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5th Divisional Field Hospital
near Lady Smith

14 May 1900

My dear Annie

I hope you got my last letter to you all right. Here I live in a tent as mother will have told you away out in the country. Not a country like Russia but a bare stony country with no big trees and hardly any little ones. There is no green grass for the lot has been burnt it all up and it is short and brown where ever we can see. The natives are all black and the little children wear no clothes and the big ones hardly any. It places where the natives live are called kraals and look like bee hives.

with low doors that one can't go into without going and one's hands and knees. The houses are built of mud and straw and have no windows or chimneys or fireplaces in them.



This is a kraal. How would you like to live in a house like this?

Both would tell you about the wagons we have. Sixteen oxen to drag each wagon. The oxen are very tame and when it begins to get night the natives call them and bring them to where the wagons stand and they all line up in a long line in their proper order and each is tied to the long chain that they drag the wagons by. Each has Los its name and knows where to go and when they are all in harness the native cries "Umbagi, were" which is Zulu for "go on" and

they go but always very slowly. All night the oxen are tied up but in the day time they wander about but never lose themselves or go far away. At night & in the morning the natives take them down to the river & drink. The river is so low now that there is hardly any water left and muddy pools in which frogs live. You can hear them croaking at night. In the rocks here live lots of pretty lizards and some nasty snakes. We have lots of scorpions too with rippers like this and they have stings in their tails. They live in holes in



the ground & one can get them and by putting a bit of straw into the hole the scorpion catches hold & one pull him out. There are big spiders called Tarantula's too who can fight the scorpions and kill them and there are lots of big centipedes. The other day I was riding along the veldt and

a little deer not much bigger than
Babe jumped up and ran away.
There are not many flowers here just
now because this is the winter time for
it is winter here when it is summer at
home but up on the hills are some
flowers and ferns but not such nice
ones as we have at home. On the
top of the hills the grass is long, so
long that it is higher than the top of my
helmet. The soldiers know the grass
so that they can see if any Boers
are there and at night it is like an
illumination. In the camp we have
a puppy dog a sort of spaniel
called "Lock", and a little black
and white kitten and a tame chicken.
We have a lot of hens for food for the
rich soldiers and they often come into
my tent & wake me in the morning.
Now good bye just now with lots of
love & kisses from

Your affectionate
Father

5th Divisional Field Hospital
Stanerton
Transvaal

14 August
1900

My dear Klannie

Thank you very much for your letter. Because I am big you write to me in big print, so because you are little I write to you in little print. I wonder if you will be able to read any of the words. I do not think I will be able to bring "Klannie" home with me because it is so far and horses do not like the tossing about on the sea. This is a very nice horse but its hair is getting very long and will have to be cut as soon as the nights are warmer but just now I have to bury my head in the blankets and under a waterproof sheet it is so cold. The horses have no stables here to keep themselves warm in. They are tied on to a rope fixed on the ground and have a collar round their necks like this:-



Behind where the horses stand all the oxen and their wagons are kept and the black men who look after the cattle sleep under the wagons. The mules are tied up beside the horses. I have put in one mule in the picture. We have just now seven horses, eight mules, eighty oxen, eighteen cows with some calves and a lot of hens. For the hens we have made a henhouse but I think it must be too cold for them to lay eggs. On Sunday I caught a lizard for you and a centipede and have put them in a bottle to bring home when the war is over which I hope will be soon now.

The same day I saw a serpent too but some of the natives killed it before I got to them, and they cut it in two. Mother would tell you about the storm we had on Saturday. Well I have now got a new tent but it is a much thinner one than the one I had to live in before and so much colder at night and warmer in the day. I have also made a drawing of the view of the camp from my tent door and will bring it home too when I come so that you will see what like a place this is.

The other day I saw some soldiers coming home after being out fighting and one of them had a live hen tied on to his saddle. Another had a dead hen which he had plucked the feathers off while he was riding home.

I have only seen one little girl here and she could only speak Dutch and could not understand what I said. The officer I was riding with that day bought some eggs from her Mother. Her Mother could not speak English either but her Father could. His name was Mr Young.

Today I got a soldier in to my tents in the Hospital. He is a Canadian and belongs to a regiment called Strathcona's Horse. The Boers had shot him in the arm and he had fallen off his horse and they caught him and made him a prisoner, and then after a lot of days our soldiers fought the Boers again and made them prisoners and set this Canadian free and he was sent in here for me to make his arm better.

When our men were changing the tents for the sick soldiers after the storm, they unfastened all the ropes first and then lifted the whole tent off without moving the sick and then put the new tent on over them again. It was funny to see the sick lying out on the grass in their beds without any house or tent over them.

The tents are fastened down with strings like this one in this picture. You can see the door at the side.



Now, my dear, this has been a long letter
because yours was a nice long one to me,
and I hope you will write to me soon again.
You will give the letter enclosed in this one
to Mother, it is for her, and you must
get her to read this one for you. Do you
think the printing is neat?
With love and kisses to you and please
give Mother one from me too
ever your loving Father

C. Andrew Gray



This is an
orderly
R.A.M.C.



Stretcher

H.M.T. Umbria

At sea
6.15.00

My dear Annie

I know you will be wondering when I am going to write to you, and you must get Mother to send this to you. How would you like to be here? We get oranges and bananas and dates to breakfast but no rice cream or milk & our porridge and no fresh butter either only salt butter with a lump of ice in it to keep it from melting. We get rice cream every day & luncheon twice it before & get hot weather.

Yesterday before we left we went three great big whales came into the bay. They rolled over and over and threw great spouts of water up into the air whenever they came up & broke. They come quite near this big ship and

some of the officers ran and got their revolvers and rifles and shot at them but if they hit them the whales did not care for they dived right under the ship and came up on the other side and after a little came back & then went away out of the bay. Today it has been blowing pretty hard and the ship has been rocking all day. But it has been nice and warm. I saw a stark today, what they call a Thrasher stark, jump out of the water and drop in again with such a flop. There are birds too called stormy petrels or Mother Carey's chickens that fly along close to the surface of the water you would almost think they were going to be drowned but the water never touches them. They are like swallows but bigger and

with longer wings. We have seen such a lot of flying fish today too, hundreds of them. They jump out of the water & spread their wings & fly along about the length of the dining room & then flop into the water with a splash. They are about the size of herrings and all blue & silver in the sun light look very pretty. Last night one of them flew into the bedroom window of one of the officers bedrooms. The windows are called port holes in a ship & are round and just about big enough that you put your head out of. Sometimes when it is stormy the water splashes in the room through the window & then it has to be shut with thick glass which is screwed on tight so that the water can't get in.

I think that is all the news I have to
tell you just now but I will write
again when I get to the Cape.
With lots of love and kisses from
your loving Father

David Smith

1 Transport "Umbria" I

Greenstone
posted at 26.11.00

My darling Dove

Just as I finished your letter the captain was warning all passengers to go astore so I was just in time to get your letter off. As we were lying the wrong way & got out a tug had spell the storm off & let us loose. The men crowded the ripples on the side as usual and when we were about 100 yards off the grey one of the Glasters fell overboard. He tumbled round and round as he fell for the light was about the height of a house. There was a great commotion but when he came to the surface it was seen to was a good

swimmer & he struck out for the shore. After a little he stopped & it looked as if he were exhausted and one of the foremen from the ship arrived in after him and at the same time a bluejacket from the shore jumped in to help him. The bluejacket could not make much way but a life buoy was thrown and the foreman put it over his head & pushed it to the soldier & left him hanging on. Meantime the poor bluejacket was nearly drowned and I think waves have been and the foreman reached him in time too. They were all lowered on the tug & the soldier & foreman got on board again. The men who come today were all sober and looked in good condition

At the wharf the "Absent minded Beggar" friend of the day's mail had coffee & rolls ready & I think gave each man some Illustrated London News & things & take off with him. We got off with great cheers and the band on H.M.S. "Horse" played "Annie Lang Syne"; "Rule Britannia"; "Way down yon river but not good bye" & so on. All the sailors turned out & crowded the decks, the fighting tops, the yards, the funnels & even one stood on the top of the mast and they did cheer us as we got under weigh. Then suddenly came a roar of thunder and we were out of the harbour. It has been a lovely warm day with a roll on & a fresh breeze

but much dry astonishment
there has been no sign of seasickness
with me. Most of the day we have
sat in our chairs and basked
in the sun.

There is an awfully nice looking
chap, ^{John} Mulvaney of the 10th Hussars
going out. He was wounded &
sent home & is still very
lame. Excuse the bad writing as
the ship is rocking a bit and there
is a constant tremor from the
stroke of the screw.

27. 11. 00

We have had another lovely day.
All day there has been the same stiff
breeze following us and the same
long roll and though there have
been some except 5 or 6 miles
there has not been one. I have
been very fit all along. I am
in uniform now and don't think

I'll get much use of my other clothes
for some time. At ten each
morning the men parade on
our deck. On the port side are
the Gloucester, Warwick Light Infantry
and Leicesters on the starboard
side are the Royal Irish Rifles,
Artillery etc. As the ship rolls
it is very funny how all the
men from bow to stern &
forewards & balance themselves.
I called on the ships Doctor last
night and sat for a bit with
him. He seems a decent sort of
chap but older than I. He used
to practice in Ficodilly but the
fog gave him bronchitis and he
has been hot & since he has
been at sea. Today I went
along with the Chief Engineer

McHardy who is a & under man. He tells me he has ten engineers under him on the ship. He takes in the Peoples Journal & knows all about me. They feed us very well on board here giving us a dinner for every meal about the size of a half plate photograph. We buy our bread in quantity by the bottle which is reserved for the crew we eat down at each meal. It looks a fair hospitable table when it is all laid out. All today we have seen nothing but the sea with the exception of two sailing ships which passed far away. We are going nearly 19 knots an hour and expect to be at HK about on Friday afternoon. If there are any special stamps you should

keep them for HKarie. I have down in an envelop in a stand on my table. When she is old enough I understand there it will be a start for her collection.

\$8.11.00

Today has been cloudier and therefore colder. Not a bow the sun of the news. They have got down their regular routine now. There is the constant throb of the screw, the roll of the ship & the four hundred and twenty odd miles further south every day. Nothing to be seen but blue water very pretty and very blue. All the deck games are going full swing, check quiet, cricket & a sort of curling. The awnings are up in anticipation of hot weather and we all read & sleep & smoke and eat

daily as much as we can. The
porridge in the morning does not
taste so good because we just
sterilized milk but every thing
else is fine. The chief amusement
this morning was to watch the men
doing physical drill while the
ship is rolling. In one of the exercises
the men had to balance on their tip
toes or sit with prostrate^d down to
a sitting position. Some of them
fell forward & some back and
all had to stick their hands on
the deck to keep themselves from
rolling over. From the drill
I suppose too & laugh. Many
of the men slept on deck last
night and I don't wonder because
the troop decks are very crowded
and must be pretty close and
hot. There is a little engine

forward on the starboard side
— I don't know what it's for —
but it goes all day and all
of the Lombardy Antelopes
discovered today that it's just
peppy boat plays the "Cock of the
North." It was very funny &
see this man's delight & the way
he called the other man's attention
& it and to hear him sing the
"Cock of the North" in time with
this engine.

11-11.00

Today has been better than ever.
Warmer & sunnier and hardly any
roll at all. When I got on deck
this morning the first thing I noted
away on the left was land. This
turned out to be Madeira rising
like a hill just on the horizon
its top hidden in clouds. All

formous there was drill going on
and just after ten hours the fire
bell rang. Every body had been
previously instructed in what they
were to do in case of fire so when they
were to go. Immediately the bell was
rung the bugles went "Prepare
for Cavalry" others all was bust.
The men poured up from below
sprang up from where they were
sleeping and ready for their
stables. Within ten minute the
goods were all in order & then
the bugle went "the dismiss".
Today fully 50 of the officers
were injected for Typhoid. Tell
Stalker that will interest him.
They all had to go & had all being
more or less sickly some of them
pretty bad. We take 600 doses
on board for the men.
Another announcement we have are

board is a daily sweepstakes
on the run. As a rule the
winning number gets about
£15. -- Yesterday we ran
456 miles. At 10 days before 11th.
Whether tomorrow or Saturday
will we Cap Verde I don't
know. Every body is looking
forward for news.

When telling you about our mess
I forgot to tell you we have
been getting first rate cream
cheese. It reminded me of
Orgat & Mr. White. Do you
remember the one she got from
England for me?

30. III. '00

We are to be at Cap Verde
tomorrow and a notice - up to
post letters which will be
sent off by a mail boat ship

or trooper because there is no
regular mail to this out of the
way place. This morning we overtook
the trooper "American" which left
Lemonton Sept 20 before us, so
we have been traveling along well.
We saw more life today in
the shape of lots of pearly nautilus
floating on the sea, some
flying fish and some Northern
Cory's Chickens. All day has
been cloudy & the ship seems
the croaking & rattling rather
more than she has yet done.
In the afternoon I went off
to see the new shanties. They were
arranged in a row of seven at
a time & then an empty park
barrel was thrown overboard

and the men blazed at it either
independently or in twos. The
barrel got a good peppering
before it drifted out of sight.
A 1/2 subscription has been put
up for the German who jumped
overboard at Functown and as
there are over 120 officers on
board he should get not a bad
present. It has been rather
today though not much so hot
as it would have been had
it been less cloudy & the wind
been less in the North.

Arrived at ^{31-III-00} St Vincent - about
6 o'clock this evening & they
are due ported now. We
have had a grey day, lot o

cloudy with a beam sea & a good roll. At breakfast this morning we had for the first time to catch the things as they slid across the table. All ports are shut to keep out the sea and as luncheon we had had the fiddles on. We expect the wind by dinner however. It's very easy drift as one arms a paper slide across the blotting paper as the ship rolls. No seasickness however as all. To day the men have by orders to dress and in Khaki and to go about barefooted. At drill the third of the bare feet combed with funny but the men seemed to

enjoy it. I may get my first spool of photos sent off. As far as I know they are

1. Coming into Queenstown Harbour
2. do
3. Men coming on board
4. H.M.S. "Hornet"
5. Queenstown, going out
6. do do
7. Men resting on the forecastle in two courses.

The rest will be about St. Vincent. I think I have mixed up or two but you will see where they are developed. Let them put in order in a book & write the names in pencil & I'll correct them when I get home. We hope to leave ~~the~~ St. Vincent on Sunday & we may get to Cape Town ten days

later. I'll write again from
there.

Ever your loving

Dave

Please read & give to
Grandma and Grandpa
Great Gravm & Great Gpa
& their letters to me -
I have written to them
about the new day

and the world is new to me
and we have met quite
a lot where we have not been
so bad with it. I explained
it to a good & a very
kind old man who
had just come back from
the west and I asked
him what he had seen
and he said he had seen
nothing but mud & water

H. M. T. "Umbria"

Posted at

Cape Town

II

III

6. IV. 00

My dearest Dave,

I was very lucky & got
your letter sent off yesterday before we
left H. Vincent. The cooling went on
all night and all day & I do dreading
but watch them. All shore leave was
stopped but it was 6.30 before we
weighed anchor. Before that however
an Italian man from Cane in
the van over ran from "Cambria"
ran out his guns and laid the
Italian flag and fire a salvo of
14 guns. The Italian then hoisted the
Portuguese flag opened a 21 gun salute
other the British flag opened 14
The Portuguese fort on the hill then
replied with her neighbours
so we had quite a fusillade.

Almost as we started night came on
it comes on very quickly after the sun
goes down & it was dark before our
steam began to throb. We had to pass
close past the Italian. Our cruiser
the Cambria - lit up & fired several
rockets and the Italian gave us round
after round of cheers & had their band
up and played God save the Queen,
~~and then the church bells rung out~~
but now cheered like they & we
met down & down as we put out
of the bay. At night we slowed down
to have two men & went on again.
We have \$400 on board & she
cooped up in that frosty bay for
5 days was no joke.

We had a rocky night & this morning
it was blowing fresh and we had
a good roll on & several of the
officers were lying about sick but
not I. As dinner we had the fish, had a good crossing though the water
was not quite smooth. We
saw thousands of flying fish

suddenly.

10. IV. 50

Tally from last and partly from
incident this against Typhoid I have
not managed to get anything written
since the 8th. But really these little
days, day after day bring practically
the same. Before we crossed the
line our watches were always fast
& had the put back about 20
minutes a day but now they
are always slow & requiring to be
put forward. The sun and always
be in front of us but now is
behind since we crossed the
line on Sunday about 11 P.M.
right up till then we had wind
right behind us but since then
it has been dead ahead. We
had a good crossing though the water
was not quite smooth. We
saw thousands of flying fish

and one day passed through a school
of porpoises about 100 of them, all
jumping clear out of the water
& evidently enjoying themselves
highly. The weather has never been
anything like as hot as in India
but for the past 4 or 5 days —
I have slept on deck. It is
very pleasant but has the
~~disadvantage~~ of being disturbed
about 5 a.m. Then a ~~man~~
on ~~the~~ ^{my} own can full back and
in writing other is the people.
Our Commanding Officer is Colonel
Vatthayn of the Austrian Artillery
Militia. He is a man looking soldierly
old man with grey hair. He is said
to have been in the old Royal
Artillery of the N.L.I.C. I don't
think he manages the troops very
well but he can save his

no experience of the sort before. His
assistant is Radcliffe of the 72nd
(I think I put "My cliff" as his name in
a previous letter) He is a nice looking
chap, tall & always cheery & smiling
& never abh & he still a minute.
He always carries a short cane and
has his trousers turned up so that the
straps hang down & the buckle
rattles on the deck. He second
in command is Lt Col. Sit-
man of the Bangalore Artillery Battalion.
He is a lawyer who at least is
not a son of a soldier & has
chap who wears an eyeglass and
has his feet service cap always for
too far pulled down over his head
There is a funny story of him. He
got the skipper who is a big bluff
man beat him on the Charo
an dog. The skipper has no

idea of the self importance of a Lt Colonel & as he joins him the Chart he added "and it is the only one aboard to take care of it, for if any thing comes over that Chart there will be a vacancy in the Donegal Artillery." The Edinburgh Artillery runs the under Major Lee, among his fellows. Lie John Willoughby I have told you of already. He is bedecked like Fred Sharpes in manner & everything but not so tall. All day he wears blue cloths & a high Cossack hat. He rather looks much smarter than some of the youngsters aboard. Captain Farquharson of the 42nd I have also already mentioned. He is a very nice chap, always over side & over side & we have lots of shooting

discussions. He has been in India with his regiment & has travelled a good deal. The name of the man who was in Trinidad is Long - I forgot if I mentioned that before. He is just now in the 4th Somerset L.I. He and a man Rae - a captain in the Army Pay Department travelled down with General in the same carriage from London to Santarem plan. We all sit together at dinner. There is a Train from Abordene going out to Tapet's House. He had an accident before he left and is rather lame. No H. Field Hospital which we have mostly on board here is under Major Carr. He is a nice chap.

I think. Is very British. Thin, quiet
& reserved with a big mustache
& eyes that seldom look actively
about or straight at one. He
seems to have ~~to~~ a good portmanteau
master in Haughton who like
all portmanteau masters is oblivious
from the ranks. The adjutant
of the hospital is Capt. Wankill
a very nice gentle chap who has
had a good deal of fun trying
to come on board, the reviewer
of being here at Fasoda.
With two exceptions the rest of the
officers of this Hospital are made
up of civilians. Amongst the
civilians going out is a little chap
called Farr who was Law
Surveyor at Lohatsherry when
the war broke out & was
sent down in a cool truck
& Cape Town. He says he

want to go back to get his clothes
or effects which he has in one of
the hospital cells before he
comes away.

11. IV. 00

We have had another very successful
day's run 593 miles, the weather
continuing very good and coolish, so
that I returned my bunk again
& left the deck. As I was not
disturbed at 5 am. I may sleep
in.

The men seem to be enjoying
themselves very well. They are fed
by the Company and that is better
than Government feeding so I
fancy the longer this voyage lasts
the better they will be pleased.
all day they lie about on deck
when off duty and smoke, play
cards and some other games which

I cannot follow. It is evidently a mis-jumble. Wright they have sandwiches sold & they who care to buy & evidently during the day they have cooling drinks because as I write I can hear some one carrying at the rear crying "Whole Box a cooler? Ought y^e in this time gentleman! Who says a cooler?"

There is a very nice fellow called Harper, an Irish doctor, who with two others are going out to join Carrington's Rhodesian Horse. He has previously been out in the Cape Mounted Rifles.

There are two brothers who are exceptionally nice men, their names are Sidney & Edward Chiv. The former is a Subaltern in the

Brundish Guards & the other is in the Dragoons.

Sibson, Wyndham & Stevenson represent the Highland Light Infantry. The first is such a nice guy but not very strong I should think. Stevenson who comes from Lanark has won about £35 in the daily sweepstakes. He has more luck than any one else.

12. IV. 00

I was speaking to the elder Chiv yesterday and he was telling me that he had a relative in Dundee. It turned out to be the Rector Superior! Wasn't that funny. The Vicarant Valenta is his uncle. We are still having lovely weather. The wind being dead ahead we met the

well & pitch a bit which some
of the fellows don't like. This
afternoon they had revolver practice.
The shooters were drawn up along
the starboard side and bottles
were thrown well out; from
the folksale hood and were fired
at as they drifted past. It
made difficult shooting. I only
saw three bottles broken out of
about three dozen. As a rule however
the shooting was good.

We are now 2853 miles from St. Vincent
& stop off in Cape Town on Sunday
night. If I get the chance I will try
to ^{to} London do so at once without
telling you of our arrival. We
are interested & know whether we
will go on in this vessel to

Natal or whether we will tranship at Cape Town. The general idea seems to be that we will tranship as this large vessel has still a long way out from Durban. We must had a concert last night on our deck. The crowd and the swirl of the water kept me from hearing anything. The orchestra consisted of ~~two~~^{two} tambourines, a fiddle, a banjo, a flute, a concertina and two bones. A Tommy's long dog is new to many and we could not get near the performers.

14-IV-00

Yesterday we again had a long day. In the morning the water was like glass though of course there is the constant swell. We saw over one hundred porpoises, some whales and a large turtle evidently asleep in the water. The ship woke him up and he dived a paddled away right.

Captain Cotton says we were at
least 400 miles from the nearest land
so he must have had a long swim.
Nearly all forenoon I hung about
and enjoyed the sun and watched
for beasts. Today has been another
good day but more swell and
therefore more pitching. We did
39 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles yesterday and 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ the day
before. We had hot cross buns
at breakfast yesterday being good
Friday. Every body is beginning to
prepare for disembarkation and
all is talk as to what is to be done
and what the news will be at Cape
Town. It is three weeks today since
we left Southampton and we
are all disappointed the way age has
been so long, 23 days instead of 17.

15: 14.00

This is I think the only bad day we have

had, cold grey & cloudy with a damp
air and occasional drizzling rain. It
is like home but not so cold.
Last night some of the ~~non-commissioned~~
officers over gave a ~~non-commissioned~~
It was just in our music room and very
amusing it was too. It was a regular
Tommy's entertainment - with all the
usual jokes about the Captain and
things that only soldiers think of. The
music was from two banjos, two
tambourines, and a fiddle and to keep
them up to the pitch the elder Clive
played the piano. It was all very
funny especially the time till 10.30 -
but how few men venture yesterday
& today than all the rest of the day ago
put together and as a sure sign
that we are near land there
have been many birds, and

an albatross or two. Every body
is getting ready for Cape Town
and in collecting their valises
and bits the spouses outside the
different bedrooms are pretty
well filled up. Whether we go
on in this boat or not may
have us at Cape Town but
in any case we will probably
have a day or two there. I am
going to close this letter now as
soon there may be a hurry and
will try to get another written
before I leave Cape Town.

ever your loving

Dave

H. M. T. "Auraria"

IV

Cape Town

16. IV. 00

My dearest Anne,

Soon after I finished my letter to you yesterday we ran into a thick fog and had to slow down very much almost stopped indeed for a long time and had the fog which blown for hours every minute. It is a ~~fast~~^{fast} by windless and very uncomfortable & have this hideous noise interrupt conversation and every thing once a minute. It was of course cold too and damp. About 9 o'clock however it cleared a bit and away off in front we could see the hills of Table Bay. As we came nearer we passed into

² were so many fog banks back & bank hid every thing & the which was started again. Then after a little we got through this bank & saw the hills more distinct than ever & then in to more fog and so on. Soon after midnight we dropped anchor in 22 fathoms of water & rolled on the swell all night. The morning everything was soaking wet and we lay in a dense fog still. About 11 o'clock it began to lift & we saw the "Amure-ka" lying just close by us - she had come in during the night. Later on Robin Lal and with his light lamp began to shore on our left and later on the hills on our right and then we weighed anchor & moved slowly in.

³ As we got in the shore cleared and we could see the houses and long lines of tents and the stockade where the Boer prisoners were kept. These lines are low down and close to the shore. In the bay we again cast anchor. It is very full of vessels of all sorts with HMS "Paris" representing the navy. We never saw Cape Town well nor did the mist clear off Table Mountain and late in the afternoon it came down again pretty thick. The quarantine officer came off and about luncheon time a small little launch the "Algoa" with some of the staff on board. They stayed & luncheon & gave us the news which was not much. What was more important they told

us that the harbour was so full that
we would not get in today. So
here we lie until tomorrow anyway.
We have had a long voyage &
this will add another day at least.

17. 14.00

After waiting last night the fog all
cleared away and when the full
moon rose Table Mountain was
quite clear of mist and the bay
was beautiful. The moon showed
all the dark hulls of the ships and their
lights flattered every where, which ended
in a crescent at the foot of the black
hills stretches the lights of Cape Town
electric & gas. It was most lovely.
This morning was the begining of a most
lovely day, clear blue sky with a glorious
sun and with the swell & kept us
justly rocking. I got a photo of
the lions head & observatory hill and
another of Table Mountain. We hoped
& got in to the harbour but were

no such luck and we watched the ⁵
"Bavarian" go in & take the "America"
with her 800 horses & some other
troops but we got no orders. It
was amazing. About noon a
major on the staff came on
board looking very smart in his
shako with scarlet facings & his white
cap with a scarlet band. He had a list
of orders & we got definite orders where
we were to go - about the same
as I told you already. Murchison slipped off
by our General French. He was the first
to go. Then the elder Clive (Sidney), Tryse,
Wisker & another got away. They are all
what they call Special Service officers
and I believe they are to organize
some mounted infantry. Many of
them go ashore here for duty
but the Highlanders soon start

London or var Liggett - I forgot which. The Edinburgh & Durham Artillery, the Royal Brigade & others go on to Durban with me. In the meantime we are all stuck because the 6th division that is General Hart's brigade are coming from Natal for here & go on to Vryheid or somewhere and that is passing so we have waited there to make matters more difficult there has been a block on the railway & the men are blocked here. Some of the medicals are aboard one for Wynberg, Rondebosch, Haanpoort, & Woodstock in Cape Colony & they disembark when we get ashore. but one two go to East London.

Till Klipriv we have a battery of "Tom-poms" on board but they too go off here. Lost four ponies in horses.

7
with six horses. But the horses are not with us.

Some of our fellows who were ashore yesterday went to see the Warwick Regt who are guarding the Boer prisoners here. They saw the prisoners. I asked Gibbons what he thought of them. He said a pretty little chap. He said "They are just big fellows. I wouldn't like to knock up against one unless I had something in my hand."

The officer who went ashore yesterday jumbled a good deal at what they had to pay & got off. Far as £5 for a straw launch, 50/- for a row boat & the distance only a mile! Therefore I know nothing about him ashore. I think there is plenty of time for when we get in we have much to put ashore, another 500 or so men

8

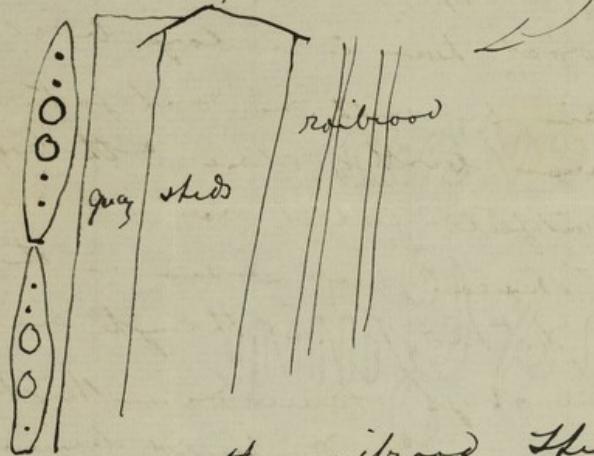
Toke on board and I evolp.
So if we get away this week we
will be very lucky.

19. IV. '00

I was really astounded & sick
yesterday because all day we
stood still in the bay. A long day
but very tame. This morning
broke fine & warm. We were in
hopes of getting in, because yesterday
evening we saw the "American,"
"Gymnie" another trooper and the
most stout all come out.
However tomorrow had it that
as two troopers had come in
during the night both with
lances which are more precious
than men we were going to
pass another day doing nothing
and our spirits fell accordingly.

29
To our delight however about 9
o'clock the pilot stepped on board
and the bustle at once showed
that at last we were to move and
presently anchor was weighed and we
shoved right round the bay with
all the skipping out the dock.
The dock here is a large tidal
basin but with no dock gates
we were berthed close to the trooper
"Witfield" which ran down
the "Mexican" and at sea on the
15th we had passed through miles
of wreckage & knew damn well had
happened. The Witfield bows
are doubled in & the plates split
twisted. The Mexican was sunk, I
suppose you saw it in the paper.
Well we shoved along the quay
in front of her & soon after

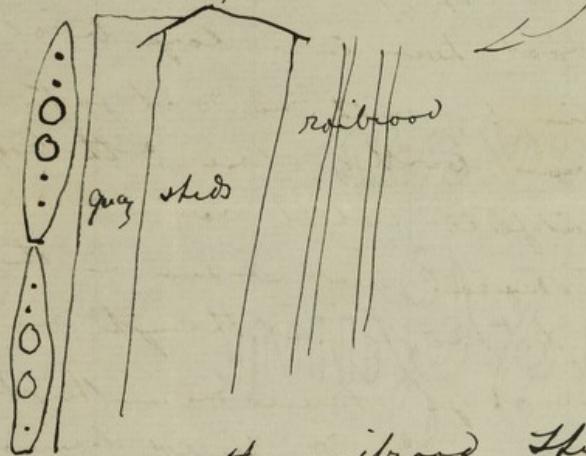
¹⁰
we were tied up the "Glengyle" came in & tied up behind us. The "Moderne Horn" on board.
What a sight the quay is. Imagine a quay as long as T'g street with enormous corrugated iron sheds all up the side like this,



between us & the railroad. Then sheds and acres & acres of ground besides are piled with stores. Millions of tons of compressed forge. Tons & tons of provender

¹¹
vegetables, beef, sardines, jam, barley, oats flour &c &c &c
Thousands of blankets arranged in lots of 20 or so. Hundreds of bedsteads. Gunpowder wagons, Ambulance wagons, water carts. Huge boxes of horse bit and so on. I do nothing all day but wander about looking at this wonderful sight. I have seen it before but never like this. Within half an hour of our tying up the military had commenced. The medical officer who came on board was Major Tatton who was at Nelly with me. He knew me again though I did not recognize him & he asked me to undertake the arrangements for

¹⁰
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12

the mudejals on board. Every night
I had to go ashore at once and
off to Major Loscellas the coman-
dant office & find out what
we were to do & I learned the
Auraria was to go on with us.
Of course many more have
descended & gone off &
we have left a small number
now. The whole place is alive
with men all in khaki and
service kit. Every soldier as he
leaves takes 100 rounds of
ammunition & things are very
strict. We had as much too
me from the highest authority
there are 4000 of them in camp
at Maitland waiting to go
on. The poor pangs go &

13 Stillumbosch where some 40 of
them are collected. The disem-
barkeig often makes off on
the quay the spaces where the
different baggage is to be put
and it is all sorted out &
piled up ready for the returning
collection. The men do most
of the work but there are a
few many Kaffirs working
too, black men with wood
noses & curly wooly hair and
shining white teeth. The men
threw half power others and they
jumped about & roared over
each other & get the cows in
great excitement till down on
it authorisg come up and

¹⁴ booted them off the quay. Two men put on muskets & began to kill the troops proper. As soon as one of the officers saw them he ran at them with his cane and the men fled. The soldiers then seized their baskets and threw the properes & their comrades on board & what a scramble it was!

It is all very well to see the men going about with loaded rifles, the officers with revolvers and the artillery drawn & transport men with revolver belts sticking out of their pocket and to see this seething mass of Skoki. To know that every square mile around is occupied by

¹⁵ thousands of troops waiting while the railwoog is strained bits almost; but what a mere impulsion is the ton upon tons of stores of which I have tried down) am some idea. Our men are working till midnight but we don't expect to get out tomorrow though we will be shovelled out as soon as possible to make room for the other troops which are lying in the bay. Lord Brossay's Jaest "Limebeam" is here just now. Is aw her in the afternoon when I was walking round part of the docks with the Captain. I also saw a ship load of sick or wounded going off - supposed lame.

They were brought down in ordinary
Amberlauer Wagons drawn by
two mules and taken on to a
tender & be shipped off -

21-11-00.

Yesterday was a fine day and
with Jameson's Harper & the Okanagan
Horn and I went off into the
town & hunted up Mackay. He is
Killer's representative and here
and has often been at Tg. Stn.
though I do not remember John
having met him. Cape Town
is a fine town with wide streets
running mostly from the Bay up
towards Table Mountain. The
main street = Adderley Street
in which the post office, Standard
bank, Railway station & so
on are & some of the buildings

17
are very handsome. The post office is
something like ours at Quebec and
more elaborate. These buildings are
on a base of strong white stone &
then are built of a sort of yellow
sandstone & the roofs are
red or variegated slates - the
better buildings while most of the
other buildings are flat-roofed.
There are many good stops. At
the top of Adderley Street are the
gardens and the Assembly House
& then this road goes on to the
Mount Nelson Hotel the most
swell hotel in the place. The
ordinary tariff there is £2-2--
a day. There is a splendid
line of overland electric trains
here some of them running as far
as 9 miles out.

¹⁸
Well we went to the post office as fast as we could and then walked over to the
Mackay's address. He was not at his office so we went to Odoles
Habitation he stays. He was not there
so we had to hunt elsewhere for
him including the club. We found him
about 11:30 & he was very obliging
& surprised to see me. He asked
us to lunch with him at the club
at 1. So we went up into the
gardens as it was the shade. It
was lovely & warm & every thing
was so still & the foliage so fine
just getting their Autumn tint
on and every thing was as still
as anything and the croaking of
some frogs & the rustle of a rat
which we saw running among
the leaves. We sat as long as

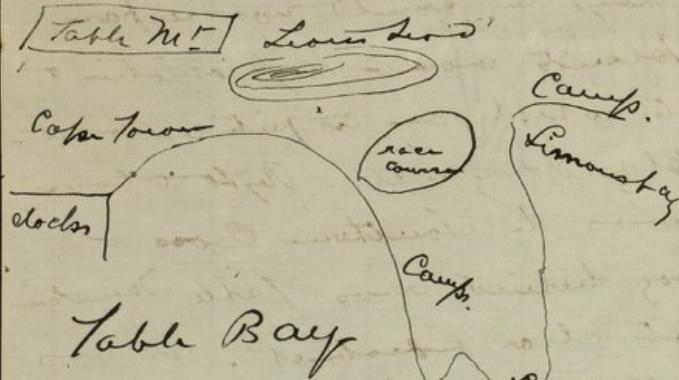
¹⁹
Club when in a few minutes we met
Mackay. It is a nice club house
with a large mess room with an
exterior wooden door round it,
an electric fan at either end &
at the head of the room a large
painting of Sir Alfred Milner. The
lunch was very good & it was a
pleasure to taste red meat again
& bread. There were two surprises.
While we were there a man came in
& Mackay introduced him to us.
He comes from Quebec and
I attended his & my mother at Anchorage
at Christmas time. You remember
how often I wrote about them. His
name is Miller & as he wished
his wife to see me Mackay invited
that we should all dine at
night with him again. Another

Under van com in and was introduced. After luncheon we went with our cigars & the bellman room for a little & then off to the ship again while Moekay went back to his office. We found that Harper is do go in with this ships & Durban & then we read & smoked till it was time to go to Oobis Hotel to dinner. We again wandered up & this time of course it was dark. The hotel is a small one next over to the Club & is very like a colonial house. It is small & built mostly of wood with wooden verandahs or stoep as it is called here (pronounced stoop) all round. The public rooms are small without any ornaments, simple muslin curtains, no pictures or no fine places. We

²¹
Dr²¹ Miller turned up & we were
joined by a Dr²¹ Armstrong who
is agent of one of the large firms here
& lives at Bulwerwag so most^{ly}.
Dr²¹ Miller is colonial born and
not very young. We had a fine
evening & then after dinner went &
sat out in the stoep. No lots or
any thing being required. Butch
us thought we could not see far
the planet was a large orb like a
flat wheel you can see with a concert-
& played very well. As to whom
it was the Southern Cross -
almost behind was Table Mountain
with clear & distinct. It was
past 11 when I got down. We
drove many odd ships but had
dwell along a bit & here were
all the countries with their words
by my charts besides there are

22 boxes, bags of tents, blankets, bags
of meat &c are anywhere with them.
comes behind them. We saw the
dogs work in the large teams which
were now very ready to go off
& Bloemfontein.

The morning after breakfast four
of us went off for a walk to
Green point. You will see



the arrangement from this sketch.
It was a fine walk but warm
& we got near the point down to

23 the sea and back by the camps.
It was a wonderful sight. Many
hundreds of tents of different Corps.
Great big paddocks containing
thousands of horses all loose, &
corps of Indian native followers
and drivers (grooms) & coolie drivers.
There were some camps of empty &
Haffirs. Many soldiers were riding
all in khaki & the men came in
a lot of 4-7 guns all khaki
pointed with their wagons &
everything in readiness to start
for anywhere. Close to there were
the guns captured from Orange.
They were most interesting. Most
were Friis-Knapp, one was an
old obsolete gun and there was
a pom-pom. All had just

24
a bit knocked about. There
were lots of bullet marks on
this, some bits twisted &
smashed by shell fire and
the poor man had his jacket
(the woollen jacket round the barrel)
perforated in three places.

From there we walked on and
came to the Boer positions who
are here. They are on the other
crown were surrounded by
iron palisades topped with barbed
wire. There are the two
palisades with small tree in
between. Every few yards sentries
are posted on raised platforms
which are lit at night by electric
light. The Boers themselves are
as dirty & vicious looking -

25
set of Swiss as I ever saw.
I don't know how many there
are & we are not allowed to
stop & stare at them. After this
we returned to town & had a
re & a lunch & quash & virgin
it was too other down o the ship
for luncheon. After that I tied
up your photos & went up to
town & had them off. I enclose
a list of what they are & hope
they will be all right but
am afraid the focusing has
been defective in some of them.
However you will see. Then
before returning o the ship I
walked up o the jardins. I
think there must have been a
band playing or else it is the
fashionable parade on Saturday

Afternoon. There were such a lot of
lodgers in this bazaar by the meadows
& biddies with their marmosets.
I was a very busy dame. They
were all coming down as I
went up. Then back at the docks
when there a huge transport
train go off under a guard of
Imperial Light Horse. 30 men
of officers & men were among
wagon loads of horses. The
coolies don't work here after 2 pm.
on Saturday & I don't know if
Sunday is a day off or not. Good bye
just now for this letter is getting too
large for the post office.

Very your loving

Dame

H.M.T. "Africa",

I

Cape Town

22. IV. 00

My dearest Dow

I went up today and posted your letter because we are off tomorrow. We have left about 500 men here - Cavalry and Artillery - but I hear we are to take some more on board tomorrow. Today a transport came in with the Scot Fusiliers from Ladysmith & they were at once entrained for Kimberley. Then the "Templarines" came in with several field batteries with 15 lb. field guns. All day though it is Sunday has been work at the wharf and several light boats have gone off. The 11th General Hospital which came out

²
with us leaves tomorrow & goes
comps at Green point till they can
get up every thing. The result of this
has been that I have been busy
as the have put the troops & hospital
on board as done & I have
been busy taking over all their stuff.
25 beds, 25 pillows, 50 blankets,
3 spoons & basins & so on. Then
I have & found out again at
Durbour. I have no hospital
articles & have to do every thing
myself but have got a corporal
and two men under me from
the Kings Dragoon Rifle Corps. I am
now P.M.O. on board! When
I get my returns tomorrow I'll
tell you the men I have in charge.
There are luckily only some half
dozen sick. I have operated twice
since I came on board the ships
doctor not being a surgeon.

³
When I got up & down this afternoon
it was very interesting to see every body
in Sunday dresses but far the most
interesting was the natives. The women
in their brilliant colours & the
native men in very European
dress. Then back to the docks and
there were not all the natives coming
off work, fine big & very black
men they looked very well.
Some of them have been here
they know who have just come from
Logsmith. They have got most interesting
tales. One of them has got a programme
of the last auction before the relief in
the prison which the things fetched. The
following are some

1 doz eggs	4/-
1 pot marmalade	£1-1--
1 doz cigarettes	£1.5
1 lb coffee	17/-
1 pot jelly	18/-
12 bottles of whisky	£148---
1 plot of potatoes	18/-
50 cigs each	£9.5:-

I forgot the rest. Think of the power of
the whisky!

When I wrote the above it was ^{25-IV-00} blowing so hard that the Captain said we could not get out till it moderated but today it turned out a fine morning and all forenoon we were busy caught up our stores etc. I had nearly three hours work in Hospital and night poor for it was too dark & hot up in this hot place. I had the six in bed & about 25 reporting sick and all the returns ~~of~~ 00. Well about 1 o'clock the cooler which had been filling us with cool feet off & was toward shore of us and soon after two we gradually worked our way out. It was a long sight leaving Table Bay

5

with all its ranks behind us as
the sun was setting. We passed
at least three troopers lying at
anchor & exchanged shout &
cheers.

I think it blew a bit that night
for I woke up several times
with the rolling and yesterday
morning had to dress with caution
& had quite a little stone in
my bath. Some of the officers do
not show up all day & at
very much some late suddenly.
It was precarious finding for
some. The day was wind &
rough, grey and damp and
part of the time we had the
fog which going. I myself

6
was very much seasick before I could get through my work in the hospital. The hospital is at the very stern of the boat down a dark stair & right over the screw & it does pitch & roll. I had over two hours of it & was very glad to get on deck again & do not write last night because it was too rough. It was a rough night too & we were bucketed about a good deal. This morning at 6:00 I was woken by hearing a anchor chain go & got up & dressed in comparative comfort for we were in the bay near Port Elizabeth. It is a shallow bay

7
I we had to come in very cautiously & on account of our size anchored outside all the other vessels about $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from shore. It looks something like Newport but the hills are not so high & there are no hills beyond. The town comes right down to the water's edge. Almost immediately after we anchored the hospital officer came off in his tug & made arrangements for the men to get ashore but none were allowed to land except those who disembarked here. Consequently my knowledge of Port Elizabeth is through my field glasses. As I had too sick to go ashore the medical

Officer was sent out to take them
over - he turned out the Major
Allport who was at dock with
me & we had a chat about
old times and present doings.
All the men of the Highland Brigade
went ashore here. They go off in
several big barges which are towed
by a tug. I got a photograph of
one of them & hope it will
even out all right. This
was all done by lunch time
but I believe we are to take
on board more Artillery &
then off tonight for East London.
We shan't get in there early
tomorrow & then begin the
final part of our long voyage.

9
Last London

26. IV. 00

We left Dartmouth last night - about 6 o'clock. The night comes on very quickly after sundown & before we left all was dark but away behind the town we had a splendid display of lightning. The whole of that portion of the sky was lit up by a constant flickering light with very few seconds zigzag flashes of lightning. It went on for hours. The phosphorescence was finer than I have yet seen it but nothing to the Aden & Karachivaya. The night was quite dark & at the tops of all the waves whenever the water was broken were tipped with the pale blue phosphorescence. The Highlanders who landed at Dartmouth go off today towards Bloemfontein. Well we rolled on during the night and this morning I was woken up again about 6 am by hearing the anchor chain rattle. So I up & dressed

when I got on deck we had just anchored off Port London about a mile out I should think. It was a long day but always with a lot wind blowing off shore. All the coast is a series of low hills but prettier than at Barkley's. Away to the left was the harbour with a heavy surf breaking over the break water all day. There were some steamers & sailing vessels in here but it was too shallow for our happiness. Above the harbour was part of the town again then it stretched away to where we lay which further off right there were long sand, rocks & the low hills covered with trees - though they did not seem to be very large ones. The photos I send you will show you the arrangement & how most of the town lies out of sight. Near the north end are hills a bit of savanna & most of the day we spent in watching

the people going about, bathing &c etc & so on. L. London - called the Brighton of Cape Colony & said she just a fashionable health resort here we could not see the regular camp (4th Yorks I think) but could see the pits of fortifications & the horses picketed outside. A steam Launch came off and took away some details mostly Royal Artillery Rifles. I got a photo of them going off. There was some delay - getting off their stores & we lay & looked at the darkness & waited for sharks without any success. The off-shore wind was very strong & all day while it lasted we had hundreds & thousands of locusts & butterflies blown over us out there. While we were looking at the town a great yellow cloud got up over the church & obscured

all the houses. It looked like dirt storm & was blown over & us and passed above the ship. It was a cloud of countless millions of locusts and drove the fishes out into Indian ocean. The wind however very variable & we had no shore home in case we could not get off again. We had an example of that in the afternoon. We were lying quiet in the hot wind & sometimes white away, the south was dull & thunderlike. All of a sudden we saw the sea in the distance whitening & huge dust clouds on shore going right the opposite way the wind had been blowing all day. It came right on whitening the spray up & swirled as round while the dust blotted out all the shore & men mocked us so

that we could task¹³ the land. It was very sharp during the time it lasted and we had best go another anchor. We have some stores & take on first and hope to get away tomorrow. After landing the 300 odd troops at Port Elizabeth yesterday we took on board 80 Field Artillery. I do not know if I told you that the Danzicks & Austrians who came out with us were sent after a three days stay ashore off St Helena in the Bavarians in charge of 1100 Boer prisoners! We hear today that Wepener is released but as far as news there is none out here! You can have no idea how little people know here of what is going on. With the exodus of men & officers our mess is much smaller & I have just shifted up the table opposite Lang, Hamilton-Grove, and Scott of the 1st Durham Lts.

Infantry. They are not bags. Lang has been to India (Poona) with his regiment but the others are mere bags. Next & then is a man young but in the Imperial Lts Infantrv & another in the 19th Hussars. Both are returning after being in hospital with wounds.

27. IV. 00

We are still here loading our stores! These come out but slowly and the reason is that the wharf is piled up with stones which have been unshipped at one time or another and out of the mass our stuff has to be searched. There is only a very limited supply of railway wagons so between here & the nearest broken bridge and until that bridge is mended no more can be got. So that all trucks available are packed with stores, then taken off nearest broken

¹⁵⁻ bridge & emptied & until the empty trucks are returned all work at the E. London wharf is stopped. A civilian tells me that there are about 7000 people in E. London & that the harbour runs up into the Buffalo River up which boats can go for about 5 miles. The country about Port Elizabeth is all absolutely bare with nothing growing on it but a cactus but round here the country is good & green & plenty of trees, and buck & hant and so on. The loading of cargo is done here by lifting the stuff up in large rope nets for the water is very treacherous and there is always a good swell. I do not know if it will convey any idea of our state as that on a calm day the waves begin to break in 12 fathoms of water so that there is a fearful surf of many yards.

16

There was some word this forenoon
of getting ashore but I did not
go & was very glad I did not.
We had a quiet day with a good
sea on & the loading was gone
on with by the sailors under the
superintendence of a man who had
the most wonderful flow of
language I ever heard and I
have heard a good variety in my
wanderings. The sea increased in
the afternoon & at 4 o'clock we
saw our boat returning with the
officers who had been ashore
& as it came nearer we saw
it was packed with men with
their arms and rifles. When they
got alongside the swell was very
bad & many of the men were sea
sick. It was impossible for any
& get off the boat and they all had
to be swayed up in a large basket.

12

The basket was about 12 feet
high with a door in it & was
swung up by the crane, the boy
meanwhile plunging and tossing
along side at a porc rat. I ran
to the poop & got a photograph of the
basket coming up. It takes about
3 men each time. After the first
basket comes up & another one or
two followed with some of the
men when the assistant came
running over to me & cried "You
had better come over to the port side
these men are all wounded!"
Well I got over and they began to
arrive, 104 of them sick & wounded.
Some walked & soon more arrived
over on the port side. What a
sight. The men were dirty, unshaven
thin blackened bone & patches their
clothes red with rust

¹⁸
a most ^hasty looking crew. Until all were landed now could be taken & hospital as the basket business blocked the companion. I climbed down & hospital myself & set my men to lay out beds fit fresh bedding & prepare for a full hospital. Before I got back the men was down and I sent down the two or three worst cases first. By that time it was dark. The poor men who had come from Bettubi, Alivel North and about there had all lain down on the deck with their valises or helmets for pillows. Many were asleep & most had the hives & rasc. I got a fatigued party & help the worst cases - some 30 of them - to hospital and the rest I got to

¹⁹
off & messes in the troop decks. I had a stiff few hours of it but got every thing pretty well settled by about 8 o'clock & got this letter started about 10.30. This is our first touch with the war and it was not a pleasant sight to see. Every body was very good & the men behaved well every body so anxious to do what they could. There was much a lot done & and the whole thing happened without any warning & we had no idea any man coming aboard here at all. They all go to Cape Town or Louren but go on & Durban with us first.

I am anxious & for this letter closed so as to get it posted tomorrow in the hope that it will catch the mail which leaves Durban

²⁰ tomorrow. When the try comes off
early tomorrow get by optician
& take this & post it ashore.

enjoy your journey

Dane

To Edinburgh or Gullane

Gloucester

" London 13 Hyde Park Gar
and back to 25 Day

Strier place

Please send to Auntie

& Auntie B Alice

Please send Lyspie

H.M.S. "Mackay."

Durban.

VI

29-IV-00

My dearest Dave

Durban at last!

Yesterday afternoon we left East London in a heavy swell and rolled along on the last stage of our voyage. We put off about 4 o'clock but it was dark before we had gone far. The fiddles were all at dinner & every thing went swimming till an extra heavy roll sent the glasses bottles and all crooking to the port side, away from me, but what a smash! Many men jumped up wiping the broken glass and spilt wine off their uniforms & dinner proceeded on more comfortable lines afterwards.

² Last night was a rough night & the bogger jumped about in my cabin considerably but did not inconvenience me. The morning was a dull grey Sunday we were rolled along with the jibes on all day till we reached Santarém. The coast was a flat ^{series of} prairie hills with nullahs & trees a bushels & possibly a dozen or two. By 4 o'clock we rounded the point and anchored off Santarém. As far as we can see from here there is a flat plain ~~bordered~~ by a series of hills on which the better houses stand. There is a cruiser or a gunboat lying ahead us & the Tagus' capital ship, the Correbrook Castle, Gaika and other big steamers. Orders have come that most of the men go off tomorrow

³ but I am stuck till I have over my sick - the penalty of being P.M.D.

20. 11. 06

Today has been a day of disembarking. Most of the officers have gone and all the K.R.R. and the result is the most astonishing quietness on board ship. It has been a fine day with a bit of a swell on which however interfere little with the work. All who were going were off by 3 o'clock. The officer climbed down a ladder & the tug where they were caught by two Zebus as the swell swayed the tug close up. All the men were swaying on board by the basket. The black boys who load the barges with baggage are very

4

There are about 8 or 10 barge
& cock jets 4/- when the barge is
full. The poorest ones are Tuks
but there are others of other races
which I don't know yet. Some
of these wear shells or large ear rings
or things like pins & lollards stuck
through their ears. When not
working they sing and are making
a monotonous chant keeping
time with their naked feet and
working their arms & bodies in
an extraordinary manner. I
hope to get rid of my sick
tomorrow & get off.

4- V- 00

5th) wireless
Full Hospital
Brooks Farne
Ladysmith

How is that for an address!
It is my temporary destination.

Conversation. Aphorpa in the ¹³
out office except one lesson of
17 it is required - they are not
all dead but either that or
involved. Aphorpa has not been
out of Soedwatt till a week ago
when he came to O. M. Avery.
He never had any illness but he
says all the horses in his regiments
were eaten & not a man in the
jarrison could walk two miles
when they were released. He told
me that they often met the Boers
after a fight & one asked him
if people could see the whole of
London from Cape Town.
Our dog the Boer telegraphed
into London & the question "What
is the matter with Reller?"

¹⁴ At Tsumeb we packed up
out everything of interest till we
came to Chivelo where we stopped
and there Aftorpe took up the
Tale till we got to Solvank
at 6 P.M. We were stuck here &
there with trains coming on in
front & were late at Mozi
River where the road has been
commandered for military
officer & could get nothing
but till we came downstream
where at 3 P.M. we had a very
luxurious luncheon off cheese &
beer. I did not get enough but
it was better than nothing. At
Mozi River we began to see
traces of the war all the stations
having been repainted & some
of them rebuilt. Before we

¹⁵ came to Fiume we passed several
potsherds with wooden crosses where
soldiers had been buried on
the field. This afternoon came
the bridge which had been destroyed
by the Boers but is now being
rebuilt. We crossed on a temporary
one. A little bit further on
we came on the traces of those
killed in the armoured train disaster
and behind this little army of wooden
crosses with stone the upturned
armoured wagons themselves.
At Chivelo the station & the
stables water tanks were both
surrounded by iron plate loopholes
for defence. The bridge at Colenso
over the Tugela was an awful
mess but the workmen are
rebuilding the piers now. Major
Aftorpe pointed out where the
battle was when the James

were lost & all the other pincers
of about Twauch Hop, Afrian
Hop also are. The country at
Colenso is awful & it is no
wonder Belcher could not
go over without fearful
loss. The skeletons of the horses
are lying about here yet.
The railway twisted & turned
out & is right on the road
set on horseback Bullock a where
Long Tom was, Tambond Hop
& Gun Hill where Hunter destroyed
the gun & on the floor between
the Boer & British position. Here
there were still many dead
horses & the smell was very
bad, even done. The sun
set behind Coronet Camp
& we saw Kranz's retreating

at the night & ¹⁷ we stopped at Titors
& then into Lock south itself. I
was met by Major or Boston
& two other men and an Ambulance
wagon with 8 pairs of mules
was waiting for us. The men
put my baggage in - we
rolled off but it was now
dark & enveloped in a huge
cloud of dust - we rolled & bumped
along $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles & then stop.
I am at home here

The post is just going.

Yours truly
Sam

Mrs. Keiller - 13. 1½ de Park Garden

Mrs. Souter Barnwood House

Gloucester -

Mrs. Souter - Main Street Gloucester

Mrs. Wilson Magpies Falkirk

Mrs. Simpson Golspie - 7-13

5-

and I have ~~other~~ ^{the} as low as
get her. I have scarcely just
a continued drumming on my knee
again as of course we had no
Tables. Now where is & leave
off?

On 1st May I was up early 6 am. &
in about things being put right.
at breakfast Major MacCormick
& two naval Transport Officers
came on board and things by an
escape themselves for getting
away. All troops were ordered
at once into the lighter and took
alongside & then my sick men &
so about at least the 7 who
belonged to the regiment landed
men & the 104 who came on
at first London were to remain.
The Umbria was then she
boarded, fitted with running out
and sail on Saturday for home
with 300 sick men & 40 officers

⁶ All passengers the troops disembarked & the mountain Major MacCormick hopped with me & crossed all about the voyage & where he was bound the medical officer who came out with me to. All the best men I arranged were also forward with me. About three o'clock all were aboard & I leaving sick comes off and I was the last man to leave the ship. It was a long day & we left the ship's side with no regret & round the two miles or so its narrow harbour up the Umbilo river. That port was lovely in the extreme. Pretty vegetation on either side & the broad stony shallow river stretching away up for miles. We took two lighters with us and cast them off at the pier while we went on to

the passenger jetty. I visited the mountain Major MacCormick on my sick being disembarked first and got a fatigue party of Janitors & carrying men sent them round to the "Avoca" hospital ship. This was soon done & landed them over to Major Rose in charge there. The Avoca is a fine ship well fitted up docks as ideal hospital with a lovely view down the river from her port side. Last as I got there an ambulance train came in full of sick surrendered mostly to Collier but I had no time to watch them disembark for as soon as I got off my sick I left & took off my baggage on the lighter. I had taken care that my baggage went on board last & consigned it when off.

Spent a few hours at
the market & got a couple of rickshaws &
was off to the marmots.
The rickshaws are light - two
wheeled traps drawn by men.
They have large wheels & solid
tyres & a hood & seat up if too
hot and they get along at a
good pace. The men are
natives of course dressed in
light cotton jackets & drawers.
The drawers come to the knee &
are ornamented with stripes
of red tape which hang down.
Many of them wear cloth
bracelets & so on but the funniest
thing of all is their head dresses.
They wear huge hairy head -
dresses adorned with native
ornaments & many have these
surmounted by cows horns

which give them a very funny⁹
appearance. They speak hardly
any English there now. What
I saw of Durban was pleasing.
The streets are wide & roomy
with not very much traffic.
I got off the boat & disembarked
my baggage and then went at once
to the station for orders. It was
just dark then - 6 o'clock & I
met Mr. Gurnett who
told me I was too late
for the 6.30. I said that was
impossible so I was told to
go on at 2-10 am. on the 2nd
I went back to the hotel had a
walk & dined with Brewster
Tyler, Lowson, Winby, Harper
Russ & Richardson all of the

Rhodrian Horn. They sent four
Beira on Saturday 6th. Then
we went up the steep & smoky
hill 10 p.m. Our horse is under
Marbol low one am it
allowed us to start after 11
p.m. so I had to go to station
before the 8th into a carriage.
All sleepers have been con-
-nived for the transport
of us & a woman so I had
to make the best of an ordinary
first class with no arms or
pillow. I had not had time to
arrange my baggage & didn't a
night work like this & could not
get my valise & bedding into the
carriage. I put out all the clothes
I had in my portmanteau &

rolled them into a pillow & turned
up my collar & down my fire
some cap & used my bags
as blankets & made the best of it.
It was thundering cold & I found
too I had dropped my cap in
part of my pillow to keep myself
warm. I wound up at 6 and
was mighty glad to see the sun
rise an hour later a time a
prospect of getting warm again.
As day light came on I could
see the country a country full
of green coffee with here & there
large fields of millet which
grows about 10 ft high. The
railway winds out and
among the coffee is a wonderful
way so that the sun changes
very frequently from one

window & the other. At 8 am, yesterday we reached Turin among
lucy - called for short T. M. burg.
One of the things which struck
me here was the number of Indians.
In the refreshment room where I
breakfasted all the waiters were
Hindoos Kitabiyans and my
Hindostani brought me the
most elegant respect and smart
attitudes. Two prospect buggies
too. Almost on finishing the
train started & I now had
two charming companions -
a Stockholm stockbroker who
left 16 days before the revolution
and Major Aphorpe of the 19th
Hussar regt. has been in
London all the time. I wish
I could tell you all the

Dave had
received no letter
up to the 10th May I
5th Xth Dicess and Fairs etc.
Lag Smith.

VII

4 V. 00

My drawer done

I went away a day
in my date of last letter. The
constant travelling upset my
calculations. I really had not
finished my letter when the ~~envelope~~
order came for the letters & I had
& shut up rather suddenly. You
would wonder what I meant
by saying I was quiet at home
here. Well it so very funny but
the Major in charge of this hospital
is John Block with whom I
lived for two years in India

When Major Boston told me at
the station who was in charge
I spottet who it was but was
scarcly prepared to find the
bearded man who met me.
It is typical of the men here they
are all rough & unshaved beards
bearded and dirty and about
as unshaven as they could be.
The orderly has in shirt and
trousers with bare arms and
brood brimmed hat. I have
followed as my feet for days
all the surgical cases as we
are here prettely dressed a
thing. In the meantime we are
busy fitting our sick and
wounded down country so

that we can organize our division
at Glendale castle or as Tammy
fanciful calls it "Hell and
Slaughter". Block was charmed
to see me. There is a junior
major Caldwell a very nice
fellow, myself, a civil surgeon
called White who comes out with
me - with a youngster, our
& northwester Roberts. Then
complete the mess for the
other man a Cuban called
Bobbyton is sick probably
with tertian fever. Soon after
my arrival we went in to
mess. The mess is the operating
but a few down on the operating
table. We have a carding of
corn, one sweet & the third

brought the dishes for we have
and one set of plates of course
& spoons etc are not in duplicate.
A smoke & a chat about old
times finished my first night
& I got dry but slept on
a bed for the first time for
39 days. My camp bed is a
great success. Next morning I
had a wash - it was fine - the
first for many 48 hours for
water has not thrown away.
I had a regular bath out of
my 16 inch basin out on the
field a few yards from my
tent. That is not the best advantage
of having no enemies about.
I have been teaching White
the first elements of Composing.

Most of the sick are ^{II} recovering from
fever or dysentery. We have no beds
& they lie on stretchers or on the
ground. Last night we got
Whisky (Scotch) from the Commissioner
at 27/- a dozen. It is very good.
Our food is camp food but so
are our appetites & we feed well.
After going round my tent yesterday
& writing your letter. Block &
I rode down to Ladysmith.
It is so interesting. Of course
it is all military. Every body
is in uniform except the few
Kaffir Tribes & Indians. All
the traps are military. As wagons
with their teams of 16 shaggy
oxen laden with stores etc
gives, water carts, ambulances

with this 10 miles combated,
all the traffic, men to and fro
or patrols going every where.
Every body living here are pos-
t & shot in their houses by
10 P.M. Locksmith shows plenty
of signs of the siege. We passed
the remains of the Tower house
tower & two other towers behind
the remains of the Royal Hotel.
The carriage also iron shot at
the back is full of holes from
a shrapnel round and the
room where we went & have
a brick has and half a roof
the chimney in ruins, no
mantelpiece, the chairs broken
& the walls all indicated with
bits of shell. The houses at-

the corner is being rebuilt
about half of it having been
carried away. Most of the houses
have corrugated iron roofs &
they show abundant proofs of
shell fire. After a walk along
the street we came home soon
after dark. This morning after
work Block & I rode round
& call on the U.S.A. Colonel
Allin. He rode long round
Surprise Hill & where there
has been built a carriage also
iron tower, partly hospital &
partly administration offices. It is
called Tin Town. I think it
must have been 3 miles from
here but Block takes riding
as everything else very easy

From there we rode into Dogsmith,
Benchuan. Every where the country
is bare & rocky - broken coloured
boulders & everywhere are camps.
We passed two pao-paoes returning
from somewhere north and
close to Dogsmith we met a
battery of 47 howl guns &
weapons drawn by long
lines of oxen. Every thing was
shaken by them but had
they not been, the dust would
have made them so. It is
awful in fact ride cribbed.
After Benchuan we walked
a bit & then rode along back
& since then I have been re-arranging
my things because I have too
much baggage drawn with
and will require drawdown

Koren & the base.

6. V. 00

Yesterday I got my own horse from the depot here. I am very pleased with her though such a rough rugged looking beast - you have seldom seen - she has been in the 13th Hussars & well trained - as gentle as any they. White & I rode over to near Nicholsen's ranch in the afternoon. It's a more pleasant country than most places round here. Of course there's no green grass but lots of shrubs & low trees. The road is very rough cut up by spruce and aspens & comes with boulders. Riding is slower but better than walking.

We did not get as far as we wanted to as the men threatened to go down. Every where we saw outpost & picked some of them in stone boulders with sand bogs on top making very formidable looking fort. In one place the road has been cut & a stone barricade built across it & in lots of places barbed wire strung across between trees. Dead horses & cattle are common.

7.0.00

That morning was Sunday we knew first because there was no firing over towards Van Reunis and because there was a church parade for the second division

Closed to our camp. In the afternoon Colwell & I rode along the Van Reunis railroad till we could see our farther outposts and the Drokensaboy range. Left at night the second division got orders to move and this morning were all gone before I woke up - We ourselves are not taking in fresh cases & we think that probably means we will move soon too. I hope so. Today the Ambulance train came up over here on the Van Reunis line and took off a lot of sick from one of the field hospitals near us.

They were taken in the wagons & Ambulances to the side of the railway and laid there till the train came up -

Major Lekonych called on us today. He is with the cavalry brigades & was at Maly with us. It is interesting to see all these men again. 8-6-00

The hospital normally consists of 25 tents but now we have 50 for patients. There are 5 oxwagons with 16 spans of axen in each, & 2 mule carts with 4 mules each. The ambulance wagons belong to the bear companies of which we have none.

10.6.00

For the last two days there have

There many changes in the positions
of the troops though we are still as
we were. They were expecting some
fighting as we were warned &
to ready to take in 100 wounded.
All night wagons with stores and
things were passing somewhere
near us as we could hear by
the rumble of the about of the native
drivers & there seemed to be a lot
of troops joining up & planned to go to
but nobody of course knows
about any thing except their own
orders.

The worst nuisance here are the
flies - they are pretty less troublesome
than they were. You can scarcely
imagine what a nuisance they

an. The food comes with them & when eating with the right hand it left & kept moving over the plate & kept the meat off. In hospital when you ask a patient where he tongue it's torn out where the meat still on it. The eating of the beef at the cook houses yesterday has put me off meat for some time. Of course the cook houses is not a house. The meat is kept lying on corrugated iron on the ground the iron having been picked up somewhere. All our milk is Swiss milk. We have only ever seen fresh milk & that was the other day when two cows wandered into the camp and

we came— and turned them with before a robin arrived & claimed the breast. The milk was given to the sick officers.

The greatest luxury we have is Quaker oats which are brought mostly from somewhere. The rest is very plain food.

The Red Cross Society do very well for the rich & poor as much that helps them. I don't know how the sick would live if not otherwise. Many of course have nothing except what they stand in & occasionally have to be left without anything till we get their and shirt washed.

I am sending you a few

of photos but I don't know
if they will be worth anything
for I have to open the camera as
the roll stuck. The first two
that you contain nothing but
I hope the rest will do. They
are all about the same, but
I have no list of them though
I'll know them again.

Now I must stop as this is
mail day.

With your loving

Send Dave

To Mr. Greig & Ardener - Great Grany
Mr. Reiller - Mr. Portas Barr Wood,
Mrs. Saltas. Main Street Culver
Lizzie - Alice - Back to
Bagnorw Berrie -

8th Divisional Field Hosp.
Ladysmith

VIII

15-V-00

My dearest Dove.

Things are going on quiet here with us at least though we are hoping to be on the trek soon. On Sunday I went in the afternoon to Nicholsons hut above the Creek. Furniture & sloots were lost and took a native with me & told my horse. I rode along the foot of the hill & left the native on my horse there and climbed the hill. It is not very high but a steep and very rocky & would make a formidable place to climb under fire. Up on the top I suddenly came on a picket and amongst them the Rev. Macpherson an humorous man and a chaplain

in the Army. Do you know him? He told me that he was there after the fight and carried 44 men then. He showed me where their graves were & I spent more than an hour wandering over the flat top. For the most part it is covered with grass & on 10 feet high. When one gets on the ridge of the plateau there is a magnificent view all round. But the plateau is the interesting bit. There are a few trees here and there low plants of bullet marks & signs of the fight still fresh. The pieces of stones here & there show where our men had made entrenchments & behind them I found lots of bits of jagged broken glass, bits of the spirit dressing the wounded had tried to use. An occasional torn shirt jacket and cartridge papers and some dozen dead horses and mules

which wandering thru I came near the boomings of the big guns over Dapswatt toward Kelsprakhaar & I hoped the Boers were getting something for their dogs work here. Coming down I came round by the foot of Surprise Hill & behind a hill I think they call Bell's hill. I had to walk as the black man was with me and if alone he would be arrested by our pickets. It was nearly dark when I got back and in trying a short cut came upon one of the Boer wire entanglements. They are all over the place here & are made of barbed wire wound from tree to tree a perfect maze of prickly wire. And I have parts of an hour later I wouldn't

how known it was then till my
pony had run against it.

17. V. 00

A couple of days ago we changed
from Brooks & Hydes Farm. It
took nearly all day to take down &
put up our tent again & transfer
the sick and in order to rain
that day till past 9 o'clock. For
nearly a week we have watched closely
in the plain below us a great trek
of troops horse foot & artillery marching
in a long black line along
the Blandford road. H. G. M. O
was up yesterday and he says to
we will be on the move within a
week. We hope so. Our division
is at Quides but we are
here till we can get over sick

lower country. Yesterday the
Marshall who was with us
left and all day & all night
this transport was paring our
camp. Today the Linville
Fusiliers have come into camp
close behind us.

Just as I had just finished writing Block
comes in with a telegram for us
& we came in with a telegraph
no orders yet as darkness we are
to go. The trains will probably
come for the sick tomorrow
and we started the go-off at
once. There is only one drawback
and that is that if letters were
difficult to get before they
will be even more so when

we are on the road
Brooklyn & I am now the
new, your affectionately

Gore

Kids Farm
Lacq Smith

IX

20. 11. 00

To dear Dove

I am sending this & be
ported tomorrow morning as we
travel tomorrow and I may not
get the chance of posting another
letter in time for this mail.
Along with this I send a
spool of photos and also three
other photos for you back the
spool. I wish I knew
how what I have sent
you has turned out. Major
Mockridge of the Quakers
lets me that he got a letter
of March 14th last Tuesday
so I hope my turn will

comes yet.

When I last wrote we had just got orders to trek to Naschbach but since then they have been altered to Glencoe & perhaps when we get there we may have orders to go on farther. These orders made us pretty busy preparing for their coming. There are such a lot of details in traps, traps, men. Yesterday morning I was up early and rode down to Landshut before breakfast to see H. J. Convalescent off for Moos River convalescent camp. The man who had just come before me in my wagon and I went there too. Not everything was right & got them all away. This in the afternoon we had

all the other men carried up walked to the Von Rennies Railway close beside the camp town and one of the hospital trains came up at 4 pm then I had charge of most of the work here too and we got them all on board 63 men & 5 officers. One of the officers came out with me & was laid down 3 days after his arrival & has been sick ever since in off Glencoe country. He every day & evidently missed his former comfort very much. Before we got him away I got just Choldeeck. The dog was very young & lively & the wolf caught him outside the diminishing camp. I got a photo of the

was trying to put it out - to
prevent it going off the track
but I don't know how it
will turn out. The flames
don't show in the sun skin
The hospital train is very
comfortable & well fitted
up. We had a drink on board
after the work was finished
& then took what we could
get, odds & ends of tobacco
cigarettes & half a dozen cigars.
The latter cost me my capture
but they are done already!
The train has boats - a large
tin till the other engine
comes up because they are
not allowed down a train
backward on account
of the steep gradients and

sharp curves in the road.
While we were waiting the Colonel
of the Dragoon Guards came up
& the R. E. Officer who manages
the railway just now Captain
Phillips. Phillips got into a
lot of barbed wire by not
looking where he was going
& we had some fun getting
the pony out. When the train
went off Block & Roberts
went with it & Lady Smith
and the Colonel of the Dragoon Guards
asked Caldwell & me &
dinner. Anything so cheap
& so we went & had a very
good fried dinner. They had
hot same vegetables from

Breakfast or we had

Molasses & bacon
Rice & beans { Potatoes
Butter & beans
Rice & dried prunes.
Lax.
Coffee.
Whisky & soda.

Good news & better cooled than
we have it.

Our doctor man is

Breakfast 4 a.m.
Broken oats. Condensed milk
Fried time bacon (very fat!)
Dry bread & orange marmalade.
Tea in bananas -

Lunch at 1-30

Lined taylor, sandwich, or
potato chicken & beans.

Chicken & potatoes.

Sago or rice

Dinner 7-30

Boiled (cold soup) or
time soup -
Chicken & potatoes or a bit -

a dead tick or (like indiarubber)
& just now pumpkin (what our
mess waiter calls pumpkins)
Sago or rice.

Whisky & soda.

On a rule line we get bananas.

Today we have been busy striking
the empty tents and packing
all our stores etc in ox wagons.
Then we start after early breakfast
tomorrow for wooden fruit.

My late servant from Somerset -
Los your book & his regiment -
& I have now a man from
Woolwich. He seems a better man
& Los spent the day doing my
webbs washing - two handkgs
and one pair socks without any
holes!

Hope all the best to you
just now so am soon. Love
& Remin

Your affectionate
Dame

To Mr. Grieg Lindeau. Dundee -

To Mrs. Heller -

To Mrs. Porter

To Lucy -

" Lizzie

" Alice -

Send to
Barrywood
Main St
Gullane
May 1st 1864
Divisional Field Hosp.
near Glencoe
I 25: 5.00

My dear Dan

I wrote you a pencil note from Sunday's River in hopes of getting it sent off somewhere but was not successful. I told you the first day's march to Nooder Spruit was an easy one. Most of the way I rode with Black - front of the men but behind the wagons and water carts. It - very slow going as the oxen have to eat very low or so. We turned down from our camping ground towards Lord & Miller & struck off to the left where the Van Riebeek & Glensloagh rivers meet

and away along the road where
we have seen reunits & baggage
going for the past two days. Our
load consists of a month's gear
a pony which and a few traps.
The men sang as usual on
the march and we got along
cheerfully enough though it was
dark and dark before we got
in. The men performed their
duty on the ground & the trouble of
pitching tent but we have
always had tents.

Glencairn
27-8-00

The next day we started earlier
about 8 am. and marched on
to Lumsdale River where I
expected to get your parcel not
posted. We got on & the evening

road at Lumsdale and on the
old Newcastle road struck the
river about 4 miles above the
railway. The mistake was that we
were directed to the bridge at
Lumsdale River instead of the ford
lower down. As we came to
Lumsdale we passed several
railway bridges which had been
blown up by the Boers and
which are now being rebuilt
temporary ones having been run
up & let the trains get over. By
the time we reached Lumsdale River
it was dark & we halted on the
South side & walked down to
the bridge & spoke to the guard
there. On the other side we could
see the lights of tents & camp fires
evidently a lot of men. Next morning

we saw all the show of battle though
every body seemed to be getting on
the move again. As soon as
we were ready we set off
& it was only after we had crossed
the river a bit we learned we
were on the wrong road. After
crossing the bridge we went through
a part with a lot of trees with
a farm house & hotel & some
other houses there all except &
looted & then on broken we had
seen the camp by 15 the night
before. There were infantry & cavalry
& such a lot of field artillery all
marching off. From there we had
such a stiff hill to climb with
a road like a desined burn
& up slopes our oxen teams stuck
and had the double spans

By luncheon we had got us to
a place called Moss farm on
the map where we saw by the map
that if we turned off right
we could get down to the
mouth of Washbank. We headed
down first. Our fare now being
bully beef & biscuits as it has
been till we got here. There is
a monstony about the drift which
is tiresome. Before we went up
to the farm house Roberts & I
rode over to a native kraal
but if we could get some
bees but got nothing. I delighted
them by giving one of the children
a tin match box which was
much admired. Then we
went off farm to outspan
for lunch. The farm from

letter we picked up seemed to me
belonged to a man called Henderson
& was called Ballrogue. It is in
the Beijersberg range. I enclose
one of the letters as by this one for
your amusement. It was had
evidently not been a poor Boer and
the farm had been properly watered.
Everything was smoothed stones
the fence posts had been dropped
out & broken on the stone veranda
and the fence unplanted as well.
We took our horses in at the
back door & let them stand
in the different rooms. The
garden was all overgrown
with 6 foot grass & the vines
had been torn off the walls of
the house. We looked in the
veranda & the house looking out

of the windows all ruined from
which the snakes had been tame.
The men got some lemons in
the garden but that was all.
After I had had the oxen fed we
pushed on being desirous of
reaching a place called Moron
where a post office was marked
on the map. This however we
did not reach but stopped
about 2 miles short just as
dark set in. Here we got fresh
eggs & some milk a great treat
from some natives. It is a
much finer country here & North
than about Lady Smith with plenty
of hills & fewer rocks & stones
& some trees. Next morning
we got on & reached Moron

when a native told us that there
was a post office, a store and a
power station. The Godfranc
Boer however had been there, the
post office & power station had been
wrecked & looted & the store had
been burned & all stored
from blockwood walls. Another
mile or two took us to Woskhuk
river where there is no crossing where
bridge had been burned by the
Boers own hand & cross by a
drift & we spomed for bully
beef & biscuit on the north side.
There was a very bumpting farm
not far off a Roberts & I went
up to forage. It had belonged
& a Boer called de Jaeger
who had sloped with his friends.

Everything had been removed but
there was not the awful destruction
as in farms not pro-Ross. We
wandered around & we chose
one of the letters I picked up. It
was a fine house & sitting. In
our ant-house we found a pair
of stays & some ladies & children's
stockings. Some lesson books &
children's copy books, two bits of
lace & a doll's pincushion which
I soon discarded. From this
we went on a long trek to
just out side Glencoe where we
stopped for the night. It was the
first day of the railway being open
past Wastbank & we saw train
after train sometimes four and
after the other quite close all

Carrying stores up to Glencoe.
All next day we stayed in the same
place but Robert & I went in
to Glencoe to find out orders. There
is no village only a station & one
or two tin sheds. There's not a
civilian there now. The trains
are all unloading & sending stores
up to Newcastle. The station is
being repaired but is not very
near to boozing yet. On the
way we passed an overturned &
broken Boer trek wagon where
I got a rippling Boer shell. I
have emptied the powder out &
taken it on.

Yesterday we came down and
before we got our traps packed
with accounts began to come in

baptism coming long after it
was pitch dark till nearly 10 P.M.
202 men & 4 officers. The O.M.C. was
here this morning & we are to remain
here for a little says. Our division
had left & embarking yesterday
morning for Newcastle. On the
station I saw the engine which
has been armoured with ropes.
The men call it "Hairy Mary".
There were some armoured trucks
too and the several light trucks.
We were informed that there was no
post office here so we have arrived
today so that I hope get letters
sent off as usual.

29-V-00

Today the railway has been opened
to Newcastle and the first

the trains have gone away up
with supplies. We heard fighting
going on somewhere this morning
but it did not last long. This
morning my servant having to - in
a sheet of ice he had got off the
water boat. I was not surprised
as it was very cold last night.
but we have had a quite warm
day to make up for it. It is very
interesting to see the trains here
there are few carriages & everyone
climbs into ordinary wagons
& consider themselves lucky if any
truck wagons or pens are travelling
for then they can get under the
shod of these. Trains start at
any time when the way is clear
because nobody travels but
soldiers.

ever your affectionate

G. A. M.

Glencoe
5th J.F.Y.

XI

6.01.00

My dearst One

We are going on here
with the regular number though
there is some word of our
trekking & haggis when we
get rid of our rich. Most of
the afternoon I have been
riding & exploring the country.
The first day I started to go
across the valley & under
which we can see distinctly
from the edge of our plateau
lying under Salova Hill.
I left after luncheon but for-
wrote more than half way
on account of the holes & dangers
& barbed wire. It made

riding very slow and difficult.
I and J just managed to get on
to the road when it began to
get dark. I'll go by the road
the next time. Another day
we rode over to a farm house
away down right down if
we could get anything & eat.
As we got near we passed a
Zulu with spear & shield
doing a solitary war dance.
It was very funny & looked
like he was jumping
into all sorts of ridiculous positions
brandishing his spear & shouting.
Tutu lo lo lo lo
Kaffir beer - a full sour
fermentation made from fermented
meat & thick. Thus we went
on to the farm & found it

looted & empty. It is a fine
farm house with a big garden
planted with roses & strawberries
& lot of fruit trees & shrubs have
no fruit. As it was getting dark
we left without completing our
examining but went back
earlier next day. The only
thing we found was a fine
churn & a double bed both
too heavy for the Boers to
take away.

The Army Service Corps have
sent us 60 cattle about 200
sheep & 125 hens captured
Boer stock. We get chicken
now twice a day regularly
& sometimes fresh milk &
eggs.

our dog we went to an old
Barr Camp ground where
we got a lot of Meausur
Cartridges & other stuff & a
cloth doll which I am bringing
home.

Yesterday Ford & I rode to
another farm which seemed
& has been used as a
hospital from the amount of
empty bottles we found there.
There was the usual desolation
and destruction but they
had evidently left in a hurry
because there were some light
chairs and a single bed left
behind. Leaving there we
rode on a mile to another
farm where for the first

time we found people. They
were very nice asked us in
& gave us terrible coffee which
we drank as if we liked it.
The farmer told us that the
other farmers we had visited
belonged to his brother & his
brother-in-law. They had all
left after the fight at Quidnunc
& this man had recently returned.
He was grumbling much at the
Boers for having burned the
veldt & so destroyed the grass
for the cattle for miles. There
had been an encampment
of Boers near his house &
we could see the remains
though we did not go down
because it was too near sunset

it is always difficult to cross
the streams unless in a decent
light. As we ride home
from this direction we pass
the setting sun and the hills
are bat'ed up with a purple
light that makes them look
just like the mother at home.
But all round us the ground
is black for the grass has all
been burned here. For
some dogs we have known
no firing so we hope they are
friendly as I think they are
friendly as I think the war
that seems to be the general
impression & I have no doubt
that long before you get this
the war will be over.

I think it likely that if this
occurred we would go no
farther on but we do not
know the troops' movements &
though it will be necessary
& repair the railway through
Leaven's Nek. If many are
killed up here we may be
delayed a bit in getting down
country again.

I really can't get more written
as soon as I come in and
a sitting talking so good bye
just now

ever your loving

Dave

Send to Lindeau. Perth Rd.
1 Ardmore - Great Gramy -
Mary - London -
Mary Barn wood -
Lucy. Main Street Pullau
Lizzie -
Gloria -

Dave received five letters
on the 29th May three from
me - one from Lizzie one
from D. Staker -

5th D. F. N.

Glencairn

XII

7.01.00

~~My dearest~~ we today was a day at camp because in the afternoon we got in 40 sick from Newcastle & the pros there. Some of them were very bad & as usual I got all the surgical cases. They came by ordinary train and as the others had been over a day waiting looking lost with their uniforms in rags so had those who were unable to walk put on the bullock wagon and taken to the hospital with the kits.

12 - VY

in writing the above I have
and three dogs leave wonder
leaving camp early and taking

bunches with me. Two dogs & rode and Ford went with me and the third day I walked and went alone. Went towards Glencoe this way as far as the direction as an allusion of the account of pronouncing Bear tracks who have been so near as on Monday before a knapsack two miles from here. The winter we go in & down Glencoe on the opposite side to where we came up i.e. on the under side of the Spur. The first day we rode over to the hill on the East at the end of Glencoe & wandered all over it. We found plenty of evidence of recent Bear occupation. There were very many of camping grounds & here is one we found about half a

load of dynamite in which we waded knee deep. Also any number of cartridges & the remains of Bear meat. We came across three large tin & the sacks of meal & meat ammunition. As we climbed to the tops of the hill a thunder storm came on but though we waited it passed toward Glencoe & we went on. The hill has an inner flat top about 7 miles long & here we knew left our horses and had bunches off bully beef & biscuits & when our horses had fed we climbed down the Glencoe side of the hill. It was no joke with the horses as the hill was very steep & stony but we got down at last & found a Bear enclosure for a very fine splendidly built &

in front position & command
Blanca & Washbank plain beyond
Here we worked some of time that
~~had to wait for the~~ and
before dark | | day is begun
by riding at once for this spot
& then working our way down
Blanca finding other big gun
positions & any number of tracks.
The Beers must have had much
work and all for no good
because we came round by
Helpmehaar instead. On
third day I was alone and
tried to get a sample of hatches
& glass which ~~I will show~~ —
you when I get back. Since
then we have done nothing —
all the troops here are bivouacking

on the hill tops in anticipation of
an attack which seems to me
very improbable. We are the 5th
~~disagrees~~ poor & their patrols
going to the T.R.R. are slow.

no marching Spaniards & trucks
& protect themselves.

"Hairy Mary" got up show & the
armoured trucks came up from
Worckbank to go on to Newcastle
two days ago but the order has
been countermanded so I
suppose they have settled down
there.

The O.M.O. came in this morning
& says we are ~~to do~~ - &

~~restoration or restoration 2d~~

Fighting has evidently changed
Loring's mind.

As a rule we are Loring

lively weather though sometimes
windy & at night very cold.
Last night we had a heavy mist
just like one East Haar at home
& this morning the tent was as tight
as a drum.

Writing in the open air does here
does not improve one's manu-
script but I hope you'll be able
& read it. I had a letter from
Hull today & expect yours some
day soon. Please send two of
the enclosed & 10 & keep two
for Khaine, they will be very
valuable some day. I also
enclose a letter I picked up
in the tracks.

Coldwell & I walked over
here if we could buy some
beef at a farm near here

belonging to an old woman
called Schroeder. She was the
~~was~~ two sons fighting for us
- the ~~Brabant~~ ~~Dribble~~ ~~but~~ ~~now~~
poorly from the consumption
of her former ~~she~~ ~~is~~ pro Boer
sympathies. She is about 80 she
says & looks as if she had never
been worked in her life. We got
the stamps from her but no
beef. She farm house is very
dirty & untidy looking although
they were glad of was that
she did not offer us coffee. All
round the farm ~~were~~ ~~were~~ ~~were~~
& except ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~
worked contrast and the
rooms were valot. All
the farms are the same here
unpleasant and whenever one

was a clump of trees and bushes
there is a lawn there. We get
yrs at 8¢ per oz & butter
costs 2¢ a lb. but we have
never been lucky enough to get
any. It will be a luxury when
I get home for I have tasted
none finer honey. There a dog
we get fawns which in camp are
our staples article of diet. So if
you wish to give me a treat when
I return don't give me less. Enclosed
a sub in 1st K.O.S.B come in to
me last night. He knows Green
of the 60.th & was in Togson &
in the siege.

That is all now. I just now
if we took I would have more &
give you next time.

Yours ever loving

Dane

13 & 14
Bravali

5th D. V. H.

1

Valkurst
Transvaal

XV

2-VII. 00

My dearst Gove

I am afraid you found
my last two letters a bit short
It was usual but I will have
more to tell you this time and I
writ now in core I don't get
time again for a day or two and
before I forget the order of events.
The 28th was a fine morning and we
got the carts packed - or rather the
packing finished just at day by it
and then breakfasted. This seemed
early but as it is mid winter here
light only begins about 7 o'clock
So we got off about 9 a long

warm sunny ² day and marched
over the railway and up the hill
where the N.P.R. have their camp
and entrenchments. From there as
far as the eye could see the
whole veldt had been burned
and was a blackened stretch
towards the Cradockbury. We
marched on through this for some
miles & then halted for luncheon.
I am afraid the 96 men
found little to eat & nothing to
drink & the men all crowded
under the carts to get out of the
sun. Just after we started we
crossed the railway again at
Hartley Spruit but the Spruit
was dry. Here some ruined &
burned houses I found where

³
the Boers had been for lost. All
afternoon we marched on ~~the~~
~~road~~ on a good road but
very dusty, just like the dogs part
of the sea shore the horses striking
up to their fetlocks at every step
& on either side burned grass.
Close on Sundown the conductor
came to us and told us that
the boys informed him that
there was no poss unbent at
Craibonair & no water & as
we had reached a patch not
burned beside a spring we
decided to camp there for the night.
Lamb was picked for the men
and very luckily too because

4

when my servant called me
in the morning there was $\frac{3}{4}$ inch
of ice on the water parts. We
had a tub breakfast and
were off before 9. We found
we had encamped close on a
hill occupied by the Devons
& artillery & their guns were
brought the sky line all round
the hill. The Boers had never
seen this and we noticed that
on the side facing the hill
there were all round the
ant hills were painted white
so that the enemy knew
the various angles for they
are most poor shots at long
range.

5

A mile or so further on we reached Damhausen where the houses - some half dozen carrying also iron stones - were being rebuilt. They had evidently been all levelled & left the station master's house was obviously new, it is the only stone building except the station. All the kopjes had vangars on them & the railway was entrenched & protected with vangars all about the station, & a fine stone parapet built in the station master's garden. We stopped here for a little & as the wagons got up & then an

again through the ⁶ same burned
valley & the same dust & smokiness
at a dried up spring which
must be a 30 foot deep ravine in
the rains. Then all afternoon
we marched till sundown
when we were just close to
~~Singapore~~. Here we again
came in touch with military
activity for there was a guard
on the water & we were warned
not to have camp in case we
were shot by the mounted patrols.
We could see there were many
troops near but it was dark
before the tents were up &
we sat at the cook down for

⁷ till we could get under shelter
from the cold wind.
Next morning the 30th we started
as usual about 9 & crossed
the hill where we came upon
any number of camps, 1st Regts
18th Hussars, Artillery etc & down
to the river where the Boers had
effectually wrecked the railway
bridge. The railway was however
carried round on a temporary
bridge which will last till
reinforced. Then we continued
on to New Castle through chest
& burned pass till about 4
o'clock when we got in. The
few farms we passed had all

was located & soon burned
& the man was lost in amongst
the troops the man dead horses
we found in the road. We
got into Newcoath about
4 & camped on the south
side of it close to the ^{stationary}~~fire~~
Hospital. The town looked
nice with its trees & the
high Drogheda bay sets in
the distance though they too
were all black from fire.
That night it rained like
blows & we heard about the
fighting that had been a few
miles out & so to bed - damp.
Next morning was lovely - The

heldt smell of rain though
there was no grass & the trees
in Newcastle looked so fresh
& the red houses & carous alit
from roofs & white trees were
very picturesque. The night
passed passed us coming in
& breakfast. Most remanded
but a good many bandans
with thin shake flaps and
all looking as if they had been
roughing it. Their porters were
clown drivers & soon their fires
were going & the men stripped
& the buff were working off
the night's air comfort. I got
a sketch of Newcastle from an

but others walked down through the town with Block. We got orders to entrain by 2 P.M., what seemed an impossible time but we had to try. Our orders were to go on to Standard & send our wagons by road. It was a hard days work for the men but we managed it by 3 o'clock. A whole train full. Then we were told we could not get on till 6:40. & we had dinner at the station. Horner's! what a lot I eat. The change & fresh vegetables, Mutton, curvy or rice & so on was lovely. Then came

11

a muzog we would not get on till midnight & as it was then pitch dark we got the men into the train & went & had tea. Again what a fire! About 10 o'clock we got all ready & we had two second classes for the six officers. Candles for light, our hit in mind as a very prospect of a poor night. The station master said we would get to Volkmarsh early in the morning. So we arranged ourselves as best we could & we started about 10 went on for a mile & then were shunted into a siding where the track

12

left train was working &
searching the road all round
to prevent attack on the Boers
who knew the fight close
and low we stayed till 3 am.
When I woke again it was
6 o'clock am we up at
Mount Prospect Station well
up the Drokensberg. It was
a fine sight to see the sun
rise over the blockaded hills.

Every now other we came on
pickets guarding the line &
most all the Culverts had
been destroyed so we crawled
on about 6 miles astern
up the Lajis Nek tunnel

13

where there was¹³ a strong guard
over which the Boers had made
a very poor attempt to destroy.
Through them we crept on to
Charlestown the last town in
Natal. The houses were left
burnt but all looted, smashed
& pulled about, the station
itself showing plenty of bodies of
who had been there. Some of
the men who had been there
only a few railway men and
the place was very cold in the early
morning & very crowded. Close
behind us now ran Majuba
on the left with Mt Prospect
bit left & join and on the

with Togwona when they
had been late & when the door
had a big gap.

After a little wait we moved
on into the Transvaal and
drove up at Valkrust. What
a difference! The station large
well built & perfect, not a
pan of glass broken. On the
left a row of houses with iron
roofs some painted red &
built of stone. The jardines
with white paths.

3-11-00

Zora continued in our nest
as we are off as are Loris

note to Standerton

Love to all

ever your loving

Dame

After reading it at Craigen-
darroch & The Craggan, please
Send to Great Granny -
Then to Lizie Mayfield

" " Lucy - the main sheet
Gullane

" " Mary Barnewood
and then back to Glasgow

5^t. J. V. H. 1

Standerton

Transvaal

XVI

9. XII. 00

My dearest Ann

I left off my last letter - after hurriedly just as I had got to our arrival at Valkenburg well after our discomfort & cold - the train it was an immense treat to get into a proper refreshment room & have a real good breakfast - curry & rice & all sorts of things, though of course all except the fruit, vegetables and bread as were turned. The fruit & vegetables even up daily from Durban! The station is a splendidly built stone one on continental principles with a large HEEREN at one end. We were told we would probably go on at noon so we set about watching, Tugwana, Majubo & M'Prospect (where Colby's man is) all day in a dull & very

² cold condition. All the wagons are marked Z.A.S.M. now except the few N.G.R. from Natal. At noon we were told we would get off about four probably as the Boers had cut the line at Zandspruit and there had been some fighting & the line was more repaired. Late on Friday many came in with the working party. The only interest was to watch the soldiers making trenches at the station & repel attacks. It did not look like Sunday. Well four o'clock came & at 5 it began to get dark so we knew we were fixed for another night in the train as the train is now off after dark. We lit our candles because there are no lamps & the coal for the carriages and wood & smoked. No water was obtainable & we did not wash since Saturday morning save whatever

³ the Boer may be he is a drift boat & however from the stations on the is no provision for water. The want very conditions also are most primitive and before night the River was flooded over on to the platform. Ouch! well after dinner we turned into our carriages again and went to bed. assumed we were distant about day light. Before day light however - before 6 on Monday the Railway Staff Office came this with a telegram to say that on account of the necessity for stores at the front no transport was done by train & as we had our water carts, mules, axes, one wagon loaded, & piano we had to turn out in the cold & stamp about till the refreshment room opened at 8. Good breakfast again - Quaker oats & turned milk, turned & raw eggs, turned hen & bacon. Curry, dried & tea & Kilkenny jam. Then another loaf about till afternoon when news

Came & unloaded a pitch tent for
officer or me till further orders.
By dark we got into our tents and
had dinner & bed. Next morning

Tuesday -

1st item - a wild bear hunt. I got
12 tracks on my cholera belt
and skirt.

2nd item - an almighty work in
well iced water & a shave
& clean under clothing.

Breakfast & all else was details.
Now we stand where we come. In
the market square - Valkenburg.
All round were stone houses with
tin roofs and such a lot of
troops. A sentry over the water
supply & prevent worse should
how we valued the water. Everywhere
were tents, soldiers riding here & there
and convoys well guarded starting
& coming. An animal skin
but - beastly cold & windy & drizzling.
I was very anxious get a sketch

5

of Majuba etc but I could not
face the cold & the wind over freezing
fast so stiff. so I wrote by an interval.
What with the knocking about & want
of sleep I put your letter on the wrong
day so you must put all our
memories a day back - last day
after a freezing night it was bright
& sunny but too windy & cold to sit
out. Then at 5 o'clock we got the
order & had all our things packed
in the train by 6 o'clock. & we had a rush
for it. On my way down to the
train I posted your letter. In the
post office it written up by a Boer
"To Young. We are staying here
this post office for a little as
we have had some difficulty of ours
but we will come back." A
funny thing happened when I posted the
letter. The postmaster (military of course)
was a noncommissioned officer
He took my letter & said "Excuse me

6
Sir but could you tell me what day this is. A pall & I have a bet on & we know the date but not the day." Fancy in a P.O.!

Well we dined again at the station and turned into our carriage - a first class train & cleaner & more comfortable. We shook the seat cushion & the floor mat & went to sleep. It was thundering cold. We started next day about 8 am. & had time breakfast off bully beef & biscuit & a little tea most of which we lost by the awful bumping & shaking of the train. Our pains etc follow by road as soon as we arrived Cooey can be provided. Every where now we saw the interminable veldt with no big hills and all along the line pickets & outposts & camps. Every bridge is provided & entrenched & we flew over our own newspapers & the news as we passed

The distance is about 70 miles⁷ I believe & we did that in 12 hours. Good going? At the first station Landsprint we were stopped a long time & saw the Boer lines in the distance & our pickets moving about & the cooey going out & reconsentre. Then on to Sandton where we were again stuck but for our tea & bully & biscuit in peace. Then as we moved Standerton darkness came on & we dined during a salt off bully, biscuit & tea & jam. Major Block we left behind at Volkmarst with a sprained knee & Major Toole came on with us. I am the only one left of those who were with the hospital at Ladysmith except the mortuaries. It was not nice sleeping fine in a carriage but we put in a very cool night at Standerton on the south side of the bridge which the Boers had blown up.

8

Next morning was very raw cold
wet & misty & we were shuttled
about from 6 till 10. We had
& turned out at 5-30 but were
allowed to book about 9 as
our carriage was not mounted.
So we had breakfast. By this time
we were again very dry and unknown
you may be sure. It cleared up
later on & broke out fine & warm
& we got orders about 2 where to
go to. This was unloaded put in
carts & taken across the Vaal on
a road bridge called "Kruywars Brug"
which had not been destroyed.
We had 2-3 miles to go down camp
& though we only pitched tents for
the men & ourselves we did not
get dinner till nearly 9 - half
biscuit tea & jam as usual. We
could not get a wool pit as
we had no water carts but

that was rendered very restraining
when we had the luxury of a shave
& wash - not before it was wanted,
& not an easier - the last one.

~~Festus~~ ^{Friday} ~~Saturday~~ was a fine warm day
after a freezing night and an exhibition
in the sun. We put our permanent -
camping ground & all our tents
pitched, 100 of them for patients. We
hear that on account of some brush
down on the 8th side we are to go
the 9th & commanded from Antietam
way & Toole has given me all the
surgeon tents as Block did. We are
& put some large E.A. tents too & beds
& bedding so the patients should be
comfortable. We are a bit short
of grub here but that will improve
as ration is even from the base.
We are lying near the 2nd Queens
& some Artillery but the camp

¹⁰
is a very large one of all areas &
very bony. We got in 25 antelopes today
but they don't come to us.

Yesterday, Saturday was a fine warm
day but this is a wonderful place
for changes of temperature. There is
generally about 80° variation
daily - about 20° during the night
& 100° in the tent during the day. Of
course every morning the water in
our tents is frozen about an inch
thick & we have to walk in the
ice & all. It is such a funny
sensation pouring the water with
bumps of ice in it over oneself.
If one does not get ones sponge
thoroughly dried during the day it
is like a stone in the morning.

As we see here we overlook the
town. It is the third largest in
the Transvaal. I will sketch it
for you some day. Yesterday afternoon

I went down the Vaal & sketched
the blown up bridge. It was lonely &
warm. At night one creeps into ones
sack blanket & covers oneself with
ones extra blanket & just coat
cape spare jacket & all the clothes
are worn during the day & above
all a doubled waterproof sheet.
I wear also pyjamas, a sweater, a
Balclava cap & bed socks so that
I am fairly warm. The only discomfort
I feel is that the breath condenses on
my moustache & runs down in a
little stream on my pillow at the
point of my nose gets most
horribly cold, & often have to wake
& rub it.

Now here is an ammunition supply
column under Major Friedly with
whom I was once on the march

for eight months in India but
I have not had time to call and
hear yet.

I think that is all my news just
now but will have it open
another day yet.

9.411.00

There is no more news today except that
the railway beyond here has all broken up
last night again. A man who came in
today from says they were an outpost dug
last night about 4 miles from here. They
are there close to about 70 Boers who are
supported by a commando of 300. They
snipe each other when they get the chance.
Last night they were riding after some Boers
& one some put its foot in a hole & he broke
his arm. Later on they came to a Boer
outpost who opened fire & shot the sergeant
dead but hit no one else. This sort of
thing goes on constantly. We expect more
fighting here.

Ever your loving
Dad
Please send to Lucy at Main Street
Gullane -
Then to Barnwood and back
to Golspie

Sent to
Mr. Sheriff
Armenia

Dr. G. F. T.

Barnato

Beaufort West
main street

D. V. H.
Gullane

Standerton

Tranvaal

Uck

Gorki

XVII 11.11.00

My dearest Dave,

After sending off your last letter Tabor & I had a walk through the town of Standerton. It is difficult to describe the place it is so different from town towns. It covers a good big area but is very & stopping with pros pros & not every where close up to the houses gardens. There is a main street very wide & open ground and very rough being just ordinary road not in any way made into a road except by use & want or by being bounded on either side by houses. Most of the shops are general stores apparently but the whole place is much deserted though nothing seems to have been wrecked like the towns in Natal. Roberts' proclamation is nailed outside the

Front door bolts affair as also a notice that all inhabitants must give up their revolver and no one is to be in possession of loot. There is a small Beer Hospital here with some wounded Boers in it who are looked after by our men. We came down by the new railway bridge which the Germans have made over the Vaal - a pile of the iron which has been blown up. They took only a week to make it along with a long diversion of the railway. As we came up we saw some wagons standing on the line empty now over comp. In the middle of the night we heard some explosions as we thought & feared there was fighting closer than usual but in the morning we found that some Beer supporters had started these wagons & that

they had rushed down the new line & that right of this had crashed over the bridge tearing up the rails and making a proper mess. This we went down later on. When we got there it had been decided to burn the wagons as useless and in consequence the men had gone for them with axes & picks and in an hour only the iron work was left. There was again destruction & fire but we are all very hard up for firewood here there being no trees except in the gardens at the stations and the men carried off every stick they could for their own cook houses. It took 34 hrs work to repair the line but trains got over yesterday with the much needed stores. The night before last the roofs were cut between us & Volksrust and the horses

farm Louw is country where
was burned. This is the 8th burned
for the same crime between
Lou & Tandspuit. Between us
of Pretoria the two has again
been loof & sacked up.

Close to our camp on a low
stony kopje is a tomb stone
"Erected by Wm. Brown by his son
who died in the defense of
Standerton 1880-81" & then
follows the names. I did not
know we had been buried
here before. The other day
it was in general orders that
the flag which had been hoisted
at the Town Hall was the
identical flag pulled down
in 1881 when Standerton was
occupied by the British.
Close bus yesterday we found
encamped a small naval
detachment with two 12 pounder

naval guns. On the hill behind us - Standerton Kop - are four 4.7 guns so we had a good show of Jacks here. We got in 50 more sick of whom I got all the surgical cases so all my tents are full.

13-VII-00

Last night we had our O. M. B. Col. Allin to dinner. His Secretary Major Batson was also asked but could not come as he had asthma. I made up the menu. We got timber glasses plates for the occasions all of which will be incised whenever we break. Ford & I laid the table & we had about 2 dozen candles for warmth rather than light. I don't know where the cutlasses came from but I made the chine fork & it was the only thing Allin asked about. He asked for more sand

It was splendid and asked where we bought it. He is a big tall London man with any amount of mousts. He is good company and talked a good deal. It was a very jolly evening & this morning he took Block & I had not had such a dinner since the campaign began. Block came back yesterday & will return to Valkenburg. Our transport & horses arrived on Monday with out any accident.

The railway has been broken close this between here and Greyfurtstadt & all day there will be a good deal of fighting &c & we will move about the end of the month to Middelburg. That is for idea just now but things may of course take differently

14-11-100

Yesterday we received orders to prepare to evacuate our sick today & so had a busy day getting all our papers etc ready. The Princess Christian Hospital Train came in in the afternoon and Block said & I went down to see it. It is really a splendid train about 4-5 carriages all connected so that one can walk right through from end to end. There are no seats & the beds are arranged in 3 ~~in~~ tiers, 22 in each carriage lying along the train, not cross ways. At the rear end is a kitchen like on board a yacht & at the front end a surgery or dispensary. It is now in charge of a Dr. Lowrie since Bonneth died and there are two Army Nurses on board.

In each carriage is a stove,
a gasogene, filtered water, coal
loued basin & lavatory. It
is a perfect ambulance train.
Well this morning we came up
by 5:30 a.m. night cold is-
was too. The men had breakfast-
at 6 & all who were up
were got ready. The bearer
Company of the 2nd Brigade
Field Hospital (Major Ricketts)
sent over 6 ambulance wagons
into which the bad cases were
carried. The remainder were
carried by hand & we were
off & the station just as the
sun began to show over
Kandahar. When we got
to the station the beds from
the train were laid in a long
row on the platform and
the stretchers put along
side other each patient

lifted from the stretcher & the
bed & then the bed put in its
place. We put in I think 117
patients & has left us with
only 6 cases & 2 natives.
I do not know why we are
being impeded this way but
otherwise says there is no fighting
but of course nobody knows.
Almost every night we hear
fireing not far away but
it does not disturb us.

Today at luncheon we saw
three Boer women pass in
charge of Tommy with fixed
bayonets. It looked so funny.
The women had on big white
Dutch caps. They are the worst
informers of what we are doing
& they hate us like the devil.

Todg has been a day of uttermost
wind & dust. We expect every
now & then to have our tent blown
down. Our food is reduced
again to bully beef because
the fire can't be got to cook
anything in the wind. Since
the sparks blown out of the
fire set the veldt on fire &
we had a nice little exertion
getting it out. It spreads
about an acre in 4 minutes
in this wind & we have to run
& keep up with the spreading
edge of the fire. We saw the
naval brigade have a similar
experience & also the garrisons.
It looks like Hades down the
valleys & men running into the
smoke & laying about them with empty sacks -
The Army Service Corps man

~~has~~ who supplies us has
had the misfortune to get jaundice.
It has turned out a blessing to
us for we have been able to
complain about the too abundant
though Fonda who is attending
him with the result that we
have had both changed much
for the better. The tea we got
first was Natal tea. It was
awful & produced a kind
of dirty water so that we all
changed for coffee which is
most chicory & has wonderful
abdominal results. The bread
we got first was like sodden
coker a week old & we all changed
unanimously to biscuit again
but now we can eat the new
bread though I am afraid
the home people would not
face up to it.

16.VII.00

Yesterday we had a message from
Greylingstad to prepare for 64
sick wounded but they did
not come in till late. They all
went off again this morning down
country at 6 am. except one
Basset Scout. Our hospital is
again empty except for three
nurses whom I retain - a Bassett
a Koffie & a Zulu. Today there
were some roads put up for the
men & I rode over after luncheon
& spent the afternoon there. It was
just fine - not the boat interesting
part was to see the number of
different regiments, regular &
irregular. Beelker was there with
his chief of staff & looked well.
He wears his ribbons but otherwise
is very like his pictures. It is not
worth while starting another sketch
ever you bring @ me

XVIII
3rd Provisional Field Hospital
Standerton

17. VIII. 00

To dear son

finished your letter yesterday
saying the hospital was empty and we
had spent the afternoon at the sports. The
best part there was the boxing. It went
on all the time & was first rate. Being
nervous I had a good vind. I saw
some of the colonials standing around
smoking as their Nodules over even
the crowd & Beelby himself spent / with
a tin looking on. After dinner I
turned in about 10 & read the papers
you sent me and about 11 I thought -
I heard the rattling of ambulances
& the bawl of a pony in our lines.
I heard our Quartermaster shout and
"It hat you Russell" (of the 2nd Regt Brown
Company) after the curse "Yes;" "What's
up;" "Some wounded from Vafle" &
in five minutes I was in to my
boat & what else I could wear on
the top of my pajamas as a was off
down the lines. Except the friend
I was first there. There were only

I found a 5 medals. I had an
hour getting them all off - a
job and then back to bed pleased
to have some rest comes down to
today has been very windy again
the best place being in am flappling
tree & have written to Hally.

30.0000

In the afternoon of 19th I got a good man
wounded & another today. In the evening
of 19th Ford & I went to dinner with
Col. Allen the O. M. C. Capt. Lewis
of 2nd Regt Fult Hoop & a colonial
called Lessor were there. Col. Allen
lives in a house up near the church
& we had the pleasure of seeing a fire
& sitting on a sofa before we went
into dinner. The table napkins were
obviously bits torn off sheets & of
course unhemmed. The tumblers were
marked "Royal Hotel. Valbrest" & the
Chouture was drunk out of eggcups.
We had soup - not up to much - evidently
mostly bowel. Then tried Salmon.

Then the pine & resistance - pork. Tom
Pork excited our envy & curiosity. Albin
told us that the other day he got up early
& looked out & saw two pigs ashore
in his garden so he sent out his
servants & has had fresh pork
ever since. Baked potatoes & tomatoes
and apple sauce made of turned
apples made the pork go down fine.
Then we had turned apples & custard
& then coffee, Whisky & soda as a drink.
Dart & green chartreuse which I did not
touch. We came home in a pitch dark
night though mild & warm & many
from the countryside "pork" visitors of
earlier" when challenged by the various
sentries apieket.

Today a gaudy morning has been
thick & misty till now 11 but after
that long weather. Yesterday I went
a ride round Standerton Kop in

the afternoon. It was cloudy & I had a
glorious gallop over the veld which
has lost³ any hills for miles & miles.
Unfortunately we cannot go more
than 4 miles or so in any direction
without getting sniped. Every night
too there has been singular firing
going on all about & one morning
we wakened to the tap tap tap
of the pom-poms near Standerton
top way.

Yesterday I got your letter of April
3rd many thanks for it! Today
I got the one of June 20th which
was just as pleasant and I am
delighted to have had such a good
time at O'Brien. I was so
interested too about OB according
I wish I had been there. Don't
let them forget me.

24-IV-00

When I tell you that we had another
dinner on Sunday night, entertaining
as our guests Major Ruckhills, of Houghton
& Russell of the 1st Bdr Bearn Company
and a young lad Mackinian who is
attached to the Supply column, when
I tell you this you will think we are
doing little but entertaining. I
have not got the menu but the
piece de resistance with us was
a turkey which our quartermaster
had round down here. The other
things except the turkey were limited
& we had some difficulty in
getting potatoes which we had not
seen for some days. We made
the turkey into hash & stew in
order to make it properly tender.
It was stewed from 2 till 7

and was fairly eatable then. I think however that every body was more concerned that it should be hot than that it should be tender for it is cold in the morn till at night. The turkey wonderful today was excellent food & very well enjoyed it very much. In measure we were able to do the cooking better was that we got permission to commandeer a kitchen range out of a house here or there it stood up behind two blankets on poles. When the bullock cart went down for the range they brought away a pie which we had for two days when it suddenly disappeared. Probably some one on the staff heard of its being taken & ordered its return but we ask no questions

about such things.
For two nights & days there has been a huge wild fire in the direction of Grey long since though not many so far away of course. The first night it was very fine & the horses stood out against the red glare as if the sun was close & there. That was about midnite & suddenly one of our cocks saw it & I suppose thought it was a crow & began to crow. Another cock answered & in a few minutes it seemed as if Stamfordton contained nothing but cocks, then the mules began & with the barking of the dogs which goes on all & every night made a most marvellous chorus till I fell asleep.

The day before yesterday was very windy & at night we had rain but not bad. Yesterday was better & today is lovely though the ground was all white with hoar frost for an hour after the sun rose.

We are again beginning to outfit the hospital & 16 men go down tomorrow. Amongst my lot I have three from Aberdeen and one who has been out here 20 years who says he comes from a farm in the Dart of Scotland in Fife-shire! Now I can no more now just now as well say an even everyone living

Sent to Auntie Dave
1st Anna - Brought Ferry
2nd Mary - Burswood.
3 Lucy - Main Street Gullane

at present serving in India.
He was going to be an engineer and
was an apprentice at Rawalpindi
Engineering at first but a short
time of getting up at 6 a.m. & of
evening classes - addition was
enough for him and after the
usual row at home he enlisted
in the 5th Lancasters & after 6 months
at home was sent out to South
Africa to join his regiment. With
this he served three years and
rose to the rank of Corporal
when the war broke out.
At Blandfontein he managed to
ride back to pick up a wounded
man & brought him out of
action on his horse. For this he
got the V.C. & his commission.
Later he has been attached to
the supply park & there never
met him.

We have been bad here with
lung sickness among the cattle
and the other day we had ours
all unmercanted for it. We
had lost two previously. In
consequence of this many of the
cattle have been replaced by
mules which is a much
more rapid transport but
the mules don't carry so much
weight. Look out wagon too
10 miles in place of 16 oxen
at an awagon.

They have been going along
since I wrote last but there are
signs of more activity. You hear
for instance that some of Roberts
troops have gone on to Heidelberg
from Grey Langstrand & that Roberts
is near Middlebury. There on
Saturday last all day we

heard fighting going on at
Kromdraai - eight miles from
here towards Valkenburg.

This morning about 4 am. I was
wokened by the artillery which
was moving their guns & some
now in the S.A. L.H. camp.
When I got up they were all
off on a reconnaissance. They
are expected back tonight. I hope
they get some fighting but it is
so windy today we can hear
nothing at a distance.

1.000.00

The reconnaissance in force
returned in the evening having
captured the Boers blankets
stones etc & had one man
killed slightly. In the fighting
at Kromdraai on Saturday
we lost six killed & 21 wounded.

& as most the Boers were
driven back every where & well
shelled. This morning early
the troops here began to move
& by breakfast time most had
marched. We crossed the
long black line of men &
wagons away over the hills.
They say that they are for
Very kind of attack - way to
go for the Boers wondering
here. When the S.A.F.T. left
this morning they sent us all
their sick - 18 & only 2 survived.
Came along the medicals I found
the man of Corporal Storror
called out & I hunted him up
& found him to be the son of
Mr Storror the Saddler in Whitehall
Street. Mr Storror went down
about him when I was bony.

I think he came out on account
of his lungs & was in Gettysburg
I think when the war began.
He looks rather thin now & as
if he would be better of a
rest or lung & eat which
I have no doubt that he will
get when he goes down country
tomorrow.

Last night Major Buchanan
Capt. Lanning & their mother
Mrs. Spokmane dined with us
thus completing our social
entertainment. Buchanan
is a north of Ireland man
married, father three sons, and
very amiable. Of course they
were all away before us.
They told us that in their field
hospital (which is much smaller
than ours) they dine at 6:30 and

time is at 8! Lemmings is
also very nice - a teetotaller &
doesn't smoke. After being
at the Post office yesterday
afternoon, I met him & we had
a long ride about 30
rod down with him to his
hospital & then had a fine treat
& came home Standard
Hops. All the grass from it
was away & the north has
been burned & in places
was still smoking & the
lovely val & told you about
was one big sheet of black
as far as the eye could
reach. The airport seemed
much more & this probably
preceded todays departure of
troops & I hear that now
we are not allowed on

the other side of the Hop at all.
Another new order is that all
the women in the place are
confined to their houses - I
suppose to prevent their commu-
nicating with the fighting Boers.
There are not very many but
the confinement must be a
bit trying after a while.

Today - very nicely again &
we are in clouds of dust.
That seems to be the way out here
two or three days even, down shower
& then a few days long another.
That is of course at this season
for lots on the other just
better until it rains properly
toward the end of the year.
Now I think that is all my
news; just now though & just
like a coat of good material

Show our side many blank
I suppose you will go to at
Holopin so remember me to
Alice & Lee Thompson —
Yours Ottmar

ever your loving
Ottmar

5.th C. N. H.

✓
Ponderton

Traentaal

26.VII.00

My dearest Dave

I don't know if this is
the 26th or 27th - any way it is said to
be Thursdays. Tuesday was a fine
warm sunny day and in the afternoon
Farde & I went over to the 2nd Bde
Field Hospital to afternoon tea &
met the Rev. MacCormack and his
three daughters. He says he has
ten of them! He is an old man
with a long white beard and
is English Farde here and also
& our hospital. Jennings & Leape
of the 2nd B. F. H. & Farde took charge
of the girls and Major Buckman
& I took the old man. The Rev.
& wife - army chaplain - also
put in an appearance but went
off after tea. The Farde has been

15 months in Standerton and was very interested in his stories about the Boers. He has been in South Africa 35 years and knows what he is talking about. After tea we walked slowly up to the top of Standerton Kop. We saw one of the 5 inch guns there & I got one of the gunners & open the breech & explain about the armament. The gun has an effective range of 10,800 yds. Standerton Kop like all the hills about here is quite flat on the top & the view from it is very fine over the vroxen field. As we went up we saw General Butler coming down with two of his staff. It was nearly dark when we got back to camp here.

Staff Surgeon Hughes who was here with the naval 10 gunners told us 2 weeks ago that the minimum thermometer in his tent one night registered 20° frost. That will give you an idea of how cold it was then but it is not more so now. Yesterday & today however have been bad days cold & cloudy & very windy the wind blowing so that we have to keep our tents shut up all day & we live in a sort of permanent gloom. At intervals we go out to walk up & down & warm our feet but otherwise we have spent 48 hrs in the tents. At night it has rained & been stormy a bit.

Yesterday just after dark we
got in 56 but only 6 for me.
We hear that there has been some
fighting at Oldford and yesterday
40 cossmolis on our side, but
unfortunately they form a fixed
hospital there do now come
our way.

I got your note today saying you
had written to me through Mr. Brewin.
Poor Mr. Brewin he has no idea
where I am but I have no
doubt he will forward the
letter to Glencoe.

29 M. 00

In my last letter I wrote & told
you about young Mackinnon who
was driving with us on night. He
is very much interested in. His
youth belongs to Edinburgh and
has a brother an officer in Artillery.

5th Divisional Field Hospital
Stanerton
Transvaal

6-VII-00

A/
My Dearest Dave

For the first time since I left I have got a Table Service on. It was one we Commandered by permission in Stanerton & have put in the mess. It won't make a difference in the legibility of my writing. I think it was last Wednesday I posted your letter on and this is Monday. Well after I posted your letter I went down to the Station for something and heard that the ~~coaches~~ wagons were coming in from Wateraal. I waited to see the train & it was funny. They were all as usual in open trucks and my word they were drif. Some of them looked like riyers they were

so mixed with earth. It was impossible
a detachment of Sappers & some L. Army
got out & I was watching them when
Col. Goggan R.A.M.C. came up there
& said he was sending over a badly
wounded man to the hospital so
I looked it at once & prepared to
receive him. I could see the bears
~~bearing~~ bearing him along &
could hear him too far that night
but took a short cut & got him
first. He was such a nice boy
one of Scotch com's Horse and
very badly shot in the thigh with
an explosive bullet. That kept
me busy until after dark. It would
make your hair stand up to hear his
story but I am not drunk bears
in any of my letters. Most of the next
day I spent in making a splint for
him & got the iron work done at
the engine shop at the station.

Now all the N. G. R. are Scots and
I get on well when I go there.
I think I told you that I had a
Corp't Barr of Lorne croft Mawbey
discharged in. He was shot with a pun
pom in the leg - Baster! I am
fated to write "lop" today. Well
he is a native of Aberdeen & knows
all around well & left a widow
father besides some people in
Aberdeen. He is an accountant in
Tretonia when not soldiering & is
a very nice chap. He is a great friend
of young Friedlander who is also
in the T. M. L. Friedlander however
and goes by the name of Friedland,
Layton to hide his origin. Friedland
has had a touch of dysentery & has
been in Hospital down at
Moss River but was returned
& his regiment last week. Barr

days he is such a nice fellow &
gets on well so that a pay in prose
is about £50 a month so that
where he lives it only costs him
£10 a month.

Corporal Storror of the S.A.S.C. was only
here over one night but I went
down after mess and had a long
talk with him. He is a stock broker
in Johannesburg & knows a
monkey & his brother well. Storror
bought mules in Transvaal for us
just before the war broke out
& in consequence was put in prison
trial & condemned to be shot. He
appealed to Pretoria & was tried
again & the capital sentence was
commuted & later he was taken
to the border & turned adrift. He
made his way to Colenso Bay
& came down to Cape Town in
the same boat as did his brother

2

There after every Garrison Walker he
joined the N.A.S.H. & was through
every thing of the second Palms
till he was shot near Wateraal
Junks go.

On night we had three visitors taking
pot-luck with us, Capt Martin T. M.
a volunteer sub colonel Clark of the
Protestant Rifles and Capt Hetchin
of Scott canes. The latter a
very nice fellow and an officer
in the Canadian mounted Police.
On Friday night during this dinner we
heard one of the pickets firing and
soon afterwards we heard machine
fire & other things quietened down. On
Saturday at day light we were
wakened by hoos guns firing
& the poor ponies barking & after
breakfast found that nearly all
the troops had gone over towards

the Orange River Colony frontier.
The firing seemed about 6 miles
away and from the top of Standerton
Rap we could see it all. It was
8 miles off & we had 3 field guns
& some pieces of Company's & Infantry
& a composite regiment of
Irregular Horse. We could see
the Infantry advancing with the
Cavalry on their flanks and
the guns on the left & could
see the flashes of the Boer guns
replying & the shells bursting.
Our men burned three farms
houses & then retired the Boers
following them for some miles.
It was very interesting & at luncheon
all afternoon we watched the
troops returning.

On Sunday - yesterday - I got
up to Standerton & rode

past the High Church. It was so
funny. The pits were all dressed
in the most marvellous colours
& the men in what they consider neat.
I heard one that the people walked
in at one door went at another
& all the time one man with a
voice like a 4-7 gun kept up
a long slow song. I was
afraid to stop but they should
think me rude.

Toddy has been a most awful
dog of wind & dust & cooking
meat impossible. That kind of dog
always gets us a short & Atkins
generally on dish after bread and
jam.

You know that the man who leads
the committee mule in Strathconia
Horse is Lord Edward Seymour. When
he does not lead the mule he acts as
cook to the gun detachment. The

No^t of the few is also an Honorable
somebody but I forgot his name.
What an aristocratic name now!

9-111.00

The next day after writing the above
was still very stormy & cloudy but
yesterday & today are fine & warm
though every night has been cold
enough again during the winter
over twelve. Maj. Gilpatrick & Co &
Gen. Hooper Newcastle was up
here yesterday. His corps is coming
up here soon. It has 500 beds &
it is possible it's arrived or may
arrive elsewhere but if
it does not interfere with the work
I'm getting I shall be pleased enough
to stay at home. The day before yesterday
I got in three batches of wounded at
different times. There's a short letter
but I'm not going to begin another
sheet. Same date, overlooking

Daniel

5th Divisional Field Hospital
Standerton
Transvaal.

My dearest Anne

12-5-111. 00

The other day I thought we were in for a sheltering rain in the afternoon then suddenly came an explosion and then the whirr of a ricochetted shell over our camp. I was in my tent at the time & jumped up to see what it was but I found they were breaking up the piers of the damaged bridge with dynamite and that a pier had come down and all outlying ones soon became ordered to stand in a bit so that they can concentrate easily - we knew this & would not have been surprised at some attempt to spot our pickets.

On Wednesday I rode in the afternoon

through Sandstone & across Nogars
Bridge to the hills where the Boers had
their guns in '91. The bridge is sandbagged
and has a strong guard on it and
from there one climbs up the road
or what passes for a road on the
veld - to the sky line where the remains
of the fort is. There is a fine view
from there towards the town but
a far better one in the other direction
over the veld. Most has been
burned in the distance & is black
but for about 4 miles the veld
here is the usual brown & yellow.
It was a glorious hot day and
I continued to the next ridge where
I met the cooey pack. They
were enjoying themselves lying in
the sun smoking their pipes
standing cropping the grass behind
them. They must be trained not
to go away. I then rode back
again calling at the Canteen

for some tobacco.

Thursday was rather cold & windy
after a cold night & I was not
far from camp that day and
went to bed at 9:30! This is
far really & keep warm for it is
very cold sitting in trees at night.
I then rode until bed time & then
blow out the candles. Well that
night I had just blown out the
lights when an aeroplane which
is about 1000ds from us was
fired at and promptly replied.
The firing was pretty brisk and it
was busy leaning the weight of the
bullets but by God it got through
and I fell asleep though I was told
next morning that we opened on
them with a Maxim and put a
stop to the firing. It says a good
dog & low accustomed our jets
& rifle fire that a Maxim 1000ds
away did not wake me doesn't

Since then we have never been disturbed.

Fri'dy I was on duty and so was confined to barracks all day. We had the Rev. Father Mc'Cabe an O. C. Chaplain down from Grey Longstaff (where the D'cotcht Rifles are) to bring a man & he stayed all night and dined with us. It was a wonderful idiot & annoyed Farde & me very much. He was so dull in the upstairs. We pulled his leg properly & he never saw it.

Yesterday was Saturday. We had a pretty good night but just after dawn the tents began to flap ominously. The sky was clear blue without a cloud which is a bad sign in this place with windy weather and by breakfast time it was blowing a gale. All day we had a regular chest storm & never could see more than 160 paces & when it was bad not 50 paces. It was impossible to wear anything

on our head & as soon as I saw what we were up to I covered my bed with my coat & kept the blankets as free as possible. Before breakfast all our fires were ordered out & were never lit again all day. The tents flapped & broke their ropes & many were blown down. Before the day was half through we were all like coal scowls for we had no washing water. Though our fires were out sparks were blown from somewhere across the ridge - probably one of the other camps - and no less than six times our press was set on fire. Hot and harding up ones tent kept us busy. Every now & then above the roar of the flapping tent or the roar of the wind we heard "Fire! Andables turn out!" & we all jumped up seized the

up & back we had for the purpose
I rushed to beat out the fire.
By the time we got back with eyes
stinging with the dust ~~the~~^{and} that would
be almost away with it & the
ropes had to be tightened and the
jags driven in further. We were
thankful when the wind fell at
sun-down & we got water. Molls
were short & bread and beans
tongue. No hot water for tea or anything.
The mule harness was burned and
twelve fine tents destroyed. My
tent is like a petticoat with lace
all round and the ropes so broken
I can't get it shut at night.

In contradistinction I suppose to
let us see how men in South Africa
can be today less but longer.
After breakfast Farde & I went
thru Standerbos & a sandbagged
block house on the hill beyond

I then continued trotting on walked
over the burned veld away
round Standerbos about
I suppose about 10 or 12 miles.
It was long. When on the hill
we had a splendid view. We
saw close by a great lake with
rippling water & islands in it &
when we got near it all vanished
and there was nothing but the black
burned veld. Anyway it was a
jolly ride & I don't think we went
out of bounds for we saw no
mounted riders.

I am writing this after dinner so you
may guess it is not so cold as
we have had it sometimes but it
is windy a bit and my toes are
beginning to feel it. So good night
just now.

13-FM-00

I don't know that I have conveyed
any idea of the storm we had. The

Rev. McCormack was here at luncheon
today and says that no one in Standar-
ton remembers such a dog, he
very funny thing I forgot to tell you
was that every now and then
in the dust we would hear a
noise like thunder and
suddenly out of the cloud would
bounce a huge 3 ft. empty
biscuit tin or a sheet of carriage
iron. There are hundreds of these tins
lying about so many all the time
parochy stores & kitchens are
covered with carriage iron.
Our temporary cook house was
blown over & the cook escaped
by making a hole through the
floor as the house turned up.
How good he just now for I
am going to post this early.
Love to every body
every one loving

Dave

5th Annual Field Hospital
Stanerton

xxii

16-VIII-00

My dear Anne

This daily chronicle of my doings I have begun early enough this time but without very much news to give. This is Thursday. Well yesterday in the forenoon we heard the pony pony barking from the top of the Kops and as soon as I had finished my dressings Fards & I rode up to see what was going on. It was a lovely bright warm day and as we cantered up to the foot of the hill we met a news paper man in slippers & trousers riding up too. By the time we got up we just saw the pony pony look in and trot off but we

learned that they were only
tying oranges so as I know
how far this point and that
point were from the hill.

However we had a ride over
the flat top & saw the 4-7 &
the 5-inch guns. The top is a
wonderful sight. The West
Levies are encamped there &
say it is warmer there than
lower down. The place is
immensely strong and all the
place is entrenched and shelter
built, shell pits dug for shelter
and everything in a splendid
state of defense. Barber wine
& fruit wood, like Chereaux de
frais in the olden days - say
Cannibal time. It was very
interesting & the hot sun is a
thirst for luncheon. Then

in the evening Ford & I went
& dined with a -Lemans. I think
I told you he was a local
proctitioner here - a Barb man
and a very nice fellow - his wife
is a colonial & they have two
children. It was so funny being
in a room with a fire and
especially over a white cloth
on the table. I don't think I
have ever seen a man in a white
shirt with nice I left Cape
Town. What a contrast he
was to our dusty and dirty
Rakhi! There has the variety of
a few blood stains which the
others lack. We had a nice
dinner with a magnificent
roast turkey but we did not
get enough of it to satisfy us

The only drink was claret.
Major Buchanan & Jennings
were there too. They were half
an hour late with the most
wonderful excuse you ever
heard. It was this. The railway
line ~~to~~ was taken over that
day by the Military under the
name of the Imperial Military
Railway and at noon the
train was changed from
Trotoria train to Cape train
and all clocks had to be
put back half an hour. I
fancy such a good excuse only
occurs once in a life time!
The postal authorities here
deserve credit on some
things. One of our aerodromes
the other day got a letter

whose auf address was

207361 R.A.M.C

Natal

Fancy that finding the man &
this within a decent time.

17. VIII. '00

A few days ago I was in Colonel
Morgan's office and met Major
Winter & Brack (Quartermaster) of the
11th B.R. Field Hospital from Paardekops.
Winter had a snapshot camera
with him and as we came along
to the station he took such a
rare chance. A barrel of brack
(which they mix with manure for
the cattle) had fallen & burst
and the natives were round
it like flies clipping their fingers
in & breaking them with such
pains of agony.

Last night Simpson came up
as a forerunner of the ~~1st~~ No. 4

General Hospital. He is staying with us till the hospital arrives. You may remember I met him at St Vincent.

He was then going home on board the Majestic & came over to the Umbria & died. Since then he has returned & has been on duty at Newcastleton since.

The same night Capt Fricke of the R.A.M.C. came from the Laff 10th Ryde Field Hospital at Plaistrand. He is a very nice chap though we saw very little of him & think our views about the Boers and their treatment coincided very closely.

Yesterday was the first day we dined without protocol. So the Spring is evidently coming.
This afternoon Forde and Brodie

over & call on Lemmians - after dinner call you know. It was a jolly dog & they were both sitting out on the stoep where we joined them for an hour. Forde took his camera & photographed the baby (10 months) and the little girl (4 years) - Lemmians was telling us that before the British came here there was a fairly well & do woman who was about 50 & very fat. She had some stock & when the Boers left she prepared to go. Lemmians advised her to stay saying the British would do her no harm. She said to him she would not stay "because when the British come in General Buller might come

done and say "You are a
fine old cow you come
along and cook for me."
and so she went! Imagine
General Buller! ~~after~~
we got some coke from
McLennans. She told us
that all that coke - ordinary
Cullana coke - comes in
ternutically sealed tin boxes
from Australia.

The only other proctitioner here
is Dr. Blood a brother of the
Miss Blood who figured in
the Colin Campbell divorce
case. He is not a credit to his
country or profession and is
much given to drink. He and
Lemmons are just as obstinate
as they could be I think. I

haven't met Blood & don't
want to. When we came here
he was under arrest on account
of his sending information to
the Boers about us. It is a
petty lamping is out of fashion
here just now! After we
left Linnaeus' we rode toward
Lomm & did some shopping.
Sunday too! The only shop however
in the whole place is the N.F.F.
Canteen, but for us and our far
civilians. The civilians are charged
more than we are. The store is
rather limited but fortunately
our wants are few. Farde
wanted a pair of velotshoes and
we had to go to two canteens before
him.

20-VII. '00

Tuesday Farde & Roberts went off
to Tai town. Farde expects to

return in two or three weeks as he has only slight influenza but Robert will probably go home. His complaint is the usual Quartenaria's one, a little too much beer before he got his commission. He has gone down with every intention of getting home, has developed an invalid shuffe, a beard of two weeks growth and a general appearance of bad health.

Tuin town Hospital is about half an hours run from Gaborone and about 84 hrs from here according to the time table but just now often 48.

A train load of sick passed here today from Tretoria en route for Luvuvu River. Bragin Crook who is in command of the train said hospitals were in an awful muddle at Tretoria but we

got no details. Babbington who went down sick from us at Ladysmith wrote the other day that he had been sent to Tretoria for duty but there were only about two or three sick Deock medical Officer. They say there are good sick coming through Natal from Tretoria & Johannesburg. I think No 4 General is far down of that lot. Last week I got my servant - Waller - a poss dog to Johannesburg & he brought me back two shells from the ruins of Bigbie's factory a piece of gold quartz and a paraffin lamp. The latter looks awfully well in the tent & its soft light reminds one of student reading days.

24 VIII. 50

Today I have been as busy and
it has been a dusty & windy day
and that is about all. I spent
nearly all day making a chamois-
leather-lined-kaki watch-pocket
and stitching it on my jacket
with a flap over it and a buck
button to fasten the flap. You
will laugh I know when you
see it but I doubt if anything
could possibly get it off except
a knife. An interesting day
or could invent it? and as I have
no more news for this letter
I will shut it up now though
it is a day before the limit.
Love to Maria and every body
ever growing

✓ and

5th Dimensional Field Hospital
Praedator.

III

22-VIII.00

My dear Dave

I don't know if you will get my letter I posted today but if you do it will probably be by Cape Town because we have been cut off all day from the South. Every last night the wire and line was cut somewhere in the South & the railway people say that the Boers have occupied Gans-Hoek station. That would be unfortunate. As it is it has stopped the mail from getting up and your expected letter has not arrived. No traces have gone down either. The down mails have been sent on to Blaauwfontein & so down to Cape Town. All the same we have had a busy day. Quite

unexpectedly we got in a lot of sick from Hindebury & that direction. Seven were for me and about 30 for the medical side. With them came an Indian Subaltern of the R.A.M.C. called Arnoboy. He has amused me with his shot which is interesting gossip of what is doing elsewhere. He is such a boy. I had hoped to get out a ride today but was too busy and besides it was a bit windy. We seemed to be in the direct line of the dust devils for we had several go through our camp. They are just like water spouts and of dust. They vary from an inch or two ~~acres~~ to 60 feet or more across and from a foot to 200 - 300 feet high. You can see them coming with a swirl of dust over the plain gradually

increasing in volume height and density and sweeps on till it rushes through the camp, flapping the tents, lifting blankets etc which may be on the ground & filling every thing with dust.

23-7-1900

It has been blowing hard all day and very dusty. Major McPatrick thinks it is awful and cannot believe we had worse last Saturday, whereas today was calm compared with that storm. We have had no red fires and have been able to eat food. I had to put off my dressings till nearly sundown & since then it has been quiet. I hear too that the railway has been repaired and therefore I expect your letter tomorrow.

25 - 1000

Today has been a fine day and the peach blossom is beginning to come out. The trees have the prime tint of Spring & yet last night our water froze in our tanks. I had a letter from Mary which I have already answered. Most of the day was occupied it seems to me by a funeral we went to of one of our men who died of pneumonia. The Essex Ry^t supplied the firing party and some of the men from 20 & Environs attended. Block & I went & we had dinner right at the other side of Standerton. On the way back we called in at S. Leimans & had a chat for an hour. He showed us his orchard of plum trees, apples, pears & cherries & was bemoaning the drought. He says the Spring is late & it will not come properly till October. The night before last there was

Some pocket money but I kept
through it all!

26-01-19. 30

I forgot to say about your letter that
you must not repeat that story
about Harry Wright demanding the
wounded from Krantz on Spion
Kop. Neither Harry Wright nor
Bronje were on Spion Kop. The
incident occurred I think after
the second Colenso. I remember
the picture - we got such a lovely
run out of Lemmings of the 2nd Regt
Bdr. F.H. He was laying up some
papers to send & the Rev. McCormick
and he went out of his tent to
get a bit of string and Lensor
clipped a Pick 'em among it
then & he sent the lot with his
compliments! The Rev. McCormick
I suppose never saw such a
paper before and will not
understand it a bit.

Yesterday and today train loads
of horses have been packing up
post horses. See the train not far
off on the line I have had to go left
for the night, of wagons, that is
about 225 horses. We can
hear them constantly tramping.
Today my mare has been clipped
& looks so sleek and cold. It
took the groan marks all day &
she has done it well but the
rough skin & the dirt would
make William's hair turn white.
Jennings & Russell came over
but me to go with them & call
on the New Cornicks this afternoon
but I was able to refuse partly
because it was Sunday and
partly because my mare was
not ready but also because
Jennings wants support till
he has got over the Park the
weird.

27-11-00

There is some movement going on
here again though it may not move
any moment now. The Derby and
Devon Ryts come to replace the L.
Surrey and Queens. I enclose you
a programme of a Gymkhana which
was to have taken place on
Thursday but has been scratched
on account of these changes.
The T. M. J. come in place of
the Composite cavalry which left
this morning. It is said the
5th Division are going over to
Walkers broom district. I wonder
if we will go with them?
Today has been a fine day but
cloudy at sunset, lightning
drew & snow threatening again.
I wonder if we are - for a
night flood.

28.VIII. 80

Well all night off over it thundered & lightning but there was little rain I was up soon after six & could hardly see to shave them on account of the dark clouds. I went to the station at seven to see some men off and I think it was raining rain & better by starting them than it had been all night. The damp cold has such a lovely smell. I had such a jolly ride this afternoon about six miles out and back again a different way. My objective was Bokhoff's farm though I did not go in Louwenveld to see it. It is a typical South African Farm and on that it has a white flag flying from it, it is a typical Transvaal farm too. I saw two women on the stoep & lots of stock. It seems a good farm of its kind. There were cattle, sheep & goats & lots of horses. Most of them were

in the old maize fields and in
one place they were ploughing
with a team of 10 oxen. Further
on I came across two "Kor an"
a sort of large pafowl. I wished
I had had a shot gun. About a
mile from Camp I overtook
Capt. Cleare A.S.C. who pointed out
where the Boer Commandos stayed
well out of range of the big guns.
When I got back I found that
General Chaytor had come in
with the second Division and
the opposite side of Standerton
was block with troops. What
they are doing here or going to
do we have no idea.

Then the last & not the best
present surprise when I
got back to my tent was to find

your letter. It has got up here
earlier than usual for it does
not generally come till Wednesday.
You say that Col. Smith's son is
suspected wounded. It was reported
here that the wound was very
slight. I hope this is true. Give
the Colonel my sympathy &
tell him most of the minor
injuries are of no permanent
importance.

How good he is just now. Love
to every body.

Your loving
Dame

Pleasant
to have the ~~old~~^{new} Divisional Field Hospital
Bragg / N Stanclinton
+ / N

30. VIII. 00

My dear Gove,

I don't know how I have
much to tell you as yet this week
for yesterday and today it has rained
incessantly both day and night with
plenty of thunder & lightning thrown
in. The ground has got a proper
soaking and the tents were flooded.
It has not been disagreeable
though because the weather has been
milder and the rain not a such
torrent as to beat through the canvas
& though every thing is thoroughly damp
one is not wakened by rain patterning
on one's head. The day passes shut
in one's tent reading or playing about.
The trees are all covered with light
green and we hope soon to see

the world goes too. For a while this afternoon it rained & I rode into the town to get some whisky for the mess. What a look the place was in and the mud was awful. I was very glad I was not walking. In town I met the marchioness coming in with their transport. They have come from Gen. Rundell and they were a sight. Their clothes were in rags, the ponies were stagy and most saddle galled & the men had beaver hats lost sight and were very evidently soaked to the skin. I got my whisky and got home before the rain began again. Some of the marchioness were very funny. They have come from Vrede. One of the men had a hole in his jacket he could have come out through. Several had

breaches made out of old sacks and one had his made out of a worn waterproof sheet. I have just seen our men stop in with some feet. He is a subaltern & I have clothed & fed him & made him quite happy. He says they have marched about 80 miles every day for 3 months, have not seen a Boer & have had no fighting. Probably this is a slight exaggeration but he needed a rest badly. There have been more troops moving, some up & some down country & loads of horses & food going up.

31 - 1111.00

I saw Colonel Horncroft today who says the war will

to officially open my mouth
& seeing some of us will get
away immediately after that. It
would suit me first not
& get home then — but don't
say anything about it just now.
Also is an young Friedländer
today & had a long chat with
him in my tent. He is a very
neat fellow & very anxious to
get back to Barberton where
his mine is.

Zoog chores up fine and the
sun come out & I think
I shall be able to look forward
& putting out blankets which
are not damp. Tell Shannin
that when I was bathing this
morning I found such a
large cutpore in my sponge.

We have got a lovely new tent
for the mess with high sides like
a room. I'll sketch it for you
when you see when I get back.

1-18-00

Today has been such a lovely warm
day and I had a jolly ride. I
left after luncheon 1:30 at two o
clock back about 5 or soon after.
About three miles out I met
a convoy from Waterloo
with horses and carts. It was
very picturesquely. You could see
the convoy away on the sky
line with the teams of oxen
like little black streaks and
then extending from this
the carts in open order
about 100 yds apart. As

I passed one of the scouts & asked how far they had been out & he said "three miles from the convoy." I asked him if there were any Boars & he said not "not even of an advertisied for them." So I had another good start ch. I think I rode about 18 miles altogether. I had my pistol but though I saw two Lores, 4 jumbo fowl (Khoran) and a duck I did not get a shot. This is the first time I have got out here with my revolver because previously there was a chance of being caught & if any arms were found on me under the red cross I might have meant to Maclododarp or somewhere.

I am on duty tomorrow but will hope to get out the next day & by some other direction.

2-14-00

It has been such a lovely warm quiet Sunday and as I have been on duty I have not been out of the place all day. This evening we got a telegram to reduce our 200 bedded hospital immediately to 100 beds. Of course we are all here as yet but this means. Does it mean a move and to do so before we does it simply mean a reduction previous to breaking up the field hospitals at the end of the war?

The men bring all their jet about done. Yesterday I got a snake and today one of the men brought to me his pup which has disturbed. Poor

little by, as it is very bad like the first
Baker was and I think it is not
fairly to get away it. It is curious
that all our 4 dogs in camp have
had disturbance since we came here.

3-IX-00

Last night near Waterval the train was
fired on by a number of Boers and
the stoker shot so that he died later
the driver had no less than eight
wounds. The two men driving it
then train is unsafe & the stoker
died soon after. The Boers blew
up a culvert & we have had
no trains from the north today.
One of our youngest left for duty
elsewhere today & so we are again
only three officers. I am not going
to start another shot for I think
my next letter will finish my
paper. Ever your loving
Dane

Dear General 5th Divisional Field Hospital
Chest Street
Fayal with the others
+ + +
Standerton

4-IX-00

My dear Dave,

I have been on duty
today and fixed in camp. The
Camp looks so empty now it
has been reduced by half and
I feel just as if the campsite
was never ours and that the
timed camp was a prelude
to our moving. When we
can go at the difficult we all
have here & all hope it will
be Barbou & so home.
We are not yet sent fruit
all about here and last
night some Boers captured
a picket of 6 T. M. I. and when

their officer came down & visit of October we train for the committee
the priest he walked into them & Session.

was removed too. I notice that the owners of the native labourers who do the street sweeping etc are all armed with revolvers on their belts. Clays division has moved from the other side of Standerton over to their us. We have had no firing here though now for a long time

5-IX-00
There has been nothing doing to day. We sent off 22 sick drivers come by this morning at 6 and our diminished camp looks even more deserted than ever. Every one seems to be expectant of orders about going home. The time expired men & such like I first I suppose. It would suit me fine to get home by the end

7-IX-00.
This is tells quiet day - Many happy returns to her. Last night Block and I went to concert in the temporary Town Hall here. I enclose the programme. It was great fun. I don't know when I laughed so much.

The pianist Mr. Smith is a bit of a Clark here. He was that too under the Boers but was dismissed by them & after being suspended by the British when they entered for 3 weeks he was then restored to his duties being thoroughly sober by that time. He played first rate & played very good accompaniment as well. It was rather funny see him in evening dress with ammunition boots on.

Mrs. Scott was a girl about 14 yrs old & sang without much of a voice. The T. M. L.

man who played the mount organ
was splendid. He played a march
first & then as an encore the Hanley.
He was in Stoké, had ~~the~~^{boat} one which
had not been burnt since he
began I should think and we could
see his stockings through his boots &
his feet through his stockings. The
leather had gone & his spurs were
red with rust. Otherwise his act
was possible.

W. Gob is the resident Magician.
Clark here - a sort of Dan Leno.
The two officers of the Queen's who
did "Baby Sisters" were very funny
but was about 6ft 1 in & both
were mustached. They were
dressed in short white dresses
with bare arms & short sleeves
pink socks & baby mittens
white stockings & shoes. They
sang and danced. It was

very funny.

I think Miss Louw was under 60 but I don't know. She had by far the best trained voice of the lot - and unfortunately sang in English with a bit pronunciation. She is a Transvaal & they have no songs. Miss C van Backstrom was a light coloured, and dressed very dutch built girl of 16. Far the best looking of the crowd but not much of a singer. I think the only other one was Tristah Jackson. I think he must be a music hall singer at home. His songs were very musically & I was rather astonished of his singing so much. He sang four times - Mrs Lang and Hamilton Grace of the Durban L.L. then who came out with me in the Umbria. They asked me to come over

them on the top of Standerton Stop come in to say good bye in case
but I could not go today as my is kept or buried at Waterval -
man was being shot. I'll go we have been on rather short
when off duty the day after tomorrow robes for the past month and
of they are still there. They may be the others jumble at the monastery.
away for I hear that I companies Breakfast - Turned bacon, bread-jam
of the Q-L-I. have left for Waterval tea.
& the T.M.I. leave tomorrow to Luncheon - Lreh ox, onions, Rice
try to get a shot at the Boers jam whisky.
who shot Capt Molyneux & some Evening Luncheon - onions Rice, jam
men of the T.M.I. at Waterval whisky.
last night. They broke the railway. The patients are better off than we
& all the sidings here were blocked. You will see the monastery. There
with trains of stores all day. are no potatoes & the food & no tea.
The carriages at 10.30 were mostly no eggs of course though Black
Lions. Two were real well carried & 15 them for himself at 4/6
however & the T.M.I.'s had a
wagon & 10 muls which the
rushed down Standerton at
a great rate.
Today has been rather weedy
but good enough. Fruition

for 11. I have been offered
a sucking pig for 8/- but
am not at all sure of the
cooking. I run the mess &
manage the accounts so I am

held responsible for all the
"Scoff except the take" as Tennyson
says. Tell So that when "jam"
is "Killers Marmalade" which
is very seldom I myself
eat a whole pot a day for the
promotion of the trade. The variety
of jams we see is awful & the
structure of some is curious but
the vacinity less & filled & I
mangle it better than I can of
the others.

10-1X-00

Yesterday I was out a long walk
principally in order to sketch a
farm house which was held by
the Boers against us. It belonged
to an Englishman and has been
considerably knocked about
I gathered a lot of used Boer
cartridges as a memento.

XXVII

5th Missional Falls Halt
Standerton

22-IX-00

My dear Dore

It is I think three days
now since you so far. On Wednesday
I got off early immediately after I had
done my dressing and had a lovely
though lonely ride out to the Eliffs. It
was such a fine day and I wasted
no time and I did the 12 miles over
the veld in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours arriving about
noon. I rode up this side of the Vaal
and forded the river near the house.
The little girl who attended me
last time came to the door and
invited me in. I tied up my
mare and had filled one of my
wallets with jam so I took these
out & gave them her in return
for the drink of milk she gave
me last time. This time the
whole family except the men who

all prisoners were at home. Mrs Eloff was there. She spoke and what
was about 40 years old and ~~slim~~
large, ugly and so fat. There was
a second addition of her, I think a
sister. Mrs Eloff a nice looking
girl of about 22 or so. Two older
ones are married. There then was
the one I saw before, there twins
of 14. There two little ones. I did
not stay half an hour & then went
round to the dam down my lane
a brush - off saddled horse followed
my man after a race. Then
I started & have his with a mind
most wrote when suddenly my
man saw some other horses &
started off & I had such a race
& catch her. My word it was hot!
After that spiced her up. I had
some lunch then & then a close
after same track but got nothing

Saw a nice ride home getting in
before 5 o'clock.

Next day a 13 Heslar was shot about
3 miles out & that los again curtailed
our wanderings. Thursday I was
on duty. Ford came back
well from Princeton Hospital
& brought me half a dozen bushy
tomatoes and for the miss a
cabbage and a pineapple which
we enjoyed immensely.

Friday was a fine day, and in
the evening Ford Black & I
went to luminous & dinner to
meet General E.O. Hamilton. He
used to command the Queens.
He was very interesting though slightly
dof & his stories were most
enjoyable. He does not smoke
says he never has but his wife
sometimes enjoys a cigarette.
Today I rode up & the 600000

Marstabs to try by at a Masser rifle. Then I went round the town & as my mare was rather fresh and playing the fool a bit I gave her a proper gallop about 4 miles round the village about here. I was just in time to miss a severe dust storm & shut myself in my tent till it was over. We have Father M'Cabe dining with us tonight as he has service here tomorrow. He is rather an ass but we put him up when he is about here. Most of his life seems to have been spent in Spain or France or the species of firearms as "arms of fire" which sounds funny.

Love & Kindness. My enclosed explains the shortness of the letter.
Ever your loving

Dan

It was gloriously warm & as we
had no watches we passed time by
the sun & scrobbled up in an hour
& went on for another 4 miles.
We carefully scrutinized all things
with the glasses as we went in
case we would drop in among
the Boors but we saw none
& were not sniped at. Just
before luncheon we rode up
to a very small farm because
we saw a man on the stoep
but thought there were too men &
a woman we could not
make them understand us at
all. At 12 miles out we came
& a fine big house up on a
hill on the other side of the
river. With little difficulty we
fended the river & had a shot
at a sort of turkey whose legs

I broke but it got away. Then as we thought we saw some one moving on the steep we rode up to them. The house is a fine big one with two stories - almost unusual there here. As we pulled up at the front door ~~the~~ a girl of about 15 came looking out. She looked a lady so I touched my cap & said "good afternoon" to which she replied in good English. I asked if she could give me a drink of milk. She said I could have coffee but I said "no, milk!" She then said "You may come in to the parlour." So I gave Walter the reins & left him & rolled cigarettes & I went in. The people were the Eloff's & this girl was the oldest at home. She was very

plain looking with spectacles & had been at Bloemfontein at school before the war. Her younger sister aged about 12 was better looking & there was a little one like Hennie. I understand my milk brought by this happy woman. The eldest girl is called Summy Eloff. They spoke nicely. Their mother was in at Standerton. Their brother is in prison here. Their father is in England. Their Uncle was the Eloff whom Baden Powell captured at Mafeking. Summy showed me a photo of Mrs Kruyger & when the Eloff's are relatives. I never laughed. She looked like some of the old

people from the Inkwobie. I
wasn't there long but will go
back as soon as possible & take
the pits some jags - of which we
have plenty. We came down
the south side of the river & had
not gone far when we saw
three buck. We had a good
chase for a couple of miles
but never got within 300 yds.
In one place I passed two
big cranes at whom I played
as I passed from horseback
much dry marsh astoundish-
ment. We hung on & the buck
as long as we dared & then
set off home. As the sun was
going down then we had a
hard ride for it & what

two water carts & a Scotch cart
and 8 or 12 miles. All are away
from you. We have got no more
dick or wounded in and altogether
the game seems about over. I hope
so. The valley is all so beautiful
and green now especially where
the grass has been burned and
they say no more rain falls here
till the end of October & we all
expect to be away from here long
before that. We have been here
 $\frac{1}{2}$ months. Long not so long
enough in one place. The
Hospital Commission passed
through here yesterday but did
not bathe us. Probably they
knew how few patients we
had. I'll save the other half
short till next time. Your loving
Dove

with heavy ground and nullahs
& having again to ford the river
it was dark before we got
near the outpost & were stopped
& searched & interrogated before
we were allowed to go on & then
a few hundred yards further we
were again held up & then we
rode into a barbed wire fence
& then got home. How good
a whisky & soda was at dinner
for we had a heavy day. The
most glorious part was the
gallop after the buck. Nothing
could beat that sort of thing -
There is no doubt that we are not
to be moved from here because
~~the other day~~ we had an order to
return all our transport &
we have nothing left now but

XXVI

5th Provincial Field Hospital
Standerton

17/12/00

My dear Dave

I got your letter from
Mowbray on Tuesday. You all
seem to have enjoyed yourselves.
I wish I had seen Hami catch
the first! I think we will do a
bicyle ride in the north next
Summer.

The other day I presided at the
Sale of the kit of one of our men
who had died. The whole realized
£1-17-6. The men enjoy these
sales though you would almost
expect that they would be sad
about their comrades effects
being sold.

One day I saw a native woman
beside one of the wounded natives.
I noticed she had a peculiar

chain on - not like ordinary
native work. She could not speak but Wednesday we had the Rev
English & I took hold of the chain Mac Cormick & a - Limousin
when up came a crucifix from dining with us. I got most of
our food up through the station
people. Potatoes out 4^d a pound
were the first seen here for long.
I got some Mullet for fish
Cabbage & some fruit. Some
turnip French beans made the
menu.

Potages - Kidney (a present from Service
Corps Sergeant).
Tassie - Mullet - Mashed potatoes.
Entree - Liver & bacon.
Roti - Minced tick ox - Baked potatoe
Cabbage. French Beans.
Custard (One pound) Turnip
Fruit. 12 Bananas. 12 oranges (Tangerines)
3 Pui apples.

Total cost £ 1-10-3
I have understood all we had to pay
for.

Two dogs I saw here out on the
hunt again but the horse is very
in the road when stalking so yesterday
I took Waller with me. Waller who
is my servant you know, rides well
as he was in the 2 Middlesex Mounted
Infantry. He took a rifle with him
& we left about 11 o'clock. I
had given my man four dogs
rest & he was fit and fit for
a heavy dogs work. We took a
tin of chicken some biscuits and
had our water bottles filled. We rode
out past Tatjul's farm - then
I spitted for you & myself till
we were about 5 miles out. Then
I began to get an occasional
shot at duck on the river. Waller
holding the horses. When we were
about 8 miles out we stopped
& some hattered our horses & let
them feed while we had lunch

In one room are what remains of
it is a painting of the Boor coat
of arms and their motto "Endrock
Naakt Maect". The place has
been properly destroyed but I
think all the furniture has been
removed in anticipation of
flight for there is not much
left about. After I left
the went through their garden
now blossoming in the black
trees & the leaves on others beginning
to come out but the place is
mostly overrun with weeds.
There is a fine cooter ledge
down one side and a large
dam for water near the
house & the usual cemetery
about 200 yds from the house.
From there I went a good

bit down the road river & back before I got home and then walked home low down I got through our pickets without close to the water. On the way being challenged.
I got a shot at a heron but missed. It's difficult shooting with the revolver pistol at game. I saw several flights of duck and after the sun had set, even some many owls. They look so funny with their horns like little devils perched on them. I don't know how many dead horses I had to pass after I left the river. but smell them well away and twice I walked right on to them with their legs sticking out of the ground. It was quite

dark before I got home and I got through our pickets without being challenged.
Today I have been on duty all day but my spare time does not have having to find so much \$00. I will be able to give you a very good idea of the view from our camp when I get home. There's no word of our changing ground yet and as I said before things are very slack and there is no news. The railway was broken again the other night and we had a train of 300 horses on the siding near us all night. There must be very many repaired up

country for 300 to 600 to up
every day just now in
addition to long supply trains
of say 12 wagons each wagon
carrying 20 tons of stuff.

You see that I have finished
the stock of paper I brought with
me and this is down sent
out by some Society for
the sick & wounded and others
but myself.

Love every body & tell next
week an au revoir
ever your loving

Dave

R.A.M.C. 457/1



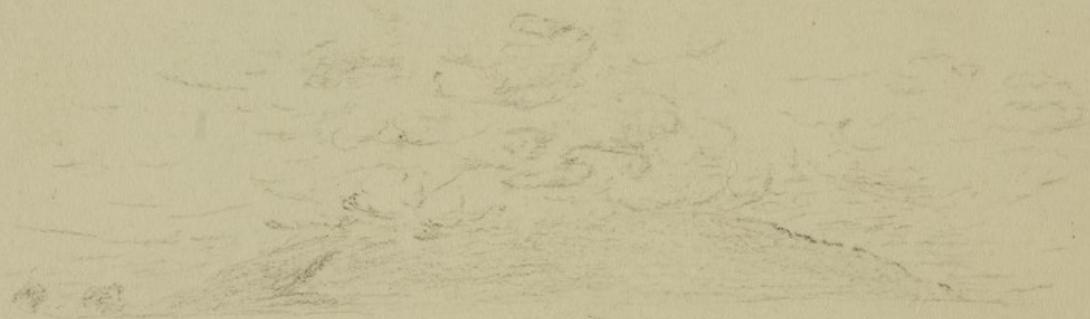
For Rhaevis

QAMC 4571



"Brick rock" only st. house at
extreme to St Vincent harbour.

St. Paul's mountain 9 miles off.
The hills are seen through the mist
only.



Medina 20. M-08

R.A.M.C 4574

Army Form B. 2067.

DESCRIPTION CARD FOR ACTIVE
SERVICE.

No. and Name

Claud M. Gray

Rank and Regiment

Civil Surgeon

Nearest of Kin

Mr. Isabella F. Gray
(wife)

Residing at

25 Tay Street
Dundee
Scotland

Signature of Officer
Commanding Troop,
Battery or Company

John Slack
Major Paul
O.C. 5th Inf. Regt.

H W V 400,000 12-99



With the Compliments of the Season.

RANC 457/5

Carnine

David Middleton

Graig.

RAMC 457

FIRST FLAT

31 SCIENNES ROAD EDINBURGH 9

TEL. NEWINGTON 2672

Whether "finds" relevant
to my father's S. African
letters - also two documents
which I thought might be
of interest.

C. I. Greig

Revd. G. J. H. B.
401.9.65

H. S. NUBIA

19 OCTOBER 1900



DÎNER

- Consommé à la Clermont
 Poisson Bouilli, Sauce Piquante
 Atayau de Boeuf Rôti
 Langues de Mouton au Parmesan
 Bûche à la demi glace
 Chapon Rôti et Salade
 Blanmanger à la Royale
 Biscuits à l' Italienne

DessertCafé



QUI SEPARABIT



— Dîner —

Potage à l'Ecossaise
Turbot à la Hollandaise
Ligot de Mouton Dauph. Sc-Bâpres
Fritot de Poulet aux Tomates
Promestis à la Rousse
Coq de Bruyère à la Royale
Lyéée de Berises
Biscuit de Savoie

Dessert

Baie

