

**Transcription & annotation<sup>1</sup> of the 1915 World War 1 Diary of  
197 L/CPL ARTHUR JAMES MORRICE,  
13<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Machine Gun Section.**



**Arthur James MORRICE**

Regimental number	197
Place of birth	Moss Vale, New South Wales
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Time-keeper
Address	Erskine Street, Dubbo,
Marital status	Married
Age at enlistment	39
Next of kin	Louise M Morrice, Erskine Street, Dubbo, New South Wales
Enlistment date	21 September 1914
Unit name	13 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, initially B Company, later 13 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Machine Gun Section.
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on <i>HMAT A38 Ulysses</i> on 22 December 1914
Rank	Private, later Lance Corporal
Fate	Returned to Australia, October 1915
Discharge date	23 November 1915
Family WW1 connections	Brothers: 1777 Pte David Henry MORRICE, 2nd Light Horse Regiment, returned to Australia, 13 March 1919; Lt John Stanley MORRICE, served with the British Army in the Royal Field Artillery; 70377 Cpl Wilson H Morrice, 6 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse (did not see overseas service). Sister: Sister Nellie Constance Morrice ARRC, Australian Army Nursing Service, returned to Australia 2 March, 1919.
Other details	War service: Egypt, Gallipoli. Wounded in action, 30 April 1915. Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Date of death	29 October 1940

<sup>1</sup> Transcribed & annotated 2014 [pmdonkin@gmail.com](mailto:pmdonkin@gmail.com)

**DIARY TRANSCRIPTION**

**Inner Cover.** In the event of my death please forward this book to Mrs Morrice, Dubbo, NS Wales, Australia. Private Morrice (197), Machine Gun Section<sup>2</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion A/E Force

**21 Sep 1914.** (Goulburn). Enlisted in Second Expeditionary at Goulburn, NSW.

**23 Sep 1914.** (Sydney). Was passed at Victoria Barracks<sup>3</sup>.

**24 Sep 1914.** (Sydney). Joined camp at Rosehill.

**29 Oct 1914.** (Sydney). Moved to Liverpool.

**23 Nov 1914.** (Melbourne). Moved to Broadmeadows, Melbourne<sup>4</sup>.

**11 Dec 1914.** (Melbourne). Lu<sup>5</sup> came over to Glen Huntly.

**12 & 13 Dec 1914.** (Melbourne). Spent two happy days with Lu.

**14 Dec 1914.** (Melbourne). Raining.

**21 Dec 1914.** (Melbourne). Said good-bye to my Darling.

**22 Dec 1914.** (Melbourne). Embarked on board the *Ulysses*<sup>6</sup> at Port Melbourne.

**28 Dec 1914.** (Albany). Arrived at Albany. Good passage across Bight. Received two letters from my Dear One.

**29 Dec 1914.** (Albany). On guard collecting discharged men, went round troop ships in harbour.

**30 Dec 1914.** (At sea). Left Albany 8.30am.<sup>7</sup>

**1 Jan 1915.** (At sea). Sea calm. No afternoon parade. Will I spend next New Years day with my Loved Ones, I wonder? May it be God's will that I do. Transport A30 buried man at sea 10.55 am.

**2 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. Boat about 600 miles WNW of Fremantle. Number of men sick, bad food. Usual drill. Good night my Loved One. God be with you always.

**3 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. Weather getting warmer. Ship 800 miles N.W Fremantle. 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion all sick. Symptoms poisoning, some men very bad.

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<sup>2</sup> "~~B Company~~" is crossed out, and "Machine Gun Section" written over the top.

<sup>3</sup> Passed medical. Morrice's medical form stated "Height-6 feet", "Weight - 12 stone 10 lbs".

<sup>4</sup> The 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion (approx 1,020 men) moved from Liverpool to Broadmeadows by train.

<sup>5</sup> "Lu" is Morrice's wife, Louise Mary Morrice.

<sup>6</sup> The 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion (NSW) moved by train from Broadmeadows to Station Pier, Port Melbourne and boarded *HMAT A38 Ulysses* with the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Vic). Along with the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Qld, Tas) and 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion (WA, SA) they were to make up the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade under the command of Col. John Monash, who was also on *HMAT Ulysses*.

<sup>7</sup> The 30<sup>th</sup> Dec appears to be incorrect. The *Ulysses* left Albany (King George Sound) on the morning of 31 Dec, 1914 (*Source; 13<sup>th</sup> Bn Unit War Diary*). The convoy consisted of 17 transports carrying approx 13,000 troops, 125 nurses and 4,500 horses. It was the Second Convoy to Egypt, the 1<sup>st</sup> Convoy having departed on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 1914.

**4 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. A & B Co on duty. Wrote a few more lines to my Dear One. Cool breeze blowing.

**5 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. Weather getting warm as we approach tropics. One or two cases of poisoning in our company.

**6 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. Entering Indian Ocean. Atcherley<sup>8</sup> went to hospital. Inquiry into poisoning, found it was bad food. Lecture on describing and finding a specified target.

**7 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. Heavy shower fell 1.30pm. Vaccinated against small pox in two places on left arm. Weather very hot. Lecture on medical matters pertaining to Egypt.

**8 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea like a mill pond. Given a trial as Company reserve in Machine Gun Section<sup>9</sup>, think I will suit. Played several games of chess with Walford<sup>10</sup> and Rainbow<sup>11</sup>.

**9 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Gale of wind and rain arose about 2 am. Had to go below and finish night sleep. Rained all day. Had equipment inspection and machine gun lecture. God keep and guard my Dear One.

**10 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. Will cross the line tonight. Attended church parade this morning and will go again tonight. Wrote to my Darling, to Mother<sup>12</sup> and Donald.

**11 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. Marching order parade. Machine Gun practice. Two men buried. One on *SS Borda*. One on *SS Themistocles*. A & B Co tug of war, A won. Wrote to Jack<sup>13</sup>.

**12 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. Wrote to Jack. Practice at fitting up gun. Food much improved. Tug of War final, 13<sup>th</sup> winner. *Ceramic*, *Persic*, *Suevic* left main fleet for Aden direct<sup>14</sup>.

**13 Jan 1915.** (Colombo). Arrived Colombo. Weather cool. No drill. A number of men went ashore at night without leave.

**14 Jan 1915.** (Colombo). Bum boats did a great business. Had a big feed of bananas. B Company put on guard to keep order; men from shore came back to the ship drunk. No letter from my Dear One. Will get one next port of call.

**15 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Left Colombo 9.30 am. Sea smooth. Machine Gun man beat me bad at chess. Men who took French leave at Colombo given 28 days. Soldier died on *Themistocles*.

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<sup>8</sup> 1031 Pte Jack Atcherley, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, B Co, born London, Male Nurse from Brisbane, Qld. Returned to Aust, May 1916.

<sup>9</sup> According to the 13<sup>th</sup> Bn's Nominal Roll of 22 Dec, 1914 the Machine Gun Section consisted of only 9 men. They were probably looking to expand it to a quota of approximately 20 men, plus reserves.

<sup>10</sup> 226 Pte Dudley Walford, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, B Co, Draughtsman from Woollahra. A friend of Morrice, he is mentioned in the diary a number of times. On 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug, 1915 at Gallipoli he was wounded in the thigh by a bomb. In 1916 he transferred to the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion's offspring Battalion, the 45<sup>th</sup>. After frequent visits to hospital he returned to Australia in 1917 (on *HMAT Ulysses*!) and was discharged medically unfit with "DAH", Disordered Action of the Heart, the medical terminology of the time for shell shock.

<sup>11</sup> 212 Pte Oscar Rainbow, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, B Co, an Accountant from Sydney. He was killed in action at Gallipoli on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 1915.

<sup>12</sup> Mrs Sarah "Mary" Morrice of "Eling", Sutton Forest, NSW.

<sup>13</sup> Morrice's son, David John Morrice, born 1901.

<sup>14</sup> The 3 White Star liners, *Ceramic*, *Suevic* & *Persic* were short of coal and therefore had to sail to Aden, direct.

**16 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea like glass. Scare of German warship last night. Few men left behind at Colombo. Machine Gun practice morning and afternoon. Feel very home sick.

**17 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. Church parade in morning. Band played in afternoon. Will attend service this evening. Wrote to Lu. Feeling a bit off colour.

**18 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. Machine [Gun] drill.

**19 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. Man from D Company died of pneumonia. Fire alarm 7pm. Full marching order drill morning. Machine Gun drill afternoon.

**20 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. A & B Company on guard. Developed measles, feel pretty crook. Soldier died on *Themistocles*, buried 3.15pm.

**21 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. Weather cool. *Empress of Britain*<sup>15</sup> converted cruiser joined transports. Felt very sick all day, did no drill.

**22 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. Weather warm. Felt sick. Did no drill. Man buried of *Themistocles*.

**23 Jan 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Reached Aden 8 am. Number of Arab boats came around selling cigarettes sixpence a 100. Also dates and pineapples. Sailed 4.30pm. Soldier buried off *Themistocles*. Three White Star boats joined us<sup>16</sup>. They had 2 deaths

**24 Jan 1915.** (Red Sea). In Red Sea. Water rough. Somaliland on our port. Rough country. British Cruiser and P & O mail boat passed us. Attended Church parade. Feel much better this morning. Another death on *Ceramic*.

**25 Jan 1915.** (Red Sea). Sea calm. Weather very hot. Got heavy cold. 900 miles from Port Said. Played AMC Corporal<sup>17</sup> chess. One game each.

**26 Jan 1915.** (Red Sea). Sea calm. Weather hot. Cold getting better. Machine Gun parade morning and afternoon. Wrote to Lu and father<sup>18</sup>.

**27 Jan 1915.** (Red Sea). Sea calm. We are passing Palestine. Those holy fields, over whose acres walked those blessed feet, which eighteen hundred years ago were nailed for our advantage on the bitter cross.

**28 Jan 1915.** (Suez Canal). Arrived Suez 4.30am. Bought oranges, figs and dates from the bum boats. Beautiful weather. New Zealand troops landed. Posted post cards to my Dear Ones.

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<sup>15</sup> The armed merchantman the *Empress of Britain* was in the South Atlantic at the time. Morrice may have been referring to the Indian transport *RIMS Dufferin*, which on the 21<sup>st</sup> Jan caused some consternation by steaming parallel to the convoy and for 2 hours failed to reply to signals to disclose her identity.

<http://www.naval-history.net/PhotoWW1-75transportDufferin1PS.JPG>

<sup>16</sup> *Ceramic*, *Suevic* & *Persic* rejoined the fleet. (ref diary entry 12 Jan, 1915).

<sup>17</sup> The only "AMC Corporal" in the 13<sup>th</sup> Bn at the time was 1420 Cpl Walton Simpson, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, A.M.C; Hospital Attendant, Lidcombe; Born Liverpool, England.

<sup>18</sup> Mr David Morrice, grazier of "Eling", Sutton Forest.

**29 Jan 1915.** (Suez Canal). Left Suez 9am. Indian and New Zealand troops guarding canal. Beautiful weather. Anchored for night at Ismailia<sup>19</sup>.

**30 Jan 1915.** (Suez Canal). Left Ismailia 8 am. Passed large bodies of Indian and English troops along canal. Saw three airships. Arrived Port Said 3pm. Left Port Said 11pm.

**31 Jan 1915.** (Egypt). Arrived Alexandria 5pm. Mediterranean calm, a beautiful sapphire blue. Anchored at wharf.

**1 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Disembarked 9am. Entrained 10 am. Arrived Heliopolis<sup>20</sup> 2pm. Arrived camp 4pm. Saw splendid stretch of irrigated country between Alexandria and Cairo. Distance 120 miles.

**2 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Did a little fatigue work, no drill, very dusty day. Went on Guard 4pm.

**3 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). On Guard until 9am. Afternoon went in with party of pickets to bring out prisoners.

**4 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Chilly weather. Platoon drill and rifle exercise. Had purse stolen from tent. Went into Cairo in evening. Very dirty immoral town.

**5 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Chilly weather. Platoon drill morning and afternoon. Australians had a brush with Turks on Suez Canal<sup>21</sup>.

**6 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Beautiful day. Mess orderly. Platoon drill. Played Walford chess.

**7 Feb 1915** (Egypt). Dusty day. Mess orderly. Church parade. On picket duty Cairo. Wrote to Lu & Donald. Got back from Cairo 11.45pm.

**8 Feb 1915** (Egypt). Platoon drill morning. March at evening. Weather windy and dusty.

**9 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Platoon drill all day. Weather cool.

**10 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Marched to concentration ground, about 25,000 troops present. Got home very tired.

**11 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Went into Cairo with ammunition wagon. Saw mosque that Napoleon bombarded with cannon ball embedded in wall<sup>22</sup>.

**12 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Marched out 5 miles. Took dinner. Got back to camp 4.30pm. Attacked trenches with ball ammunition. Heard shell fire for first time overhead.

**13 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day but dusty. Platoon drill in morning.

**14 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Church Parade in morning. Had a spell in afternoon.

**15 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Company drill. Wrote to my Darling.

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<sup>19</sup> Turkish forces had advanced to within striking distance of the canal, and it was feared the ships might come under fire if they went through the canal at night, so it was decided they would make the passage in daylight, with an overnight stop on the way at Ismailia.

<sup>20</sup> A suburb outside Cairo. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliopolis\\_%28Cairo\\_suburb%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliopolis_%28Cairo_suburb%29)

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.1914-1918.net/suez.htm>

<sup>22</sup> Sultan Hassan mosque

**16 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Went shooting to Abbassia rifle range 8 miles from camp. Scored 30 out of a possible 45. Got paid 28/-. Heard from officers we were going to front for certainty.

**17 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Warm day. Mess orderly. Starting from camp 2pm to camp out. Marched 5 miles, entrenched ourselves in a strong position. Had tea 7 pm. Posted outposts & balance went to sleep alongside trench.

**18 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). The Fourteenth Battalion who represented enemy attacked 3am and were repulsed. Attack finished 7am. Had breakfast and reached camp 12pm. No work in afternoon. Finished a letter & posted it to my Darling.

**19 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Went out 10 miles along Suez road. Had a sham fight & got back to camp 7.30pm, very tired.

**20 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Mess orderly. Did very little work. Posted a letter to my Loved One.

**21 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Church Parade. Went to Mena House & saw Nell<sup>23</sup> & took her to Gardens. Had afternoon tea. Got back to camp 7pm.

**22 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Went to Abbassia range for Machine Gun practice.

**23 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Drill in morning. Went out for a march & digging trenches from 4pm until 12.15 am.

**24 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Went to Abbassia range & had gun practice with Machine Gun. Got back to camp 6pm.

**25 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Machine Gun drill. Afternoon feet & rifle inspection.

**26 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Divisional movements. Sham fight. Wrote to John<sup>24</sup> & sent him some stamps.

**27 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Kit and feet inspection in morning. Went to Cairo after dinner & bought bag and shawl for my Darling. Got back to camp 10pm.

**28 Feb 1915.** (Egypt). Dusty day. Mess orderly. Mounted guard 5pm. Wrote to my Darling Wife, Girlie I do miss you so.

**1 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Warm day. Went to Abbassia rifle ranges & had practice shooting with Machine Gun. Also lecture from Machine Gun Staff Officer. Posted silk hand bag to my Girlie.

**2 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Warm day. Battalion sham fight in desert about 4 miles from camp. Had yarn with Mr Ball of the YMCA & took pledge against drink. I know my dear one will be pleased.

**3 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Warm day. Divisional sham fight on desert at 2 watch tower on Suez road 9 miles from camp. Marched out 6.30am, returned 8pm very tired.

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<sup>23</sup> Morrice's sister, Sister Nellie Constance Morrice (later MBE, ARRC) of the Australian Army Nursing Service. At the time she was attached to No2 Australian General Hospital, Mena House, Cairo. She was to later nurse on Lemnos and in England and France, returning to Australia in 1919 as Matron on board the *HMAT Demosthenes*. <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/morrice-nellie-constance-13111>

<sup>24</sup> *ibid.* Morrice's son, David John Morrice, born 1901. Also referred to in the diary as "Jack".

**4 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Warm day. No drill in morning. Medical inspection in afternoon.

**5 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Warm day. Feet inspection in morning. No drill in afternoon. Marched out of camp 9pm to take up position on desert 10 miles out.

**6 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). "Enemy" attacked us 4am & retired 6am. Marched back to camp reaching there 8.30am. Feet inspection 2.30pm. Went into Cairo & bought silk shawl for my Darling. Saw gold, silk & copper bazaar, most interesting. Got back to camp 9pm.

**7 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Very dusty day. Wrote to my dear One & sent John two Egyptian post cards. Posted shawl to Dubbo. Went to Cairo in afternoon & had a look at Museum. Got back to camp 5pm.

**8 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Very dusty day. Went shooting with Company to rifle range. Scored 50% hits at disappearing target.

**9 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Inspection of Brigade by Brigadier<sup>25</sup>. Wrote to my Darling Girlie. I do miss you so.

**10 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Divisional day. Went 8 miles out & fought N.Z. troops on our way back. Reached camp 5 pm very tired & thirsty.

**11 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Very hot & dusty. Had a general clean up, scrubbed equipment & tunic. No drill.

**12 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Division went out on desert & attacked the Territorials who were entrenched 8 miles out. Left camp 6.30am. Returned 5pm. Received letter from Lu & a most unsatisfactory one at that.

**13 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Platoon drill in morning.

**14 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Went with Donald Macleod<sup>26</sup> & saw ancient Heliopolis<sup>27</sup>, the obelisk & the tree our Saviour rested under & the well he drank out of<sup>28</sup>. Wrote to my Darling Wife.

**15 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Machine Gun instruction all day.

**16 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Divisional training. Marched out of camp 4am, returned 2.30pm. Covered about 20 miles. Received two letters from my wife & two from Jack. God bless & keep them safe.

**17 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Machine Gun drill in morning. Tea at 4 pm. Marched out of camp 5pm. Camped 10pm. Paid in afternoon 4/-.

**18 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). At 2pm we were set at trench digging & took up a position opposite "enemy's" lines under a heavy fire. At daylight operations ceased. Marched back to camp arriving 9am. Rifle and foot inspection in afternoon.

<sup>25</sup> An inspection before Colonel Monash, Commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade.

<sup>26</sup> 886 Pte Donald McLeod, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, B Co, Prison Warder, Tuncurry, NSW, born Gairloch, Scotland. Killed in action at Gallipoli 4<sup>th</sup> May 1915. At 6'3" and 16 stone McLeod would have been one of many who contributed to the 13<sup>th</sup> Bn being known as "The Battalion of Big Men".

<sup>27</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliopolis\\_%28ancient%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliopolis_%28ancient%29)

<sup>28</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Matariyyah>

**19 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Fatigue duty at Headquarters. Posted letter to Lu and John & one to Sec. Patriotic Fund.

**20 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. No parade after 2.30pm. In morning cleaned up lines. Started a letter to my dear one. God be with her always.

**21 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Church parade. Went to Mahomet Ali's Mosque<sup>29</sup> & Museum.

**22 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Divisional Review<sup>30</sup>. 15,000 troops present. Machine Gun drill in afternoon. Posted letter to my Darling & to Mrs Little<sup>31</sup>.

**23 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Cool day. Digging trenches about 5 miles from camp. Full pack up.

**24 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Kit inspection morning. Half holiday afternoon. Went to old Heliopolis. Wrote to Mrs Little. Received letter from Donald & mother.

**25 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Very weary day. Marched out 9 miles at quick march. Had a sham fight. Arrived back to camp 5pm.

**26 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Went out 1 pm & camped 11 miles out on desert, entrenched, posted outposts & turned in 9pm.

**27 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Were attacked by 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion at 4 am. Had breakfast 7am. Reached camp 2pm very tired.

**28 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Very dusty day. No church parade. Went to YMCA service in evening. Wrote to John & Donald. Stayed in camp all day.

**29 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Divisional inspection by Sir Ian Hamilton<sup>32</sup>. Paid 12/-.

**30 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Machine Gun drill & instruction by English Army Captain. Started writing a letter to my Darling, God bless her.

**31 Mch 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Went out about 3 miles with Machine Gun and had practice going in & out of action.

**1 Apr 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Machine Gun drill in morning. No parade in afternoon. Transferred to Machine Gun Section<sup>33</sup> from B. Company.

**2 Apr 1915.** (Egypt\_ Good Friday). Hot day. No parade. Church service in YMCA tent in evening.

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<sup>29</sup> <http://www.sacred-destinations.com/egypt/cairo-muhammad-ali-mosque>

<sup>30</sup> The review was conducted by Sir Henry McMahon, High Commissioner for Egypt; General Godley, commander of the composite New Zealand & Australia Division, which included the 13<sup>th</sup> Bn; and General Maxwell, Commander in Chief of the British forces in Egypt.

<sup>31</sup> Presumably Morrice's mother-in-law, Mrs Louisa Little.

<sup>32</sup> General Sir Ian Hamilton, a senior officer in the British Army, and commander of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force during the Gallipoli Campaign. He was accompanied by General Birdwood.

<sup>33</sup> Battalion Machine Gun Section's by the time of Gallipoli had expanded to approximately 20 men responsible for 2 guns. They used Maxim machine-guns that were water cooled, belt fed and had a rate of fire of up to 600 rounds per minute. By late 1915 the Maxims were replaced by Vickers machine guns and by 1916 specialist Machine Gun Companies had been formed given the growing importance of this weapon.



- 3 Apr 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Machine Gun drill in morning. Wrote to my Darling. Riot amongst troops in Cairo. Reported two killed and several wounded.
- 4 Apr 1915.** (Egypt\_Easter Sunday). Hot & dusty. Church parade in morning. Picquet in Heliopolis from 5pm until 3am Monday morning.
- 5 Apr 1915.** (Egypt). Very hot and dusty. No drill. Kit inspection. Got two letters from my Darling & posted one to her. God bless her & give her happiness.
- 6 Apr 1915.** (Egypt). Nice day. Machine Gun drill morning and evening. Paid 10/-.
- 7 Apr 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Machine Gun drill morning & afternoon. Posted a parcel & letter to my Darling & a knife to Jack. Parcel contained two brass beaten plates & some postcards.
- 8 Apr 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Packed black kit bags. No drill. Wrote to my Sweetheart. God bless her.
- 9 Apr 1915.** (Egypt). Warm day. Machine Gun drill & packing things ready to move.
- 10 Apr 1915.** (Egypt). Hot day. Machine Gun drill.
- 11 Apr 1915.** (Egypt). Went to Holy Communion 7.30. No church parade. Said goodbye to Mr Bell<sup>34</sup>. Wrote to my Darling. God care for her. Mr A Bell , YMCA , Glasgow.
- 12 Apr 1915.** (Egypt). Entrained midnight for Alexandria. Struck tents & cleaned up lines during the day.
- 13 Apr 1915.** (Alexandria). Embarked on transport *Ascot*<sup>35</sup> at 12.30pm. Our quarters are down No.4 hold with ASC, AMC, Signallers & Headquarters, very crowded. Food good.
- 14 April 1915.** (At sea). S Transport *Ascot*. Sea calm. Expect to pass Crete tonight. No drill. Food, tea, biscuits, tinned meat. Washing accommodation bad.
- 15 Apr 1915.** (At sea). Sea calm. No drill. Passed Rhodes Island and entered the Greek Archipelago. Islands looked very pretty but barren.
- 16 Apr 1915.** (At sea). Sea calm. At night no lights allowed on account of a hostile submarine being at large.
- 17 Apr 1915.** (Lemnos). Arrived Lemnos 9.30 am. A large number of transports & 16 British warships in harbour. The harbour is large, well protected & deep water. Stayed on board all day.
- 18 Apr 1915.** (Lemnos). Quiet day. Posted a service post card & letter to my Darling One. Saw the battleship *Queen Elizabeth*<sup>36</sup>. More transports arrived.
- 19 April 1915.** (Lemnos). Taken ashore & had a swim. Seems a fertile island. Saw a crop of vetches & wheat & a fig orchard. Received a letter from my Darling. God bless her, also one from.....

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<sup>34</sup> Secretary of the Glasgow, YMCA.

<sup>35</sup> Sergeant Quartermaster Byron Charles Hobson, 13th Bn, described the *Ascot* as "an old tramp" and "the dirtiest thing afloat".

<sup>36</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_Queen\\_Elizabeth\\_%281913%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Queen_Elizabeth_%281913%29)

**20 Apr 1915.** (Lemnos). Moss<sup>37</sup> of the Machine Gun Section sent to hospital ward with pneumonia. Supposed to leave for Turkey today but rough weather prevented us.

**21 Apr 1915.** (Lemnos). Weather still rough. No chance of leaving until it improves. Moss of MGS returned from hospital.

**22 Apr 1915.** (Lemnos). Weather calm. Paid £1. Still waiting but think we will go soon. Dearest, if I get killed forgive me all my faults & remember I've always loved you. God bless you Dear Heart.

**23 Apr 1915.** (Lemnos). Weather calm. Several warships & transports left port for Gallipoli.

**24 Apr 1915.** (Lemnos). Weather calm. Warships & transports leaving port for Gallipoli.

**25 Apr 1915.** (Lemnos-At sea)). Weather beautiful, sea like a mill pond. We leave today at 10.30am for Gallipoli & all feel confident of playing a man's part. Darling, I have your dear picture & bible in my pocket. They are my most treasured possessions.

**26 Apr 1915.** (Gallipoli). Landed at Gaba Tepe 1am<sup>38</sup>. Took up a position on Pope's Hill<sup>39</sup>. The fire terrific. Harris<sup>40</sup> shot. Dead and wounded everywhere. Our section holds a good position. Am giving this Diary to Walford to keep in case I get killed.

**27 April 1915.** (Gallipoli). Turks reinforced. 70,000 oppose us. Murray<sup>41</sup> & Henwood<sup>42</sup> wounded. Murray died soon afterwards. Shot several Turks. Feel the want of sleep. Eyes very sore.

**28 Apr 1915.** (Gallipoli). Sturdy<sup>43</sup> killed. Turks made a general attack last night, much to their sorrow. We never budged a foot. Warships bombard their position with big shells. Very sleepy, eyes sore.

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<sup>37</sup> 60 Pte Samuel M Moss, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section, sailor, born Gibraltar. Moss enlisted under a false name, his real name being Samuel Montague Imossi. He was returned to Australia in 1916 with venereal disease and discharged "by direction of authorities" in September, 1917.

<sup>38</sup> The 13<sup>th</sup> was the last Battalion ashore at the landing. It was a three phased affair for the 13th. Firstly, lifeboats from the *Ascot* were lowered and hitched to a British torpedo boat destroyer, *HMS Chelmer*. Secondly, troops climbed down rope nets onto the *Chelmer*, which gave them a fast run into the beach, and thirdly, the troops disembarked into the *Ascot's* lifeboats which were rowed ashore. The whole operation took place under enemy fire, and under covering fire from *HMS Queen Elizabeth* and *HMS Chelmer*. A life boat used by 13<sup>th</sup> at the landing is on display at the Aust. War Memorial.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/blog/2013/07/03/new-mooring-ascot-boat/>

<sup>39</sup> Pope's Hill, named after Colonel Harold Pope, 16th Battalion, was a razor-backed ridge at the head of Monash Valley. It remained a key post on the ANZAC frontline as it commanded a good field of fire over the Turkish lines opposing the crucial position of Quinn's Post and thus was a favourite spot for Australian snipers and the site of several machine-guns and trench mortars.

<sup>40</sup> 263 L/Cpl Bertram Harris, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section, Farmer, born Sussex, Eng. Died 28 April, 1915.

<sup>41</sup> 934 L/Cpl James Murray, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section, Seaman, born Lancashire, Eng. He received serious wounds to the right buttock and left arm but was not killed as assumed by Morrice. He was taken on the *Hospital Ship Galeka* to Alexandria and then to England. He was invalided to Australia in 1916.

<sup>42</sup> 935 Pte Richard Henwood, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section, Draughtsman, NSW. Bullet wound left hand. He was evacuated to Alexandria then England. He returned to Gallipoli on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1915. He was evacuated on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept with colitis, dysentery, and para-typhoid and was described as "dangerously ill". He returned to Australia in Dec 1915. On the ship he injured his other hand when his finger got caught in a collapsing wooden deck chair! In 1916 he joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Aust Machine Gun Battalion and proceeded to France in 1917. He returned to Australia Oct 1918.

<sup>43</sup> 779 Pte Ernest Sturdy, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Blacksmith, born London. He died of wounds on the *Hospital Ship Galeka*, and was buried at sea.

**29 April 1915.** (Gallipoli). Got a whole trench full of Turks on our right flank with our Machine Guns. Shot a Turk last night 5 yards from our trenches. Turks attacked 2 am. Bluey<sup>44</sup> killed.

**30 Apr 1915.** (Gallipoli). Shot a Turk 30 yards from our guns. Got wounded both arms & leg. Sergeant<sup>45</sup>, Hawkins<sup>46</sup> & Lowe<sup>47</sup> wounded. Taken on board B1 steamer at 11 pm.

**1 May 1915.** (At sea). Left Gaba Tepe for Alexandria at 9am<sup>48</sup>. Wounds don't feel too bad. 4 men died.

**2 May 1915.** (At sea). Sea calm. Am being well looked after. 8 men died.

**3 May 1915.** (At sea). Arrived Alexandria 4pm. Put on board hospital train & taken to Ghezirah Palace Hospital<sup>49</sup>, Cairo. Arrived there 12pm. 3 men died. 9 hopeless cases left in Alexandria.

**4 May 1915.** (Egypt). Nell<sup>50</sup> transferred to Ghezirah Hospital. She bought me tobacco & toothbrush. Am well looked after.

**5 May 1915.** (Egypt). Red Cross workers very good. Plenty of cigarettes etc.

**6 May 1915.** (Egypt). Had a long yarn with Miss McMahon, the High Commissioner's daughter<sup>51</sup>. Very nice girl.

**7 May 1915.** (Egypt). Two chaps died in our ward. Been shot through the head.

**8 May 1915.** (Egypt). Wrote to my Dear One. Also Mother & Donald.

**9 May 1915.** (Egypt). Concert in No 1 Ward. Very good singing. Sergt Knowles of the Westminster Dragoons sang, also a French professional lady singer.

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<sup>44</sup> Who is "Bluey"? It was usually a sobriquet for someone with auburn hair. Possibly 1122 Pte Noble Stephenson, 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion, D Company, coal miner from Lithgow, who was recorded as killed that day. His enlistment papers record his complexion as "fair" and hair as "auburn". Or possibly news had reached Morrice of his cousin 957 Pte William John Morrice, Signaller, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Station Hand, Dalgety, NSW, who was killed in action at Gallipoli on the 26<sup>th</sup> April. Pte William Morrice's enlistment medical describes him as having fair hair, fair complexion and blue eyes.

<sup>45</sup> 930 Sgt. James Lackenby, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section, Carpenter, Eastwood. He had a bullet wound to the head. Returned to Australia July 1915 and was discharged medically unfit on an incapacity pension, Feb 1916.

<sup>46</sup> 1017 Pte Victor Hawkins, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Straw Hat Blocker, Sydney NSW, bullet wounds shoulder and buttock, fractured humerus. Invalided to Australia.

<sup>47</sup> 525 Pte Frank Lowe, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section, Grocer, Drummoyne, NSW, born Yorkshire, Eng. Bullet wound right shoulder. He was taken to Egypt on the same ship as Morrice and admitted to the same hospital. He returned to Gallipoli on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and was there until the evacuation. Lowe later transferred to the 15<sup>th</sup> Bn and was wounded again in 1917. He returned to Australia and was discharged medically unfit in 1918.

<sup>48</sup> Morrice was taken back to Alexandria on *HMAT A47 Mashobra*.

<sup>49</sup> Part of No 2 Australian General Hospital.

<sup>50</sup> *ibid.* Morrice's sister, Sister Nellie Constance Morrice (ref. diary entry 21<sup>st</sup>, Feb 1915).

<sup>51</sup> Daughter of Sir Henry McMahon, British High Commissioner in Cairo. Lady McMahon was President of the British Red Cross in Egypt and she and her daughter visited the hospitals providing Red Cross comforts to the soldiers.

**10 May 1915.** (Egypt). Had a long yarn with Miss McMahon the High Commissioner's daughter, nice girl.

**11 May 1915.** (Egypt). Clothe your men in the best & feed them with the best that money can buy. It's the least you can do & it's up to you to do it. (Intonation from speech in House of Commons). RATS.

**12 May 1915.** (Egypt). Wrote to my dear one.

**13 May 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**14 May 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**15 May 1915.** (Egypt). Went to stay with Mrs Branch<sup>52</sup> at Gizeh. Nice place.

**16 May 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**17 May 1915.** (Egypt). Played Mrs Branch chess every day.

**18 May 1915.** (Egypt). Wrote to my Girl & Jack. Mrs Branch also wrote.

**19 May 1915.** (Egypt). Mrs Branch took us to Kursall<sup>53</sup>(sic). Got home 1am. Good performance.

**20 May 1915.** (Egypt). Went & had a good look aver the zoo. Erwin went with me & we had afternoon tea with Mr & Mrs Nicholls.

**21 May 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**22 May 1915.** (Egypt). We go into Ghezirah<sup>54</sup> nearly every day to have our wounds dressed.

**23 May 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**24 May 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**25 May 1915.** (Egypt). Nell and Sister Holliday<sup>55</sup> came out to afternoon tea with Mrs Branch.

**26 May 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**27 May 1915.** (Egypt). Bob Chambers<sup>56</sup> came out to afternoon tea.

**28 May 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

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<sup>52</sup> Mrs Branch was probably a Red Cross volunteer. "Cairo society" was very helpful of the war effort and apart from providing general assistance in the hospitals and taking men on outings they also boarded men from the hospitals not yet ready to return to duty. (ref. "Kitty's War", by Janet Butler, Ch.2).

<sup>53</sup> The Kursaal, a theatre/ music hall in Cairo.

<sup>54</sup> A photo of Morrice at the No 2 AGH Ghezirah is held in the Australian War Memorial's collection and can be viewed at <http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P10300.001/>

<sup>55</sup> Nurse Eva Holloway, of No 2 Australian General Hospital, born Wagga, NSW, promoted to Sister Nov 1916. She resigned from the Aust. Army Nursing Service in Nov 1916 "on account of marriage". Nurses, unlike soldiers, had to be unmarried.

<sup>56</sup> Probably Lt (later Capt.) Robert LW Chambers, 8<sup>th</sup> Bn, Draughtsman, Brisbane. He had been wounded in the arm at Gallipoli on 25<sup>th</sup> April and was sent to No 1 AGH in Cairo. He rejoined his unit at Gallipoli on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. He was killed in action at Mouquet Farm on 21<sup>st</sup> Aug, 1916.

**29 May 1915.** (Egypt). Went back to hospital.

**30 May 1915.** (Egypt). Nell & I went to Mena House<sup>57</sup> & had tea with Nurse Robinson<sup>58</sup>.

**31 May 1915.** (Egypt). Had dinner with Nell at Soult's. Started at Military Post Office.

**1 June 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**2 June 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**3 June 1915.** (Egypt). Went to an at home given to wounded soldiers at the Continental. Met Sergt Major Horn<sup>59</sup>.

**4 June 1915.** (Egypt). Nell, Nurse Wood<sup>60</sup>, Holliday<sup>61</sup> & yours truly went for a sail on the Nile. Took supper.

**5 June 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**6 June 1915.** (Egypt). Was to be discharged today but case of typhus broke out in ward so am detained for 10 days observation.

**7 June 1915.** (Egypt). Received GBP1 from Lu. Bought her goods to that value & posted them. 2 pairs silk gloves, 14p each; 2 pairs stockings, 12p each, 1 silk veil 20p each, 1 silk handkerchief 15p.

**8 June 1915.** (Egypt). Go down to Military Post Office every day to help them sort letters until I'm discharged.

**9 June 1915.** (Egypt). Got some letters from my Darling.

**10 June 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**11 June 1915.** (Egypt). Went to Heliopolis Hospital<sup>62</sup> & saw Capt. Brache<sup>63</sup>.

**12 June 1915.** (Egypt). Went to Heliopolis Hospital saw Capt. Brache & King<sup>64</sup> of B Co. & took them some cakes and fruit.

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<sup>57</sup> The location of another building occupied by No2 Australian General Hospital.

<sup>58</sup> Sister Flora Robertson of No2 Australian General Hospital, born Bathurst, NSW. She also served on Lemnos at No 2 Australian Stationary Hospital with Sister Nellie Morrice.

<sup>59</sup> Probably 174 Sgt-Major John W Horne, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, B Co. Labourer, born Northumberland, Eng. He had been wounded in the right side at Gallipoli on 9<sup>th</sup> May, and was in Cairo recuperating at the time. After serving in France with the 13<sup>th</sup> Bn he returned to Australia Oct, 1918.

<sup>60</sup> Nurse Janet Sinclair Wood of No 2 Australian General Hospital. Nurse Janet Wood from Adelaide had travelled to Egypt with Sister Nellie Morrice on the *HS Kyarra*, and they were both to return home in 1919 on the *HMAT Demosthenes*.

<sup>61</sup> *ibid* (refer diary entry 25 May, 1915).

<sup>62</sup> Location of No 1 Australian General Hospital, at the Heliopolis Palace Hotel.

<sup>63</sup> Captain William Osmond Brache, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, B Co, Area Officer, Zetland, NSW. He was Morrice's original B Company commander before Morrice transferred to the Machine Gun Section. At Gallipoli, Brache had fallen 40 feet down a ravine and badly injured his back. He was invalided to Australia in Nov 1915 and discharged medically unfit in 1916.

<sup>64</sup> 185 Pte David King, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, B Co. Labourer, Melbourne. He had been wounded in the arm and thigh on 14<sup>th</sup> May at Gallipoli. He returned to Australia in July 1915 and was discharged from the AIF in Jan, 1916.

**13 June 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**14 June 1915.** (Egypt). Received some letters from Lu & some from home. Also a cable from mother, God bless her.

**15 June 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**16 June 1915** (Egypt). Discharged from hospital. Attached to No. 3 Training Battalion, Zeitoun. Lu went to Sydney to stay with Amy for a fortnight.

**17 June 1915.** (Egypt). Terribly hot on desert. Heat today 122 in the shade.

**18 June 1915.** (Egypt). Heat awful again, 120 today. Was detailed off to escort some prisoners to Abbassia .

**19 June 1915.** (Egypt). Had dinner with Nell at Metropole. Moved to Heliopolis camp from Zeitoun.

**20 June 1915.** (Egypt). Got a job helping cook. By doing so miss all drills & guards & get better tucker.

**21 June 1915.** (Egypt) Sergt. Eccles<sup>65</sup> came to see me. He has had a bad time with his arm.

**22 June 1915.** (Egypt). Heat terrible. Average well over 100.

**23 June 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**24 June 1915.** (Egypt). Eccles, Noonan<sup>66</sup> & yours truly went & spent evening in Heliopolis. Got back to camp at 10 pm. Had a look at the show.

**25 June 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**26 June 1915.** (Egypt). Very hot. 112 in shade.

**27 June 1915.** (Egypt). Went to church parade. Big crowd of men. Too far away from the preacher to hear what he said.

**28 June 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**29 June 1915.** *[diary page blank]*

**30 June 1915** (Egypt). Wrote to my Darling. Sent her a full account of my experiences.

**1 July 1915.** (Egypt). Had dinner with Nell & Nurse Wood<sup>67</sup> at Metropole.

**2 July 1915.** (Egypt). My name put down on roll to leave tomorrow for Gallipoli.

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<sup>65</sup> 396 Sgt. Albert Eccles, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section, Sailor, born Dundee Scotland. He had fallen on 28th April with a machine gun and splintered the humerus of his right upper arm. After returning to Australia to recuperate he joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Company and was killed in action in Belgium in October 1917.

<sup>66</sup> 204 Pte Tom Noonan, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Clerk from Woollahra, NSW, born Limerick, Ireland. He had been wounded in the right ankle. He returned to Gallipoli (ref diary entry 17<sup>th</sup> July) and was killed in action there on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 1915.

<sup>67</sup> *ibid* (refer diary entry 4<sup>th</sup> June).

**3 July 1915.** (Egypt). Left Cairo 10am for Alexandria. Embarked on Allen Line *SS Scotian*. Sailed 7pm for Lemnos.

**4 July 1915.** (At sea). Sea calm. No lights allowed at night on account of enemy's submarine

**5 July 1915.** (Lemnos). Reached Lemnos 7pm. Anchored in inner harbour. Had a good swim.

**6 July 1915.** (Lemnos). Had a swim. Not allowed ashore. Saw 6,000 Tommies leave for Cape Hellas.

**7 July 1915.** (Lemnos). 12,000 Tommies & 6,000 French arrived. We left Lemnos 7pm in a mine sweeper for Gabe Tepe.

**8 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Arrived Gabe Tepe 1 am. A man out of 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion killed while landing. Joined MGS [Machine Gun Section] 11am Courtney's.<sup>68</sup> 4 N.Z men killed near us by shell. Got diary back from Walford.<sup>69</sup>

**9 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Had a pretty warm time with Turkish shell. A number of our men killed & wounded at Steele's Point. One of our Machine Guns blown up.

**10 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion MGS relieved us.<sup>70</sup> We go to Rest Camp for a few days. Received letters from Lu & Jack. Also from home.

**11 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Pretty slow in rest camp. Had a swim.

**12 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). A number of men killed on beach with shrapnel including a Dr Campbell<sup>71</sup>.

**13 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Went around & saw Val<sup>72</sup>. Saw Mick Sinclair<sup>73</sup> on beach.

**14 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Quiet in rest camp. Two men shot while having a swim.

**15 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). A lot of rifle & machine gun fire last night. Lot of men killed at Courtney's Post with high explosive shells. Gunner Moir<sup>74</sup> went away sick.

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<sup>68</sup> Courtney's Post, a front line ANZAC position above Monash Valley, South of Quinn's Post.

<sup>69</sup> This indicates Morrice did not have his diary when he was wounded and may have recorded his entries separately while convalescing in Egypt and retrospectively entered them when he got the diary back from Walford at Gallipoli.

<sup>70</sup> The 16<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section had renowned gunners, Harry Murray (later VC, CMG, DSO & Bar, DCM, & CdeG), and Percy Black (later DSO, DCM). Murray was to transfer to the 13th Bn Machine Gun Section on 13<sup>th</sup> August. <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/murray-henry-william-harry-7709>. Since May the machine gun sections of the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade i.e., 13th, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Bn Machine Gun Sections had been operating together as a unit under Brigade Machine Gun officer Capt. J M Rose, an expert from the British school of gunnery at Hythe, who had been with the NZ Wellington Battalion. The 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Machine Gun unit earned a strong combat reputation at Gallipoli (ref. CEW Bean, *The Attempt on Hill 971*).

<sup>71</sup> Probably Captain Sydney Campbell, 8<sup>th</sup> Light Horse, Doctor from Portland, Victoria, who died from shrapnel wounds to both legs received while bathing on the beach, however his date of death is recorded as 14<sup>th</sup> July on *Hospital Ship Sicilia*. Buried at Sea.

<sup>72</sup> 569 Pte Walter Tertius Morrice of the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse. (refer Diary entry of 28 July, 1915).

<sup>73</sup> "Mick Sinclair" not known. There was however 98 Pte William Sinclair in the 13<sup>th</sup> Bn.

<sup>74</sup> 412 Pte John Douglas Moir, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, jockey, born Glasgow, Scotland. Morrice was to see him again in hospital at Malta (ref, diary entry 24 Aug 1915). Moir later served on the Western Front with the 13<sup>th</sup> Bn. He returned to Australia in 1919.

**16 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Went to Walkers Ridge<sup>75</sup> & had a few shots. Saw warships bombard at Cape Hellas<sup>76</sup> with 12 inch shells.

**17 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Turks very quiet. Tom Noonan<sup>77</sup> came back. A yarn..General Birdwood<sup>78</sup> asked an Australian....."Well my lad, how are you men getting on in the trenches". Answer "We have the B----- Turks well B-----, Matey"

**18 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Turks bombarded our position with high explosive shell. Had a narrow escape. Feel a bit shaken up.

**19 July 1915 .** (Gallipoli). Things quiet. Fire very slack on both sides. Turks doing a lot of trenching. 3 Batteries of Howitzers arrived from England 4.5<sup>79</sup>.

**20 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Mail in. Got letter from Lu, Mother, Donald & Mr MacGown.

**21 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Shell lobbed near my dugout. No damage. Few men killed today, shrapnel.

**22 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Turks reinforced by 100,000 men. Things very quiet. Felt very sick. Got pills from Doctor. Feel better. One man C Co killed. One wounded shrapnel.

**23 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Expected attack last night, stood to arms 12pm<sup>80</sup> to 1am & 3am to 4 am. No attack. Feel very weak.

**24 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Stood to arms twice during night. Lot of firing, not much damage done. Weather very hot. Feel very weak. Doctor gave me pills.

**25 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Attended church service. Good sermon. Subject...keep your hands clean of crime. Turks very quiet today, only a few shells coming over. Wrote to my Loved One.

**26 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Feel a good deal better today. Have eaten a fair feed. Things quiet.

**27 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Captain Onslow<sup>81</sup> killed on beach. Three men in our gully killed with shell. Weather hot. Big lot of Turkish fire at 1am. Very few hits. Meat issued, 1/2lb per man.

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<sup>75</sup> The Anzac northern flank on the seaward side of the Sari Bair range.

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/interactive/walkers-ridge-panorama-gallipoli>

<sup>76</sup> Southern end of Gallipoli Peninsula <http://archive.iwm.org.uk/upload/package/2/gallipoli/hellesopen.htm>

<sup>77</sup> *ibid.* (ref diary entry 24 June, 1915)

<sup>78</sup> Lt. Gen. Birdwood was commander of the ANZAC forces at Gallipoli.

[http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/1landing/s\\_birdwood.html](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/1landing/s_birdwood.html)

<sup>79</sup> The QF 4.5-inch howitzer was the standard British Empire field or 'light' howitzer of WW1.

<sup>80</sup> 12pm, for 2400 hrs (midnight). The 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Unit Diary indicates Col. Monash was expecting a Turkish attack in force and therefore the whole Brigade per Operational Order No 4 was being stood to arms at the pre-appointed times mentioned in Morrice's diary.

<sup>81</sup> Capt. Brian Onslow, 11th King Edward's Own Lancers, Aide de Camp to Lt. Gen. William Birdwood. Capt Onslow was sleeping on the roof of his shelter as it was a hot night and was killed by a shell.



**28 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Relieved 15<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Section on Walker's Ridge. Saw Val Morrice<sup>82</sup> going down to the beach wounded in neck. A number of men killed on beach. Shell fire also in trenches. Clasper<sup>83</sup> went away sick. Turks shook barbed wire from our trench.

**29 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Weather very warm. My watch on gun from 12am to 1pm & 12pm to 1am<sup>84</sup>. Number of officers & men killed on beach with shrapnel. Also some men in trenches. Turks artillery fire very deadly.

**30 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Hot day. Turks blew up Quinn's Post at 4am. 5 men killed, number wounded. German aeroplane destroyed. Had a yarn with young Garbutt<sup>85</sup> (sic) last night. Bread issued one ½ loaf. Turks shelled Steele's. High explosive shells got several men. Had a swim.

**31 July 1915.** (Gallipoli). Hot day. Everything quiet last night. My watch 2pm to 4pm & 2am to 4am. Olsen<sup>86</sup> went away sick. This sort of fighting is slow, no sport about it. You are in trenches & try to blow the enemy up with explosives. He is only a few yards off, but you cannot see him.

**1 Aug 1915.** (Gallipoli). Nice day. Australians captured Turkish trenches on right flank last night<sup>87</sup>. 29 killed, a number wounded. Two AMC men killed in their dugout just below us last night. 60 Turks killed in captured trench. Fresh meat issued.

**2 Aug 1915.** (Gallipoli). Warm day. My watch from 4pm to 6pm & 4am to 6am. Things quiet. We are supposed to have 100 guns in position. Had a few shots out of Machine Gun. German submarine sighted. Our ships cleared out.

**3 Aug 1915.** (Gallipoli). Nice day. Things quiet last night. Hope we make an attack soon, it would liven things up a bit. An issue of rum is being given out every day now. Wish they would give more tobacco and matches instead. Went over to battalion in afternoon. Had a swim.

**4 Aug 1915.** (Gallipoli). Warm day. Lot of firing last night. Turks fired a number of star shells. Effect extremely pretty. 4,000 Kitchener's army landed & 1,000 Ghurkhas. Saw Billy Forbes<sup>88</sup> & Batterham<sup>89</sup> of 2<sup>nd</sup> L.H. 17 men from Battalion joined our section. Feel A1.

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<sup>82</sup> Morrice's cousin, Pte (later Lt.) Walter Tertius Morrice of the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse, Station Overseer, Walgett, originally of "Browley", Moss Vale who was treated for a neck wound that day. He was wounded again later in the war at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Amman, and died from his wounds on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 1918. Lt. W T Morrice is buried in the Jericho Cemetery, Jerusalem.

<sup>83</sup> 932 Pte (later Lt.) William Clasper, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn Machine Gun Section, Engineer from Woollahra, NSW, born Newcastle, Eng. He had dysentery and was transferred to No2 AGH, Cairo. Returned to Gallipoli in October. Served with the 13<sup>th</sup> Bn on the Western Front and died from wounds received at Bullecourt in April 1917.

<sup>84</sup> i.e., midday to 1pm and midnight to 1am.

<sup>85</sup> The most likely person for this reference is 203 Cpl (later Capt.) Alan Montague Garbett of the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse who was at Gallipoli at the time. He was 22yrs old and only 5'4" & 9 ½ stone, perhaps explaining Morrice's reference to "young Garbutt". And the 1<sup>st</sup> L.H were in Morrice's sector at the time (ref. entry for Walter Morrice, 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse, 28<sup>th</sup> July, 1915). Garbett went on to serve in the Sinai, Palestine and Syria, returning to Australia in 1919.

<sup>86</sup> 999 Pte Oscar B Olsen, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section, Carpenter from Petersham NSW. He left Gallipoli on 12<sup>th</sup> August suffering debility & rheumatism arriving Malta 20<sup>th</sup> August. He sailed for Australia from England in April 1916, and was discharged medically unfit.

<sup>87</sup> Probably a reference to a successful action that day by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade that occurred at Tasmania Post.

<sup>88</sup> 320 Pte William G Forbes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Light Horse, Stockman, Warwick Queensland. Returned to Aust 1919.

<sup>89</sup> 300 Pte Percy W Batterham, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Light Horse, Stockman, Warwick Queensland. Returned to Aust 1916.

**5 Aug 1915.** (Gallipoli). Went over to Battalion with message. Turks busy with rifle last night, they must be expecting an attack. The section have been given notice to hold themselves in readiness to move off to join battalion who are attacking soon. No mail for 3 weeks. Wonder how my Girl and Boy are.

**6 Aug 1915.** (Gallipoli). Moved out last night & joined battalion. Have received instructions to attack Hill 971 tonight, which is the key to the whole situation<sup>90</sup>. Girlie, we are going to have heavy loss & if I fall forgive me for all my faults and remember I love you. May God always protect you & Jack. Dad.

**7 Aug 1915.** (Gallipoli). Moved out last night 9.15pm & occupied ridges on the left flank of the position. We did not have much fighting. New Zealanders and Ghurkhas attacked Hill 971 & had heavy losses. 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Battalions also lost heavily. Sailor Jack<sup>91</sup> of our section wounded in leg. King<sup>92</sup> killed.

**8 Aug 1915.** (Gallipoli). Took up position with machine gun. Had a rough time. Markella<sup>93</sup> (sic), Love<sup>94</sup> killed; Cox<sup>95</sup>, Maiden<sup>96</sup>, Chapman<sup>97</sup>, Jackson<sup>98</sup> wounded of our section. Heavy attack on 971, our men got to the crest with heavy losses. Turks attacked our position on left flank, but we scooted them.

**9 Aug 1915.** (Gallipoli). Heavy fighting on Hill 971, also at the new landing place to our North. Neither side gained much advantage. Arrangements for wounded very bad, poor chaps dying for want of attention. Water very scarce. Am in charge of No 2 Gun & 10 men.

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<sup>90</sup> Hill 971 (or Koja Chemen Tepe), the highest point of the Sari Bair Range, was the objective of the 4th Brigade as part of the main break-out operations from ANZAC in early August 1915. The intention was to seize the high ground between Hill 971 and Chunuk Bair in order to secure a drive across the peninsula to capture the forts guarding the Straits. The advance fell short of its objective.

<http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/1landing/nbeach4.html>

<sup>91</sup> "Sailor Jack" is probably 479 Pte John Frederick Baker, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section, born Dover, Eng. He had claimed at his enlistment that he had 5 years service with the British Navy. After the war it was discovered he had in fact deserted from the Australian Navy, his real name being Able Seaman Charles MacGregor. He subsequently received a free pardon given he had left the Navy to join the AIF. He was to serve with various Machine Gun Company's on the Western Front, returning to Australia in 1919.

<sup>92</sup> 1027 William J King, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, B Co, Painter from Stawell Victoria. Morrice was mistaken in his belief King had been killed (ref. diary entry 1<sup>st</sup> Sep 1915). King had received a gunshot wound to the face on 7 Aug, and his Casualty Form mentions he was "dangerously ill". He was invalided to Australia on *HMAT Ascanius* in Sept. Morrice was on the same ship.

<sup>93</sup> 944 Pte Edgar Markillie, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section, Accountant, born Aberdeen Scot. Buried at Kaijajik Dere, Gallipoli by Rev Wray, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Chaplain. Markillie's father had been Mayor of Camberwell, VIC.

<sup>94</sup> 1568 Pte Harry Love (a.k.a Harry Love Balston), 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, 3<sup>rd</sup> Reinf, Miner. Born Poole, Eng. Buried at Kaijajik Dere, Gallipoli by Rev Wray, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Chaplain.

<sup>95</sup> 595 Pte (later Lt.) William J Cox, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section, Chef, Essendon, Vic. Bullet wound right arm. Returned to Gallipoli late Nov, 1915. In 1916 transferred to 4<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Company. Wounded & captured 11<sup>th</sup> Apr, 1917 at Reincourt, in the 1<sup>st</sup> battle of Bullecourt. He was a POW in Germany. He was repatriated to England in Jan 1919 and returned to Australia in April 1919.

<sup>96</sup> 943 L/ Cpl (later Lt.) Herbert Maiden, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section, Labourer, born London, Bullet wounds arm and thigh. Invalided to England via Malta. Transferred to 45<sup>th</sup> Bn. 1916 awarded Military Medal. Returned to Australia 1918.

<sup>97</sup> 1016 Cpl Alfred Chapman, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section, Seaman, born London. Admitted on 14<sup>th</sup> Aug to 1AGH Heliopolis with a bullet wound to the head. He was later awarded the Military Medal & the Military Cross on the Western Front. He went to live in London on discharge in 1919.

<sup>98</sup> 620 Pte Horace B Jackson, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section, Labourer, born Yorkshire, Eng. Wound to the thigh. Transported to Malta. Embarked to Australia Jan, 1916 for discharge.

**10 Aug 1915.** (Gallipoli). Heavy fighting on 971. Our men pushed back. Navy played up old Harry with Turks causing heavy losses. We spent day in strengthening our position & are pretty right now. Turks shelled us. Smell of dead men very strong.

**11 Aug 1915.** (Gallipoli). No attack last night for a wonder. We had a fair sleep. Farlow<sup>99</sup> and I had fair sniping at Turks at 150 yards. Got 2 or 3. Won't be sorry when it is over. Mail barges sank by Turkish shell fire. We will get no mail for a fortnight. Wonder how my dear one is.

**12 Aug 1915.** (Gallipoli). Water very scarce. Allowance a pint a day. Champion,<sup>100</sup> one of my gun crew missing. Shot a couple of snipers with machine gun in early morning. The smell from dead men is awful. Things generally quiet. Royal Irish Rifles cut to bits on Hill 971.

**13 Aug 1915.** (Gallipoli). Capt. Legge<sup>101</sup> our officer wounded through the neck last night. Good deal of rifle fire, but not much damage done during night. I went to Doctor ill. Temperature 103.2. Sent to hospital ship *Guilford Castle*. Temperature caused through shell explosion in trench.

**14 Aug 1915.** (Imbros-Lemnos). Hospital ship anchored at Imbros<sup>102</sup> for the night. Slept well. Sailed 9am. Arrived Lemnos 1pm. Anchored for night. Slept well. Not half enough staff to look after wounded. Four died today. *SS Aquitania* (47,000 tons) left today.

**15 Aug 1915.** (Lemnos). Transferred to Cunard *SS Andania* (22,000 tons)<sup>103</sup>. Good food. Submarine sank transport *Royal George*<sup>104</sup>. 1000 soldiers drowned. Still in Lemnos. Heard that Turks were to have made attack on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

**16 Aug 1915.** (Lemnos). Took on board more wounded. Not half enough staff to attend to wounded. Food not the best.

**17 Aug 1915.** (Lemnos). Took on more wounded. Ship getting full up. Also took more water. Rumoured we go to England.

**18 Aug 1915.** (Lemnos). Took on more wounded. Have 1,400 on board now. Food very bad. Sailed 6pm for unknown destination.

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<sup>99</sup> 963 Pte (later Lt.) Colin H Farlow, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, Machine Gun Section (prev. HQ Section), Labourer/ boundary rider, Wellington NSW. Died at Moquet Farm, France of wounds 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 1916.

<sup>100</sup> There was no one called Champion in the 13<sup>th</sup> Bn. The entry probably refers to 1671 Pte John Campion, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, 3<sup>rd</sup> Reinf., Seaman born Edinburgh, Scotland. On 11<sup>th</sup> Aug he went through a Casualty Clearing Station at Walkers Ridge, Gallipoli suffering from influenza, and was evacuated to a hospital on Lemnos. Later in the War he was awarded the Military Medal.

<sup>101</sup> Capt. (later Major) R.G.Legge, the 13<sup>th</sup> Bn's Machine Gun Section commander. Like Morrice he was admitted to the *Hospital Ship Guilford Castle* then the *SS Andania*. Ex Malta he was transferred to England for treatment. Capt. Legge was a graduate of Duntroon and had earlier been awarded the Military Cross, "for conspicuous ability and courage in the successful handling of his machine gun section at Gaba Tepe". He was also awarded a DSO in 1917. He returned to Australia in 1919.

<sup>102</sup> Imbros Island, 15 miles from ANZAC Cove.

<sup>103</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS\\_Andania\\_%281913%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS_Andania_%281913%29)

<sup>104</sup> The ship was in fact the *HMT Royal Edward*, not its sister ship the *Royal George*. The *Royal Edward* was sailing from Alexandria to Lemnos carrying 1,367 men, the majority reinforcements for the British 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and was torpedoed on 13<sup>th</sup> August by the German submarine UB-14. She sank within 6 minutes. The death toll (est. 935) was high as she had just completed a boat drill and the men were below decks re-stowing their equipment.

**19 Aug 1915.** (At sea). The *Andania* splendid sea boat. Doing 18 knots. Fresh head wind. Food bad. At present we are going through the Greek Archipelago.

**20 Aug 1915.** (At sea). Sea calm. Lot of wounded dying through not enough attention. We expect to reach Malta tonight. Anchored off the island of Malta. Margarine very bad. Wish they would give us jam instead.

**21 Aug 1915.** (Malta). Hauled up anchor at 9am & steamed around to Valetta. The island is all terraced which gives it a peculiar appearance. Three died last night. Landed 3pm & taken to George Hospital<sup>105</sup>. 24 died on *Andania* in 2 days.

**22 Aug 1915.** (Malta). St Georges Hospital nice place, only drawback (bugs). Food good. Wrote to Lu, Mother & sent postcards to John. Had a bad night. Could not sleep.

**23 Aug 1915.** (Malta). Slept fairly well. Posted some lace to Lu & a Turkish Cap to Jack. Squally sort of a day. Malta seems a very clean place.

**24 Aug 1915.** (Malta). Feel much better. Take medicine every day. Hospital life very slow. Saw Gunner Moir<sup>106</sup> & Olsen<sup>107</sup>.

**25 Aug 1915.** (Malta) Put in application for furlough<sup>108</sup>. 400 more wounded arrived from Gallipoli. Went for a walk yesterday. Felt very weak.

**26 Aug 1915.** (Malta) A number sent from G 1 ward to England by hospital ship. Given 1 oz tobacco, 2 packets cigarettes. Had a bad night, could not sleep & head felt queer.

**27 Aug 1915.** (Malta) Had a bad night. Head crook & mosquitoes very bad. Went for a walk in the evening.

**28 Aug 1915.** (Malta) Warm day. Things very quiet. Slept very little last night. Wrote to John & Mrs Branch.

**29 Aug 1915.** (Malta) Wrote to Lu & posted her a yard of lace. Paid 2/- yesterday. Slept well last night.

**30 Aug 1915.** (Malta) Slept very badly last night. Should hear today about my application. My back feels a bit sore.

**31 Aug 1915.** (Malta). Took a sleeping draught. Had no effect. Had a look at St John Church<sup>109</sup> & the armour<sup>110</sup> in Government House in Valetta.

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<sup>105</sup> At St George's hospital Morrice was diagnosed with rheumatism, fever and gastritis (per Casualty Form).

<sup>106</sup> ibid (diary 15 Jly 1915).

<sup>107</sup> ibid (diary 31 Jly 1915).

<sup>108</sup> Morrice had applied for furlough for the purpose of seeing his wife who had developed consumption (tuberculosis). This was later granted.

<sup>109</sup> St John's Cathedral. Built by the Knights of Malta between 1573 and 1578 the church is considered to be one of the finest examples of Baroque architecture in Europe. <http://stjohnscocathedral.com/>

<sup>110</sup> <http://vassallohistory.wordpress.com/the-palace/>

- 1 Sep 1915.** (Malta) Put on board *Ascanius*<sup>111</sup>. Told we are off to Australia. Met Bill King<sup>112</sup> on wharf. Thought he was killed. Nice ship & food good.
- 2 Sep 1915.** (At sea). Had a fair night. Saw Doctor about my head. Gave me medicine. Sea smooth.
- 3 Sep 1915.** (Mediterranean). Sea smooth. Things very quiet. Little Mary<sup>113</sup> giving trouble. Expect to be Port Said tomorrow.
- 4 Sep 1915.** (Mediterranean). Sea calm. Reached Port Said at 4.30pm. Started coaling.
- 5 Sep 1915.** (Mediterranean) . 3,000 tons of coal were put aboard in 18 hours. Port Said is supposed to be the quickest coaling station in the world. Sailed for Suez 12pm.
- 6 Sep 1915.** (Suez Canal). Had to stop 2 hours in early morning on account of fog. A good many Sikhs (Indians) on canal. Arrived Suez 4.30pm. New Zealanders paid GBP 5 each.
- 7 Sep 1915.** (Suez) Slept well. Feel much better. Sailed 7.30pm for dear Australia & home. Were paid 50/-.
- 8 Sep 1915** (Red Sea). Making good progress. Bought 1 ½ tobacco. Canteen opened. Head crook. Sea calm.
- 9 Sep 1915.** (Red Sea) Averaging 14 knots. Very hot & sultry. Our canteen opened in forward hatch. Soft drinks -/3. Very hot weather.
- 10 Sep 1915.** (Red Sea). Very hot. Bad night. Could not sleep. Got a new cap from Sergeant Major. Met a boy from hospital No 2. He said Nell<sup>114</sup> is well.
- 11 Sep 1915.** (Gulf of Aden) Very hot & sultry. Averaging 14 knots. Could not sleep last night. We are being fed well. I wonder how my Dear Ones are. Left Red Sea 12 am for Gulf of Aden. Passed Aden 4pm.
- 12 Sep 1915.** (Gulf of Aden). Very hot weather. Quiet day. No church. Entered Arabian Sea 6pm. Food very good. Three more Sundays & I'll be with my loved ones. God bless them.
- 13 Sep 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Monsoonal storm started last night. Blowing very strong. Weather chilly. Had a good sleep today.
- 14 Sep 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Wind & sea fairly high. Ship only doing 11 knots. Had word yesterday of a wreck by wireless 150 miles away. Two other boats standing by.
- 15 Sep 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Wind & sea calm. Could not sleep last night. Ship closing 14 knots again. Cool day.

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<sup>111</sup> *HMAT Ascanius (A11)* had been part of the first convoy to Egypt, departing King George Sound, WA, on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1914.

<sup>112</sup> *ibid* (refer to diary 7<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1915).

<sup>113</sup> A polite reference used at the time for "stomach".

<sup>114</sup> *ibid*. Morrice's sister, Sister Nellie Constance Morrice (ref. diary entry 21<sup>st</sup>, Feb 1915).

**16 Sep 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Crossed the line today. Weather hot. Had a bad head last night. Could not sleep. Weather calm.

**17 Sep 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Put in a good night. Sea calm. Hot day. Should soon be getting calmer.

**18 Sep 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Rained heavily all night. Slept well. Sea calm. All the soldiers on board paraded to try & get sleeping accommodation.

**19 Sep 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Sea calm. Divine service on boat deck. Weather much cooler.

**20 Sep 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Rained heavily last night. Slept well. Good wind behind us.

**21 Sep 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Fairly strong head wind. Slept well. Weather getting cooler. Run 288 knots.

**22 Sep 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Head wind. Slept well. Very slow on board.

**23 Sep 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Cold weather slept well. Saw the Southern Cross last night. Concert last night.

**24 Sep 1915** (Indian Ocean). Cold night last night. Heavy swell on this morning. Slept well.

**25 Sep 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Ditto

**26 Sep 1915** (Indian Ocean). Heavy swell. Boat rolling a lot on account of being light on. Slept badly. Too cold.

**27 Sep 1915.** (Indian Ocean). Reached Fremantle 8.30am. The Women's Liberal League sent out a lot of tucker aboard. No shore leave granted.

**28 Sep 1915.** (Australian Bight). Left Fremantle 5.30am. Passed Cape Leeuwin 6pm.

**29 Sep 1915.** (Australian Bight). Strong wind. Big sea and very cold.

**30 Sep 1915.** (Australian Bight). Beautiful day. Sea calm. Slept very badly. Wish we were at our journey's end. Should hear from my Dear One in Melbourne.

**1 Oct 1915.** (Australian Bight). Cold day. Sea fairly calm. Slept badly.

**2 Oct 1915.** (Tasman Sea). Heavy swell. No rain.

**3 Oct 1915.** (Tasman Sea). Arrived Melbourne 8am. Anchored in Bay. Cold weather.

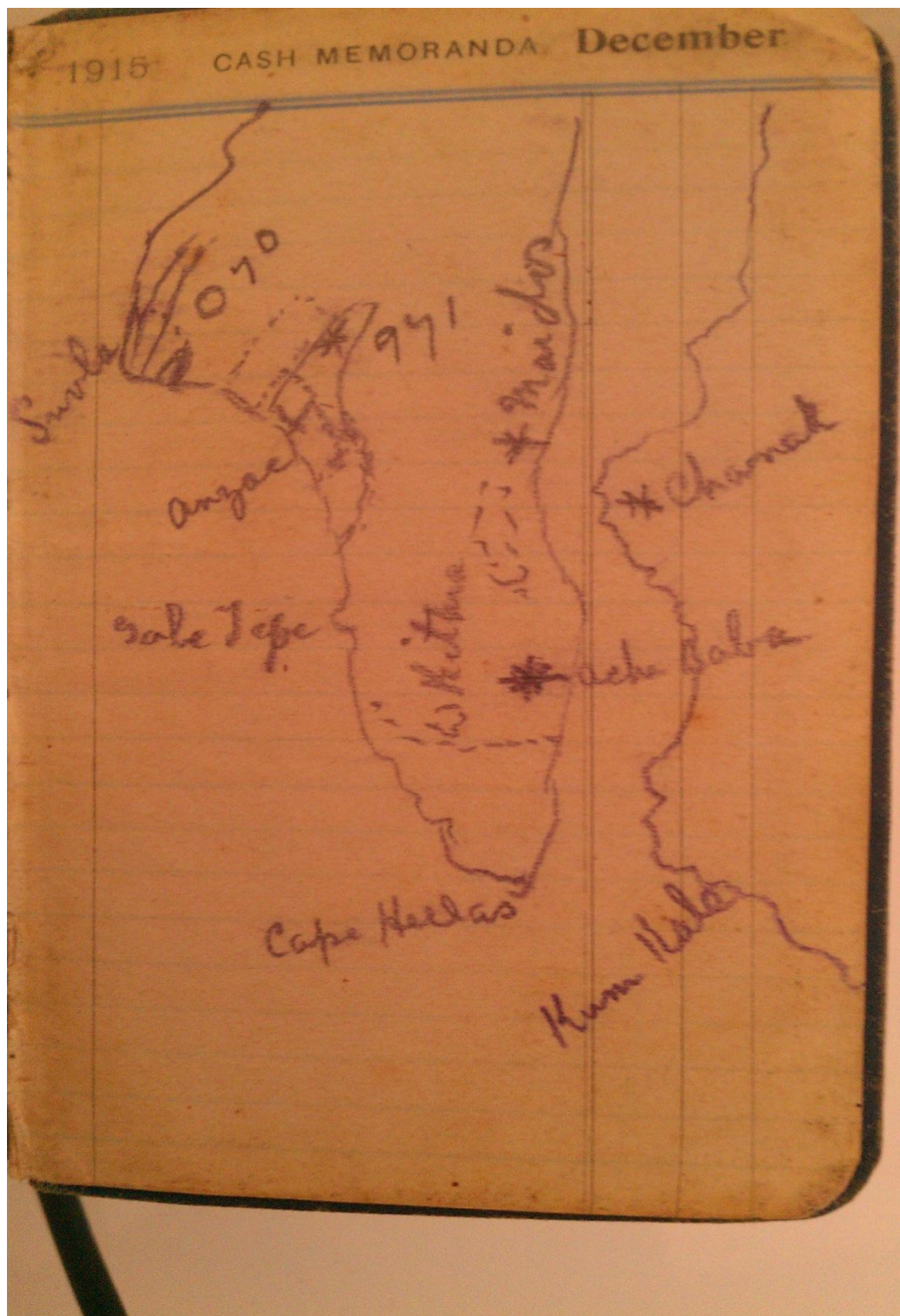
**4 Oct 1915.** (Tasman Sea). Pulled into wharf Port Melbourne 8am. Left 12am. Weather very cold & heavy rain.

**5 Oct 1915.** (Tasman Sea). Passed Cape Howe<sup>115</sup> 10am. Weather cold.

*This was the last entry in AJ Morrice's diary apart from the following map.*

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<sup>115</sup> A coastal headland on the border of NSW & Victoria.



Map of the Gallipoli Peninsula drawn by L/Cpl AJ Morrice on the back page of his diary. It shows the ANZAC sector and the dotted line north of ANZAC roughly shows the intended route of the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion along North Beach and inland to Hill 971 as part of the unsuccessful August offensive.

### POSTSCRIPT

Morrice was honourably discharged from the AIF as medically unfit on 23 November, 1915. His AIF Certificate of Character on Discharge, described his conduct while serving in the AIF as "Good"; Marks or scars as "2 bullet wound marks on upper left arm"; and intended place of residence "Erskine St, Dubbo". He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, & Victory Medal. His wife, Louise Mary Morrice died of tuberculosis in 1926. He remarried in 1930 and had 4 children from his second marriage. Morrice died in Camden, NSW in 1940.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion had suffered significantly in the week after The Landing at Gallipoli. "The Landing strength of the 13<sup>th</sup> was 25 Officers and 934 other ranks; our strength on the evening of 3<sup>rd</sup> May was 9 officers and 500 other ranks" ("**The Fighting Thirteenth. The History of the Thirteenth Battalion, A.I.F**" by White TA.)

The August offensive at Gallipoli was also costly to the reinforced 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion. "The 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion had fallen from 800 to 473 men during the August battles." ("**The Anzacs**", Patsy Adam-Smith). This number was probably derived from the **Unit's War Diary**. An entry dated 19 August, 1915 records casualties from 6<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> August inclusive as 3 officers & 42 other ranks killed, 5 officers and 124 other ranks wounded, 3 officers and 150 other ranks sick. The heat of summer, flies, bad diet and poor hygiene had its effect on general health. By August doctors were reporting that most of the Anzacs were suffering from some form of dysentery and hundreds of men were being evacuated sick. Many more men were evacuated from Gallipoli sick than were killed or wounded.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion returned to Egypt. While in Egypt the Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the nascent 45th Battalion. In June 1916, the 13th sailed for France. Its first major action was at Pozieres in August. The 13th Battalion, along with most of the 4th Brigade, suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April 1917 when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support. In March and April 1918, the battalion helped to stop the German spring offensive. It subsequently played a role in the great allied offensive of 1918, fighting near Amiens on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918.