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LONDON COLLINS GLASGOW

(J.H.Y.) Bert Hughes  
Flat Creek  
Marlborough  
New Zealand.

---

6/1881

pts. J.H.Y. Hughes

C. Boy

4<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements

---

J.H.Y. Hughes  
Flat Creek  
Marlborough.  
N.Z.

Saturday 17/4/15.

left Trentham camp &  
embarked, up early.

Route march through Wgtn  
a time to be remembered  
Great send off from  
wharf anchored in stream  
& sailed about 10 p.m.

12<sup>th</sup> Beautiful morning  
calm sea 99 mott  
sheving up well off  
velours about 9 o'clock.  
2 km breeze stiffening  
sea rising, straight  
Templar Eastern  
Waitomo out of sight,  
westerly course.  
Meals good but men  
rather noisy.

19<sup>th</sup> Nothing eventful  
nice day bit of a swell  
on first day fully out of  
sight of land in my life

Grand to watch limitless  
expanse of ocean, ship  
forms centre of circle as  
you can see same distance  
all round.

Several birds about of  
which I have not yet  
determined the names.

20<sup>th</sup> Same as yesterday.

23<sup>rd</sup> Landed 405  
sick men at Hobart in  
the early hours of the

morning afterwards  
sailing round west coast  
of Tasmania; very good  
sweeping rough coastline  
& back country  
mountainous & bush clad,  
several large bays.  
about 10 o'clock land  
obscuring coastline  
somewhat. The weather as  
yet no warmer than N.Z.

Several isolated rocks  
off Tasmanian west  
coast, must make  
navigation by night  
dangerous. Large  
numbers of porpoises.

24<sup>th</sup> In Australian light,  
coldest day since  
leaving ex. g. S. W. wind.

29<sup>th</sup> Arrived in Esbary,  
went into inner harbour  
at daylight, very pretty  
place. Town faces harbour in  
low saddle between two  
hills. About 6 mile  
route march before dinner,  
3 hours leave afternoon,  
very warm.  
many houses surrounded by  
dwarf gums on outskirts  
of town.  
Ground Musmion, with  
many big granite  
looking stones sticking

up here & there.  
Lots of good, extensive  
vegetable gardens, principal  
of Chinese market gardens  
& think, watered by  
arterian flows apparently.

30<sup>th</sup> Left Esbary about  
11 a.m, nice morning  
but becoming very  
cloudy this afternoon,  
moving round coast, all  
three transports together.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Third Sunday at  
sea. Church in  
forward messroom,  
conducted by Robt  
Eveville, master, a  
hardy old Scotch seaman,  
about 60 yrs of age, one of  
the old school. A  
thorough believer, fluent &  
simple speaker, medium  
height, strongly built,  
rugged, strong face altogether

a man worthy of notice,  
to ~~more~~ add impressiveness  
to the skipper's words  
the portholes were often  
buried in the sea.  
Boat ~~had~~ stations with  
lifebelts on. Cloudy with  
light drizzle at times.

3<sup>rd</sup> May. Thick weather  
muggy, drizzling.  
Saw some porpoises  
yesterday. didn't know  
they appeared so far  
from land.  
Got so many birds  
following as there were  
between New Zealand &  
Albany.

13 men discharged at  
Albany, medically unfit,  
7 missed the boat.

5<sup>th</sup> May. Beautiful day,  
calm sea, beginning to  
feel the heat. Since

leaving Albany the sky has been overcast with a southerly wind blowing in which we are lucky as it has kept the air cooler.

The ocean is beautiful to day this Indian Ocean is much bluer than the Pacific, between N. 3. and Albany & seems to get bluer every day.

8th May. Somewhere in the middle of the Indian Ocean, about 9 days out from Albany ~~at~~ ~~or~~ by W. cant. be very far off the equator.

On guard to day came on to rain heavily about dinner time & very warm.

4 or five whales passed close to us but didn't show much of themselves ~~parts~~ they were between us  
& number 22.

Sunday.

May 9th The sun has just set, or rather dipped into the sea the first time I have actually seen it set in this way & as the clouds have always hidden it low down on the horizon before, I daresay Lady Bessy would write a beautiful description of the sunset as it was rather a good one, but I have seen many prettier ones in New Zealand. It has been a rare day all through, we have been 3 weeks' at sea & the sea is smoother & by far than it has yet been, almost like glass, except for the smooth undulations of a light swell. The sunset has turned into a really beautiful one, in fact the whole picture as seen from this ship

rails deserves that adjective  
the glorious expanse of  
smooth softly undulating  
ocean the sunset in  
one direction, one of  
our fellow transports in  
the other nearly a mile  
on the port quarter  
her foremast light  
shewing, thick black  
smoke pouring from  
her funnel & ~~the~~ a  
morse lamp dot  
dashing a signal to  
this boat the twilight  
is so short here that  
while writing this it  
has grown so dark  
enough for a signal  
of ~~the~~ lamp to shew  
up quite brightly.  
No fish seen today  
flying fish, in all  
directions, in all sizes, -  
small ones rising up in  
shoals making flights

flight height of

like so many locusts  
others like flocks of  
sparrows only lighter coloured  
~~with~~ (they generally  
appear white when on  
the wing) & thinner bodies;  
some generally larger, in  
ones or twos rising out of  
the water taking a  
straighter stronger flight  
last but not least.  
half a mile distant a  
thousand <sup>exit</sup> in the flock  
their wings shewing  
white against the  
gloomy blue of the  
Indian ocean, a pretty  
picture.

Been out round the deck  
leant over rail first,  
reflecting, been a day  
that one would like to  
have shared with a  
loved one, remarkable how  
one can feel so near  
to those they love though

thousands of miles  
separate.

Strolled on, men everywhere,  
bare headed, barefooted,  
some barewaisted, some in  
shadows, some under  
electric lights reading,  
smoking, playing cards  
singing, even on port deck,  
talk lots talking, talk  
everywhere babel of voices  
Scott accent, Irish English  
dialects, all happy.

I believe we cross the line  
on Tuesday, very hot to  
day but abo pleasant  
evening on deck.

13<sup>th</sup> May. Crossed the line  
yesterday had the usual  
ceremonies good fun at  
first but soon got  
monotonous. The days are  
getting hotter all the  
time.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

In the Gulf of Aden.

The hottest day we have had yet & scarcely any wind, sea quite calm.

Land on the port side up till about midday.

Lots of fish of different kinds, flying fish, dolphins & what looked like porpoises.

Lots of dead locusts in the sea & a few live ones flying about very pretty, bright bell yellow bodies & transparent spotted wings.

Had only seen one boat up till to day when we saw about a dozen, some of them were some sort of warship, others cargo steamers & two small sailing boats, shou or something of that description. Had a half day off to witness final of boxing tournament.

Have heard since that  
it is mostly condensed  
from sea water. Can't  
vouch for the truth of  
the statement, but it is  
quite probable.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>.

Made Aden  
about one o'clock, stayed  
2 or three hours lying a  
mile or so off shore.  
"Bare, burnt barren" Aden  
suits it well the place is  
absolutely bare rocky hills  
some of them ~~to~~ 6 or  
700 ft high. I suppose the  
place has a water supply, it  
would be interesting to  
know in what way the  
water is obtained.

Saw some darbies in a  
boat, never seen anything  
like their sunbaked  
mahogany hides before.  
they wore turbans & were  
stocky & should think  
strong muscular & lithe.  
Six months of Aden would  
break a ~~et~~ bushman's  
heart.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup>

Heard the news of the disaster to Colonial troops at Aden, but no authentic particulars. In the Red Sea, passing many islands some of them fair size & showing a bit of grass. Birds are plentiful. Since getting near Aden we have made up for lost time in seeing shipping, there have been boats in sight nearly all the time, sometimes three or four at once.

A word about the food on the voyage.

breakfast, generally mighty indifferent stew, sometimes chops, steak. Sunday mornings sausages. Tea to drink dinner - meat & potatoes, duff twice a week. tea, or lime juice & water. Tea - bread, cheese & jam,

sometimes cold meat until getting ~~as~~ into warmer climate since when we never get meat at this meal but generally have dried ~~for~~ fruits with or without rice, pines, figs, apricots etc.

The meat off course is all frozen, some of it is first class but other carcasses are very strong, have seen some of it thrown overboard, the fat seems to get tough in the freezing.

The potatoes are just tumbled in, boiled anyhow, without being peeled or the rotten pieces cut out.

We sometimes get peas, beans, mussels, & pumpkin twice I think.

The tea & coffee is mostly vile.

~~Passed~~ lots of islands today  
many of the islands passed  
today have lighthouses on  
them they must be  
near the middle of the  
red sea, the last one we  
passed was the most  
interesting, there was a  
small steamer ~~boat~~ lying off this island  
evidently a provision boat,  
as a gang of men could  
be seen carrying cases  
up the hillside to the  
houses, light house.

sea birds were about the  
island in hundreds, it  
was just before sunset so  
I suppose the birds were  
congregating for the night,  
the officers were making  
targets of them with  
their revolvers, I don't  
know if they killed any  
but one was wounded,  
and spent shooting at  
pretty, harmless birds.

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> See plenty of ships  
here one passed close to  
us at dinner time saw it  
through the port holes  
she was painted in broad  
lines of red, white & blue  
on the hull, her name  
& port, Tambora Rotterdam  
in large white letters  
& nearly reach from stem  
to stern, she was a very  
fast boat.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Landed at  
Suez & on to Jittoun  
camp by rail, arrived  
there 2.30 A.M. Wednesday.  
The heat here was awful,  
about 110° in the shade, no  
good for Mr. Zeeb, lots got a  
touch of sand colic or  
typhenteria, & the food wasn't  
very good.

June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Left on Sunday morning  
for Alexandria. The  
railway journey is  
very interesting & pretty

Every inch of the country  
as far as the eye can  
see on both sides is  
cultivated. Most of the  
crops are in small plots,  
from a few yards square  
to a few acres. There are  
no fences. The methods of  
working the ground are  
very primitive as are all  
other methods.

Donkeys, mules & camels &  
oxen are used for all  
means of draught &  
transport. The donkeys &  
mules are very small but  
pull loads as big as a  
good sized horse would.

The natives go joggling  
along on little donkeys  
many of them with sunshades  
up it looks very  
grainy. The stuffing is  
done with a short stick  
one seldom sees a bridle  
on them.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> We left Alexandria  
the same evening as we got  
there on the SS Minnetonka  
a big boat. It took us  
about two days to reach this  
island.

It is very pretty here the  
island is covered with grass  
the inhabitants seem to live  
here & there in small villages &  
not one on each farm as in  
New Zealand. The harbour here  
is a splendid one, there must  
be quite a 100 vessels in it of  
one sort & another, tugs, transports,  
mine sweepers & all sorts of  
ships of war, including  
hospital ships. there were  
a tremendous lot of ships in  
the harbour at Alexandria too.  
We may leave for the  
Sardanelles tonight, our  
engineers went last night.  
& haven't seen anyone to  
inquire about the Wilson  
boys of former contingents.

The crew Zealanders have  
made a wonderful name  
for themselves but they have  
lost severely, though a  
great many of the casualties  
may only be slight  
wounds.

We <sup>have</sup> lain aboard ship since  
coming here, out in the harbour,  
the weather is like at 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Summer. Every body is in  
a splendid spirits & things are  
not felt here the same as at  
home.

Troops are constantly coming  
& going here.

Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>. We are  
still at anchor  
in the harbour, at the  
island of Lemnos.  
We are right alongside a  
ship which is being used  
as a hospital, she has been  
receiving wounded all day,  
only minor cases though, &

think those that can  
move themselves about a  
little. They have their  
heads, arms, legs & bodies  
bandaged up & have come  
straight from the trenches,  
dust & blood being all  
over their clothes, faces &  
hands, most of them  
look quite cheerful & all  
seem quite ready to talk.

There has been heavy fighting  
in the Sardanellas, there  
is a certain hill which  
has to be taken & it is  
a pretty hard nut to  
crack, but I believe our  
troops are making progress  
all the time. I don't  
know when we are to  
be packed off but are  
expecting it any time.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Shifted to the  
New Zealanders lines in  
the Sardanellas.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Sight in  
amongst it. Heard of Bob's  
fate, he was killed in  
a charge in open  
country about ~~7 or 8~~ <sup>7 or 8</sup> miles  
from here & was  
speaking to his section  
leader who said it was  
a mad affair as they  
had a murderous fire  
against them & no  
cover. Bob was shot  
dead, one of the first  
to fall, he is buried near  
the sea.

Willie Dalton has also  
gone, he was shot while  
sharpshooting.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>. I don't know  
when we go into the  
firing line things  
are fairly quiet here  
as they are just

holding the position now  
awaiting events. There are  
a good many casualties  
everyday mostly from  
sniper bullets which  
fly round pretty freely,  
& some in the front  
trenches from hand  
bombs the trenches in  
some places almost touch  
those of the enemies.  
We are situated in a  
rough scrub covered  
gully living in little  
dug out places in the  
hill side these afford  
shelter from bursting  
shrapnel which flies  
over here pretty freely  
at times.

The whole place is a  
mass of dug outs & saps  
or communications trenches.  
it is not safe to travel in  
some places except in  
the shelter of these trenches

This is a horrible life, I don't know how some of the men who have been here six or seven weeks keep up so well, most of them are fairly cheerful through it all, there is a certain amount of fire going on night & day but one ~~is~~ soon gets used to it, we all went to sleep last night while there was rifle & big gun fire going on but we hadn't had any sleep the night before.

A flying machine went over us yesterday evening, I think it was a British one recognizing the Turkish positions, it was very high up.

There are a lot of wild flowers here & a good many birds.

10<sup>th</sup> June. The weather still keeps fine which is a mercy as we have no protection from rain. There are a good many of Bob's mates here.

Joe Simpson 2 Simpsons from the Sounds Bob Grace Ten Simonsen & men from the Golden bar ~~bars~~ and others they all speak of him with affection as his brother & get a welcome from them all.

Bob fell with a pick (for entrenching) in one hand & his rifle in the other he was shot in the two most vital places death was instantaneous. I was up in the firing line on fatigue duty to day carrying dirt from

the sappers things were fairly quiet then but there was a great rifle & bomb fire in the night.

We get pretty well fed; biscuits, beef in tins, sometimes fresh onions, cheese & jam & bacon nearly every day. Most of the rations are issued raw we cook them in little mess tins which is part of the equipment of every man.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

Sundays are the same as any other day here.

We were up at Quinn's post on fatigue for 4 hours this morning.

Affairs are pretty quiet just now, except for a bit of bombarding, but of course one never knows what is going to

happen.

Our casualties have been pretty light lately, but there have been no attacks on either side.

The enemy throw a good many schrapnel shells over us but they don't do much harm, nobody takes much notice of them.

Two warships & our own artillery sent a good many shells at the Tuck this morning, I don't know with what effect.

While we were at Quinn's post a flying machine went over the enemy they opened up a great rifle fire at it but did no harm.

I expect our company will be going into the firing line again in

a few days we go to  
Quinn's post I believe about  
the worst place on the  
line, the Turkish trenches  
being close enough for  
them to throw bombs into  
ours.

The weather is lovely.  
There are a few snakes  
about here, harmless ones,  
I have seen some singers,  
or cicadas here almost  
the same as in et. g.  
The best sight I have ever  
seen of its kind was an  
aeroplane this evening  
that flew over us and  
dropped three big bombs  
amongst the Turks  
circled round returned  
& fire shots at them from  
a quickfiring. The Turks  
fired schrapnel shells at  
it only one went close  
the rest burst at some  
distance, they also

opened a most futile  
rifle fire but soon  
desisted & I expect  
took all the cover they  
could.

One could not but  
feel great admiration  
for a man who has  
nerve for such an  
undertaking.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup>. Four hours  
in the trenches this afternoon,  
~~plenty~~ rappers fatigue  
plenty of bullets, bombs  
& shells flying overhead  
enough to make one  
think of what a  
pitched battle would be  
like. It is fatal to  
put one's head above the  
parapet even for a  
few seconds there, a  
sniper would have you  
for sure observations  
are made with a  
periscope & shots fired.

with periscopic rifles. The roll & boom of big guns firing can be constantly heard down the coast, it is the battleships bombarding the big hill where the strong forts are.

<sup>15<sup>th</sup></sup> A defective shell from one of our own guns wounded two of our men this morning but not very badly, one Frank Barry who used to drive Prof's cart had four or five teeth knocked out with a shrapnel bullet.

There is a flying machine very busy round here this morning, mostly over the harbour, probably looking for enemy submarines. A shell landed on the hospital at the beach yesterday, & think it injured a few; there

are one or two killed there nearly every day. There are two flying machines about now, they make a loud humming noise when travelling, more like a threshing mill than anything else.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

The Spentbury batt. ~~we~~ went into the firing line on ~~Friday~~ morning for another turn there. our portion 12<sup>th</sup> Nelson Coy is resting today, we have 24 hrs in the trenches & the same out. 2 companies of the battalion man the posts while the other two rest.

affairs have been pretty quiet since we have been there. Last night our side sent shells bombs & rifle fire at the Turks with the object of drawing their

fire to get some idea of their strength, but the ruse was not successful. At one time the Turks used to blaze away all night without any cooing, but not so now, I don't know for what reason.

There are still a few casualties every day & night, mostly men wounded by bombs.

Mr. Fawcett, who was on a machine gun, was shot through the chest & killed almost instantaneously, a few mornings ago, he had had a lot of narrow escapes without being hurt before, one never knows when their turn will come here. Our front trenches are pretty safe now, they are nearly all bomb

proof, the engineers are always improving them. The engineers & sappers do a lot of hard dangerous work here without coming into the line much, but their efforts are appreciated by those that know.

One of the greatest pests here is the house fly, they are in millions one cannot get any peace from them in the day time.

Every one here gets lousy. There is a lot of bowel trouble from diarrhoea to dysentery & inflammation of the stomach.

The roll & thunder of big guns still goes on almost incessantly down the coast there ought to be some definite result soon.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

In the trenches very quiet morning, nothing but an occasional thud of a bullet on the sand bags to be heard, one would hardly think there was war within miles yet within a few minutes there might be shells & bombs going in all directions.

yesterday which was our day off the Turks sent a lot of schrapnel about landing a good deal near us in the evening but not doing any harm there during the day they killed & injured some of the beach.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup>. This so called soldiers life is great, quite half our time is put in navigating, road making etc. We had 4 days in the trenches then came out

for a rest, which consists of turning out at any hour of the day & night for road making. Work goes on day & night here, in shifts, it is nice & moonlight just now.

The Turks have been pretty busy the last day or two with their shells putting them over & rounds us, one killed ten on the beach last night.

There is a great assembly of various craft down the coast a little way & for the last hour there has been a constant bombardment going on I don't know how long it will last, it is time some decisive movement was made here.

The weather still is good, rather hot in the daytime, one can't rest then for heat &

flies, so want of sleep is about our chief trouble. it is very rare to get an unbroken night's rest, but even that trouble is not very acute.

Thursday July 1<sup>st</sup>

Lot of thunder & lightning with a shower of rain last night. A lot of us haven't been issued with oil sheets yet & as we practically live in the open it was fortunate that we didn't get much rain.

The Turks have made a few attacks lately but have been beaten off with heavy losses.

16<sup>th</sup> July. Our battalion came to Embros yesterday for recuperation. All hands enjoying

it immensely. This is a Greek Island & I think; some of the houses & customs are very quaint. houses are roughly built of stone.

Monday 26<sup>th</sup>. We had about 5 days off Embros, then packed up hurriedly & went back to the trenches. What with marring our post & "standing to" we had hardly any rest at all since coming back.

I have had about a week's earache or neuralgia, but it has just about left me now thank goodness.

Mick Lampton was shot last night. someone goes nearly every day or night.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August.  
est lost things are going  
to move.

I believe we go into action  
in the early hours of  
tomorrow morning. There  
is to be a great advance  
all along the line, we  
are told ours is an  
important position that  
we have been given.

Don't feel very nervous,  
hope it won't be my  
last action but we  
can't all come back I  
suppose. Wish this war  
was over, all the same.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 3.30 p.m.

The battle begun  
yesterday still goes on  
with more or less  
intensity. It is spread  
over a front some miles  
long. I believe at most  
points we are getting on  
very well. Yesterday our

company got badly cut  
up, over 50% casualties lots  
of the wounds being very  
serious. the whole battalion  
suffered, but 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>  
companies worst of all  
we (12<sup>th</sup>) have one Lieut  
out of four left, shell  
fire accounted for the  
most, the battalion  
becoming exposed to the  
fire of a 75<sup>lb</sup> gun.

Fortunately (as I could not of  
been of any use) I was not  
with the company at that  
time being on fatigue  
when they moved off &  
on trying to rejoin later  
found it impossible as  
rifle fire was too heavy.  
What is left of us are  
together now having  
joined up yesterday  
evening, we are just  
having a few hours  
rest as we don't

know what the night  
may bring forth.  
Have just made &  
despatched a pot of  
tea also one of beef tea.  
Will now try & get a  
little sleep which we are  
all in need of.  
This battle will probably  
last vigorously for another  
day or two yet.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Battle not so  
fierce to day. 33 yrs old this day.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> The battle  
seems to have worn  
itself out. We are not  
given much news we  
know that we have  
gained a lot of ground  
in some places, for several  
days our battalion has  
been holding & strengthening  
a position gained up  
on a high hill.

This climate doesn't agree with me, haven't felt fit since landing at Suzy, gradually running down, reported to the doctor, this morning got pills & 2 days excused duties, that help me on for another day or two, just about clean done now.

Lying on my back in the shade of the scrub writing this, not going to try & make the trenches until sundown. The sun blazes into them like an oven in the day time, & then at nights now it gets fairly cold.

17<sup>th</sup> The battle still goes on intermittently on our left. Have scarcely eaten any thing for a week, can't get suitable diet living

on a limited supply of water mostly.

Will report to the doctor again tomorrow morning, the third time, perhaps he will be able to give me something more than pills this time, the doctors look on every man reporting sick as a shirker.

18<sup>th</sup> Aug. Left the front, run down.

25<sup>th</sup> Arrived, et. 3. General hospital Abassia, near Cairo.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. Feeling a good deal better.

8<sup>th</sup> Sept. Left Abassia Hospital for camp near ~~Cairo~~ <sup>Alexandria</sup> et. 3 base camp en route for England, for which place

I hope we soon start  
the only good thing  
about this camp being  
the fact that we are  
quite close to the sea  
but that has its drawbacks  
in as much that there  
is a stiff breeze off the  
sea & it blows sand over  
everything.

The treatment at the  
ev. hospital, Ischia was  
good the sister of our  
ward, Sister Ingram of  
etalon being kindness  
& good nature itself, the  
orderlies also were  
very good.

15<sup>th</sup> Sept. Still at Mustafa  
camp awaiting a boat.  
Soot like the place,  
" feel fit here  
indigestion etc.  
hope we soon 'get away.

Monday Oct 4<sup>th</sup> / 15

At long last we got a  
start for England, left  
camp about 9.30 in  
horse drawn ambulance  
waggons, had slow drive  
of five or six miles

round to Alexandria  
docks where we went  
aboard 'the good ship  
'Andania' - a Cunard  
liner of about 14000 tons  
with a fair speed.  
We cleared the harbour  
just at dark.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>. Steaming  
all day through the calm  
blue waters of the  
Mediterranean. Every  
precaution is taken to  
lessen loss of life in  
case of being torpedoed.  
Life belts are to be kept  
constantly to hand,

8 boats are all ready to be swung out besides which we have to parade daily at the place where our respective boats would be lowered.

6<sup>th</sup> Oct. Another beautiful morning, just enough breeze to fan one. We are pretty comfortable aboard. I am in a small 4 berth cabin others have only two in them.

The "tucker" is good & sufficient, with plenty of variety. I think there are about 1100 aboard in various stages of convalescence ~~are~~ a good many quite fit for the front. We sight a good deal of shipping.

Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Last night the Eastern sky was lit up by the most vivid lightning I have seen, both sheet & forked; it was flashing almost constantly. We passed Malta in the early hours of the morning. The day & the sea are dull & gray & it is very much cooler. The Sicilian coast was in view first thing this morning & various sand at other times. The cooler weather whets an already good appetite.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> This morning like yesterday is cloudy & almost cold & expects we will get it colder still when we get through into the Atlantic. No excitement to day steaming along at about

15 knots sometimes sighting part of the of each African coast. It has remained cloudy all day.

There dont seem to be many seabirds in the Mediterranean. Expect to reach Gibraltar tomorrow afternoon.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Uneventful; a little more sun & warmth. Passed several ships

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Arrived at Gibraltar at daylight this morning. It is a far prettier & more interesting place than I had thought to see. The harbor or bay is just the shape of a front horse shoe. of course, the famous rocks is the chief item of interest, it is partly scrub

covered, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile long, 4 or 500 ft high & has quite a small town at the foot of it.

The bay is about 2 miles across, there is a pretty Spanish town across on the other side all white, all round the slopes are cultivated paddocks & here & there trees. The harbour is full of ships of various sorts; & the docks are lined with sheds containing tons & tons of coal. The rigs & launchers here are the cleanest I have seen, two of the biggest were paddle wheels, one was named the "Bustler" it struck me rather comical; another was named the "Prambler". The straits at the narrowest part would be about 7 or 8 miles across as near as I could judge. After coaling we left at about 5 P.M. &

should reach old England Wednesday night.

There were a lot of seagulls in the harbour at Gib--.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Uneventful. out in the Atlantic smells, a good many fish, including the mackerel I think as I haven't seen many of them about. Light showers at times the ocean is shy dull & grey.

12<sup>th</sup> Nice day, nothing doing

13<sup>th</sup> Cloudy.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Scotch mist to day pretty thick at times. In the English Channel, we have had an escort of two destroyers all day, & this morning there was a small

French cruiser with us for a while. There have been ships in sight all day lots of them & now we are just coming up on a fleet of fishing smacks, by the looks of them, they have three sails set. We have been a long way out of the usual course for safety's sake but I think we will make harbour tonight arrived safe & sound in Plymouth harbour where we anchored, just before dark.

The first glimpse of old England was had through a drizzly fog but I was pleased to see the old country all the same.

We passed within a few chains of Eddystone Lighthouse but the fog was so thick it was

only visible for a few minutes, of course being daylight there was no light burning but they were firing a gun at intervals as a fog signal, there was also a fog horn going on a point entering harbour.

Eddystone is only a few miles from the entrance of this harbour.

Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> up early this morning rather cold & cloudy. About 20 fishing boats sailed down the harbour just at dawn it must be a hard life fishing in this weather.

About nine o'clock moved <sup>at</sup> the harbour a couple of miles or so

& tied up to the  
wharf. It is a very  
pretty harbour surrounded  
by low hills & valleys,  
with plenty of bush &  
green grassy paddocks,  
& the town parts of  
course containing many  
fine buildings, being  
a naval base & training  
place for naval recruits  
there are a lot of  
splendid big barracks.

We entrained at  
3.30, on the Great  
Western Railway 3<sup>rd</sup> class  
but more comfortable  
than any carriage I  
have travelled in, in  
ex. 3. seats to hold two  
splendid cushions &  
padded backs as high  
as one's head, when  
sitting of course. We  
got properly under  
way soon after four

we didn't know for what destination, it turned out to be Bristol. I can't describe & it would be hard to imagine the beauty of country at the beginning of our journey, unfortunately owing to our late start it was dark when we got to Tisbury & we were no longer able to admire the scenery.

If there is much country in England like that first part of Devon, she is indeed beautiful: low hills down & valleys, copses, small forests, splendid grass paddocks, showing a good autumn tinge, all paddocks, some of which are tiny, enclosed by hedgerows, farm houses & buildings mostly of stone, sheep cattle &

horses grazing, all in good condition, here & there a paddock of swedes or turnips, all combining to make a picture prettier than any artist could paint, although it was a foggy day. I couldn't help thinking what a thousand pities it would be if such a country was despoiled by invaders, how one should fight for such a land.

The cattle in the paddocks were nearly all of the Devon breed, that is thick set ~~and~~ & red. I saw a good many cows quite close to the line they were fat but didn't have much of a show for milk. In one little paddock there was a flock of

crows, insolent looking birds about the size of a wild pigeon & black, that's how I knew they were crows, they were hundreds of them.

Got to Bristol at 8:30 had light refreshment tea, bread & butter & cake, the first food since noon wasn't I hungry, could have eaten a horse & chased the rider. Put into a bus & taken about 3 miles to Southmead bar hospital, bathed & got to bed about eleven, still hungry, had a drink of milk, later which was very acceptable.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Up at 5:30 washed, breakfast Cam, nice egg, bread & butter & tea. 9 o'clock present time cup of good milk

slice of bread & butter, apple.

This is a lovely ward, 30 odd beds well furnished, plenty of flowers & green pot plants.

I feel like an impostor, lying in bed waiting for the doctor's inspection, when I am just about fit for the front; I expect we will only be in the hospital a day or two & then to convalescent home or to st. 3 base camp. it is all part of red tape. I can eat like one thing but I don't think my legs would stand much of a march yet, they seem weak at the back of the thighs, tho

they improved aboard  
the boat I get slight  
attacks of diarrhoea  
rather often.

The doctor gave me &  
the other 4 new inmates a  
good inspection, with the  
result that nearly all  
the New Zealanders &  
Australians are to be  
sent to convalescent camp  
at Woodcot, between  
London & Epsom, we  
leave here on Monday  
morning. I could do  
with a longer stay, here  
there are a lot of books &  
I would like to read & the  
treatment is good for  
dinner I had roast mutton  
& gravy, potatoes & turnips,  
& milk pudding.  
members of the Bristol  
Hippodrome gave us a  
concert this afternoon  
it was very good, plenty

of comics. I had some  
real good laughs.

Jun 17<sup>th</sup> Foggy morning.  
Went to church.  
Wrote to Foster.  
Lot of visitors to the  
hospital in the afternoon.

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> very foggy.  
not getting away to-  
day after all Woodcot is  
full, don't know when  
I leave, soon I expect.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Left Bristol  
for Woodcot at 12 noon.  
arrived London 2 P.M. &  
destination at about 5.  
etc journey, scenery  
almost similar to that  
between Plymouth & Bristol.  
Lots of cattle of all kinds,  
some good big Hereford  
steers that looked well, to  
be seen in the paddocks.

also a few sheep. in one paddock there was a good big mob of fat Shropshire or Southdown sheep they looked alright."

passed two of Sutton's seed farms very pretty & molassine experimental feeding farm. molassine is a food for all sorts of animals dogs cattle & fowls & the bo man this farm for the sake of experiment on feeding, it looked well kept & up to date.

saw several nice teams at work cultivating in some cases one man driving & one attending to implement.

saw some lovely great big draught horses in Epsom.

crossed at Paddington station by the G.W.R. then down steps to the underground

railway (electric) under London to Victoria station up steps & round about & aboard overhead railway for Epsom at least it is overhead until getting out of the thick of London.

Woodcote convalescent camp is about two miles out of Epsom it is a large camp of corrugated iron huts holding 40 odd men the huts are match lined. I think we shall be fairly comfortable here.

Wednesday 29th. It is rather cold here after Egypt & Gallipoli.

walked into Epsom this afternoon. it is a town about the size of Welton didn't notice anything especial except some very nice houses

especially some immense draughts in drag shafts.

Fri 20<sup>nd</sup> Rather nice day, went for stroll towards Epsom race course which is only a short distance from here

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Strolled into Epsom in the afternoon, rained in the evening.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Drizzly rain falling all day

Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Strolled into Epsom via the course.

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Cloudy again to day, one sees very little sun in England at this time of year apparently. Strolled out to Ishted to day, through a park

with a lot of deer, of different kinds in it. Beautiful country all of it; lots of trees fine big oaks & beches etc.

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Went to London to Mr Z. office 13 Victoria street, received furlough pass (14 days) & back pay also £1 ration fund in all £14.15.8. Went to Strand theatre in the evening where they are playing "The Scarlet Pimpernel", it was not nearly as good as I expected. very foggy & dark at night, job finding the way home. Had lunch at good restaurant the G. P. Irish soup, fish, lamb & mint sauce vegetables, apple pie & coffee, it cost 2/9, but I had a good feed.

Food seems pretty dear in England. Best mutton is up to about 10 per lb for chops + best beef steak up to 1/6 as marked in Epsom butchery shops. Butter is dear but its place is largely taken by margarine at about 6 per lb. margarine is nicer than I thought it would be, it makes quite a good substitute for butter. so it would be no use farmers or merchants putting butter up to high or people will do without it all together. I have always recognised this fact.

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Left "union gash club" Liverpool road London about 7.50 took 2<sup>nd</sup> tube (underground electric railway) from

Liverpool Station for Euston<sup>Stn</sup>  
caught 8.30 train for  
Holyhead, 22 knot boat leaves  
here straight away for  
Kingston train from  
there to Dublin change  
for Dundalk & arrive there  
7.30. 11 hrs from London  
not bad travelling. Got to  
Kingston just about  
dark.

England is just as  
beautiful from London to  
Holyhead as other parts  
described there are rather  
more ploughed paddocks  
along this line though.

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Wet day  
went to church  
at St. Nicholas a large  
stone church with iron  
covered spire. Service  
not impressive but  
good organ & a  
beautiful window.

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

market day in Sundalk,  
country people coming  
in from all roads  
mostly in drays with  
fair sized horses & loads  
of corn, potatoes, pigs &  
poultry. Besides the  
horse drawn drays there  
are dozens drawn by  
donkeys driven by men  
women or boys, it is  
surprising the size of  
the cart to load these  
little donkeys pull.

jaunting cars are still  
very much in evidence  
here, some of them  
very nice turnouts with  
good horseflesh between  
the shafts.

This market day is  
one of the most pleasing  
experiences I have had. I  
should think it is just  
the same now as it was

a hundred years ago.  
A lot of the people have a  
very waybacky look.  
Any amount of old  
ladies with a shawl  
over their heads reminding  
me very much of Mrs.  
Mulvey or Aunt Sophia.  
I attract a good deal of  
attention here, rather more  
than I like with my  
cp. of hat & badges.

The Irish seem very hospita-  
ble. I am staying at a  
small hotel the "Gaelic",  
the bed is of the fashioned  
feather kind very comfortable  
& warm. the food is  
good & abundant. the old  
style of potatoes in  
their jackets is still  
prevalent.

I think I will go out  
to Inniskern to day, I  
wish I knew just where  
the Hughes used to live;

I fancy I have heard  
Sunnishreen mentioned  
often.

Mon<sup>8</sup>th we've had a week  
out Sunnishreen way.  
Went to Castleblaney last  
Monday, where a pork  
market was held the  
following day, there were  
hundreds of cart loads of  
dressed pigs averaging  
150 or 60 lbs I should think,  
some carts contained six,  
others, asses carts 1 or 2  
carcasses. there were also  
some live pigs sold.  
I believe that buyers from  
all parts of the country  
attend these markets, all  
farm produce is a good  
price here now.  
The next day was  
fair day & the main  
streets were packed with  
cart loads of young pigs

poultry, corn & floss & cattle & horses. There is very little auctioning done at these sales most of the business being done in the old fashioned bargaining way the deal being closed by the shaking & slipping of each others hands.

The cattle are very quiet, there would be great sport holding a 3. cattle in the streets with everyone wandering amongst them as they do here. ~~as far~~ as I am able to judge live stock is worth just about 3 times as much here as in New Zealand. ~~The~~ The Irish seem very hospitable people, it is a pity they are not more tolerant of each others religious views,

the members of one church will hardly speak to those of the other. it is not a brotherly love & christian like style at all.

The animals are still kept close to the kitchen doors in Ireland, in fact a lot of old ~~id~~ ways & ideas still hold here.

I like the farm food it, is very wholesome, plenty of brown & wholemeal bread & porridge, butter, milk, potatoes, cabbage, bacon & eggs.

I had some great feeds of cabbage & potatoes with a bit of bacon; potatoes are always cooked in their jackets are better flavoured than in U.S. & I never tasted a bitter one.

June 8<sup>th</sup> Came down to  
Dublin yesterday  
evening, went to play  
"Charles's Isunt", the old  
I had never seen it; it  
is very funny & all  
the parts were well  
acted. Been wandering  
about to day, this is a  
very nice city, it  
would take a week to  
see it properly there  
are many fine buildings  
including Trinity College,  
the old buildings where  
the Irish Parliament  
used to sit. St. Patrick's  
Cathedral & Christ Church.  
There is a big high  
pillar about the centre  
of the city, it was  
erected for ifdson. there  
is a splendid view from  
the top which you  
reach by spiral stairs  
inside the pillar.

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Left Dublin last night at 8.30. thus bringing my Irish trip to a close. I enjoyed it immensely the weather there is better than in England.

Beggars are numerous in Ireland even old old women come at you with their "God bless you, sir" + keep you save" + a lot more in the same strain, its a great stunt with them + then "gives" a penny <sup>us</sup> "sir" or sometimes it is only a  $\frac{1}{2}$  they want.

It unbruous men want money or drinks, I can deal with them with more force than politeness usually.

Arrived in London about 7.4.11. Went to musical play at Adelphi theatre at night it was splendid.

A mixture of dancing,  
~~music~~ music, songs &  
acting; there were  
about 30 performers  
including the celebrated  
Phyllis Dare.

The girls all wore beautiful  
dresses & that combined  
with beautiful stage  
effects, graceful dancing,  
& plenty of humour,  
made it one of the  
prettiest & brightest  
evenings I have spent  
at a theatre. The  
name of the play was  
Tina.

Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Had a big  
-day round Hyde &  
Regent Parks.

At Hyde found my  
chief amusement  
watching the riders  
on Bottom Row, the  
attitudes of some of them  
caused me to laugh.

there were a few nice  
horses & good riders,  
but most of them's  
~~their mounts~~ were  
mighty indifferent.  
The zoo was the chief  
attraction at regents  
Park, but I hadn't  
time to see everything  
there. There is a  
veritable mountain  
built of sand concrete  
etc for the bears, goats,  
chamons etc.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Been at  
our depot close to  
Weymouth just a week  
it is fairly cold showery  
today. I am in the  
next draft to go after  
the one that was  
ready equipped when  
we arrived here.  
I had a good time on

furlough 27 days altogether.  
Spent a couple of days at  
Brighton during that  
time, it is rather cold  
& quiet at this time of  
year but I guess it is  
a gay & festive city  
in the summer.

While I was in London  
I visited Westminster  
abbey, House of Parliament,  
& two or three museums;  
attended a service at  
St Pauls & crossed the  
tower bridge. Lived  
most of the time at the  
Union Jack Club in  
Waterloo road. it is a  
big new building  
founded for the use  
of all forces the  
charges were moderate.  
Living in London is  
dearer if anything  
than it was in N.Y.  
at the hotels where you

May 4 to 6/- for bed &  
breakfast you don't  
get nearly as good  
food as at a sh. 3  
hotel of the same tariff.  
The London police are  
worthy of the world  
wide good name they  
have, they are very  
good, answering all  
questions in a very  
agreeable & obliging way,  
& handle the traffic  
wonderfully but in  
this they are helped by  
the skill of the bus &  
taxi drivers.

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> We have been  
getting a good deal  
of showery weather the  
last few days, it  
interferes with some of  
our parades but yesterday  
afternoon we had a  
good march down &

round Weymouth  
with the band in  
attendance.

There are three maoris  
in this hut; they are  
smart & well behaved  
generally, & gave a  
good account of  
themselves on the  
peninsula, & suffered  
pretty severely.  
Went to Weymouth  
this evening.

6<sup>th</sup> Mon. Paraded this  
morning, rain stopped  
us doing so in the  
afternoon. Cold wind  
to day.

9<sup>th</sup> yesterday was fine, &  
we got up our two  
parades including a  
route march to Weymouth  
in the afternoon.  
To day it is raining steadily

23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. We have a  
small route march,  
every day that it is  
fine enough just for  
exercise the road is about  
the only place fit to  
walk at everywhere else  
is "rotten" with the  
incessant wet. This  
morning we went  
out in sight of a  
small town near  
Weymouth which I  
believe was the birthplace  
of Captain Hardy & on  
a high spur is a  
great monument, like a  
light house in the  
distance erected to his  
memory. another  
interesting sight, of a  
different order, was a  
fox loping about  
down in a gully  
& eventually out & over the  
down; it is the first I  
have seen out of captivity

24<sup>th</sup> About a battalion  
of us headed by a band  
marched into Weymouth  
this afternoon to a  
variety entertainment  
at the jubilee hall at  
wasn't bad & don't  
know to whom we are  
indebted for that. On  
returning to camp we  
found that the Weymouth  
ladies had laid out a  
nice tea for us in our  
messrooms; their  
kindness was much  
appreciated.

25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day.  
rained hard last night  
& is still wet. I think  
all my old friends in  
New Zealand have  
come into my thoughts  
this morning. I have  
to go on picknet to  
night. Our dinner to

day consisted of  
turkey, sausages, potatoes,  
cabbage, oranges, bananas  
& apples & nuts, beer &  
soft drinks.

28<sup>th</sup> Blowing a gale.  
The days here are  
a little shorter than  
those of N. 3<sup>rd</sup> midwinter.  
It gets daylight about  
7.30 & dark at 4.45.

29/12/16.

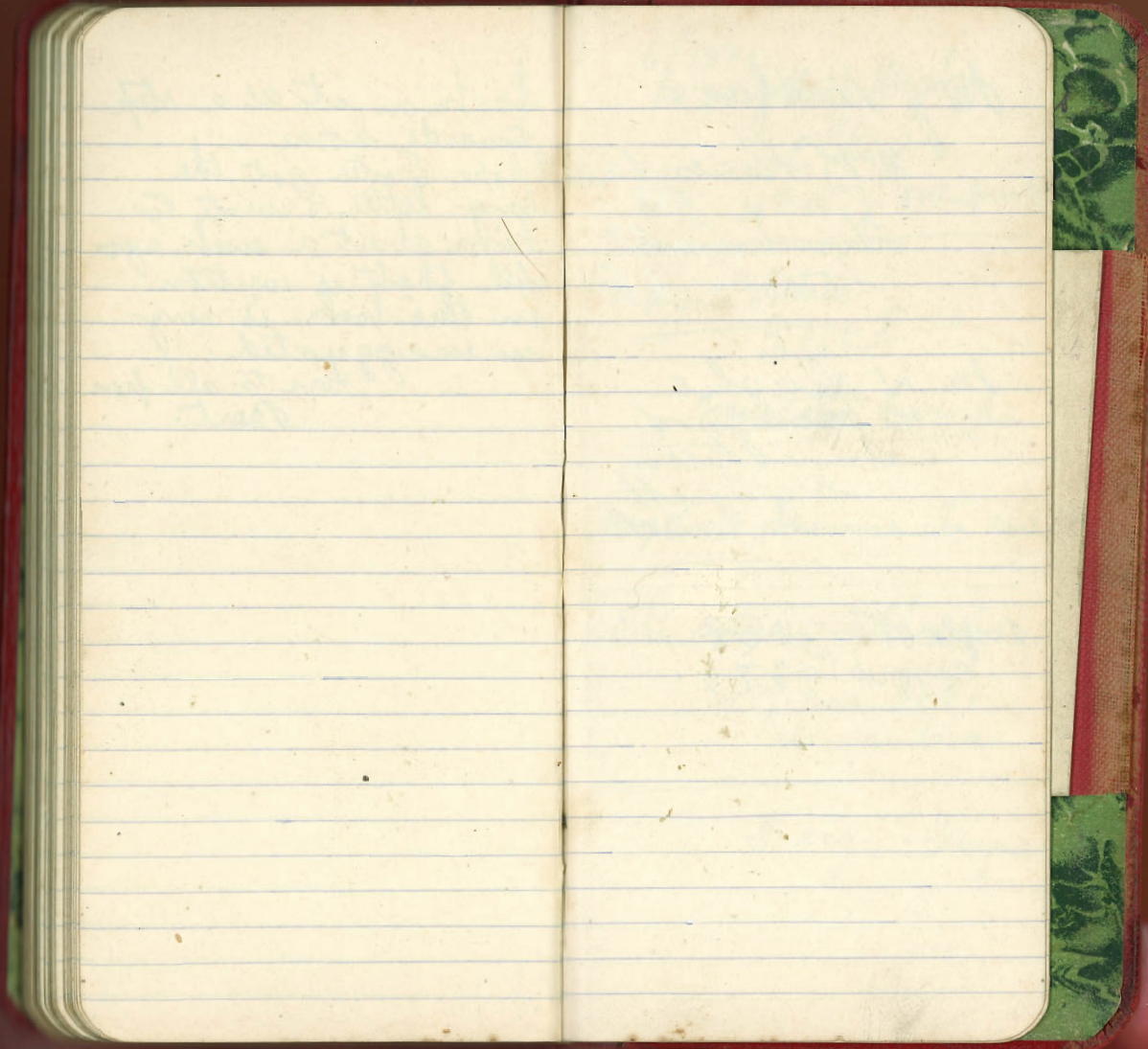
Dear Mother; I am  
sending you this  
note book to read &  
keep for me. it is  
nearly full & we are  
leaving here to day &  
as usual we are not  
at all sure of our  
destination but I  
think it will be

Egypt, where I suppose  
we will guard the  
canal.

What did you think  
of the withdrawal from  
Sungar seeing that  
it was accomplished  
without much loss  
I think it is a good  
thing; it was the  
general opinion that  
a withdrawal would  
be as costly as the  
landing. The Turks  
are so well dug in  
there now that any  
advance would mean  
the sacrifice of  
numberless lives.

I am glad that Bob's  
grave is in the part  
that is still held.  
If we go to Egypt  
it will be 3000  
miles closer to old  
it. I than here; I will

look on it as a step  
towards home.  
I hope Foster got the  
long letter I wrote to  
him about a week ago.  
All that is written  
in this book is very  
unexaggerated.  
Love to all from  
Bert.



Jr J Mathews  
& R Rosendale  
Rd  
Home Hill  
London S E.

---

Mr. W. Hughes  
Essexford  
Inniskeen  
Co. South  
Ireland.

---

Rifle No 3189.  
Bayonet 10376

6/1881.  
pt J. H. J. Hughes.  
C. Coy 1  
4th Lt. J. Reinforce

---

Home Address.

Plot L 1

Mustafa Camp.

---

regt. No. Surname. Co. Rank

---

The Officer in Charge

ex. J. Barr. P. O.  
Alexandria.

---

Foreign. Trayer

Mr J Mathews  
& K Rosendale  
Rd  
Home Hill  
London S.E.

M  
110  
$$\begin{array}{r} 72 \\ 12 \\ \hline 864 \\ 26 \\ \hline 900 \end{array}$$

Rip

6/1881.  
via J. H. G. Hughes.  
C. Boyd  
H. H. G. Reinforce

---

Home Address.  
Flat Creek.  
Marlborough.  
New Zealand.

---

Forward this notebook  
to my mother.  
Mrs James Hughes.  
Camwastown  
Marlborough.  
N.Z.

in part  
of hat  
D. on  
S. of W.



J. W. Hughes

Property of J. W. Hughes  
Greenstreet R.D. 1  
Ashburton.

