

# **Diary of Major James McCarroll – 1915 – Egypt – Gallipoli – Malta – United Kingdom.**

Transcribed by Steve Butler for the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Association – 2007.

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January  
Training. No holiday

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Training Squadron

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Colonel Begg, Colonel Mackesy, Major O'Neil and self visited Helliopolis Obelisk.

Dates 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> - entries all state:  
Squadron Training.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>  
Trek to Ma'adi in sandstorm via Virgin's Breast – Moses' Well  
Bivouac near Q.L.H. [Queensland Light Horse] Camp Maadi.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup>  
Return trek via Arron's Gorge – Petrified Forest – Virgin's Breast.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>  
Dismounted Training.  
Hon J. McKenzie inspected troops.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>  
Went to Sakaraha, she is well worth seeing.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup>  
Regemental training.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>  
Regimental training and letters from home.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>  
Regiment trek to Askanda Shakara – slept in the desert.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup>  
Return to Camp.

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>  
Dismounted Parade.

Next entry Monday 18<sup>th</sup>  
Vaccinated today.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>  
Field training with poor results.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>  
Attack on position. General Birdwood looked on.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>  
Defence.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Mobilisation. Good turn out.

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Musketry and Conference of Officers. General line.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>  
Duty J – O.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup>  
Brigade training all day. Attack.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>  
B – T [Brigade Training] Skirmish between CYC & AMR.  
[Canterbury Yeomanry Cavalry and Auckland Mounted Rifles.]

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>  
Field firing.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>  
Parade cancelled. Striking Infantry tents. Pitching Aus [Australian] tents  
Infantry 2<sup>nd</sup> reinforcements arrived.

Friday 29<sup>th</sup>  
Attack with artillery.

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>  
Dismounted training. Sports in the afternoon.

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>  
St. Andrews Church. Barrage in the afternoon.

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February  
Attack and defence.

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Attack

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Dismounted Parade.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

Attack at number 3 town, we were flank guard.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup>

Attack, trenching at night.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>

Dismounted.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>

At home.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup>

Rear guard, and trenching at night, home at 11.30.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>

Inspection of trenches by daylight.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>

Divisional attack – we formed outposts.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>

Dismounted work at Camp. D [Duty] Field Officer today.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup>

Regimental training.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>

Inspection of saddlery.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>

Brigade training.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>

Brigade training. Taking up a line of outposts and trenching same.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

Dismounted Parade. Visited by Reverend Gillan.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>

Brigade in attack.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

Divisional training. Attack on a position.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>

Inspection of equipment.

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Trek – left at 10 am lunch at Bivouacked at Nawa – left at 8.45 am.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

Trek – see why Corps, many went home. No water to drink. Stayed at BELBEIS.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

Trek back to NAWA.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup>

Back to Camp, fought our way back. Got 2 letters from home.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>

Dismounted.

MARCH Monday 1<sup>st</sup>

Reconnaissance.

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Staff ride for S [Squadron] leaders.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Divisional attack.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

In Camp organising.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup>

Clipping horses.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup>

Attack, N.Z. Brigade up against A [Australian] Brigade.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>

Watching operations. N.Z. Infantry Brigade against Aus Brigade.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup>

Attack on Aus Brigade.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>

In Camp.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>

Early attack on Aus Brigade.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>

Resting and dismounted work.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

Dismounted work. A.M.R. Concert.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>

Dismounted work.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

Mounted Division operations.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>

Inspection of Division by Sir W. McMahan

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Went on trek to Barrage.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

Swimming horses over Nile at the Barrage.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

Umpiring CYC against A.L.H. [Australian Light Horse] Brigade.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>

Dismounted.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup>

Inspected by Sir Ian Hamilton. Sat on Court Martial 5 pm.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>

Court Martial at 9 am.

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>

Brigade attack.

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>

In Camp.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Left on leave for Alexandria.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>

At Alexandria.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>

Finish 1 book of Diary – sent home.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup>

Killing time. Infantry leaving for ?

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>

Advanced Doull 100 PJ – paid back.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>

Paid £1 to mess account.

MAY, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Went to Barrage.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>  
Returned from Barrage.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>  
Orders to go to D--- dismounted.

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>  
Left Camp 8.30 pm. Trained 10.20 pm. Regiment 508 – Squadron 158.

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>  
At sea

Monday 10<sup>th</sup>  
At sea. Splendid trip.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>  
Arrived off Siddal Bar. Heard and saw first guns in action. Saw the S.S. River Clyde.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>  
Climb on H.M.S. COLNE 6 pm. Arrive HELLES PT. 6 am. Left 4 pm camped in gully.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>  
Retired Naval Brigade in the trenches in support.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup>  
In trenches. Returned 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>  
In trenches firing.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>  
In fire trenches.

Monday 17<sup>th</sup>  
In fire trenches.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>  
Returned by 4<sup>th</sup> Squadron. Captain Bluck and S.M. Marr killed.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>  
Fierce attack by Turks. Gould, Hill, Sullrah, Williams, Watts killed. Logan wounded.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>  
Woods, Finlayson, Johnson, Leslie wounded with shrapnel. I got hit with shrapnel.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup>  
On board ship.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
On board ship.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
On Hospital ship for Malta.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup>  
On Hospital ship for Malta. Arrived Malta.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>  
Arrived Malta. St. Andrews Officers Mess Hospital.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>  
In Hospital

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>  
In Hospital

Friday 28<sup>th</sup>  
Went to Valleta for a run. Left watch for repair.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>  
In Hospital.

Sunday – onwards  
In Hospital.

JUNE, Friday 4<sup>th</sup>  
Hospital. Lecture on Malta.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>  
Went to see wounded at Contaneva.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup>  
Sent cable to Harrouth 6-4, Sent cable to West 6-0, sent cable to Plugge 3-8  
Sent cables to West and Plugge 10-0, Stamps for Plugge 6-11.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>  
Hospital

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>  
Get book on Malta by Percy Badger or V. Busnettil.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup>  
Hospital Malta.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>

Send badge to Mrs G. Painter. Send badge to St. Georges, Malta.

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>

Dennis and Moria. Received £10 since coming to Malta.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>

Went to Maori Camp

Monday 21<sup>st</sup>

Paid 30/- [thirty shillings] to men who were short.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>

13/232 pm W.J. Budsall died at Valletta MALTA.

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Left Malta for England, via Hospital Ship S.S. NEVASA.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>

Beautiful weather.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup>

Colonel Plugge – 8 Cavendish Avenue, Finchley.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>

Captain French, 2<sup>nd</sup> West Lancashire Brigade Artillery – Canterbury.

JULY, Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>

Arrived Southampton and London Royal Free Hospital.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup>

Got £10 from High Commission.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>

Passed by Medical Board and given 3 weeks leave off. Got £20 from High Commission.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup>

Left London for Ireland. Stopped at Leeds, staying the night.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>

At Huddersfield, Thongsbridge, Netherthong, Holmfirth underbank. Stayed with Mrs Preston.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>

At “Oaklands” at Holmfirth.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup>

Went for a motor drive round this country.



Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>

Left Oaklands for Leeds and on by train to Heysham.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>

Arrived Ireland 7 am.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>

Morning with Harry Mc Whenney – up to Broadway and Cemetery in the afternoon.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup>

About Port Rush and G [Giants] Causeway. Wet day.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>

Went Garrick.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>

Church at Garrick – built 1064.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup>

Whitehead.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>

About Belfast.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>

Went to Balgor.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>

Queen,s Island and Broadway. Hawthornes [or Hawthornes] arrived from Scotland in 1671 [McCarroll's early family].

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Left for Dublin.

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>

Left Dublin 8 am. Hollyhead arrived Liverpool 3.30 pm via Chester.

Monday 26<sup>th</sup>

Left Liverpool for London.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>

About London.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>

About London.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>

London went to [left blank]. M [Medical] Board, put on for 1 month duty in England.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup>

Left for and arrived at Weymouth Camp.

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>

At Monte Video Camp. Paid 14/- [fourteen shillings] mess a/c [account].

AUGUST, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>

Dorsetshire – went for a ride villages in

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>

At Weymouth Camp.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

On Court Martial all day.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>

Went for motor trip to Bournemouth. Artillery sports in the afternoon.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>

In Camp all day, very wett [plus pencil rubbing out].

Friday 6<sup>th</sup>

Inquiring into complaints in Hospital.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>

High Commissioner came to Camp.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>

Went to Uperey. [spelling?]

Monday 9<sup>th</sup>

In Camp.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup>

Went to Hadden [Hudden] and Elm Tree Inn.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>

Got wire to go to France.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>

To London.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup>

Left for Folkstone – Boulounge – St Omer.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>

Chineery – La Basse – Vermails – Betticiem Aire

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>

Bruog – Curnoy Busane.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>  
At Ypres.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup>  
St Omer, Boulounge, London.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>  
London.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Went to Devonshire, stayed at Globe Hotel Exeter.

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Arrived in Camp.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>  
Garden party at Camp. Sent home my Diary.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>  
About Camp.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>  
Camp sports at Dorset Camp.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup>  
Camp all day.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>  
Left for Southampton on board S.S. Nauratama. Left at 5.30 pm.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>  
At sea.

SEPTEMBER, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
At sea passed Malta.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
At sea, arrived at Lemnos.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>  
At Lemnos.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>  
Left for Anzac, arrived 10 pm

Monday 6<sup>th</sup>  
Breakfast with General Godley. Joined Regiment.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>  
At Chishire Ridge.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>  
Chishire Ridge. Turks quiet.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>  
Chishire Ridge.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>  
27<sup>th</sup> Battalion A I F came to relieve us.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>  
Short Service Australian and Mounted Brigades.

Monday 13<sup>th</sup>  
Mounted Brigade left for a rest at Lemnos. Left me with 4 Officers, 50 M G [Machine Gunners], 16 Engineers.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>  
Making terraces on Chishire Ridge.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup>  
Saw General Godly.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>  
Feint attack by Turks.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>  
Church Service. Captain Steavens. Blanures.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>  
Howitzers doing good work.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Dr. Buck came to see me here.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Went down the beach and saw Colonel C [Chaytor?]

Friday 24<sup>th</sup>  
Chishire Ridge.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>  
Chishire Ridge.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>  
In the trenches.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup>  
Left for Anzac.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>

Left Anzac to join Brigade at Mudros. Stayed at rest camp.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>

Arrived and joined Brigade at Murdos.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>

Quiet time at Mudros.

OCTOBER, Friday 1<sup>st</sup>

At rest camp got inoculated for Typhoid.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>

At Mudros rest camp.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Went to Castro.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup>

Reinforcements arrived last night. Band arrived and plays soothing music.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>

Organising Squadron.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>

Training. General Russell arrived.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>

Assumed Command of the Regiment.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup>

Training by troops. Rain in the evening.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>

Training, swimming in afternoon.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>

Stakk walk.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

Training by troops.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>

Training by troops.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>

General Godly and Colonel Rhodes here today.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup>

Regiment work. Captain Whitehorn reported.

Friday 29<sup>th</sup>

Training still, false start for Infantry.

NOVEMBER, Monday 1<sup>st</sup>

Squadron training.

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Regimental training. Night attack Church Hill.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

Advance party left for (returned).

Friday 5<sup>th</sup>

Route march to Thirmos.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>

Machine guns and bathing.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup>

Big mimic attack. The Brigade climbed Thirmos hill 1,300 feet with packs on.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>

Swimming. Rumoured K of K was here.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>

Left for Anzac.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>

W\* B line up hill 60 with good effect.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

Making dugouts. 1[one] 3<sup>rd</sup> man [AMR] wounded at G.H.Q. We mined Walker's Ridge.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>

Visited 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Appex. Turks mined Hill 60.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>

Visited Artillery saw good shooting.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

No Artillery shooting today.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup>

Making terraces in Waterfall Gully.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>

Took over Bedford Ridge from 162 Brigade 1/10 London 5<sup>th</sup> Norfolk.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>

Corporal Ross killed. 13/2166 Carroll John 13/2163 Brown James went out to assist  
Corporal – Ross was bad. Heavy snow storm.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup>

Freezing hard.

DECEMBER, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Very heavy firing North and South of here and Australians fired with effect from F's  
Post.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>

Intense Bombardment South. G.O.C. here today.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>

Terrific bombardment of our lines by 7.5 Two Casualties.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup>

General Birdwood, Godly and Russell here today.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>

Erected tombstone over H. Mackesy's grave.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>

Church Service.

Monday 13<sup>th</sup>

Orders to go to Imbros, relieved by 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion left for Anac.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>

Left Anzac for Imbros and arrived at Lemnos, transferred to H.M.T. Knight of the  
Garter at 1400.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>

Onboard K of G [Knight of the Garter].

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>

On board K of G.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup>

On board K of G left at 1800 for Mudros East.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>

At Mudros EAST.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>

In Camp Mudros West.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup>

In Camp Mudros West. Lat men off ANZAC. Big storm tonight.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>  
In Camp Mudros West.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Embarked on Hororata for

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
On board HMT Horoata left 1400 and anchored at harbour entrance.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup>  
Left Lemnos at 0800 for

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>  
At sea had Xmas dinner.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>  
Arrived Alex. Sent 9 Officers and 173 men to Zietoun.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup>  
7 Officers and 149 men entrained for Zietoun.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>  
Colonel Mackesy took over Command of the Regiment.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>  
Meeting old friends.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>  
Organising Regiment.

Friday 31<sup>st</sup>  
Training Regiment.

[End of James Neil McCarroll's 1915 Diary. The only other entries are seven addresses in the United Kingdom and some pen ledger entries. Diary dimensions 75 x 130mm. Red leather cover contains a metal slide to keep the diary firmly closed after use. Inside is the original 100mm long oval pencil held in place by a metal cir-clip attached to the binding. Diary supplied "with the compliments of James Buchanan and Company Limited" printed on cover. Fly-leaf printed: "James Buchanan & Co. Ltd. Scotch Whisky Distillers by appointment to King George V. Black & White Whisky."]