

Diary of
Arthur James Livingstone

Engine Room Artificer (Victorian Navy)

for

31 July 1900 – 27 May 1901



Member of the China Contingent

Courtesy of Ken Booth

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Livingstone's Diary

Melbourne to Peking 1900

Pistol No. 14512.

Dimensions of Peking Wall

Height 65 ft, width at base, 41 yards, width at top 18 yards Length of outside wall 26 miles round. There are five walls round five cities.

Arrived Sydney April 25th at 7p.m.

Arrived Thursday Island April 17th at 6.a.m.

Left Thursday Island April 17th at midday

Arrived Hong Kong April 4th at 9.30

Left Hong Kong April 5th at 4.45

Left Tient Sin March 25th midday

Left Taku March 29th 2.40

The S.S. Salamis

Tuesday July 31 Arrived Depot 6.45 caught train for Melbourne at 11 30. Great crowd of people at Williamstown Pier Station. Marched to Parliament House addressed by the Premier marched to Port Melbourne Pier went aboard Tug Otter and she took us to the Salamis. Weighed anchor at 5.p.m. went two miles down the Bay and stayed till 10p.m. Then went 20 miles further and dropped anchor for the night.

August 1 Left anchorage at 6a.m. went down South Channel passing the Ringarooma on her way to Melbourne both ships manned yards and gave three cheers. Received a letter from Mr Press when the boat came aboard for the Pilot.

August 2 Seen the last of Victoria at 9.30a.m. the weather turned out a bit rough.

August 3 Entered Sydney Heads at 9a.m.. it was very misty and we could not get a good view of the Harbour.

August 4 Went ashore at night and walked through the town do not like it as well as Melbourne. Streets too narrow.

August 5 Lying at Man War Buoy, went to Sunday Parade great crowd.

August 6 Left Buoy at 7.40a.m. going to Government Wharf to take Sydney Gear aboard went to smoke night in Town Hall given by Sydney contingent. Went through the Victoria Market.

August 7 Jack Thompson going home wife dead. Steward blew his brains out its 7a.m. much worry N.S.W. contingent came aboard at 4 30 big crowd. Bluejacket fell over the pier anchored out in the stream.

August 8 N.S.W. friends came aboard at 10a.m. stayed till 4p.m. left the moorings at 5 30p.m. great crowd of boats followed us to the Heads.

August 9 Fairly under way for China. Had a look round Engine Room. Fine weather so far.

August 10 Passed Brisbane at 10.15a.m. All hands vaccinated. Committee formed to welcome Neptune on Wednesday.

August 11 Weather getting warmer entered the Tropics about 2a.m. N.S.W. contingent gave a concert on the deck.

August 12 Divisions at 10a.m. Church parade at 10 30a.m. inspected by CAPT Hixson. Sighted a shoal of flying fish.

August 13 Started in Engine Room. Sighted Louisedale Islands. First land since leaving Sydney Weather very hot. Peak 2.700.

August 14 Weather very hot. Mr Patchett gave lecture on first aid. Whisel Neptune and his Suit came aboard at 8p.m. welcomed by CAPT Douglas who handed all the contingent over to him to deal with and promised to have all ready for him on the morrow.

August 15 Sighted New Ireland Isles at 8a.m. also the mirage of a ship under full sail in the sky sighted a canoe full of natives, very heavy shower of rain cleared up about 10a.m. and very smooth water, had land in sight all the afternoon very heavily timbered down to the water edge seen a trading schooner in the distance and dipped the Ensign. Postponed Neptune for tomorrow on account of the rain.

August 16 Saw land in the distance very heavy rain all the morning, cleared up in the afternoon, crossed the Line at noon. Had Neptune, great fun.

August 17 Weather very hot again. Had a concert in the afternoon. Passed a lot of wreckage also a large shoal of porpoises and flying fish, weather very smooth had a hair cut in the evening.

August 18 Had a Tropical shower. Men sleeping in hammocks on deck washed out, cleared up but very close, usual routine Saturday afternoon. Had get in to before daylight.

August 26 Arrived at Hong Kong, Sunday morning about 8a.m. met a large fleet of fishing junks very funny looking boats, some of them wanted to hook on and offered

their services as pilots. We entered by the North or Licmoon Pass on which are two Lighthouses. A French Mail boat entered ahead of us and we passed two Transports bound North with Troops some from the Cape and the others from India.

The land is very steep and mountainous and deep water right up to the land and the Channel is not very wide going up but nice shelter. We anchored near the warships that were lying there and they gave us a salute one of them an American very much like the Cerberus¹. We had no sooner anchored they the bum boats swarmed us with all sorts of stuff, they are a miserable sort of people but good at a bargain.

The women seem to do all of the work, some of them with children on their backs. They have fowls and ducks running about on decks and the children crawling about, you would think they would fall overboard, very funny to see them eating their meals and scaring the Devil away by lighting a flare over the side. The town looks very nice it is up on the side of a hill and at night time the lights look like a lot of stars.

We have travelled 5,180 miles from Melbourne up to now. 18 days.

August 27 Weather very warm, Chinamen came aboard for washing in the morning. Two transports came in today with troops a British man war went up north where there are about fifty of them and more coming. The hands went to bathe at sun down over the ship's side.

There is never know to have been any sharks in the Bay but there plenty of jelly fish and the largest I have seen, bought a couple of shells from bum boat of which there are hundreds of all sorts and crowded with all sorts of men and women and children they pick up all the scraps thrown from the ship. Went ashore in the evening and had a good look round. I had, a good ride in a rickshaw it is wonderful how they get along, they have good roads but a bit narrow they have some fine buildings but the majority of the shops open right out on the path they work all hours here, met a large. number of sikes they are fine body of men nearly all over six feet they have very large buildings for Them where they stop till they are wanted, went up to the Sailors Home which is kept expressly for man war's men, you can get a good feed and bed there, there is a C.P.O. tops there directs all the men anywhere They want to go. We shifted our moorings closer in to the shore to take the guns out had a talk to a German E.R.A. they have two ships here just now and five expected to come in tomorrow morning so that there will be about twenty of them here all together there are two Austrians here as well.

August 28 Weather still very close and hazy in the morning. All hands fell in and Captain Hixon handed over the contingent to Captain Gilespie, they gave him three hearty cheers and they all seemed to be very sorry to lose him. We were inspected by Commodore Powel in the morning and he said that he would try to get us some hard work to do.

I cut my foot on the doorstep today being my first accident and I hope my last. They are taking all our guns and gear from us and giving us new stuff in its place they say our guns are to healy to take to the front which was my opinion from the first.

Five of the German Squadron came in this morning, they are nice looking Cruisers. They all fired a salute and the sound of the gave us some idea of warfare with the echo among the hills. All our new gearcame aboard today from the Government Depot, also two twelve pounders,O.F. We were paid our money today some in gold and the rest in cents. There were two Chinamen beheaded today for killing an English

¹ Webmaster - Two American monitors, USS Monadnock & USS Monterey, operated along the China coast in 1900. As Monterey was stationed off Shanghai from July to September 1900 it is most likely that Monadnock was the American monitor sighted in Hong Kong harbour by Livingstone on August 26.

coming off at night in a sandpan they cut him up then threw him over board it is not safe to come off by yourself. There is a place called Happy Valley near the cemetery where it is not safe to go unless there is a big crowd of you, many a man they tell me has rode in a rickshaw down there and not come back they hit them on the head, and then robs them and throws them in the river.

We went ashore in the evening and engaged two rickshaw for one hour and had a good ride round the Town for twenty cents big crowd of Germans about off the boats. One of the men came off by himself in a rickshaw and because he did not give what they wanted they pushed him overboard, we came off by one with a German officer about 10.30 they are going North on Saturday.

August 29 Another Transport arrived today with a lot of Sikes manned the yards and gave three cheers gave us our new leather gear today and Webley revolver. One of the ship's stewards sworn in today for active service. I have broken out all in prickly heat with the weather and so has pretty near all the contingent.

Things are getting a bit monotonous lying here doing nothing and getting no news, you cannot get any here at all, last we had when we left Sydney.

Man in for a swim tonight, got stung by a Portuguese fish very bad arm. Have not received any letters yet worse luck, mail left for Melbourne today.

Had a good musical evening on the poop some of the songs reminded me of home.

Very funny thing occurred tonight. Mooney wanted a pair of swimming drawers so he cut a pair of serge trousers down after he had them finished he found out they did not belong to him but to McKenzie then there was a row.

August 30 Very heavy shower of rain fell this morning but cleared up in an hour had drill all day with the pistol and cutlass got news today about leaving here first thing in the morning.

We are going to Woorung then Tauku and then perhaps to Tinsin.

Hands went to bathe and one silly fellow dived off the topsail yard and could just get aboard he was bleeding very heavily.

Four of the W.A. men invalided home today. All leave was stopped on account of going away tomorrow.

I missed going up to the top of Mt. Victoria, you go up by a cable tramway it is just like going up the side of a house they have a signal station and lot of fine barracks on top for the soldiers, there is also a hospital there. The majority of the English people live up there.

The city of Hong Kong lives at the foot of the hill. There is a part of the main land which the British have leased for ninety nine years and they say it will be the future capital as it is better adapted there not being so many china men and being a lot more level, our officers went aboard the flag ship to dinner this evening, she is called the Tamar. There are two ships here just like what the old Nelson was they use them one for receiving the Blue jackets till they draft them somewhere else and the other called the Victor Manual for defaulters from any of the ships lying here, there is a lot of dissatisfaction among the crew I think that there will be trouble before it is all over with the difference of treatment of the two contingents a German man of war left for the North today and there is a larger body of troops on their way here now.

August 31 Left Hong Kong today about 10a.m. bound for Woosung for orders, which is about three days and half sail from here. Rain fell very heavily in the morning making a lot of small waterfalls and streams down the side of the mountains which looked very nice.

I noticed a fort out in the solid rock on one side of the channel which I did not notice going in.

When we got out we met a large crowd of fishing boats, water is nice and smooth, had more drill this morning and make and mend in the afternoon, bought a ¼lb tin of tobacco for cigarettes and two books for the sum of ten cents.

September 1 The weather is the finest we have had yet the water is like glass, there is a lot of lightning about, we have passed two lighthouses up to now one on Green Cape and the other on Turn About Island. There was a torpedo destroyer came down to see what we were last night and passed us like a flash of light. We have not lost sight of land today and have passed a lot of junks fishing, we nearly run over one today, have received no letters up to leaving Hong Kong. The band has been playing selections and it is just like Saturday night in the market, wish I was there we have been fixing up all our gear for landing which we expect to do on Monday some time a Russian man of war came down to see what we were last night.

September 2 Sunday Usual routine, prayers and church which I expect will be the last aboard. the Salamis for some time as we expect to land tomorrow at Woosung, passed more junks a steamer closed in, has kept pace with us all day. There was a waterspout passed us a few miles away, things are a bit quiet and we are just going to give the N.S.W. P.O. a night out as we expect to part with them when we land.

September 3 Arrived at .Woosung this morning, we picked up the pilot at 6a.m. from a boat like our pilot schooners. There is a big current running here and it is very muddy being the fresh coming down the river Yang tee Sang.

Woosung is at the mouth of the river and they have forts on the opposite side which are being watched day and night by men of war with their guns trained on them in case of any outbreak on part of the china men.

There is a large number of men of war here in fact it is all warships and transports. We are lying at what they call the Shanghai flats. Shanghai being some fourteen miles further up the river.

We came to anchor about 10a.m. and the Capt went aboard the flag ship for orders but he was told that he was up at Shanghai, so he went up there in a steam launch, we have got our bags packed and all ready to be landed at a moments notice.

The Quarantine Doctor came aboard after we dropped anchor and inspected the crew, they have the island at the mouth of the river for a quarantine station.

Things seem to be very quiet but very suggestive here with all the boats about ready for any emergency. The weather is much cooler here and several of the men have bad colds there is one of our firemen very bad with pains in the stomach. I am afraid that

he will slip his cable. The Captain has just come aboard and passed the word that we proceed tomorrow to Wei-hai-Wei then to Taku forts to put in a few months.

September 4 received orders to proceed. to Wei-hai-Wei and then to Taku from the Post Capt himself this morning, he addressed the men and told them that things are only middling and that if there is a war South Africa will be nothing to it. He told us not to drink any water or eat any vegetables that grow above ground. He said that we were not Victorian and N.S.W. but all of us British and as such to uphold the flag, and the place that we are going to is very bad and that we will have to have patience I expect we will be here all the winter as we will get snowed up if we stop a couple of months longer from now.

There was a Court martial on board the Golith this morning, they fired a gun and then hoisted the Jack at the Peak: We are to sail today for the front and I hope that we will have better weather than what we are having, now it is raining in bucketfuls and blowing half a gale. I have got a bit of a cold, I suppose on account of the change in the weather. Another transport came in today and a mail boat. A German man of War came down the river tonight and anchored outside the other boat, watching them Morse to one another with three lights, an old beam engine boat went past us tonight looked queer.

September 5 we remained at our anchorage all night waiting for the tide and did not leave till 11 next mornings and after steaming for half an hour got stuck on a bank in the Shanghai flats till 5p.m. in the afternoon the land is very flat and low and covered with scrub. There was some bum boats off this morning with eggs and vegetables they are a different class of people to the Hong Kong china men. They are taller and not so dark. Three German men of war came in today, they were at Hong Kong when we were there they fired a salute all round. A store ship has just passed us called the Umber. A big German tramp came in today with troops they have a lightship in the channel like the old one we used to have off the Gellibrand have doing a bit of drill today. Weather fine up to now, showery in the morning bit close.

September 6 Drill in the morning and make and mend in the afternoon no land in sight all day, a bird like a lark has been flying about the deck all day, we passed a steamer further in shore towing what looked like a two masted lighter the same way as ourselves it is blowing hard and. bit of a sea running starting to rain we expect to get into Wei-hai-Wei tomorrow morning.

September 7 Arrived at Wei-hai-Wei at 8.30 it is a nice harbour safe in any weather, we entered on the South side. There are two entrances.

There are two men of war there the Diane and Terrible and two transports deep water all the way in, there is a Dredge here been dredging the channel, we went ashore in the afternoon on the island Lins king Tau which the English are fortifying at the present time, we walked up one of the hills called Centennian after the flagship and a very stiff walk it was, we had a grand view from there, they are putting in the foundations for a gun on top, which commands the entrance we went up the other hill,

which is called the Manderine they have a signal station on top of it, the hospital is at the foot of the hill, and there is a lot from the front under canvas we went through the ruins of a lot of buildings that were shelled during the Chinese Jap war, we seen the remains of one of the Chinese fleets called the Chen Yuen which is lying on the shore there is a fine fort lying in the centre of the entrance, there are a lot of sheep and India cows here as well as a lot of Sikes making roads and drains. Nearby all the Chinese have gone on the mainland since the war started to join the Boxers. We ween one of the old forts on the mainland with a gun in it and a Chinaman alongside of it which the Japs had shelled, I see two women and their feet were no bigger than my hand, met a company of men just down from the front they said things are quiet up there now and sick bay man is coming up with us to join his ship he has just brought a lot of invalids down to the island the hospital ship Main is lying here, we start for Taku in the morning.

September 8 got under way at 6a.m. we have had splendid weather had land in near all day and passed a lot of islands. There have been a lot of steamers passed today some of them transports, we passed two men of war one of them, a Frenchman and the other a German going south, had drill in the morning and packed all our gear in the afternoon for landing any time, we had our rations served out for a day three biscuits and a candle, this is likely to be our last night aboard worse luck after a most enjoyable trip, the only fault is that I got no letters.

September 9 Sunday Arrived at Taku about 7.30a.m. this morning. We had to stop through the night on account of being so near land, we had to lie out in the open roadstead, fourteen miles away from Taku, on account of it being very shallow water, you cannot see the land from here, on account of the mist, the forts lie at the mouth of the river, and they told us to be ready to land there and man them at 1.30p.m. then later on we were told we were not to land till Tuesday. There was a large party of Germans landed this afternoon from a man of war to take part in some fight which is going to take place tomorrow ashore somewhere. It was a grand sight this morning as we came in to see the fleet of Men of War gathered together of all nations,. Shape and sizes from a big first class battle ship to a little Torpedo Catcher there are thirty-four of them here, beside the transports the majority of them B. India boats and they are a fine sight to see, representing some millions of pounds. At night they look like a young city with all their lights. The Balfour is the British flagship here, there are two hospital ships here one of them the British one is an old P.O. boat, the other is an American, we had some of her crew aboard in the afternoon, but they could give us no news of the war any more than we knew ourselves, they got no news but that they get from their papers which take thirty days to get here, there are expected to be here at the end of the month 9200 troops. I wrote a letter home today. We had no Church or Division today on account of the excitement of getting and not knowing when we are going to land. We had a nice clear night and I picked out the stars called the Plough. The weather changed about 11p.m. and I never seen a squall come down so black and quick and then pass away. We have got news that we are to start landing all our gear tomorrow into a lighter and then it will be towed up to Taku. We are going to give the N.S.W. half of our transport wagons, they are not half as well rigged out as we are with gear.

September 10 Monday We have not landed yet, but have been busy getting the gear ready for landing which we expect to do tomorrow. Two more Men of War came in

today one of them an English and the other a Frenchman. There are in all seventy four boats here now and they make a grand sight of a night with all the electric lights. There is a small gun boat here now that stormed the Taku forts. They have a Torpedo destroyer patrolling all round the British fleet of a night. The Captain went up to have a look at the Fort, when they got there they were stopped by the patrol boats and told that it was not safe as there was a lot of Chinamen about and that the allied forces had been defeated up at Tiensin.

There is one hundred men and officers going up tonight in a gun boat to Tiensin to see what they can do, there are Marines going as well. This will be the first Australian naval brigade that has been landed; there is great excitement amongst them. They came and told me that I was to land with them at twelve. It turned out after it was a hoax.

September 11 Not landed yet, it is annoying putting it off day to day but the Admiral Bruce came aboard tonight and told us that we were not going to the Fort, but we are to go up to Tien Sien on the Thirteenth. The flags have been flying half mast all day on the War ships. There must have been a fight somewhere and a number of men killed, but you cannot find out anything here. The British boats have been doing Tube Cannon practice today at a flag, I have seen as good shooting off the Cerberus. We had a fine sunset tonight, the sun sinking behind all the ships in dusk of the evening made a fine a picture as I have seen yet. The day that we land is Thursday it is the thirteenth I hope it is not going to be unlucky landing. Another American Man of War came in today also a transport. A British Transport landed all her troops they were the Sikes the rest of the boats are going to land their crews when we land. The Russians have been using their searchlight tonight. Our bagpiper was playing tonight and when he finished someone started on one of the other ships and it sounded very well at the distance.

September 12 Not made a start yet for the front, postponed now till Saturday or Monday, they have to wait till there is sufficient water on the bar at the entrance to the river, they want twelve feet for the boat that is to take us up. The men are getting discontented now at being put off from day to day and the sooner we land the better for them. We had a boat race today, our men challenged the crew of the Diado to pick a crew to pull against them, they choose a course three miles long to finish between the Diado and the Salamis, it was a fine day for the race, the water being very smooth they made a good race of it all the way but the Australians won easily by about six lengths, they were well clapped by the crews of the ships. They are not allowed to cheer for some reason. The Flag Ship made the signal 'well done Australians'. The Diado's boats crews came aboard in the evening and were entertained on the lower deck by our men. They told us that the Chinamen were quite agreeable to hand their forts over to the British, which they have done with some of them, but the other powers will not agree to that and that is what all the trouble is about. Two more boats came in today, a Japanese and a Russian. The Hap is a fine looking boat being a first class Battleship. There is a China man of war here which the fleet have stopped from being away. They have taken the breach blocks belonging to the guns away, so she cannot do much damage now if she tried. I got my oilskin dressed today. They made a mess of them in the Depot when they painted them. We very nearly had a fire

with them coming up. They could smell something burning in the store and when they looked several of them were scorched, and others ruined through them being stowed away before they were dry. Done some more washing today. A couple of bum boats came along side today, there is not near the quantity of them here that there is at long Kong and they are a better looking class of men, there are no women or children with them, and they have not much, a miscellaneous collection of goods being near all fruit and tobacco. There are a lot of flies come aboard from somewhere and they are very troublesome, there a lot of small birds alighting on the boat somewhat like the mule, but cannot catch any of them. There are some Grasshoppers aboard too it is funny where they all come from. There being no land in sight. They are not near the size of the ones we seen at Wei-hai-Wei, they were about four ins. long and of a green colour with legs on them like close proops. There is a lot of influenza on board. It started at one end of ship and has gone right through her. I have not had it yet, thank goodness.

September 13 Not landed yet on account of a big German transport coming in this morning, she monopolised all the barges that they use for landing. We got all our stores out on the deck ready for landing but had to put them back again. A steamer came alongside this evening and anchored.

She is the one that is going to take our stores up in the morning; she is about the size of the Lock but has a fluck deck. The weather has been very warm the last couple of days, but nice and cool in the night, you can sleep with a blanket on you now first time since we left Sydney.

There was a concert on board the Balfour tonight but I did not go to it but there were a good lot of the blue jackets went.

We were just called up for letters, you should have seen the rush, and after waiting anxiously for one and expecting to hear from dear ones at home, I was disappointed, they were letters that missed us at Sydney. I envied those that got one. There were some papers. A British man of war came in today and one went out down to Hong Kong. A big fresh came down the river, you could see the dirty water coming down and mixing with the fresh. All the distance out here, so it must be a big river, we are lying about fourteen miles out.

September 14 Going to tranship at last. Lighter came alongside at 6p.m. in the evening, and we have been busy up till 10p.m. putting all our gear aboard, we go to Tien Sien in the morning starting at 6.30a.m.

We have all our bags packed and this will be our last night aboard for some time. A big Russian Transport went out today with 1,000 troops aboard for Port Arthur, we had a few of the men off the Aurora who were up at the front first.

Captain Bayley being in charge they had a very rough time of it.

They landed on a Sunday night at 2a.m. and stormed the forts that are on the river going up to Tien Sien, they said that if it had been daylight it would have taken them all their time as the forts were mounted with the most modern guns, and were heavy enough to blow the boats out of the water, it was a grand sight to see they say to with the searchlight playing on the forts and the shells bursting over them.

The railway they say up to Tien Sien belongs to the Russians and you can never tell when you are going to get there as they keep dropping their stores at different camping grounds where they have troops guarding the railway.

September 15 Called the hands at 4a.m., had breakfast and fell in heavy marching order. Left the Ship at 6.30 in lighter and she took us about five miles up the river and landed us to meet the train, there was no train available for us so we are coming on in the lighter the whole way. We passed the forts at the mouth of the river, one side belongs to the Japs and the other the British have one end of it, the Germans and Russians have a flag each flying on the same flagstaff and the other end the Russians have themselves. There is a very large population at Taku and the houses are all made of mud. There is a lot of shipping in the river, also a lot of small Gunboats. We seen the

British boat that drove the Chinese out of the fort by getting behind them and shelling. There were a big crowd of Sikes unloading stores from our transports mostly flour and peas that we seen and building them in big stacks. The Germans have captured the only dockyard here and are repairing all the boats injured in the attack at the fort, we have passed large plantations of rice and maize and vegetable gardens all the way up. The land seems to be able to grow anything. There are a lot of junks running up and down the river, which is very shallow and winds in and out making the distance twice as long as it ought to be. The Chinese in some of the villages hide themselves when they see us coming. We passed three dead Chinese floating down the river, and they did not look very nice. The water is very muddy and there is about a seven knot current running down, there are a terrible lot of locusts about making the sky black when they are flying over head. We expect to get to Tien Sien tomorrow morning at 10a.m., being sixty-four miles from Taku it has been very hot today but is getting in the nights, I have to write this before sunset.

September 16 Sunday We anchored at sunset last night and started again at suns rise this morning. The river is very narrow in places and turns very quickly. We passed a lot of places that had been blown down by the forces, a lot of kerosene tins and along side of them great heaps of bones that had been bodies burnt, we passed a lot of bodies floating down the river. We arrived at Tien Sien at 12.15 and landed, then marched three miles up to camp, it was very hot and two of the men dropped with exhaustion. We camped on an old battlefield and passed a lot of graves where they had piled the dead then covered them with earth and stones. Sikes camp are alongside of us.

September 17 Called all bands at 5a.m. We made up our hammocks and cleaned up the tent, had breakfast at 8. Hands turned to digging trenches and sinking well and foraging party went out for vegetables over to an old garden and got two sackfuls, a party went into Tien Sien for firewood and they had a crowd of Chinese dragging it, two of them ran away and a third went to go when one of the men charged him with the bayonet and stopped him. It has been very close and muggy all day with rain and lightning, the mosquitoes were very bad last night, they kept us awake nearly all night, the flies are very bad through the day. The Sikes have a lot of mules here for transporting gear and to hear them brawling of a night you would think that someone was getting murdered. There was a Chinaman stopped inside of the lines doing odd jobs for some of the men and when they went to clear him out he started crying and offered all the money he had to be allowed to stop. He said that he would be murdered if he went away, they let him stop for the night but he had to clear out this morning. They brought the guns up from Tien Sien today and mounted the two 12 lbs one at each corner of the camp and the maxamins in the centre.

September 18 Called the hands at 5a.m. Fell in and marched down to the river for a bathe. Came back and had some drill before breakfast which we had at 8 o'clock, we fell in after and were inspected by General Cambell of the forces at Tien Sien, had a make and mend clothes this afternoon. The weather is very hot and they only drill here early in the morning, it is a fine sight to see the Sikes bringing their gun into action, they are a fine body of men. Caught a snake about three foot long, being the second one caught we also caught a big mud crab, wrote a letter home today. There is a fine bugle band here and they go a couple of miles out of camp and practice. Sound very nice.

September 19 Called all hands at 5a.m., went down to the river for a swim, got very wet about the legs marching through the long grass. There is a very heavy dew falls here as soon as the sun goes down, but you get dry very quick, when the sun comes out. We had a make and mend in the afternoon, had no cloths to mend, so went out on an expedition looking for fruit and fowls, we marched out about six miles from the camp and went through several villages, they are all in a state of ruins, and their gardens are all looted by the troops that are here. We passed a lot of bones and coffin with a Chinaman in it and a little further on the lid of it used for a plank over a stream. There are only old people left in the villages and they are all starving as the Russians have taken all their rice, they were feeding on roasted locusts, we went into their houses and the Jose house with seven of them in it. I got some of their whiskers, we met some Sike coming in with some young pigs. We passed a big pottery works where they make all the tiles, forichs and images. We started coming back after getting nothing, when we were met by one of the men sent out to fetch us in as soon as possible as the contingent were going to the front tonight at five o'clock. We hurried back but were to late to see them go. There was forty four of us left to guard the camp and to do sentry duty which was not very pleasant as it rained and thundered very heavily through the night. Dr Stuart and another man had to come back as they could not keep up with them. Dr Stuart came back in a rickshaw and the Chinaman stopped in the camp all night, after having a good feed, we put him in one of the tents for the night.

September 20 Things are very quiet with all the men away, we only cleared up the camp and then stood easy all day. Weather very warm again, played cricket in the afternoon and found another snake about two foot six in amongst our feet. They are the same colour as the grass and hard to see. Brought a load of wood into camp. Two of our men returned today, one of them with sunstroke, he said they had a hard march last night, they marched into Tien Sien and went into a lighter at 10p.m. with the mules on deck and the men below, then went down the river and kept going till ten this morning.

September 21 Glorious news, received a letter today. Some more of the men returned today with bad feet, had a rough time of it, arrived to within four miles of the fort and found the fight all over, are returning tomorrow, their ammunition was sent on too far, they say it was done by the Russians on purpose, four of our men that were trying to catch up to the main body were fired on by the Germans but not hit, row over it, went into Tien Sien for water today with a crowd of coolies lost two, the place smells very much. There are some nice buildings, one of them the Church of Eng.

They have made barracks of, there are a lot of troops there, forty of our men returned at 6.30 knocked out, they marched 19 miles in 7¾ hours which is a record out here. Mr Berferd and Englies had to be left at the hospital as they were that bad, the men had a basin of soup served to them as soon as they came in. Seen a boy that had been shot in the eye his face was in an awful mess, sent in for ice for the men that were sun struck. Had Chinaman to dig it out of the ground.

September 22 The rest of the men came back today at 12.30, lot of them bad with dysentery, lot of the Sikes had to fall out and their mules as well, they are supposed to be fine marchers as there are - so it must have been very quick, we had a scare last night when I was on the rounds, the sentries thought they seen some china man moving in the grass and fired at it, then called the guard out we rushed out and were waiting when we found out that it was only wild dogs. Some of the men picked up an old shell and fooling with it when it went off but did not hurt anyone. The band played tonight and it sounded well they came over out of the other camps to hear the band. Mr Berford and Englis came in from the hospital today but still very bad. The china man are beginning to come back to the City and there are a big crowd hanging round the grounds for food.

September 23 Sunday Things are very quiet and no more like Sunday than any other day. There was a crowd of Sikes damming back the river, where it was beginning to overflow, and come up to the camp, went down for a swim in the afternoon. Mail and some papers came today from Melbourne but none for me, bought a Tien Sien paper for 20 cents, the first since the war started that has been printed and sent it home to father.

September 24 Turned out at 7.30 party went out drilling and marching to get into form for a march that is coming off soon they say. Another mail came into today and body of Lancers came in today from scouting, there were three empty saddles amongst them. Had our photos taken yesterday outside our tent. Wrote home today. There was a Chinese interpreter in the camp tonight belonging to the Sikes, he spoke very good English. He said that the Boxers were only armed with swords and that there is a place about forty miles from here where they are in a fort, and that we will be having a go at it soon, he says there is any amount of loot there. There was a conference of the Powers in Peking today to see what they are going to do. There was a guard of honour formed to meet the German General Waldersee who is to take command of the allied forces here. They have arranged a game of football between the Royal Horse Artillery and our chaps to come off on Wednesday.

September 25 Weather fine. Guard of Honour marched in to town but the General did not turn up. Went into Tien Sien in the afternoon and had a good look round. I went into the Welsh Fusilers barracks, it is a large warehouse. There is a lot of machinery going to ruin, they are putting down wool presses and hydraulic plant when the war started and it is left kicking about all over the place. I walked down some of the streets where there was nothing left of the buildings but great piles of ruins, there are others with the sides blown out of them, they are repairing those that are not much damaged. There are some fine buildings but the streets are rather narrow, the Chinese are turning the ruins over to see what they can pick up, they all look half starved and a lot of them have wounds and sores on them, the look of them would make you sick. They are keeping them away from the troops as much as

possible on account of disease. The native city is about a mile further back and the lot is surrounded with a wall about 25 ft high and 15 wide with big iron gates here and there with a watch tower over the top which you cannot get through after dark. A big body of Frenchmen arrived today. they are very small men and are very heavily loaded when marching. They went into barracks in the city but I would sooner be in camp because in the city what with the dust and bad smell from the drains it is enough to choke you. I bought two little images for 50 cents. I got some Russian tea which they carry when on the march, seen some Chinese police.

September 26 Weather very blowy and dusty, some of our crowd told off to do police duty on the wharf. Watching the stores that are landed on the wharf for the troops and others in the fire station, had liberty in the afternoon and went into Tien Sein to see if I could get hold of curios, but could not see any.

September 27 Things are very quiet and nothing to do. I wish we would clear out of here as time goes very slowly. Our crowd played football today with the Artillery and lost. They played the association game. We heard today that we were going into the fire brigade station to look after the machinery there.

September 28 Fine dull morning. All hands fell in and we went for a march of about 8 miles before dinner, we went where the Americans are going to camp for the winter, they had their Horse Artillery at exercise when we went past at full gallop and they looked fine. We passed some fine mansions with gardens and carriage drives surrounded with water all in ruins. We passed some fine vegetable gardens one of them about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile long, all nicely laid out, they do a lot of irrigation, the plots being all divided by channels they pass the water up out of the canal by means of a bucket, two Chinaman with ropes working it. They have a fine racecourse out here. The Pioneers shifted their camp today, they are going up to Peking for the winter. They kicked up an awful row when going. There is plenty of game here and any amount of wild dogs prowling about. Our officers bought some ponies to ride, they have all been commanded, there are a lot of the Indian cattle here with lumps on their backs. Four of our men told off to duty on launches running up Pie King as coxswain and one on a German Count's hatch.

September 29 Called the hands 5.30 and had drill till 7.30. We were to have gone into the fire station today but the Capt said that he would have to see what sort of quarters we were to have before he would let us go. Received a letter today and near lost my pay by being late through reading it, bought a flint and tender for 25 cents. They have started serving out rum, not taking any.

September 30 Sunday Very chilly this morning, had two eggs for breakfast, first change from hash since leaving Salamis. Had leave in the afternoon and went to a Chinese Arsenal which is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from camp, it is held by the Japs. There was machinery of all sorts also two steam hammers, it has been a large factory and they have had the best of machinery. There was a moulding shop also. They were erecting a large bell when we went in, the place is surrounded by a very high wall and inside of it is a ditch which runs right round the factory. There are a lot of houses inside the wall where the workmen used to live and now the place is all ruins with shot and fire. Saw a Chinaman catching fish in the ditch which surrounds the factory with a net stretched on bamboo, there are lots of fish and crabs which they roast in the fires. The

fish are like our mullet with a head like a flathead. Got two old shells out of the factory. There are 1,500 Chinese buried outside the walls, that were killed during fighting.

October 1 We shifted into Tient Sien this morning. We are putting up at the Fusiliers Barracks, and our duty consists of looking after the pumps in the fire station. There is a blacksmiths shop and carpenters at the back where we get all our work done by the Chinese.

October 2 Turned out at 7.30. Breakfast at 8. Went down to the Shop and had a look in. Got a thumb ring and small image in the afternoon. Seen two Wie at Wie Regiments in jail for deserting also two Boxers.

October 3 Went out the native city of Tiet Kin, very dirty place, there is no drainage and the water is lying about quite green with pigs rooting about in it. There is an awful crowd of people there the streets are very narrow and the Chinamen going along with their barrows make a lot of dust. I visited an Arsenal which the Americans have and got a suite of Boxer's clothes, there are thousands of pounds worth of gear there. There was some guns and great stacks of rifles, they had some guns there. The barrels must have been about twelve feet long. The arch that you enter by is part of the Great Wall and is about 30 yards through. The place is a mass of ruins out here as well. The Chinese are rebuilding a lot of it, but the streets are too narrow and the houses are too close together.

October 4 American Artillery man gave me a set of axms out of his hat. Seen a Chinese funeral passing through the streets the wood of the coffin was about 6" thick and round on the top, they had it on a transport truck with a wreath of red flowers on top, there was about six following with a minister. Went out to the native city again today and seen some of the finest work in silk that I have seen. They wanted too much for it and the coats as well. Bought a piece of silk for 3½ dollars also some imitation sprays of flowers for 1 dol. Coming back had an accident, a French cart ran into the rickshaw and upset us, there looked for awhile as though there was going to be a bother but it all blew over.

Went down to the J.M.C.A. in the evening and spent a pleasant hour playing draughts. They have reading and writing rooms also and piano which was played very nicely by a German. The place is open for all nationalities. They provide all writing material for you. Wrote two letters home today.

October 5 A German cut a Japanese head off last night, in the street over some row they had, this being the third one that has occurred in the streets, it is not safe out after dark. Went out to Tient Sin again today, we took a china man with us that could speak English, he used to work for an English railway contractor here and he was a very decent chap, we paid him 1 dol. and his fare for taking us out to the place where they were selling silk. We got there after ½ hr ride through the crowded and narrow streets, and looking at the place from the outside, you would not think there was anything of value inside. After going inside the gate we went into a large courtyard which was packed with silk, and Chinese. There was coats lined with all sorts of fur and silk beautifully worked also rolls of silk. I bought two rolls for 10 dollars. We done a great bit of bargaining, we beat the women bad, all the children and great

number of the old people have some disease on the head and have very little hair, passed a large crowd of coolies with barrows. They take a very large load on them, they have the wheel in the centre, we passed any amount of cook shops and the smell from them was not very pleasant. The meat they sell in the streets looks rotten.

October 6 Usual routine do nothing all day. Got out of bed at ¼ to eight. Had a look in at the fire station and work shop, where they were making a coffin for a N.S.W. Marine who died yesterday, he was bad ever since leaving Sydney. He was buried today without any fuss. They just put him on a truck and went away with a couple of chows. One of the men has been drunk on duty they are sending him to Hong Kong for Gody, the sack when his time is up. I have had all the week with a splitting headache and chills down my back. I will have to lay up if I do not get better soon. Went to an auction sale of loot by the British. They had a lot of silk but the natives were running it up. They are very fond of colours, did not buy anything.

October 7 Sunday No more like Sunday than any other day. Work carried on as usual in the streets by the Chinese, our men with a fleet of 95 junks are waiting to proceed up the river to attack a place the other side of Peking. Went for a long walk in the morning out to the Walls of the Old City, passed a lot of dead cattle on barrows which the chows were taking out to sell, they will eat anything. Seen a lot of graves along side of our barracks, they were men who had lost their lives taking the city. Heard today that there were some mails lot overboard down at Taku, hope that it was not our mail. Went down in the evening to the J.M.C.A. spent a very pleasant evening, we had Sunday service by a Chinese missionary, had some nice singing and music.

October 8 Weather turned out very wet rained all day, the streets are in an awful mess with mud up to your ankles, have not been well all day with pains in head.

October 9 Put in a very bad night, very feverish with cold chills and splitting headache and little better this morning. Fine weather again. The remainder of the men came into barracks this morning, they are in a large storeroom not far from where we are. Received a letter today dated August 7.

October 10 Nothing fresh do not feel well enough to take interest in anything. See the Doctor and Sunday 14 got some medicine, wrote home.

October 15 Got up today and dogged about. Bit weak and light headed. Our men up the river on the 14th Sunday, they will have a rough time of it as it is very cold and they have to sleep on the ground in an oil skin.

October 16 Turned out at 7.45 and had my first breakfast out of bed for the last week. Done some washing in the morning and went for a good walk in the afternoon. Called in at the J.M.C.A. coming round to see the Superintendent as he had been asking after me. He was very glad to see me about again. Got some more quinine tonight.

October 17 Weather getting colder served out with two more blankets, visited the Italian waterworks, have pair of Tangies Engines and pump it up to a tower. There must be hundreds of china men passing here from work of a night in companies each headed by one carrying a small flag also small cards attached to their necks showing where they work.

October 18 Usual routine doing nothing which I am about full up of. Took a walk round to the shop in the morning and was teaching the Chinamen some English which they are very eager to learn. Paid my mess dues which amounted to 3.50 for three weeks. Went down to the J.M.C.A. in the afternoon and spent a couple of hours reading. The W.F. have a lot of dogs also a nice little white goat which they fed on tobacco. They have got the machinery going in the Store and are teasing and pressing wool.

October 19 Things are very quiet yet and have a hard job to put the time in, went for a long walk along the river bank. Things are very quiet down there now.

They seem to have all the stores up and there are not many barges lying there now quite different to when we came up. The Japanese are doing all the business here. They are fixing up a lot of shops, stores and hotels, they seem to have the whole show to themselves. There are a lot of blind beggars knocking about some of them with just old bags tied round them.

October 20 Great change in the weather yesterday, was very hot and muggy, but last night it changed, it blew a hurricane all night and morning blowing down a lot of buildings also our washing house, it shifted a cooking house the Austrians have, the wind was bitter cold just like out of an ice chest. It started raining

about twelve o'clock and a couple of hours later it started snowing. It looked very nice falling just like a lot of fine feathers been shaken in the air. It cleared up fine about four. I turned into bunk in the afternoon as it was the only place you could get warm.

October 21 Sunday Fine weather again. Received three letters and paper today. I wrote home in the afternoon to Liz, went to church in the evening.

October 22 The weather has been grand, but is very sharp in the mornings and evenings. It got very cold about four in the mornings it wakes me up. I went for a walk to the Tient Sien Station, it is in a fine mess there must have been some heavy firing there. The building is riddled with shot and the walls are all holes where the cannon shots have gone through the walls. They were repairing an engine that had some holes knocked in it, they have rebuilt the platform and it is a fine and large station, there are lots of trucks burnt and smashed up. There are Europeans coming in every day now. You will see the women taking their morning drive in the rickshaws. When we first came here there was none to be seen. The W.F. have been busy all day packing they are going to Hong Kong in the morning in the Salamis.

October 23 The W.F. went away today. They played down to the wharf by the native band. Our chaps lined up along the road and gave them a cheer. We took up their quarters and we will be very comfortable if they leave us alone. One of the Sergeants gave me a nice rug, which will be very warm in the winter. I am sleeping in a double bed with my mate. We had a good days clearing out shifting the mess down stairs and fixing our beds. Bought a fountain pen for half dollar but it is not good, will try to fix it. There is a great difference in the number of rickshaws there are now and when we came first at first there was only about twenty now there is nearly two thousand.

October 24 There was a small body of the W.F. who were up at Peking came in to our barracks last night. They are going to Hong Kong with the rest, they have been through a lot of fighting. They told us of one of their men got wounded and they left him on the road when they came back he had his head cut off, and they met a china man with a bundle with the head in it, they get so much for a head, they took him out in the morning and shot him, also going over a bridge when they got over the middle it tipped up and they all went into the river. One man bayoneted nine men before they got away. I went down today and drew the stores for the men with a darky and horse and cart. I am in the best of health and eating like a horse.

October 25 Hard at work clearing our new quarters out, we gave the rooms a good scrubbing, got a fine stove and some pots out of empty barracks next to us, we take anything. Went down and drew our stores, started today to write, up my notes in a larger book.

October 26 Weather very mild, we are very comfortable in our new quarters.

Went down for rations and one of the men bit by a sick dog on the leg, we killed him. Mail today but none for me, had a dilly box made by a Chinese.

October 27 Weather very dull. The junks that went up with the column to Piotang-foo came down today for ten days provisions. Our men are all in good health, when they got up there they found the French had got there before them., they have not decided whether they will burn the village or take indemnity. They allowed them to loot the villages as they went up and all our men have mules to ride, their boots have given out. They treated the Europeans very badly, they stripped them and marched them round the streets, beating them with bamboos, they were rescued by the column and brought to Tien Sien today by our junks. Drew the rations today. The people our men brought down are all in the hospital, the man is dying and a child 4½ is dead, they own their lives to her, she interceded for them when tied up.

October 28 Very quiet, usual routine. Have caught a cold somehow.

October 29 Busy all day with my log. The French have been sending up a balloon this last few days. Awful row today over the rations. We have been drawing too many.

October 30 The weather is a bit dull and feels like rain. One of men, a policeman got a bad kick in the stomach, he went to arrest a Frenchman a crowd of them went for him.

Oct 31 Admiral Bruice arrived in Tien Sien, we have his coxswain stopping with us. He was in the attack on the city. Got some more silk today. Things are very quiet, they are whitewashing all the men's' quarters, ready for the Horse Artillery, who are coming in here.

November 1st We had a great turn out last night, there was a fire down in the German concession and they asked us to go out to it as it was a hospital. We started away with a reel and pump and had to pass all the sentries, and were near being fired on. We got there too late, it was too far away, and no roads leading up to it. Things were quiet again today. Big party of Germans went out to relieve our men up at Pie Tang-Foo.

November 2nd Received word that the column is on its way back, after doing no fighting. Wrote two letters home today one to Father. Things are dragging along very slowly. Heard today that if we do not leave before the 17th we stop the winter here. There is 25,000 Germans here and 7000 on their way here.

November 3rd Got an order to visit the Arsenal, in the native city, the British have it now. I got a gun, had a job to find the place.

November 4 Sunday Had to turn out of our comfortable quarters today and go over to the barracks. Fine large place, a German store, we took more away than we brought. A strange thing occurred in our tea last night, it turned green when we put sugar in it, we had a Chinese cook, he might have tried to poison us. The officer's had one, and they were all ill after a meal, the say way as were, they gave him the sack.

November 5 The weather today has been the worst we have had yet, blowing very hard and it was bitter cold, the wind seemed to go right through you and. as for dust you could not see for it, it covers your clothes and makes you look as though you had been in a dust bin. The sky is quite yellow with the dust up in the air, when we have a dust storm here, it is all right Had no breakfast. The way they are messing us about, the men are having some music and dancing now as I am writing, had a job to keep warm, I do not know how we fair in winter.

November 6 Put in a miserable night. I was up several times with dysentery. Today is Cup Day. Today is fine. Lost our bread, were short for breakfast, teaching a Chinese English, very eager to learn. News that the column will be in tomorrow. The Pom Pom Battery came in tonight and two of our men came over, there was no fighting as they would not stand. They caught some boxers that were implicated in the Green case, the Germans shot them. They had a good time plenty of food any amount of fowls and eggs. I weighed myself today 11.6.

November 7 The column came in today all dusty and some of them lousy. They had a very good time, no fighting the nearest they had was when the French who were a day ahead sent down for help, they had been hard pressed, but when they saw our fellows coming they cleared out. That was the nearest to a fight they were. They burnt several villages and that was about all they done, the junks came down today. They captured six junks and lot of Chinese, they came up as traders, with all the men armed down in the hold they made no resistance, there was a lot of ammunition, guns and all sorts of stuff so they took it all out on the bank. The ammunition they put in a

heap by itself and after taking what they wanted out they told the coolies to take what they wanted, they made a rush for it and some went for the ammunition, the Sentries over it could not keep them back they turned it over and the lot blew up killing 32 and coolies and burning a lot more. They had thick woollen coats on they ran into the river, some were that badly burnt and wounded, that they were shot by the Doctor's orders, there were arms and legs and heads all over the place.

November 8 Things are all up side down nothing to eat, the sooner we leave the better I will like it, we have 24 in our mess and the column coming in upset everything, we sold our stove for 20 dollars. To the officers mess, the men had a good night last night, had a cup of coffee and sponge cake in a Japs stall for 20 ct fitted up some more stoves for officers.

November 9 Went for a long walk and seen a large body of Germans drilling, they are a fine body of men, they have a peculiar way of lifting their feet, they had three bands. Seen the Australian coat of arms worked in silk and they looked very nice they are fitting the place up.

November 10 Weather blowing hard and very dusty, it is very cold, we had a sale of loot that the men got on the march, did not get anything we got paid today.

November 11 Sunday Ice 6" thick on a bucket of water this morning. Very cold, went out to the native city with a china man to see his young

lady, had a cup of tea, seen some women from Peking they are different to the ones here. There was on all the drains and they say that the river is starting to freeze, and mail came in today, none for me. Went to a Chinese concert very funny, large crowd drinking tea and eating.

November 12 Weather is very cold and there was a thin layer of ice on the water, the wind is very cold. I bought some cups for 3 dol. and box for my clothes for 4.50. We had a coat and gernsey served out to us today.

November 13 Fitting up more stoves. Fine weather but very sharp in the morning and nights. We had more clothing served out to us today and big sea boots.

November 14 The wind blew very hard today and great clouds of dust, the Capt told us that we are going to be attached to the R.E. as inspectors. Wrote home today. Some of N.S.W. contingent came down from Peking today. They are going home, they say it is very cold up there and the ice is forming on the river, and they had to break their way through it in the steam launch as they came down.. Sold my gun today.

November 15 Took the fire pumps and reel down to the river and tested them. The pump was all right but the hose was rotten and would have burst if we had forced it, we wet a Sike sentry who was watching us. The loot money was served out today we got 3 dol. J.C.P. 2.20 and seamen 1.20. Had a good bath in the afternoon and done a lot of washing. Watched a china man killing a duck he plucked it first and then cut its

head off. An order was passed that we are not to wash in the morning or night but in the dinner hour, which they have extended.

November 16 Bought two cigarettes holders for 1 dol. Hung my clothes out to dry in the morning and half an hour after I went up and felt them and they were frozen, they would stand up if put on the ground. Seen Mr Green the missionary, he wears a pigtail and was dressed in Chinese clothes. They are living in a house close to our barracks. We have just heard that 48 Russians forming an outpost 10 miles outside of Tien Sin have all been killed and some Germans on junks coming down the river were also killed by some Boxers.

November 17 Fitted up more stoves today. Things are quiet again. Heard that we are settled here for the winter. We will most likely stay here till the middle of March. A Russian was shot today for going out to a village and assaulting a Chinese woman and girl. There were three china men had their heads cut off for breaking into a house and looting it, the heads are hanging by their pigtails on the city walls. The stoves came in today for the barracks.

November 18 Sunday Usual routine, went and visited an old church and grave yard which is alongside of the church, there are some old graves stones there, one of them dated 1839, another erected to a doctor that attended Lie hug Chung. Several of the tombstones were broken where shells have struck them, also some holes in the roof of the church. The china men were digging graves when we were there, and they came on some old coffins with the bones of some body in them, that was all that was left.

November 19 Bought some Christmas cards today for sending home. There is a gathering of Scotsmen tonight and one of men is going to play the bagpipes. We had an E.R.A. off one of the gunboats to tea tonight. Went down to the J.M.C.A. in the afternoon and spent an hour reading. There was a column of Frenchmen came in from Pie Tank Foo today it was about a mile and half long.

November 20 Very cold today and dusty. Fixing up a blacksmith shop for our men to work in, bought a fur coat for 5 dol. there was an awful row on the lower floor before we turned in tonight.

November 21 Had to attend the court this morning over the row last night, the officer of the day wanted me as a witness. Started on the new job this morning inspected the building for horses and quarters for Indian troops and camp followers. There are over 300 horses to be stabled and it takes you all your time going from one building to another, it is all Chinese labour that is employed. Received word that the boy Gills died as the ship got over the bar at Taku, he was our mess boy on the Cerberus, he was going to Wei hai Wei.

November 22 Had more clothes served out to us today, and also a pair of snow boots. Very hot in the barracks last night, first time the stoves were lit, and it ran the temperature up to 90° and it was 31° outside, a big difference. Usual routine today went down to the buildings and had a look round seen some china men making lasts for boots. They only had a small axe and rasp it was marvellous the fine job they made of them.

November 23 Very cold in the mornings now will soon be able to skate if it continues. Finished one stable today and inspected a boiler for boiling the water in the winter when it freezes. Seen a Syke strike a china man, he said he stole the sheep he had, and the chow said he bought it, took them to the police station and we found

out that he had paid 1 dollar for it, and that the Syke made a practice of selling it to different ones and then getting it back.

November 24 Very windy cold and dusty today. There were races down at Sin ko and we had the offer to go down to the course by train free of charge. It was too dusty. We are very busy with the stables as they want to get the horse in, on account of the severe frosts coming on, we are working Saturday and Sundays at them, the ice is getting thick on the ponds. The band is very lively on the lower deck tonight, livens things up a bit.

November 25 Sunday Done more work this week than we have done all the trip up to now, they are frightened of a severe frost coming on and killing the horses. Measured for clothes today. Wrote two letters home tonight.

November 26 Very busy today rousing the china men round, got one block done, and we are going to put horses in tomorrow, had Major Jefferies round today and said that he was well satisfied with the work.

November 27 Put in a busy day at the stables. The horses did not come in today. I am afraid that the floors will not act, as they are only mud. Got a letter from home today Liz still in Colac, darning stocking the first that I have ever done.

November 28 Very cold today. Went down to the buildings in the morning and had the afternoon off. Went down to Japanese town in the afternoon, another French funeral this morning, they and the Germans are dying like sheep. Seen a lot of the Sykes drilling today, they work like one many the other nationalities are always watching them when drilling. The Americans went to Manila today, an American was knocked about by some Frenchmen, there were two dead Frenchmen picked up dead in the morning, where the American was knocked about.

November 29 It blew very hard today and was very cold, with plenty of dust. Usual routine, bought a box of cigarettes for 2 dollars, another German buried today.

November 30 It has been freezing all day we are about finished the stables and have started a Harness room, received a letter today. One of our men is going play the pipes at a scotch gathering, he has plagued the life out of the men practising at night. Got another letter from Liz today.

December 1st Usual routine had the afternoon off and went for a good walk as it was very cold, they have started all the troops here doing one hour's marching and doubling in the morning for exercise. Started to put the horses in the stables today. They all had a good long coat of hair on them.

December 2 Sunday, Went for exercise this morning, we marched about half a mile at the quick and then doubled back, it knocked the wind out of me having done nothing

for months. Pasted the lid of my box with cigarettes cards today. Wrote home to Liz today and mail came in today none for me.

December 3 We have finished the stables and there is only a few holes that want filling in. Tile contractor invited me down to dinner but I did not care about going. A pair of German horses with a big transport wagon behind it an Indian on horseback had a hard job to keep ahead of them. The cart was swerving from side to side making a clean sweep of the road but hurt nobody. The cart capsized in trying to turn a corner, the weather is freezing now nearly all the time any water thrown out on the ground freezes very quickly. Paid today, went down to the J.M.C.A. in the evening, they have shifted close to our barracks. The Germans caught some Boxers the other day and they took them out to the walls of the city and shot them.

December 4 We have started to build the harness sheds, fitted up a shoeing shop for the farriers. Today bought three J. stone rings for 20 cents, had an N.P. to tea, he was scotch. it is a funny thing but nearly all our visitors up are scotch we are having a game of football tomorrow and I am going to play.

December 5 Turned out very wet today, went down to the buildings in the morning, and had the afternoon off. We played football the ground was very slippery and there was great fun. Seen a blind beggar giving a song and dance he had a small squeaker in his nose and played a pair of clappers. There are a lot of them about now, with nothing on them except an old bag and it is bitter cold at night time now.

December 6 Snow fell all last night. and it was as a pretty a sight as I have seen, to see everything covered white with snow. We done no work in the morning but put our snow boots on and went out and made a snowman, and the falling snow soon made it twice the size, we had a good snowballing, it was great fun. Went for a good walk before dinner, went down to J.M.C.A. in the afternoon. The roads were very sloppy and the snow was begging to freeze and was very slippery, it turned out very cold it is down to 29° and blowing very hard. Received a letter from Liz tonight. Later the place looks very nice by moonlight it is down to 21° now and will be colder.

December 7 Freezing all day, the temperature went down to 6° above zero. The ice was thick on the ponds and some of the men had skating, others made a slide and two of them are in the hospital. The windows are very pretty with the frost, it remains on them all day, we have the stoves going day and night. Our china men did not work today, too cold for them. Spent the evening at a sergeants mess near to our barracks, had a good night they are coming over to our mess tomorrow night.

December 8 Weather still very cold, went for a walk in the morning and had my whiskers frozen. Had our photos taken today. A piano was put on the lower flat for the use of the contingent during winter.

December 9 Sunday We had a jolly night last night, did not go out today so as to give my foot a chance to heal where the snow boot skinned it. One of the men skating today and the ice gave with him and he got a good ducking. Fine weather again. Had a hair cut today and wrote home to Liz tonight.

December 10 Things are quiet again. Repaired a pair of skates today, had to dig the stone out of ice to grind them, had a slide on the ice today and got a good bump on the head, we had great fun sliding.

December 11 Fine weather again. Went to the harness sheds today. Done some more sliding ice beginning to thaw we have plenty of music now in evening. Sold our table today for 3 dollars (Pistol).

December 12 Erecting boiler in shed for boiling water during winter. Bought some plates cups and saucers and watch 2 dollars. lot 7.50. Sent a cablegram of congratulations to Port. Melbourne M.P. The river is frozen over, traffic stopped.

December 13 Usual routine. Got boiler in position, had a good wash first for a long time, washed some clothes. The Germans caught some more Boxers handed over to our people to deal with.

December 14 The General inspected the barracks today and he said he was very pleased with the way things were fitted up and the sailors made themselves at home anywhere. Putting the matting on the roof of the harness sheds today. Seen a small beggar child today with only an old pair of dungaree trousers on and shivering with cold and crying for food. I seen some men further away fighting over some food, and went over and took it from them and gave it to the child, it is a pitiful thing to see the children with hardly anything on crying for food, in such cold weather. Wrote home to Father tonight.

December 15 Fine weather this last few days, putting up a wash house for the coolies. Done some skating in the morning, had a few falls, done some washing in the afternoon. The Capt had all hands up about bringing drink into the barracks.

December 16 Sunday Fine weather, had some more skating this morning one of my skates came off and I was down before I knew where I was. Went to sleep in the afternoon, wrote home to Liz in the evening.

December 17 Seen a china man getting flogged today by a Syke for stealing. We have got orders not go into the French concession, there have been several rows between them and our men, spent the evening at the sergeants mess, had a good night.

December 18 Seen some chows with a mule on a barrow taking it out to the native city for eating. The ice is thawing and is no good trying to skate on it. Another German officer buried today, a Frenchman was arrested by one of our men he spat in his face when arrested. Went up the tower on Gordon Hall, and had a fine view, they are fitting the stage up for concert.

December 19 Went down to the washing shed and made them pull half of it down, they had put it wrong. Finished our karkee suite by Chinese tailor. I was told off to buy stuff for Xmas pudding seen a motor going down the street, very funny.

December 20 Had a game of association football today, do not think much of it, our men are going play the R.H.A. tomorrow. got an invitation to a social the J.M.C.A.

are having on Thursday night. An order for no china men to be in the concession after 8, they are liable to be shot.

December 21 Going down to work I seen a crowd of chows round a dying dog, so I went up a hit it on the head with a brick and killed it, a chow with a bag took it out to the native city for eating. Went for a skate. Watched our man play the R.H.A. association football they won.

December 22 Set up a pair of skates, went down to the river and the men at the bridges have a job to keep the floating ice clear. Went out to a graveyard and seen corpses in all shapes and stages lying about. The coffins being used by some of the troops for fire wood. The Post Master told us today that there are 81 bags of mails missing.

December 23 Sunday Fine weather, went down to the river round the city walls and had a good ride on a sledge. Went for a good walk and seen some good skating. Went down Jap town and had coffee and cake. Wrote home to Liz in the night. Told today that we leave in 80 or 70 days.

December 24 Busy getting ready for Christmas. Mixing up our duff. Three French funerals today one of them an officer and he a very large following. Received two papers and three letters one from Liz, Eric, Father. Mr Robinson shouted for our mess, drank his health.

December 25 Xmas day Fine weather went for a skate in the morning before dinner which we had at 12.30 and good dinner it was, roast beef, fowl and hare and pudding, and it was a beauty. Went over to see the Capt, to wish him the compliments of the season. then went round to the other messes, to see them. Our band went out playing last night, a native pipe band came over to the barracks in the afternoon and played some music, we had a present made to the mess of some fowls, fruit cakes and drink and our cook got some china men to pluck the fowls and when they brought them up they wanted to be paid, the cook shied them out of the mess, never laughed so much before, altogether we have had a very good Christmas. The men decked the messes out with flags and some of them had trees with candles on them and at night when lit looked very nice.

December_26 Boxing Day The Rev McDonald of Williamstown cabled the compliments of the season to the contingent and they gave him three cheers when they knew about it. The men had leave all day and they are enjoying themselves very well. Another mail today but none for me.

December 27 Started making fire escapes for all the barracks. Seen 10 boxers in one of them when measuring for the length, bust my trousers today and had a job to mend them. There was over 1000 British troops mobilised alongside of our barracks today, there are a lot of boxers between here and Peking and they are going out to try to meet them. They cut a lot of Frenchmen up, it was a fine site to see all the troops marching past our men gave them a cheer.

December 28 Some china men stole some of our wash house last night. Seen a bear that some chows had performing, very good. The Capt received a telegram in today,

from Admiral Seymore saying that we are to stop here the winter but to leave as soon as possible after, it was dated the 1 November. We have started 100 Chinese coolies cleaning up the refuse about the town also a lot more bringing machinery from the arsenal.

December 29 Fine weather, quite summer the last few days, things are dragging along slowly, we were paid today. Our mess is invited to spend the evening over at the warrant officers quarters tonight.

December 30 Sunday Went out for a walk in the morning. Bought a small jar for 10 cents. Went out to the native city in the afternoon with a Chinese gentleman, went to the theatre for an hour, then went to his private house and had tea, of about a dozen courses, we used chopsticks to eat with, seen a china man's head hung up on the city wall. Wrote home to Liz tonight, sent photos, our men played the Frenchmen today at football and made a draw of it and opium.

December 31 Put my name in the book to go up to Peking for a trip before going home. Very frosty this morning the first for a long time. Mail tonight, none, not feeling very well this last week or two with pain in my side. Changed my money in the market.

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January 1st New Years Day There was plenty of fun last night, everybody was merry at 12, the Band struck up Auld Lang Syne, then the bagpipes played a tune and all hands gave three cheers, we went out first fooling. There were a lot of shots fired while we were out and you could hear the ping of the bullet as it went overhead, someone let me down this morning in my hammock. Went out to the review of troops this morning. There was another chow beheaded today, a hotel keeper was killed today by being stabbed with a bayonet by a Frenchman. We put in a very good day and evening with some friends the S.M. of the R.H.A. whom we had invited to spend the day with us. The beggars are very plentiful about our place now. The sentry had a job to keep them away from the rubbish bins, all the officers had an invitation out dinner to the Astor House. We did not go, having visitors.

January 2nd Things wore a very seedy aspect this morning after last nights fun. It has been very dull and misty all day. The worst for a long time. Went to bed in the afternoon.

January 3rd Snowed very heavily all night and all day. It was blowing a little and that made it very cold in the wind. The snow was about a foot deep and on the roads making it hard to walk on, great snowballing among the men, no work today, pains are still very bad in my side. Bought two Joses today \$6. The column that went out last week returned today without meeting any Boxers, they suffered from the cold weather.

January 4th Plenty of snow about, they say it was the heaviest that has fallen here for some years. The china men went up to the British Town clerk in a body for more protection. Great snow fight today broke all the windows. One man cut his hand on a

chattie, one of the men whilst he was cleaning his pistol, put a bullet through his thumb, not hurt much.

January 5th Cold today with plenty of snow lying about. Big crowd of rickshaws down the street getting their monthly licences. Got a paper from Liz today but no letter, heard that it is posted up on the Phoenix that we leave here on the 25 February, hope it is true.

January 6th Sunday Everything was covered with a thick frost today, very cold in the wind, spent the afternoon down at Astor House, and had tea. Down Jap town the road was very slippery, the glass shows 12° above Zero, and it is very misty. Wrote home to Liz.

January 7th Still very cold, one of our P.O. has started today to look after a prison for putting the soldiers in, they have put a large bell in the gardens. Large crowd up again to see if they could get the market shifted back into Victoria Road where it was before.

January 8th Large party of Germans went away today. The Chinese beggars are very bad about our barrack gates now, the sentry has to keep them away from the rubbish bins with the bayonet. It is very hard to do it, they are staring with cold and hunger. Plenty of snow on the ground now.

January 9th Went to a French Lieutenant funeral, he belonged to one of the regiments here, he had a very large funeral of all nations were represented. Went out to the arsenal in the afternoon and got several rifles, shot some dogs.

January 10th Capt laid up with cold, busy all day cleaning rifles, the snow is beginning to thaw making the roads very sloppy. First party of our had the chance to go up to Peking, they had to take hammock blankets, mess gear, and cooking gear, so they would not go if they had to take all the gear, put off.

January 11th The mornings are very frosty now if you are out early, your beard and moustache gets frozen. The days are beginning to lengthen out.

January 12th Several of our men went to Peking today. Had to go out by the top window tonight by the fire escape to fix the pipe belonging to the stove, it was stuffed up. Got smothered in soot and water.

January 13 Sunday Went for a walk along the bun, the river is frozen over again at the bridge. Went out to the arsenal and got some more rifles got two letters today one from Dad and Roy and Leslie. Wrote home to Liz tonight.

January 14 Busy all day cleaning the rifles we got yesterday. Large body of French troops on parade near barracks.

January 15 Returned our snow boots that were issued to us, the days are very cold just now. This is the ten coldest day in China they say. Received two letters one from Liz and Father.

January 16 Some more Boxers beheaded today. Went for a good walk in the morning, very cold in the wind, there was a big explosion last night, some 3 miles away, it shook our barracks. Wrote to Leslie.

January 17 Had 10 packets of cigarettes served out to us, the Emperor of Japan made a present of them to all British troops here. A Frenchman was shot dead in the street last night near our barracks.

January 18 One of the Hong Kong pipers came over to our barracks today, and was playing on pipes belonging to one of our men, he was very good, another native done the sword dance. Got a letter and two cards from Liz.

January 19 Very cold and freezing hard the glass was down to 10° below Zero. Left some clothes on the line frozen stiff, one of the cooks had his trousers that he had taken off going to bed frozen stiff just as he had left them in the cookhouse. Went for a walk along the river it is frozen over again in places, busy repairing all boats.

January 20 Sunday Went for a long walk in the morning and in the afternoon went out to the arsenal, coming back it began to snow.

January 21 Plenty of snow on the ground this morning, very cold went out for a walk very heavy walking in the snow, went down in a hole full of snow up to my waist. Tried one of the guns today on some crows, all right. Wrote home to Liz today.

January 22 Snowing a little today. The two Sikes policemen that were arrested for sticking a village up, were flogged today.

January 23 Busy cleaning rifles. Played cards last night to see who went under the table, won, the weather was a bit warmer today. The snow on the ground beginning to thaw.

January 24 Received word today that the Queen was dead. Done some washing today. Received a Xmas card from Mr. & Mrs. Breaks. Went for a long walk and went through the market.

January 25 Served out with two pair of socks. Got five days leave to go up to Peking starting on Sunday. Usual routine nothing to do.

January 26 Very frosty in the mornings but fine through the day. Did not go to Peking today as the other men did not come down, go on Monday.

January 27 Sunday Went down to the North gate and seen a parade of German troops in honour of the Emperor's birthday there were about 2000 of them and they looked very well, large crowd there. Wrote home to Liz.

January 28 Went to Peking today left barracks at 9.30 to catch the train at 10 am, but it did not start till after 11am. It is only a single line, the other set of rails being torn up by boxers, the bridges are all broken down on the way up, the remains of fortifications used by Boxers were to be seen for about 3 miles along the line. We got to Peking

about 7.30 and then had to walk 5 miles to the barracks which we reached about 9.30 very tired and dusty.

January 29 Went down the markets, very large, the streets are very wide, seen large number of camels carrying coal, went out to Larma Temple and had a good look through some very large Joses, but all are broken up capsized on the floor. Seen the temple of tortue also some large trumpets about 12 ft long, went over to the Leigation and seen where all the fighting was, the houses all round are in ruins, seen two guns that were at Ladysmith also some of the carts the Empress used to ride in. Seen an old mine fenced off.

January 30 Went out to the Summer palace rode out on horse back, it is 14 miles from Prince Tuan's palace where I was stopping. It is on the top of a mountain and surrounded by a large wall, the place is all wreck and ruin. The Russians went through it, seen a large barge made out of marble. There are some fine carvings and Joses but they have all been knocked about, there are some nice marble bridges, also a fine large lake, frozen over now. Seen the throne, but it is all broken up.

January 31 Went out to Cold Hill today. They say it is all coal covered over with earth, on top are three Jose houses. Had a good view into the forbidden city from the top.

February 1st Left for Peking today. Called at 4.30 and breakfast, then walked to the station, we left about . . . It was very cold riding in the carriage and we did not have much room, there were all sorts in the carriage. We were detained for 1 hr. waiting for an engine to come up to replace one that had broken down. A German was put under arrest for firing his rifle off out the window. We got into the station about 7p.m. Letter from Father.

February 2 There was a parade of all British troops here today in the reserve, to hold a service in memory of the Queen. There was a large crowd of visitors of all nations, and minister conducted the service with songs and prayer and the native band played the dead march. There were 101 minute guns fired the last Post and native bugle band.

February 3 Sunday Went for a long walk in the morning, fine weather, but cold in wind. The days are getting longer now. Wrote to Liz.

February 4 Went down as far as the post with letters. Got paid today. A man and woman were buried here today, he was a Lieutenant in the Army and he shot his wife and then himself.

February 5 Went down to the J.M.C.A. and had a couple of hours reading. Fine weather.

February 6 Blew very hard all day with plenty of dust, wrote home to Father. Plenty of stamps on letter.

February 7 Fine weather again, went out for a walk in the morning. Had some C.P.O. off the Phoenix up to the mess today, watch stopped going tonight.

February 8 Seen a French officers funeral. Making new roads, busy repairing lighters. Roads very sloppy with the snow thawing.

February 9 Blowing very hard with plenty of dust, the large mail we have been expecting this last week arrived today, consisting of one letter not for me.

February 10 Sunday Very cold, with plenty of wind seen them cutting blocks of ice off the top of the river and then burying in the ground for use in the summer.

February 11 Very cold and windy, went out for an hours walk and then turned in and read all day. Wrote home to Liz. Received two letters and papers one from Liz and Father.

February 12 Still blowing hard, the sky is quite yellow with the dust, went for a walk and called into the J.M.C.A. for an hour and done some reading.

February 13 Blowing very hard, done some washing, one of the men was tried, by some of his mess mates for writing to the papers a lot of lies, he will be flogged.

February 14 Went for an hours walk still plenty of wind and dust, a party of men from the Phoenix came up to play the telegraph football today. They won.

February 15 Weather is a bit better today, not so much wind, the Germans brought in four china men.

February 16. Today was the first time that the glass was above freezing since Christmas. Heard today that the powers had declared war against China. Wrote home to Eric and forgot to date it. When I turned into my hammock last night I came down with a run, someone cut lashing.

February 17 Sunday Fine weather, went for a long walk in the morning. Wrote home to Liz.

February 18 Went down to the market today, the china man are very busy getting ready for their new year which is tomorrow, warm today.

February 19 Chinese new year today, they were all dressed up in their best clothes, the market was deserted, some of our men are going as porters on the railway. We had a scare tonight with the china men letting off crackers, some one sung out "on belts and arms" and we thought the Boxers were on us, false alarm.

February 20 Shifting stoves today, went out for a walk along the Bund, seen a Frenchman and officer getting drummed out of the Regiment today for stabbing another man. There were about 1000 men formed in a square and he was marched round it, he got penal servitude for life. They have all the buttons and strips off his cape, coat and trousers.

February 21 Making gear for pack mules. Mail came in tonight, none for me.

February 22 Fine weather, went out for a walk and called into the J.M.C.A. for an hour. Sold two rifles today for 15 dollars.

February 23 The river is beginning to open again. Went out to the native city to the thieves den and bought some pieces of fancy silk for six \$. They are pulling the city wall down.

February 24 Sunday Went for a walk along the city wall and seen the Germans stowing ice away.

February 25 Received a letter from Liz this morning. Wrote home to Liz tonight.

February 26 We were roused out last night about 2am, there was a large store afire, close to us, we were told today that our relief is coming up. The river is free of ice about here now.

February 27 Very cold today with plenty of wind, the glass went down below freezing, the party that came down from Peking tonight brought a truck load of Joses with them. The station master wanted to know if there were any more of our men going, as there would be no more Joses left in China, if they do.

February 28 There were two dead Americans brought in today from a city about 30 miles from here, they went out to buy live stock and the Boxers came down on them, caught them and tortured them by cutting off their nose, ears and drawing their finger nails. A party of Germans went out and killed 400 Boxers, burnt the place down, and shot all the people women and children they caught about the place.

March 1st Turned very cold again with plenty of wind and dust, returned some of our clothes today. We were paid today.

March 2nd Still very cold with plenty of wind. Went out to the thieves den today. The river is clear of ice now down to the bar, there are large pieces floating down the river.

March 3rd Sunday Went out for a walk in the morning and out to the thieves den in the afternoon and bought 3 rings for 3 dollars and chow chow sticks. Heard today we leave the middle of the month. Wrote home to Liz tonight.

March 4 Fine weather went for a stroll round the market, two of our men were court martialled today, they got sentenced before the ship's company, 60 days hard labour. Spent the evening down at the R.H.A. Sergeant's mess.

March 5 Fine weather but very close at night.

March 6 Went down Jap town and seen some photos. Received three letters and papers, one from Liz, in it they say an addition to the family one from Eric, Father. The men returning from Peking brought a large number of Jose with them, the lot worth some thousand dollars.

March 7 Went down to the market for stores for mess. Things are very quiet, the General inspected the R.H.A.

March 8 Very warm today, it was only a few weeks back we had snow. Great fun tonight with the chows and niggers throwing a sand bag. There was nearly a free fight amongst them before stopping. Went through a large wool pressing warehouse, some fine press in it.

March 9 Turned out very cold today, went down to the market and got some English money, went out native city and bought some rings, 6½.

March 10 Sunday Went for a walk along the Bund, they are fitting the lighters up to send away the invalids, the middle of this week, went out to the thieves den and bought a buckle and specks. Wrote home to Liz in the evening. Photo taken.

March 11 Very windy and dusty, done some washing.

March 12 We were inspected by Gen Gasslie today and his staff, he thanked us for the good work the men had done, and wished us good luck, and safe return to home, he said the barracks were very nice, and comfortable and clean, similar to lower on a ship, we had the offer of staying here another six months, with an increase of money and under the same conditions as we are now, some of the men have volunteered to stop on the railway.

March 13 Went down the market for stores for mess. Mail came in today, none for me, one of the men received word in today's mail that his wife has died, since being away, word we leave 28th.

March 14 The Germans were reburying, some of their comrades that fell and were buried during the fighting when coming up to Tientsin when they want to take the body up there were only the heads left, the chows had taken the body's up and taken the heads off them.

March 15 There was a bit of a row on over at the station today. The sappers and miners of the native troops are laying a line, into walk the Russians claim as their territory and attempted to stop them, but it did not come off. They were facing one another all the afternoon with fixed bayonets, these Russians in a trench, but the carried on work just the same, the Russians cleared out at sunset, we changed into khaki, with orders to be ready at a moments notice with guns ready for action.

March 16 Went over and seen where all the trouble about the line, there were about twenty of each party there, the Sykes with fixed bayonets, and the Russians with drawn swords encamped alongside of one another and each Russian sentry that was marching up and down the line, was accompanied by a Syke, large crowds of people over there. There is a conference held tonight about Garalee down at Shar Hie Oon.

March 17 Sunday Things are very lively today with the Frenchmen, their officers have lost control over their men, and they have been running mad about the street, one of them struck a Staff officer of ours in the street, a private seen him and knocked him down knocking his teeth out, they took him to jail and on the way he struck one of his own officers, tried to stop 5 Lancers but they cleared their way through them, the French hooted some of our officers coming through our concession also turned a lady and some natives out of their rickshaws. We were told to get under arms and be ready for a moments notice also the Hong Kong R.H.A.B.C. The Lancers, the Cavalry and some of our men are patrolling the street and some down at the J.M.C.A. and Base Hospital all hands to be ready to turn out at a moments notice.

March 18 There are French policemen at all the street corners in the British concession today to prevent any of their men coming in. They spat at our men going on guard at the hospital and J.M.C.A. last night things are a bit quieter today, mail today none for me wrote home to Liz, heard today leave 24th.

March 19 The worst dust storms I have seen we had today, it blew very hard could not see fifty yards away. The Frenchmen knocked another man out last night, a Hong Kong knocked two of down in a street, things are just the same down at the station.

March 20 We were under arms again today to be ready at a moments notice. The Sykes were withdrawn from the station last night and marines from Taku put in their place without the Russian knowing it till the morning as they were afraid of the Sykes firing on the Russians. The Russians brought up more men and our people brought down some of the N.S.W. from Peking, but things remained quiet, we are to remain 'firm' and hold the position at any cost.

March 21 Busy all day packing my box and gear, things are lively in the barracks now at our going away. There were a couple of hammocks cut down last night, a Russian General told one of our officers yesterday that he would like to have our blood, he told him to try it on tomorrow, but they have not done so up to now.

March 22 Sent all our gear down to the lighter today, everything is upside down with us now, had a tug of war between the R.H.A. and our men in the evening it was a good pull, but they beat us.

March 23 The date of our departure is altered to the Monday. The citizens here want our men to remain over Sunday to keep order in the streets, as they have done so well in the past, the W.F. came up today. 400.

March 24 Sunday Went for a walk along the burd, which I expect will be my last in Tientsin. The W.F. have relieved all our men and we leave here tomorrow at noon, taking two days to go down.

March 25 Turned out at 6am. and sent all our hammocks and bags down to lighter, marched down to the lighter at 11.45 headed by Hong Kong band, a large crowd of civilians to see us off. Major Lorne Campbell addressed us, and said he was very sorry to lose us, and we had been of the greatest service to him an example of good conduct and discipline to all troops here, and the civilians were very sorry to lose us, he wished us good luck and speedy return to our homes, we left the pier amidst cheers

and kept going down river till 8pm. Seen some dead chows, and dogs eating them on the bank, we slept down in the hold on top of the stores.

March 26 Started at daybreak and reached the ship at 8.30. Chingtu is the name and number 106. Busy all day stowing gear, we are in the after part of the ship and have a fairly large and comfortable cabin in mess and sleep in.

March 27 The other contingent did not come down today as there was not enough of water on the bar for the lighter, there are not as many men of war here now as when we came up. There are only about a dozen, but no British. The hospital ship Carthage left here today she has all the sick aboard taking them down to Hong Kong.

March 28 The N.S.W. came down today and lay off as it was too rough, it rained and blew very hard last night and today, they tried to come alongside in the evening but it was still too rough, they carried away some of our railing and had to shove off again, we sent off some provisions and they are to come alongside first thing in the morning if it is fine enough, some were sick.

March 29 The steamer with the N.S.W. came along side at daybreak and transhipped stores, which kept them going till 2.30 we weighed anchor at 2.40 for Hong Kong, fine weather and making about 10½ knots. The second engineer served his time in the same shop as me and lives in Footscray. Went down in the engine room and had a long yarn about old times, he knows several people that I know, he knows Mr Sinclair, he is down at Hong Kong.

March 30 Fine weather. but chilly in the evenings, land in sight all day, we passed Wie Hai Wie at midday, passed some steamers.

March 31 Sunday Turned out at 6am we had divisions at 10am and church after, no land in sight, we will pass Shanghai tonight about midnight. There was a fight between a monkey belonging to the N.S.W. and cat belonging to the ship, she scratched him a good bit.

April 1st Blowing a little today, several of the men were had today over April fools' day, seen some fishing junks, and several islands, also a lighthouse in the evening, we are doing 250 miles a day, we returned all our leather gear today for Hong Kong.

April 2nd Blew very hard and rained all the night and morning, but cleared up in the afternoon, it is getting warmer now, went down in the engine room for yarn to warm.

April 3 Fine again, they think that there is something the matter with the propeller, hope not, a German man of war passed us today, she was at Taku when we left, sighted some more land today, a lighthouse, two steamers passed us tonight, one going N. another South, went down into the engine room tonight.

April 4 Arrived at Hong Kong this morning about 9.30a.m. and started to unload our gear at once. there are not as many ships in here now as when we came up first, went ashore in the evening but had no money.

April 5 The Governor of Hong Kong addressed us today and thanked us and welcomed us to the first British colony we have visited on return home, wished us long life and speedy and safe return home. There were plenty of bum boats alongside today, and any amount of hawkers on the boat, we left at 4.45 for Thursday Island, one of the N.S.W. left behind, it blew a little since leaving.

April 6 It came on foggy today for a time and we had to ease down, it cleared up again. There has been a heavy roll on all day, plenty of flying fish about.

April 7 Sunday Fine weather, we had usual routine divisions and church in the morning no land in sight today.

April 8 Sighted the Philippines first thing this morning, and close alongside of the Island all day, the water was like a pond they looked very nice, seen a Jap mail steamer ashore on one of them, she left Sydney two day after we did, had a concert in the night.

Easter Monday.

April 9 Very warm today nice and cool on deck in the evening, no land in sight today.

April 10 Sighted more land at daybreak today very warm and close, plenty of lightning at night, it rained very heavy tonight, the first good shower of rain for over six months I have seen, it washed a lot of men out of their beds that were sleeping on deck.

April 11 Sighted the Celebies Islands today, we passed them about 1½ mill on the starboard bow, they are covered with trees to the waters edge, it has rained all day, one of the men got 42 days for striking a P.O. They have been kicking up a row because they have been put off the poop, and only P.O. allowed up there, singing and shouting.

April 12 Very warm today we crossed The Line last night, sighted land called the Manneela Isl. in the evening with a fire on the shore, seen the southern cross.

April 13 Warm and close, bought a watch for 4 dollars. Sighted an Island. at dusk called Bird's Isl. we passed very close to it, we had a little rain today.

April 14 Sunday Very warm and close last night, could not sleep, was on deck nearly all night, divisions and Church at 10am. Sighted a small island in the distance on the starboard bow, the band played on the poope in the evening.

April 15 Very warm and close turned cool in the evening, with a little wind.

April 16 Fine weather, passed the Boobey lightship at sunset and several pearl fishing boats and then the Grodley light, about 14 mil apart, we lay about 2 mil off and anchored for the night, there is a man sick aboard and they are afraid that it is going to be chicken pox.

April 17 Went into Thursday Isl. first thing this morning with the yellow flag flying. The health doctor came alongside but would not come aboard or let anyone else, we did not go up to the settlement, they brought fresh meat down in a boat, we remained till 12. it is a pretty little place, strong tide about 6 knots, there is the remains of a full rigged ship lying outside the harbour, sent a telegram home to Liz, some papers came aboard and in one of them there was the birth of twins with the same name as myself, it soon got about the ship, and I got a warm time with them congratulating me. I was not sure myself till I went down and read it myself, and see it was someone else. We came through Jardeans pass and it was a very pretty sight you could throw a stone on either side as we passed through. There is a homestead on one of the Isl. we have been close to land all day and kept going till 11.30 at night and anchored, we have had a nice breeze all day and cooler, we have the Queensland coast on one side and the Barrier on the other with small Isl. along it.

April 18 Got under way at daylight, we have had land in sight day, plenty of small Isl. we passed the Piermont light about 8p.m. also a steamer of the same company as this one going north. There was a strong wind and tide against all day, we done only 8 knots, anchored at 11p.m. Sick man is no better, worse luck.

April 19 Got under way at daylight, land in sight all day, strong wind was blowing all day, we passed the Channel Rock light about three. The land is very rugged and rough a lot of it covered with white sand, we passed Cooktown about 11p.m. had a look at the lights, there was another green light on the starboard bow. A steamer was anchored near the lighthouse, we steamed on tonight, the sick man is no better, things have come to a head with him.

April 20 Dirty weather with showers of rain, we passed very close to the land between some Islands, the land is very high and rough, a pearl lugger passed us going Nth., sighted a steamer, passed a Steamer, had to slow down about 8p.m. as it was showery and misty, cleared up.

April 21 Sunday Usual routine divisions and Church at 10a.m., passed a large steamer called the Mim, deep in the water going N. we dipped the flags to each other, we went through Wit Sunday pass. and very pretty sight it was, on one of the Isl. was a lighthouse they dipped their flag to us (sick man same).

April 22 Land on the starboard. bow all day, we are clear of all the Islands now.

April 23 Blew very hard rough sea and heavy ground swell, rolling a lot, passed Brisbane about 9p.m., seen the Lighthouse.

April 24 Passed the N. & S. Solitary Isl. today, there is a lighthouse on the S. Isl., they signalled to us to know we had a clean bill of health, we had to reply no. There is a very heavy sea running, and blowing very hard, it blew our awnings away today. The sick man is a little better today.

April 25 Blowing hard and heavy sea running, we passed Newcastle about 3p.m., lot of ships in the harbour, the place was covered in smoke from the mines, we entered Sydney Heads at 7p.m. and anchored in Watson's Bay. There were some papers and letters came aboard but none for me. The Police boats are going round the ship and will not allow any boats alongside, there have been several about us all ready, the N.S.W. are very lively tonight, our band has been playing on the poop. The doctor is come off at 6a.m. to clear us, and then we are going to march with the others when they land. Wrote home to Liz tonight, one of our N.S.W. mess mates had some provisions sent off to him, and we enjoyed the first good meal for a long time. Could not post my letter.

April 26 We had a very lively night, they thought it was their last night, the doctor came aboard at 6a.m. and put us into quarantine, you should have heard the moan that went up, we have got 14 days to do, we shifted our mooring from Watson's Bay over to the other side near the North Head. They have a fine quarantine ground and fine lot of buildings to hold about 2000. There is a fine building up on the hill belonging to Bishop Morang, also a college, the N.S.W. are to land as soon as the weather permits, it has rained in torrents all day, they were hoisting a boat in tonight and one of the hooks broke, throwing two men into the water.

April 27 We were inspected by the quarantine doctor for our vaccination marks, the sick man was taken ashore today, the place was fumigated where he slept. The doctor said that our men were a fine body men. The stoway we had from Hong Kong got ashore today without being seen. Got my letter posted today. Rained all day.

April 28 Sunday Some of the men were vaccinated today. The N.S.W. were inspected by the doctor today, it has rained very heavily all day. Some of the men's wives came near the ship in boats, and got wet. Done some fishing and caught two skates.

April 29 Showery all day, some more of the men were vaccinated today. They are waiting for fine weather to land, everybody is growling in the messes at one another, there will be a row soon if not separated.

April 30 Fine weather nearly all day, a heavy swell running, outside four of the Squadron went out today on their way to Melbourne, we used to lose sight of them as they went through the heads on account of the heavy sea that was running, there is another troopship with men from South Africa quarantined, another man was sent ashore today to the station he had a high temperature, we have taken a lot of fresh water aboard today. Wrote home to Liz today, all our letters have to be fumigated, the N.S.W. did not land.

May 1st The ship was fumigated today, all the hatches were closed down and everybody had to remain on deck from 11 am till 5 P.M. I went ashore on the quarantine station in the afternoon and had a splendid view of the harbour, went through some of the quarters they are clean and comfortable to look at, went up on the cliffs at the North Head and on the sand stone rocks that are there, are several designs of house flags and ships' names that have been there, some are painted in different colours nicely carved and look very well, the Chingtu has been there twice previous to this one, there is a cemetery on the ocean side of the hill, they are putting up more

buildings and billiard rooms, they have started to put the sewerage down, but the contractors have to knock off work when a case comes in. The sea was a fine sight as dashed up against the cliffs, the ship that was in quarantine with troops from S. Africa went up the bay and landed the men. The man we put ashore last has broke out in a rash, they do not know what it is yet, remainder of ships company all well.

May 2nd Wet again today. The lighter came down to load the N.S.W. gear, it took them all day and up till 9p.m. in the evening. The ship is going to coal tomorrow and we are to land in the quarantine till she has finished coaling, the N.S.W. landed tonight there, and are going up to Sydney tomorrow. I was vaccinated today and likely to remain after the ship goes to finish the time.

May 3rd The N.S.W. left the quarantine station this morning, we were inspected again today to see if the vaccination had taken and I was one of those that was told to remain behind, we all landed in the afternoon, the crew had to land as well, she is going to coal. Patchet was taken ashore today sick we gave the men a cheer as they left us standing on the wharf about 30 left behind, we have comfortable quarters a fine view of the harbour.

May 4 Had a nice comfortable sleep on a spring bed and between sheets the first for 10 months, had a good view of the comet, put in the day walking about the station, we have very good food plenty of poultry, we were inspected by the doctor to see if our vaccination had taken and if we were all right. Sent a telegram home to Liz in the morning, got a letter and some papers from Liz. The men go up to the boundary fence and get boxes of stuff from their wives and friends.

May 5 Sunday Stormy weather again it has rained nearly all day, inspected by the doctor in the morning, went for a walk along the beach in the afternoon, wrote home to Liz, time dragging very slowly along, bought 100 cigars for 2 dollars off a chow.

May 6th Fine weather again, we have to be inspected every morning by the Doctor to see if we are all right, there is another suspicious case amongst the chows, Patchet has the small pox, got orders to shift all our gear out of the ship into a lighter, she goes up to Garden Isl. to load coal and stores for Hong Kong.

May 7 The Chingtu went up the harbour to coal this morning, busy unloading gear from the lighter, several of the boxes have been broken and lots of gear lost, received a letter from Liz. I was told today that our 21 days detention counts from the 3rd if the vaccination does not take. I repaired a Gramophone for a N.S.W. officer and we had a good musical evening with it, one of our men burnt his arm with a cigar to make it look like the vaccination, the doctor has not noticed the difference yet, he said his arm is coming on fine the only one that has taken, another N.S.W. sick today.

May 8 Fine weather, the man that was taken sick yesterday has caught the small pox. Strained myself while coming up the hill from the pier, received a letter from Father today, twisted my side climbing hill.

May 9 Usual routine inspected by the doctor in the morning and then fill the remainder of the day the best way that you can, received a letter from Liz in the

morning and wrote one home in afternoon to Liz, another Marine has something the matter with him, he has been isolated from the rest, wrote home to Father tonight.

May 10 Very cold and windy today, took a walk over to the cemetery, there are a large number of graves there mostly of those who died during the plague time in Sydney, there are some Chinese grave stones there, wrote home to Liz also received one from Leslie and Liz. Another man taken sick, we are wondering who is going to be the next.

May 11 We were all inspected by the Health doctor, Dr. Thompson, today, he seemed to be satisfied by our looks, but did not say when we are likely to leave here, another two men taken to the hospital today with small pox, it was the third mate of the ship and china man. The Chingtu came back to the quarantine station this afternoon. Received a telegram from Liz in the morning and letter in the afternoon. I answered the telegram had a game of cricket.

May 12 Sunday The Capt. fell all hands in and asked them about some rum and crate of beer that belonged to the ship, it was stolen, the store rooms were broken open the night our gear was discharged a lot of gear was thrown overboard and some broken on the deck. I was vaccinated today with a pair of scissors, wrote home to Liz and Atkins in N.S.W. The fellows up at the fence Naval brigade, will retire and take cover, a N.B. advance in skirmishing order.

May 13th Fine weather, went down to the Storeroom and got some of my books and things out of my box, went for a long walk over the cliffs in the afternoon, got a paper from Liz this morning, wrote to Leslie in the afternoon, there was a man got into the station this evening, he had walked along the shore into the quarantine grounds when the tide was out, and when he went to go back the water had come in and stopped him so he came overland and they arrested him, he will have to do 23 days here, he is a German and cannot under English.

May 14 Fine weather, two of our men were arrested for being outside of the quarantine grounds, they went into Manley last night and when given the opportunity to get in without anything being said, they abused the policemen so they were run into jail, the penalty for being outside is a fine of £200 and six months in jail, wrote home to Liz, got two papers, got awful pains in my stomach tonight.

May 15 Fine weather, went for a long walk down to what is called the fairy bower, it is a very pretty little corner on the quarantine ground, the men go down there to see their wives over the fence, the doctor said that my vaccination would most probably take. The Chingtu left here for Hong Kong tonight about 7p.m., received a letter from Father, wishing many happy returns of my birthday, which is today. Another man was taken to the hospital today with the small pox.

These lines were on a stone:

Let weary travellers listen as we tell,
The awful treatment that to us befell,
On the mariforce many were our woes,
Tis a mercy we haven't turned up our toes.

They were out in by someone in here at quarantine.

May 16 Fine weather, same routine, nothing to do received a letter from Liz with a small birthday card in it, wrote home to Liz in afternoon.

May 17 Another ship the Darius came into quarantine today, but none of the crew have landed yet, three of our men went home today, one of them that had burnt his arm with a cigar, also Captain Keho. Received a letter from Liz and Leslie today also a paper.

May 18 Crew from the Darius landed today, we were paid last months money today, one of the N.S.W. officers has a Gramophone and he gave the children on the Island a musical afternoon, the enjoyed it very much. Capt Gilispie left today in the ship Sparrow which he has just been appointed to, the men went down to North Head and gave him three cheers as they went through the heads and made a signal wishing good luck, the men on the ship manned the yards, and they then signal to us hoping we would have quick release. One of the tunes that was played on the Gramophone was 'Home Sweet Home', and it was curious the affect it had on the men standing round you could note the expression on their faces.

May 19 Sunday Fine weather. The Capt Doctor and Paymaster left here today for Melbourne. The Capt said that he would do his best to get us an early release, when he got home, wrote home to Liz.

May 20 Very warm today, we have had splendid weather up to now since landing here. The Ophor and two men of war came into the harbour today from Melbourne. The Darius went up the harbour today. One of the patients called Smart died tonight he was a marine and was the third one ill, he will be buried at daybreak tomorrow, no one being allowed near him except those burying him four men.

May 21 The man that died yesterday was buried at 11p.m. last night, a strange thing there were two brothers, Smarts' and two Brodgers' away with us, a brother of both have died. Very windy today and rained a little in the afternoon, some more of the men have been revaccinated today. Wrote home to Liz in the afternoon.

May 22 Fine weather again, went for a walk down to the Fairy Bower, some more of the men were vaccinated today. I will not get done again as it will not take on me, received a letter and paper from Liz today.

May 23 Examined by the Doctor this morning and he told me that my arms had taken, and I could leave here on Saturday 25. I did not think that my arms had taken myself, we have been in quarantine 4 weeks today. Wrote home to Liz today which I hope will be the last on the quarantine station.

May 24 Had a yarn with Patchett today, he is getting along very well, we do not leave here till Sunday morning, packed up some of my gear, received a letter from Liz.

May 25 We leave tomorrow morning at 8a.m. for Melbourne, finished packing my gear today and got the clothes that I was wearing fumigated and am all ready to go now at a moments notice, another man taken sick today, there was a man taken from

Sydney here today with small pox, he had to be taken up to the hospital on a stretcher, his wife and nurse came with also eight contacts, so the sooner I am out of this the better. A large Russian man of war came into the harbour today. Received a letter from Liz today and in it she says that she dreamt that my vaccination had taken and I was only told on Thursday myself that it had taken, she wrote on the same day, so her dream came true.

Sunday May 26 Left Quarantine Station at 8a.m. for Sydney, we went up in the steam launch, there were five of us, we landed our boxes and got a cart to take them up to the railway station. The train did not leave till 7.15p.m., so I filled in the day going round the town looking at the decorations for the Duke visit. I went through the Botanical Gardens and the Art gallery. I then had tea and caught the train for Melbourne.

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Monday May 27 Very cold riding in the last night, we arrived at Albury about 7a.m. and I had breakfast there, there was a great change in weather in Victoria to what we had been having in Sydney, we arrived in Melbourne at 12.30 where Jim, Father and Mother were to meet me, it did not take me long to get home, finding every body well and a little stranger who was not there when I went away. I was very glad to get home again and taking the trip all through we have had a very good time and good outing.