost. I left Sukeira at 0600 for Mejdal. Regiment arrived 1300.

### **13<sup>th</sup> December**

SOO [squadron orderly officer]. Cleaning up. I took for rifle range in pm. Will took mess over.

### **14<sup>th</sup> December**

Squadron drill.

### **15<sup>th</sup> December**

Squadron drill....& I and Bainbridge marking range out.

### **16<sup>th</sup> December**

Bathing, mail in.

### **17<sup>th</sup> December**

Brigade rehearsal for presenting decorations. Mail in.

### **18<sup>th</sup> December**

Divisional rehearsal for presenting decorations.

### **19<sup>th</sup> December**

G.O.C. in C presented decorations. George Piercy, Sergeant Tesseyman. I sent power of attorney to Cobb. [Neither mentioned in the war diary. George Ward Piercy received the Military Cross. Cyril Vernon Shepherd Tesseyman was awarded the DCM].

### **20<sup>th</sup> December**

ROO. Sword drill for Regiment. Hotchkiss rifle drill. Rifle and ammunition inspection in pm. I dined with B. Wet night.

### **21<sup>st</sup> December**

No parade. I with Brigade Major (Stapleton-Bretherton) and RE [Royal Engineers] officer (Watson). To see range right. Regiment on [.....] tests. I to water, got new mess tent up.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> December**

I had 60 (20 from each Regiment) working on rifle range.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> December**

New padre – Little –held his first service. I to look for Turk dugouts.

### **24<sup>th</sup> December**

Rough and stormy. I had 20 from each Regiment on range. Got revetting stuff from Turk dugouts in Ascalon.

### **25<sup>th</sup> December**

Very wet day and night. I to water in AM. Very ...day(?)

### **26<sup>th</sup> December**

Fine day. Bainbridge and I to see rifle range.

### **27<sup>th</sup> December**

I with 60 men on range. Got began to put targets up.

### **28<sup>th</sup> Decmber**

I with 30 on range. Finished firing points and targets. Got post up for targets.

### **29<sup>th</sup> December**

Finished range except target sheds. Skilbeck stayed down on range. I dined with H.Q., Woodhouse.....

### **30<sup>th</sup> December**

Bainbridge and Corporal Ruddock finished papering targets. 10 men from Staffs finished shelters.

### **31<sup>st</sup> December**

C [squadron] began firing at 0820. Did three practices by 1200 noon. B firing up to 1600. Mail in, got photo of Peg in uniform.

### **1<sup>st</sup> January 1918**

I with 30 men to bring rifle range away to Bela. Wet night.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> January**

Left Mejdal at 0630. Trekked to Gaza. Robinson and I round Ali Muntar [a prominent hill on the outskirts] to Gaza.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> January**

Left Gaza at 0650. I doing advance guard. To Bela by 1200 noon. Brigade Major and I to look for range.

### **4<sup>th</sup> January**

I with 3 G.S. [general service wagons] to fetch range equipment from division. I drew money for squadron. I ride to look for range via R.F....

### **5<sup>th</sup> January**

F.W. and I fixed sight for range. Division approved. Mail in. Dick and Walter on leave.

### **6<sup>th</sup> January**

I to H.C. 0730. Windy and wet. I out with Brigade Major and Colonel Grenville to see rifle range.

### **7<sup>th</sup> January**

Wet day

### **8<sup>th</sup> January**

Fine. I with 45 men started rifle range near aerodrome.

### **9<sup>th</sup> January**

I with 45 men at rifle range.

### **10<sup>th</sup> January**

I with 80 men at rifle range. Dick Robinson joined up.

*\*2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. J.D. Robinson joined the regiment from England (war diary). Previously a Sergeant.*

### **11<sup>th</sup> January**

Lincolns firing, I down at range, went well.

### **12<sup>th</sup> January**

Staffords on range. I down in PM; Dick R with me.

### **13<sup>th</sup> January**

Penby(?) back from England. Will G. back from course.

### **14<sup>th</sup> January**

A firing on range, B and C casuals in PM

### **15<sup>th</sup> January**

Ammo inspection and bayonet fighting. And lecture. I to range in PM.

### **16<sup>th</sup> January**

FW [possibly Lt. Frank Wood?] started to make range on beach. Musk[etry] bad shots in PM\*.  
An officer of Brigade to lecture on 13....pre prepared targets.

*\*presumably shooting practice for those who had previously failed their test*

### **17<sup>th</sup> January**

B and C squadrons on range. I with A casuals. Trans[port] + HQ.

### **18<sup>th</sup> January**

Staffs on range. Put 2 rows of sandbags up. ERY doing advance guard scheme. I vanguard officer.

### **19<sup>th</sup> January**

FW, DU, Parkins and I on beach range.

### **20<sup>th</sup> January**

Rifle prize meeting. Troop teams etc. Good day.

### **21<sup>st</sup> January**

Dis[mounted] att[ack] at Imsirat. I paid prize money.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> January**

A squadron doing rearguard. I working [signal] flags.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> January**

On range. A squadron, HQ and Trans[port section].

### **24<sup>th</sup> January**

Troop and squadron training and drill.

### **25<sup>th</sup> January**

Regiment dis[mounted] att[ack]. Will and I to 11<sup>th</sup> ALH [Australian Light Horse]. Saw Wilson, McDonald, Clifford and Munro.

### **26<sup>th</sup> January**

A on range in AM. Will and I ride to Belah station in PM.

### **27<sup>th</sup> January**

Officers and NCOs and men out for day to Gaza mosque, town and defences.

[Presumably a sight-seeing trip to view the scene of the battles in and around Gaza].

### **28<sup>th</sup> January**

I had BHQ [Brigade headquarters] details on range.

### **29<sup>th</sup> January**

Bad shots out etc. [remedial shooting practice?]

### **30<sup>th</sup> January**

2 and 3 troops at full strength. 1 and 4 in. I down to range. Inoculated in PM. Marking musk[etry] scores out.

### **31<sup>st</sup> January**

1 troop out at full strength. Drill etc. Captain Bradley dined with A. Sympton back from England leave.

### **1<sup>st</sup> February**

Colonel Wilson back from hospital. 2<sup>nd</sup> line officers came. Will and I had squadron out as advanced guard. Senior officers on brigade scheme.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> February**

I to range. [Lt.?] Wood back. Footer [football] in PM.



*A football match at Gaza. From the album of RSS, ERYC Archives Service*

**3<sup>rd</sup> February**

Sweepstakes shoot on beach range.

**4<sup>th</sup> February**

Brigade scheme, advanced guard. A doing it.

**5<sup>th</sup> February**

Showery. Bayonet fighting etc. I took bad shots on beach range. I dined with Pepper (B Sqdn)\*

*\*Not identified.*

**6<sup>th</sup> February**

ROO. I ex[ercise] squadron on beach. Wet night.

**7<sup>th</sup> February**

A and B squadrons to Imsirat. Attack trenches and guns etc [an exercise]. I to range in PM; very wet night.

**8<sup>th</sup> February** (final entry)

Wet day, nothing doing.



**EAST RIDING**  
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