

J.B.F. McKenzie

Capt AAMC

c/- TL Cooks & Sons

Cairo

Or

Cp WD McKenzie

21 Challis Ave

Potts Point

Sydney

Australia

—

Or JBF McKenzie

c/- A.D. McKenzie

Dept. of Public Instruction

Sydney Australia

—

6/9/15 Monday 2 PM

received orders to leave at 8AM.

Tomorrow collecting tobacco,

cigarettes, soap etc. Sgt.

Douglas (W.M.S.). took me into

town in car. – had feed at

new obelisk – afternoon tea at

[Groppes?] – met nurse Smith from

Warwick. She's at No.II General.

Raced home [at night?] 4.5 miles.

[??] at 6AM next morning

7/9/15. Caught 9.30 [AM? A&S?] at Cairo.

Landed in Alexandria at 1P.M.

[Naturall?], not [defeated?/affected?] – scratched

around eventually landed at

Calton Camp –

8/9/15 Still in Camp –

9 & 10/9/15 – Still in Camp-

swim in sea – no

news yet of leaving.

Drove out to [Nousha Gorden?]

Saw big Dhow getting on

sail – men climbing right

up the masts – snapped

it – hope it turns out well.

14/9/15 ordered to embark

at 10 AM. onboard the

Ausonia – Did so.

Canadian – N.Z. Englishmen

Australians onboard

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14?/9/15, About 50 Officers

Travel at night in darkness,

One of the regiment had a little

black timer – means an

identification disk, labelled

“Bill Brown” – Boats ready to

drop into water – all provisioned etc.

About 2000 men on board I believe

Tho. where they put them,

goodness knows. I don't!

13/9/15, Enjoying the sea-trip

Thoroughly – the change to
English food – also the
pleasure of hearing nothing but
Your own language spoken.
Sea is beautifully calm – but
doesn't strike me as being out of
the way blue. Yesterday [!?]
had afternoon tea at
English club – nicely fitted out ([P. Broughton? JP Savat/3rd Star?Story?])
17/9/15 . Last night thought I saw
some lights & this morning
don't think I did – keep tip-top
table on boat – sleep on deck
at night – read novels, smoke,
spit – swear – take walks
along the deck etc. all at
26/- a day – such are
the ways of the Military.
Actually had a rain-storm
today – 1st rain I've seen
for nearly five months.
And the [?] on board. Morlet
is brother of chap who was

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20/9/15 orders [?]

5 to no I Stationary – to no II

Went to no I Stationery - Adelaide

Hospital – nice lot of chaps.
Major Powell in command – Major
Newland – Capts Le Messurier – Alcorn,
Muirhead – Lowry – Culpin
Young (E), [Generals/]
Plant, Morlet, [?] – met [?] Major Mac.
Took walk to top of hill – saw
whole of harbour – great view –
Could also see Island of Imbros
& some of the islands from one hill
They say that Gallipoli is visible.
Fair no of troops on shore – quite
a number of Greek villages. –
passed cemetery of soldiers –
French. Aust. English – India.
Kept in beautiful order –
Hospital has 800 patients in –
run by about five doctors –
21/9/15 Had swim in harbour –
Went over hospital – helped
to do a few of the patients –
still some malingerers kicking
around – even here – not so
bad here as they have all been
on the Peninsula –
Very dusty & windy - & in winter
they tell me it is very cold –
Snow falling on some of the
hills - Headquarters is established
on a liner – all modern conveniences
& comforts – Can't ground myself

here we have electric lights in the tents

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23/9/15. Still waiting for
definite orders – have been
put on no duties yet.
Had a bang on a piano for
1 ½ hours this morning &
thoroughly enjoyed myself.
Luckily the piano was in
good tune that had a nice tone.
Took a walk [thro.?1 hr?] the
village of Mudros – Church
prettily arranged inside –
much cleaner than the
Egyptians – men wear short
baggy trousers, stockings &
garters & long, painted shoes
with a little black ball on the
toe – headgear varies.
Bought some Greek stamps
for Keith.
Here they grind the grain up
in windmills – big wooden
wheels, with sails attached
to the spokes – look
petty when moving for photos,
met Priest – from [Zeitoun?]

24/9/15 Loafed around all
the morning – piano again –
beautiful weather today –
climbed another big hill.
wrote home to Dad –
Feeling big squiffy tonight –
rotten headache – on for
gastritis I think

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No news at all from Dardanelles –
Bad enteritis all day today –
slightly better – tonight –
Patients up to 1000 – Lots of
sick cases in my ward, -
Actually worked all day today
and as it was medical work
felt quite pleased there at -
Secured some Christmas cards
off the ships – artillery
mules & troops left today –
Rumour that they may be going to Servia – or Salonica

6/10/15. Did some work today –
94 patients – about 25 bed
cases – others on mattresses –
mastoid op & cholecystotomy –
[?] well
Quite a treat to be doing some

medical work again-

At night listened to a concert
men & patients here & Frenchmen
from next camp – have concerts
3 nights a week – some of
the men had beautiful voices &
some really good songs – all
of them recited well – W Taaffe
punched the piano to perfection

7/10/15 Same no. of patients

3 anesthetics – [??]

Had yarn with Linden & Collins –
Some of the patients are very
sick indeed – shifting them
on to a hospital ship tomorrow.

Had a walk to top of hill

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They grow & spin cotton here-
I have not been able to get a
photo of them yet – everything
done in a very old fashioned
way. – Received 13 letters
today – one from Doug
dated August 30th –

14/10/15 – short day in Camp.

15/10/15 – orderly officer today –
Chasing round all day long.

Running about 1000 patients-
staffed for 200 – half the
staff sick & away from unit
They use here about 1800 – 2000
gallons of water a day. –
750 [??] a day – am actually
working nowadays & feel very
much more satisfied generally.
Don't think I'll ever get to the
front at this rate.

16/10/15 admitting office today –
but had no admitting to do
Greeks seem inclined to turn
poor service down – here
they seemed quite pleased
at the mobilization orders.

17/10/15 [Aquatoria?/Aquitania?] hospital ship –
came into harbour this morning
45,000 tons I believe – holds
4000 wounded cases - large
boat – would like to go
over her – Rumours once
again that we will be going
to Anzac – as usual, I
don't believe it

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The men have to carry

considerable weight – up hundreds
of feet – most of it is now done
by mules still, the men get
plenty of the “mule act” as,
they call it – the Indians
do excellent transport work
with these mules – they are
great little animals & can pull
like elephants – last 2 days
have been stormy – done some
damage to the wharves – not
much – also to the stores on
shore. They are now [drying?/bringing?/dropping?] the
ammunition in for all they are
worth – met Col. Spencer Brown
again up in the 17th trenches –
The men were going to have
“respirator drill” – Hill 60
got a terrific bombardment
this afternoon from 5 cruisers.
16th. [Looked?] around Hospital.
17/11/15. In morning went along
beach towards cemetery on
Anzac Beach. – Beachy Bill
busy in sea just 20 yards away
Storm beating – very windy –
waves rising & in afternoon went
along beach – waves right up to
door of ambulance on beach –
timber, boxes, wood, carts
machinery, all tangled up

floating on waves – 3 out of 4

wharves broken down

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14/12/15,

tunnels & sidings & terrace etc. etc.

Slide for wounded at [G'venis? Plot or Port?].

saps, sergeants, etc. Then to see

the load the poor beggars had to carry,

up such hills, & such distances.

Onetime, the officers always looked

after themselves well – as to the

men I have no knowledge –

Perhaps they did their best.

On the beach, there was always

loading unloading, trucks &

mulecarts running up & down between

Williams Pier, north beach & Anzac -

boats getting shelled, from Maltese

getting shrapnel from Beachy Bill

stretcher bearers bringing cases from

the ambulances, to the Clearing

Station, hospital ships to be

looked for, bombardments by

The navy, etc etc. –

The Anzac Medical

Association had a short life.

The Anzac Magazine just got
ready in time – Capt. Campbell
Of the 1st Clearing is to be made a
Colonel & stop till the last – Parton,
[Thielbaume? Thieleman?], [Bradbury?] Col Gordon
were the officers to it.

I don't much care now where
they send us, so long as
I had been at Anzac & realized
how I would feel under fire –
damned nervous but still
able to do my duties & think coolly
& not in a blue funk.

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Tuesday 11/1/16. When at Cario
went to museum – saw mummies
of Ramses II & Sety [sic Seti] I – Latter a
block – in a wonderful state of
preservation. –

Fitting up hospital for
patients –

Wednesday 12/1/16 – looking after 50
patients – quite a treat
to be doing some work again.
Some of these wards are beauties –
especially the surgical ward.

Hot & cold water laid on – electric
lights – wash hand basins etc.
Saw natives making mats
today – very deft & quick at the
game – may be able to take
some more French lessons
here from one of the convent sisters.
Thanks to our R.C. padre.

Thursday 13/1/16. Orderly day today –
50 patients including a bad
dysentery & a pneumonia & a case
of meningitis – latter doing well.
anaesthetic for an urgent operation.
Turned out to be a perforated
typhoid ulcer – man had
Peritonitis – took anaesthetic
O.K. – may stand a chance.
Received cable from the dad.
no letter from home for 3 – 4 [weeks?/months?].

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All the wounds were in excellent
condition.
10/8/16 Another Welsh concert –
men from [??] Welsh F.K.
These chaps were conducted
by a private – who used his

hands face & whole body
on conducting – there's no
doubt about the Welshmen
are a musical race – they
sang perfectly –
(Comrades in Arms. The Bombardier)

[percussion?] & violinist, and
celloist. The chap at the
piano played for 2 hours
on duo, accompanied
to all sorts of songs- violin –
cello, & choir &
nearly all the time without
any music – This is
the 2nd Welsh choir we've
heard – I hope we hear a
few more –

14/8/16. On the way to El
[??] again to bring
down patients – Tonight
we expect the advance parties
of the 24th Stationery Hospital
to arrive, preparatory to
relieving us.

I'll be sorry in a way to leave
Ismailia – people have been
friend to us – we had
plenty of spare time

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