

## Diary Three

22nd November 1915 to the 3rd January 1916



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*R.D. Doughty*

*2nd Battery AFA*

*1st Brigade*

*1st Division*

*From 22 Nov 1915*

### **ANZAC**

#### ***22nd November 1915***

Rained heavily last night. Thanks to someone we didn't go down to the Beach for loading purposes. Bitterly cold today. Been muffled up like a Polar Bear. Today all NCOs went across to A69 5 inch Howitzer Battery for instruction. Find the guns very simple, much more than the Eighteens! Our Battery is taking over similar guns. Awaiting their arrival. 'Beachy' paid us his compliments again. Awfully interfering chap. Stormy night.

#### ***23rd November 1915***

Along Howitzer Bty again today. 'Beachy' spotted us while coming back and started interfering, also a sniper had his little say. Got a couple of mules but didn't get us of course. Bitterly cold again. Short rationed in everything. Haven't had a wash for 4 days. Played 500 at night. A bit of hate landed at 8 pm but died down about an hour later.

#### ***24th November 1915***

Party went down to complete loading operations at beach late last night. Forgot to call me. Didn't reprimand them of course. Had another visit to that A69 both this morning and afternoon. Beachy waits for our party now seemingly. We had to take cover twice going round by the beach. Capt Callaghan DCO (our old Captain) at the Bty today. Won't be long before we get our guns now.

#### ***25th November 1915***

Bitterly cold again. Working party out again last night. Got back some unearthly hour this morning but saw nothing of our Howitzers. Beachy still busy on the beach. Last night 5 Turks managed to get through our lines, but were met in Monash Gully by some of the lads. The Turks, not the 'lads', went west.

#### ***26th November 1915***

Slightly warmer today, although plenty of room for improvement. Round at A69 all day. Saw some of the Turkish Batteries trying to get some of the destroyers and trawlers, also an aeroplane or two, also got introduced to a sniper who nearly scored 2 hits I know about. Our gully got shelled in it's turn at Dinner time. Saw most amusing incident but can't put it down here. Visited a 4.7 on the right flank later. Raining.

### ***27th November 1915***

Raining and quite cold enough for snow. Along at A69 all day. Sea very rough and things looking very black in general. Horribly short rationed with food and water. Too rough for boats to get close enough in for the use of lighters. Can't expect our guns to arrive in this weather. Bunk at 5.30.

### ***28th November 1915***

Snowing hard. Started last night at 11 pm and still snowing 6 pm. Cold as Charity with a 30 m.p.h. wind whisking the spindrift about. Lovely sight from my dug out. Everything is perfectly white. But gee, isn't it hot. This afternoon got issued with McIntosh's warm underclothing. Don't half need them either. Managed to pinch some Quaker Oats and had porridge for supper. Wrote Linda. Bunk 9 pm.

### ***29th November 1915***

Stopped snowing, but absolutely raw. Tired of being an Eskimo so crawled out into it. From 10 till 2 the Turks have been bombarding our trench positions, one shell, a 5.9 HE has just lobbed into Shaw's dug out just above me, but didn't explode. He is only bruised. Johnston wounded with shrapnel. Sorry to report that Lt Dixon (Jim) badly wounded. The heaviest bombardment the Turks have given us for months. Sent over 8.2 HE Howitzers. Smashed Lone Pine about. Casualties very heavy on our side. Expecting an attack tonight.

### ***30th November 1915***

Contrary to expectations, the Turks never attacked last night. Just an occasional shell lobbed by them and our own reply with Howitzer fire. Saw Jim today, looking very seedy on it, but as 'cheery' as of yore. This afternoon the Lord Nelson and several cruisers and destroyers came up and loosed 'Hell' round the point. At present things are perfectly quiet. Not a gun firing anywhere. Believe the final dash for the Narrows to be made within the next few days. Bitterly cold.

### ***1st December 1915***

Heavy frost last night. Turks again bombarded Lone Pine, but stopped after about two hour's flutter. Marching orders came late tonight. Have just got one party away for Lemnos to pick up guns and ammunition there. Expect to go over tomorrow. Rumoured on good authority that we go from there to Embros. Hope so.

### ***2nd December 1915***

Busy packing up all day. Beachy still busy. Expect to leave tonight.

### **Back at Embros Island**

### ***3rd December 1915***

Disappointed last night. Still at Anzac awaiting transport. Supposed to leave at minute's notice. LATER. Got orders to leave camp at 9.30. Walked via Walker's Ridge to beach. Got on board a semi-trawler and left at 12.30. Arrived at Embros 5.30. Camped in tents again.

### ***4th December 1915***

Spent practically the whole day eating and I am still hungry. Awaiting General Birdwood's return from Cape. Don't know where we are off to yet. Guns and first party on board the Queen Louise. Saw Mr Selmes today. Looking OK. Quite a novel experience not to have to dodge shells or bombs. Plenty of Turks prisoners. Also an aeroplane.

### ***5th December 1915***

Still no news as regards shifting from here, so filling in time doing the next best thing to fighting - eating. Delany and myself got permission off DSO to visit the RNAS's aerodrome. Had about 3 1/2 hours there this afternoon. Tried to go for a 'rise' but struck hard luck. Having another try tomorrow. Very interesting afternoon.

### ***6th December 1915***

Missed fire again as regarding having a trip in an aeroplane, the day being rather rough. Had a look around the beach which is strewn with small wrecks, due to the stormy weather of late. Had a good view of the battleships shelling Achi Baba and Anzac. Visited QMS Tabbs, along with Golding at night. Orders in for reveille at 5 am tomorrow. Leaving for Sarpi Camp, Nudros West.

### ***7th December 1915***

Couldn't get away today, so made the best of things and kicked around generally. Rec orders for embarkation tomorrow morning at 7.

### **Onto Lemnos Island**

### ***8th December 1915***

On board TBD 'Chelmer' heading for Lemnos. Have just got word of hostile aeroplane about. The gunners are on their guns already. Later hour appearance of aeroplane. Arrived at Lemnos and pulled alongside SS Arregon and ordered to Nudros W. Arrived at Camp at 8 pm. Great trip across.

### ***9th December 1915***

Getting settled here at our old position. Visited Sonpi this afternoon along with Delany and a chap of the Chelmer. Our party off H supposed to land tonight.

### ***10th December 1915***

Guns landed OK also rest of party with the exception of Bradwell and 2 others who are guarding the ammunition. Visited dental hospital later. Saw Golding at No 3 AGH. 500 at night.

### ***11th December 1915***

Rebuilding tents etc. Villaging this afternoon and watching football match.

### ***12th December 1915***

Getting settled down to Camp life again. Start training tomorrow.

### ***13th December 1915***

Camp and training routine similar to Egypt with the exception of having horses. A great number of our troops have been arriving here for the past 24 hours. Nothing definite known but fancy there's a big move somewhere. Glorious weather nowadays. Hear Chas will be over in a day or so.

### ***14th December 1915***

Got wet through last night owing to a heavy fog coming up. Didn't awake until 6.30 am. Sleep through anything nowadays. Even artillery or dropping shells have failed to rouse me once I get down. Out for a run tonight. Our battery is playing the Engineers footer tomorrow. Horribly out of form for it though.

### ***15th December 1915***

Camp routine same during the morning. Struck a half holiday from 1.30. Our match came off, for reference look at me. Both knees minus skin, ditto repeat ankle and nose and a swollen lip. Watson got a bump on the head which knocked him silly for 3 hours, and England got a broken rib. Still it was a ripping match. We won by 9 to 0.

### ***16th December 1915***

Gee, stiff as a poker, knee looks like a well squashed plum pudding. Gift stores arrived today. Caught a shirt, packets of sweets etc. Several of our artillery details arrived today. Believe we are evacuating Anzac for some greater move. Awfully sorry, for although a warm corner of the planet had a great affection for that place. Can't find out what our next move is.

### ***17th December 1915***

Had to visit Doctor today. Knee crook. More details arrived from Anzac today. Glorious days here. 500 at night.

### ***18th December 1915***

Still attending the Doctor and am exempt from duty. Just my luck. A match against 3rd Bty on Sunday and am hours-de-combat. Can't play. Visited village today. Had tea with a lady and her daughter. Saw Saunders at night.

### ***19th December 1915***

'Footer' match again today. Our Bty played the rest of the FA Div. 8 Batteries in all and licked them 8 to 0. Couldn't play owing to crook knee. Delaney and I visited village afterwards and spent the afternoon with the Greek family.

### ***20th December 1915***

Camp routine with a vengeance. Mail arrived today, the first we've had for 6 or 7 weeks. Caught quite a few. Awaiting orders for our next shift.

### ***21st December 1915***

Orderly Sgt all day. Knee still out of action. Div inspection by OC. Raining.

### ***22nd December 1915***

Visited village and the Greek family today. Spent an enjoyable afternoon with Seymour and Bennett. Saw Saunders again. Pay tonight.

### ***23rd December 1915***

Light Horse left for Egypt today. Issued with small arm ammunition so expect to shift soon. Believe we're off to Egypt again. Villaging all morning and afternoon packing. Raining.

### ***24th December 1915***

Orders out to leave here Boxing Day. All exciting and bustle. Visited village and took leave of our Greek friends. Dry Christmas sticking out.

### ***25th December 1915***

Christmas Day, and I've got a 45/- thirst! Quiet day throughout. Concert at night. Favoured the gathering with a rendition. Cold as Charity again.

### ***26th December 1915***

Orderly Sgt for the day. Deleany managed to bribe a Greek into selling 2 bottles of Ale, which we had much pleasure in annihilating. Sent our baggage down to the wharf ready for shipment. Believe we leave here for Lemnos Is tomorrow.

### ***27th December 1915***

Departure postponed owing to heavy weather. Nothing much doing. W Beach under fire from the Turkish army during evacuation.

### ***28th December 1915***

Our old friends the 42nd (who we were attached to at Helles) arrived today being relieved. They landed a little at a time after

us. Our Bty played the crack team of Lemnos (1st FA) Football but lost 9 to 3. Didn't play. Knee still crook.

**29th December 1915**

Our whole Division of Artillery Details went for a 12 mile rout march. Nearly got to Therma. Lovely day and most enjoyable walk.

**General evacuation order back to Alexandria**

**30th December 1915**

Received orders at 5.30 am to pack up and get out. Left camp at 7.45. Embarked from Sapper Pier and got aboard SS 'Tunisican'. At present waiting orders to leave port.

**31st December 1915**

Left Lemnos Island at 4 am. Picked up our escort, a light cruiser. Submarines fairly busy around these parts. Have been steering a Zig Zag course all day. Great beano tonight with Brunnell, Seymour, Pyemont, Bloomfield and Goldfinch. Real surprise for the New Year; turkey, cakes and Bass.

**1st January 1916**

Had a slight diversion from feeding at 2.30 am. Submarine reported on the Port bow, started doing evolutions which must have turned Samson green with envy had he seen them. Managed to dodge sub all right. Had several visits from French destroyer. Altered out course quite half a dozen times. At present are heading SE to S which means Alexandria.

**2nd January 1916**

Sailed at high speed all night. Arrived off Alexandria at 6.30 am. Got to wharf at 9 yam. Got disembark orders at 9.30. At present 12.30 am. Things doing.

**3rd January 1916**

3.30 am. Arrived at Tel-el Kebir, and walked about a mile and a half to our camp. Snatched about an hour's sleep. Had a wash and nearly murdered a couple of Saudis. Saw B.G.P. Rec a big mail. 3 parcels from England. Kicked around all day taking shots of things. Bunk at 9 pm. Here I finish. Today I had a look at myself in a mirror the first look I've had for some considerable time, just on a month. I got a shock, believe me, and of all the curios I've yet seen, I'll confess I'm the biggest. At present can push the scale up to just on 13 stone, am as brown as a nigger, and feeling bodies fit enough to slaughter a score of Saudis before each meal. Will finish now. Carry on when we get into more trouble again.

GOD SPEED THE CROWS AND FORCE THE NARROWS.

Must record 36 hour leave in Cairo. Went in with Reeks. Chas didn't manage to get in as arranged. Had a great time but felt like a fish out of water.

SLEPT IN A BED WITH SHEETS!

Still at Tel-el Kebir, but expect to leave here within the next 3 or 4 weeks.

FINNIS

[Inside back cover of diary],

*Bedford*

*Harrington*

*Booth*

*Buchanan*

*Corrigan*

*Dingle*

