

MS-2004-73

War diary relating to 12/250 Private
William Carlton, 1NZEF, 1914-1915

Auckland War Memorial Museum – Tāmaki Paenga Hira

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William Carlton

MEMORANDA FROM 1915.

Personal Memoranda	Train Service	
	To Town	From Town
Watch No. <u>5598777</u>		
Season Ticket No.		
Stores Ticket No.		
Bicycle No.		
Bank Pass Book No.		
Telephone No.		
Telegraphic Address.		
Size in Gloves.		
Size in Collars. <u>15 1/2</u>		
Size in Hats. <u>6 7/8</u>		
Size in Boots. <u>7</u>		
Weight. <u>12</u> st. <u>2</u> lbs. Date <u>10/8/14</u>		
Height. <u>5</u> ft. <u>9 1/2</u> ins. Date		
Insurance falls due on		
Name and Address. <u>Wm Carlton</u> <u>Olona Whangarei Auckland</u> <u>N. Z.</u>		

August 13-1914
Entered in Dargaville N.Z.
New Zealand

August 14th
Arrived in Camp at Grom
Auckland

August 16th
All day we spent in getting
equipment & tents fixed up

August 16th
From this date till
September 21st we were
kept hard at work drilling

MEMORANDA.

Sept 21st

Started to get things
ready to go aboard the
troopship No 12. (Waimana)
The horses were put aboard
& we were allotted our
bunks. Review in the Domain
& went aboard at night.

Sept 22nd

We put out into the
stream

Sept 23rd

Sailed out of Auckland
harbour about 8 in the
morning

MEMORANDA.

Sept 24

Found ourselves back
in Auckland Harbour
again. don't know
reason for returning

Sept 25th

Discharged the horses
again & pulled out into
the stream again

Sept 26

From this day till Oct 2nd
we were out in the stream
The men going off in ferries
every day to transport

MEMORANDA.

Oct 3rd

Went alongside again & had things moved on the boat, air pipes in the sleeping quarters & fans in the messrooms. This went on until Oct 10th when the horses were put aboard again. That night was a night of good-byes & it does not make a fellow feel too gay.

Oct 11th.

We set out in earnest this time.

MEMORANDA.

Oct 13th

Arrived in Wellington where we picked up the other transports

Oct 19th

Steamed out of Wellington & made through the Straits Cook Straits.

Oct 21st.

Anchored in Hobart Harbour at 1 p.m.

MEMORANDA.

Oct 22nd

Went ashore for a march & the people gave us a great reception. The same evening we put out again every body in the town must have come to see. Good-bye

Oct 23rd & 24th

Thick fog all day & bright.

Oct 28th

Steamed into Albany where the Australian troops were

MEMORANDA.

Oct 29th

Went ashore for a march through the town

Nov 1st

Steamed out with all the troops ships 43 Troopships & 3 men of war

Nov 9th

Passed Cocos Is. Sydney sank London this morning. Drove her ashore & smashed her up

Crossed the line

MEMORANDA.

Nov 15th

Arrived in the port of
Colombo & had leave that
night

Nov 17th

Left Colombo & made
for Aden

Nov. 23rd

Capt Hawkins put lights
in tramp steamer too
ill to keep on

MEMORANDA.

Dec 3rd

At day break found ourselves
in Alexandria

Dec 4th

Disembarked & took train up to Cairo
where we landed about 10 that night
& got into the camp of Belwan about
12. We had to sleep on the sand for
10 days No tents

Dec 25th

Tomorrow day was just the same
as Sunday only we got the
flour puddings that were sent
from England. Had leave
all day up till 12 -

MEMORANDA.

Nov 25th

Called at Aden but
nobody went ashore

Nov 26th

Left Aden & went up
the Red Sea

Dec 1st

Arrived at Suez &
that night we went
through the canal

Dec 2nd

Landed at Port Said & took
in coal

JANUARY, 1916.

Saturday 1

Made the best of the first day
in the year. Went over the pyramids
& all the tombs of the ancient kings
Ever since we landed in Egypt
we have had to sleep at the
train. Long marches & sleeping
out for 4 nights in the
dugout, trenches & attacking
hills. There is not a patch
of sand or hill for miles
around the camp the we
had not had a go at.
Started our hard work
again on the desert.

JANUARY, 1916.

2nd after
Christmas. Sunday 2

Church parade & then leave
for the rest of the day
I had to go for gas & oil
so did not get leave.

JANUARY, 1916.

Monday 3

A long day of digging trenches
& carrying large stones to
build up a bank at the
back of the trenches. This
bank is to protect the men
from shell fire. The shells are
fired at the back of the trenches
& burst so that they catch the
heads of the men. Now we dig
a deep trench 5 ft 6 in deep &
bank it up at the back. Like this

JANUARY, 1916.

Tuesday 4

Had a good day out
among the hills. All we
had to do was to keep
behind a hill & wait
until we were wanted.
He did not happen to be
wanted as we had a
soft time of it. Returned
to camp early & had a
good rest.

JANUARY, 1916.

Wednesday 5

Left camp about 7 a.m.
& spent all day range
finding & attacking some
trenches. At 4 p.m. returned
to camp & had tea & returned
to the hills to do out-post
duty at night. I can tell you
it was cold out on the
tops of the hills in the wind
& we could not move
about to get warm.

JANUARY, 1916.

Epiphany. Thursday 6

A long dreary day out in the hot sun & burning sand, after a night out doing post-duty to the camp. They are making things as much like the front as they can. Arrived back in camp about 6 p.m. had tea & went to bed.

JANUARY, 1916.

Friday 7

If you have not already taken advantage of the Insurance Coupon, do so to-day.

Out on the desert again digging trenches & attacking hills. Things are just the same every day. Lots of work & not very much food to eat. We got back to camp about 5 in the afternoon. Just in time for a wash & have tea before dark.

JANUARY, 1916.

Saturday 8

Parade of the whole of the New Zealand force before the Hon. Tom McKinnon. He gave a speech & told us all sorts of things that we should do & should not do. Also told us that as soon as we were fit we should be sent to the front. At 1 p.m. we marched back to Co. lines & had rifle inspections & then had the day off. I had a clean up of gear & spent the rest of the day writing letters to H. J.

JANUARY, 1916.

1st after Epiphany. Sunday 9

Had church parade from 9 a.m. till 11 a.m. then at 1 p.m. we had dinner. The rest of the day holiday. Went & saw many Egyptian houses & went inside with two native friends & had some tea & a sort of bread. Had dinner in a hotel in Cairo & returned to camp about 10-30 p.m.

JANUARY, 1916.

Monday 10

Up about half past four had breakfast left camp about 6.30 a.m. & attacked trenches in the hills about 8 miles away. Returned to camp after a hard days work. He got more work every day, but are getting more fit for it. I thought I had written letters home to N. G.

Out of the N. G. force there are now 135 in the Hospital

JANUARY, 1916.

Tuesday 11

Out on the desert for the day about 7 miles from camp on the hills had to dig trenches. The places was nothing but rocks & the trench was not deep enough after 4 hours work. I am afraid our officers are in want of a lot of ammunition more so than the men. They never go out in the desert, without the officers get lost. It is a good job that they have got sort of used to the place & can find our own way about

JANUARY, 1916.

Wednesday 12

This morning we got up at 4 a.m. & got our blankets & gear ready for 3 days out on the desert. At 7.30 we moved out of camp & at 10. we reached some low hills. After a spell of an hour we started to attack another range of hills about 3 miles further on. He did not finish the attack until about 7 at night. At 11 o'clock we had some bread & jam & then had sleep till 3 a.m. when we had another attack which lasted till 6 a.m.

JANUARY, 1916.

Thursday 13

Had breakfast about 9 a.m. & at 9 a.m. we moved ahead for about 4 miles & then started another attack which lasted until about 5 p.m. More trenches had to be dug. 15 P.M. Company had to do out-post duty & the night was cold. At 11 p.m. we had our night attack which lasted till 2 a.m. The wind was strong & it blew the sand up in thick clouds. We had no sleep at all & no water to drink let alone a wash.

JANUARY, 1916.

Friday 14

At 7 a.m. we had some
raw meat dished out & we
had to cook it in the lids
of our mess tins.

At 9 a.m. we started out for a
long march back to camp. It
took us about 4 hours
to get back. On our way we
passed 2 divisions of
English Terries on their
way out.

At 4 p.m. I had to go on
guard. but as I was the best
blessed man got off. There
is always one too many so that
the best is let off.

JANUARY, 1916.

Saturday 15

This morning I was told
off for messenger & it is
a very easy job. The only
thing is you must be there
when you are wanted.
The Battalion has had
the day off except for a
foot & boot parade.

JANUARY, 1916.

2nd after
Epiphany.

Sunday 16

Church parade in the morning.
The old parson gave us some
good advice about the way
we should conduct ourselves
when away on a expedition
like this in a town like
Cirencester there are a lot of temptations
- men in the way of wine
& women in almost every street.
These are brothels & when the men
get beer they let themselves
After church was the usual
clean up till 10 p.m.

JANUARY, 1916.

Monday 17

At 4-30 a.m. we were
up & ready for 9 days
& a night out in the desert.
The Auckland Battalion
was all out & from 3 in the
afternoon till about 9 at
night we were digging trenches
about a mile & a quarter
altogether. After I had done
my turn on patrol it was
about 12.30 I turned in &
I knew nothing more until
about 5 a.m.

JANUARY, 1916.

Tuesday 18

We got out of the trenches at 6 a.m. & cooked our piece of meat & boiled some water to make tea. (Each man has his mess tin to do the cooking in) The platoon I am in was told off to remove all baggage & trenching tools back to the transport then we had to move off & catch up with the main body of troops who were advancing. In another line of trenches in our front. After a hard days work we returned to camp. Enjoyed a good shower & some food.

JANUARY, 1916.

Wednesday 19

At 4 in the morning we got orders to be ready to move out with a weeks provisions by 9 a.m. At 9 a.m. we went & marched two plus 7 miles from camp & was inspected by General & then returned to camp. This is the training we are getting on our valise we had to carry great coat, oil sheet, towel, socks, shirt, cap containing hair brush comb, shaving gear, soap, tooth brush, jersey & two days provisions in haversack, water bottle full & 120 rounds of ammunition. Weight of the whole equipment about 70 lbs.

JANUARY, 1916.

Thursday 20

Just about the same as the other days. I sat all day digging trenches ready for Battalion field firing to-morrow & get back to camp about 5 p.m.

JANUARY, 1916.

Friday 21

Went out of camp by 9 a.m. Today was an attack under artillery fire. It was a great experience for us. Shell burst in over the trenches just in front of us. We also were fired at the trenches. Wooden men were placed in the trenches for targets. The general gave them many great praise but told the officers that they had more to learn than the men.

JANUARY, 1916.

Saturday 22

Your name must be registered before any claim can be recognised under the Insurance Coupon.

To-day we spent in camp - just cleaning up camp & our gear. The general gave all the officers of the 10. J. Force a lecture on the handling of men & other duties. He also said that the quantity of marching the men were getting was more than they could expect them to keep up in such heat. He gave us great praise for the day before work & said that with good officers we were well for the front now.

JANUARY, 1916.

^{3rd after Epiphany.} Sunday 23

Had a sleep in for the first time since we came here. It was 7 o'clock when roll call was made. Church parade at 10 as per usual. Rev. Clarkson gave a sermon on the war & it was expected of us & others that are called out. He also said that we would not be long in Cairo so if what he said is true as other times we will be out of it soon since we came off parade. I have been mending harness & washing & writing. So ended the day.

JANUARY, 1916.

Monday 24

To-day has been an early day. The morning was spent putting tents for the reinforcements that are to arrive soon. This afternoon I spent in fixing up clothes & attaching on a few patches. About 6 this evening we got word that we are to move off to-morrow for the day where there is fighting going on. Our advance cavalry have come in contact with the Turks. There is great excitement in the camp & I only hope it is true.

JANUARY, 1916.

Tuesday 25

We were to move out at 7 am but things have changed & we are not going until 2 pm. At last we got on the train & made down the line to small where we arrived at about 9 the same night. We unloaded the train, water carts, transport, red cross vans, horses, everything in the forest line. At 10 we had bedded down & got our tent & then to sleep under the stars as we have done many a time before.

JANUARY, 1916.

Wednesday 26

Here we are now in to be a
resting camp but I do not
think there is much rest as
they have had us out in the
sun over the sand a foot
deep. This place does not
look as if there was going to
be much fighting unless it
is for food as all we have
had to eat since we came
here is what we carried
in our mess packs. The
sun is blazing hot &
still they make us carry
our packs (7 lbs)

JANUARY, 1916.

Thursday 27

This morning we paraded before
the officer commanding troops
on the line. He inspected us
& then we went out on the desert
& did a skirmish about 1/2
an hour then we went back to
our camp. The rest of the day was
spent trying to get out of the sun.
There are few of our officers
that are worth their places.
They get a set on some of the
men. All I can say is God
help them when they get in
the firing line.

JANUARY, 1916.

Friday 28

All day was spent out
drilling in the hot sun.
The sand here is about
a foot deep & it is hard
going. I can tell you

JANUARY, 1916.

Saturday 29

At 7 a.m. we had breakfast & at
9 a.m. we went out to the Banks of
the little Better Lake. When we got
out there we had a swim it was
grand. The first swim I have had
since we left N. J. After lunch
we got a surprise by being lined up
& had our bayonets fixed on our
rifles & then another swim & after
a spell we started out for home, we
passed through a grove of trees where
the Indian troops were camped. The
reinforcements come through the
canal to-day about 1 p.m. The N. J.
boys disembarked at Lugo's cable
car train

JANUARY, 1916.

JANUARY, 1916.

^{after} ^{company} Sunday 30

This is the fatal day for me at least they ~~had~~ ^{landed} me a put me in clinic. 15 Co. had word to speak up for the trenches. Execution - I got the letter of the officers N.C. On they ranked about giving all sorts of orders we soon got sick of this & I for one lost my temper & told Sgt. Cameron that he did not know his work. This told him to go to hell & find out the right orders before he gave any out. So I was put under the spikes by Sgt. Weir. There are 5 others from our Co. in here too.

Monday 31

Last night a 3 Co man was hove into the tent on top of us & he was not a little drunk. Well he kicked up a row so the guard tied his hands & gagged him to keep him quiet. All day has been spent smoking cigarettes & spinning tales & reading.

FEBRUARY, 1916.

FEBRUARY, 1916.

Tuesday 1

To-day was almost the same as yesterday. About 5 or 6 a.m. big gun fire started over on the banks of the Little Belter Lake. The fire kept up for 2 hours & then everything was quiet except for the boom of a big piece now & again. This afternoon we in the tent went up before Major Bailey & when my case came up I was given over to C.C.

Wednesday 2

Up before the C.C. & Bailey said that he was in. This an example case so he gave 168 hours detention & so now I may be struck off the Co. roll & sent back to the base. Things are just starting to look up with the Turks & I would not like to miss the fun. The dog that put me up came around & started slinging off so I stepped out of the tent & with my left I drove his false teeth out of his mouth & my right pumped the wind out of him. Then I stepped back into the tent. Last night 39 Turkish prisoners came in here the Indian boys brought them in. There has been fighting all day.

FEBRUARY, 1916.

FEBRUARY, 1916.

Thursday 3

Over Co. has gone out so I will not
 hear about last night's job for a while.
 This morning we got orders to push
 up for Zetoun but did not get
 ready in time so are still here
 in the guard tent. The camp is very
 dead all the boys are out. Two
 battalions of Australians came
 into camp here this morning about
 2 a.m. Don't hear any firing
 up till now. 2 p.m. 5-30 a.
 few shots fired & news came
 in that two N. I boys had
 been wounded. (later)
 The first N. I boy to get killed

Friday 4

Got up & had breakfast then
 about 9-30 a.m. we were taken
 over to the station & left for Cairo
 again. There was a crowd of natives
 going up into the country away
 from the fighting. At different
 parts of the line we could see
 natives driving stock away.
 We arrived at Passo at 2 p.m.
 caught a train & lunched in
 Abbaia barracks at 3 p.m.
 Got our boys searched & we
 were put in our cells. For tea
 a cup of porridge & a piece
 of bread.

FEBRUARY, 1916.

FEBRUARY, 1916.

Saturday 5

Up at 5-30 a.m. had a wash, shaved
 & cleaned up. Had breakfast
 porridge & a piece of dry bread.
 At 9 a.m. fell in for drill until
 11. Doctor examines us then we
 get some more drill, then we get
 our towels & had a shower.
 Then fell in for dinner. A pot of
 soup & a piece of meat & a
 pound + 2 potatoes & a piece of
 bread. About 30 new boys
 arrived here to-day. Half holiday
 so all we did was to stay in our
 room. There are 11 men in this
 room. Porridge & bread for tea. We
 get water to drink.

5:15 after
1:15 p.m.

Sunday 6

Up at 7 this morning had a wash &
 then fell in & got our breakfast
 porridge & bread then we had a chance
 & cleaned up for the day. From 9 a.m.
 till 11 a.m. we walked around the yard.
 Then we had church for half an hour.
 P. C. did exercise. Had dinner
 bread, meat & a piece of pudding. Then
 we were locked up in our room
 till tea time. Two fellows
 in this room are chatting & their
 clothes have been taken away
 to wash. Tea at 5-30 p.m.
 Cheese, bread & porridge