

DIARY OF  
LORNA  
BLACHFORD  
BACKHOUSE

*Nurse - in and  
around Egypt 1915*

### Easter Sunday April 4<sup>th</sup>

Mother, Dad and self staying at Metropole Hotel Sydney. Harold in to visit and say goodbye in the morning.



We went to St John's Cathedral for church, joined Aunt Katie and Uncle Alf afterwards and went to dinner with them, raining hard. Went back to hotel at 2:30pm and spent the afternoon packing and chatting.

Mabs ran in to see us. All left for station after tea. 8:00pm mail to Melbourne. Fifteen of us nurses left en route for London War Office. The Orchards and Mr Arthur and Mum, Mabs all at station besides a big crowd to see the lot of us off. Wallace (Wallace, Bessie Stuart, QAIMNSR) and I were in same division - had sleepers and all turned in at 10pm.

### Easter Monday April 5th

Arrived Albury 7:30am breakfast at station – changed trains – lunch on train at 12:30pm and arrived at Melbourne 4pm. No one to meet us and no arrangements made – Nurse Robertson who was doing the round trip on the *Malwa* met Wallace and I and took us straight to the ship also Sister Solling, (Wilhelmina Jane known as Minnie, QAIMNSR) (who is in charge of us) we had arrived on board. The four of us went ashore afterwards tried to see 'High Jinks' full up ended up at the Tivoli. Slept

### Tuesday April 6th



At *Malwa* breakfast. The train arrived after, including sister Henry, 11:30am potted about town, had lunch at Paris House went to Alexander Gardens a most gorgeous show of azaleas in bloom. Caught 2pm (train) to the boat, sister came with us and saw the ship off. Left Port Melbourne 3pm bright sunny day and quite calm. Crossed the rip at 7pm sat up on deck and yarned all the eve.

### Wednesday April 7th

At sea - very calm – chatted, walked, read and wrote letters all day, feeling well.

### Thursday April 8th

Arrived Adelaide 8am Wallace and I went straight up to see Uncle Chas 42 Victoria Square (three quarters of an hour in train) Aunt Elsie away at Brighton – Uncle showed all round his home, very artistic and pretty – had morning tea there then Uncle had to see patients so we went and had some lunch in town potted around until 1:30pm when Uncle sent his car for us and we motored all around the city. Everything very dry but a prettily laid out city. We went to Adelaide hospital and watched Uncle operate from 3pm till 3:30pm (hernia and gastric ulcer) after this we went back to our boat. Left Adelaide at 6pm raining hard and a squally night. Wallace, Sister Fenwick, Wallis and I played bridge all the eve.

### Friday April 9th

At sea raining and blowing all day. Wallace and I were both a bit sick in the evening. Soon over it. Boat pitching and tossing.

### Saturday April 10th

At sea not quite so rough, read and walked all day - getting warmer. Sister Fenwick and I played bridge all the eve.

### Sunday April 11th

At sea much calmer again wrote letters all day long. Quite a budget to post at Freemantle went round Cape Leeuwin around 2:30pm coast line very pretty.



### Monday April 12th

Arrived Fremantle about 8am very hot day the bay was very pretty with little sailing boats everywhere. Fremantle itself is a very dirty and uninteresting port. Wallace and I went up to Perth by the 11am train. These trains are very dirty uncomfortable and slow. Arrived at Perth 11:46am and found our way to Adelaide Terrace, rather a long walk from the station but we went down St Georges Terrace on the way and quite enjoyed the walk. A beautiful park on our side with peeps of the river and very nice houses on the other side. We called in on a Mrs Brushe and found her going out we then came back to town, lunched at the Moore Café had a look at Bodie Brothers carpet store in Perth. Caught train back to the boat at 2pm and were glad to get here. Got my two wires from Tamworth and Mr Whiteman, Pratt  
Wallace and I got our chairs and sat up at the stern of the boat, till we left 4pm, in fact we arrived tired. Rottneest Island at 6:30pm last of Australia played bridge all the eve.

### Tuesday April 13th

At sea very calm sea but very hot, boat drill at 10am, we all had to come to the music room with our life belts on. The rest of the morning Wallace and I spent washing, had a general meeting for sports etc just before lunch, spent the afternoon sewing, reading and a little study at French. Me - Wallace playing bridge in the evening but Laurie Smith came over chatted until 10pm when six of us had to go to the ship's doctor and have Enteric (Typhoid)vaccine went to bed about 11pm and had a read.

### Wednesday April 14th

At sea very calm but hot read and sewed all morning, sports at 2pm. I played round of 'deck quoits, 'bucket quoits' and 'bull board' and won each, finished about 4pm and after afternoon tea I did some sewing. A concert in the evening finishing up with an impromptu dance. Some of the 1<sup>st</sup> (class) passengers came over.

### Thursday April 15th

At sea very hot all day feeling a bit seedy result of vaccine, sewed and read all the morning. Played auction bridge between 11am and 1pm. Tidied cabin after lunch and did some ironing. Up on deck at 3pm and played another round of bucket quoits and won. Sewed the rest of the afternoon. Wallace seedy went to bed before dinner I went up on deck for a short time after dinner and came to bed early.

### Friday April 16th

At sea very calm and hot. Played bridge most of the morning. Played in semi finals of deck quoits, lost and finals of bucket quoits, lost again in afternoon. Wallace, Doughton?, Sister and I played bridge all the eve. The men gave us supper. Wallace well again and got up at lunch time. Passed the *SS Mooltan* on her way to Sydney 11am.

### Saturday April 17th

At sea calm and hot very heavy rain at 5:30pm for half an hour, played bridge in the morning also a round in Bull Board? Played bucket quoits with Fenwick. After lunch Wallace and I washed our head aired out on deck till 4pm yarned until 6pm, after dinner, bridge again.

### Sunday April 18th

Church at 10:45am writing until lunch time, heavy shower of rain. Went to my cabin early in the evening and finished off some ironing.

### Monday April 19th

At sea very very hot all day long – very calm, had a short game of bridge in the morning, first aid lecture by Dr Fahey at 12midday. Writing again for short time in the afternoon, played bucket quoits, watched cricket match for a bit, first class versus second, we lost.  
Concert in the evening and a little impromptu dance afterwards, the doctors all came over.



## Tuesday April 20th

At sea, sewed, yarned and read most of the day went to bed early.

## Wednesday April 21st

Arrived Colombo 7:30am breakfast at 8:00am and a party of eight of us left by a ferry boat and caught the train to Kandy 9:00am. (Fenwick, Wallis, Carruthers, Lascelles, Copley, Solling, Wallace and I) A beautiful morning and the harbour was a picture dotted about and oh such a gabble. We went from wharf to station in a taxi took four and a half hours in the train but we were so fascinated with everything that it seems no time. Bought fruit and drink at market at the station and had great fun beating the niggers down. The scenery was gorgeous so much green and tremendous growth, palms, rice fields, tea plantations and the hills on either side rise very quickly some of the valleys are a tremendous depth and wonderfully irrigated. Nothing but terraces from top to bottoms with a kind of waterfall from the top and the natives hover, with around 8 or 9 and sometimes more in their bright coloured clothes made it all very picturesque. A great deal of begging went on at each station, principally amongst the children, one little boy could twist himself into almost any position even to bending backwards and picking up a penny with his lips.

We arrived at Kandy about 1:30pm and drove through to the Queens Hotel situated right on Kandy Lake a very large place and kept beautifully, all niggers of course, Wallace and I were so enraptured with the beauty of the lake and we did not go into the hotel for about 20min. Mr Wallis who was head man and who very kindly was fixing up everything for us money and all, helped us up and we fixed up about our rooms. We two girls had a lovely big double room with a tiny balcony to ourselves, after this we had some lunch and then hired two traps (old fashioned Victorian) and went to the Gardenia Gardens, drove right through the little town and native quarters, rather a nigger smell but most picturesque and oh such dear babies and children with not a stitch on them. Drove half an hour to the gardens met with the caretaker who first of all showed us the bush houses, coloured leaves and orchids of every colour you could think of then to another part where there was a long line of circles covered with most beautiful creepers some only green others with flowers from there to some interesting and pretty trees, Nutmeg, Clove Bay, Rum Rubber, etc also the grass from which citronella is made; then back home again drove all through the gardens through avenues of the most beautiful trees I have ever seen. On one part there was a long palm tree drive, river on one side and hill on the other. Then again large bamboo trees of all kinds and the brightest coloured bushes dotted here there and everywhere. We all just loved it. Got back to the hotel again about 5pm, all had Tiffin, met a lot more 'Malwa' friends, a chat and another stroll around the lake. It is two and a half miles around with all beautiful big trees all around it, small hills with very picturesque bungalows on one side and hotel shops and temple on the other. Changed for dinner at 6:30pm. After that we all went for a rickshaw ride most fascinating and such fun especially as the eight of us, started at the same time and had a race.

Got back about 9pm then went over (to) the temple it was some feast day or something and they had it all lighted up with big candles, niggers praying and buddas all over the place, such a peculiar wailing prayer. Every altar had offerings of fruit of flowers on them some of which the guide presented to us. About ten niggers escorted us around and all with alter candles much to our surprise. They let us go into the most sacred parts. They have the budda in all sorts of positions, lying down, sitting up, kneeling, by the time we got out of there it was 10:30pm. Some went back to the hotel. What a day for us and to bed about 12midnight. Wallace and some time out on our little balcony watching the sights until 1am most fascinating and the lake looked so beautiful in the moon light. Our expenses and tips etc all two pounds one and eleven pence each and we only shared one meal. Lunch at the G.O.H.

## Thursday April 22nd



Kandy Queens Hotel up at 5:30am breakfasted and left by the 7:10am train. Coastline very pretty back to Colombo, rising mist on the hills, very beautiful. More fun at the station with the niggers. Arrived in town at 10:40am poked around the shops until 12 tried to get some bargains but no luck. The funniest shops with everything you could think of all mixed up together too. Wallace had a letter of introduction to Mr Forbes so we set to work to find him. Mr



Wallis came with us, we got into rickshaws after driving around for nearly an hour enjoying the ride and the sights, at last came to a big rubber manufactory. Made enquiries and found it to be a branch of Mr Forbes's store and a Mr Farran who knew Mr Forbes rang him up for us and we arranged to meet at the G.O.H. at 1:30pm Mr Farran took us all over his rubber manufactory, most interesting it was too. Then he took us to his bungalow not far away and gave us iced drinks which we did enjoy. The bungalow was a pet of a place, heaps of pot plants all around the veranda has beautiful trees, green lawns and so cool. Said goodbye to all of us at 1:00pm got into our rickshaws again and another long drive to the G.O.H. where we met Mr Forbes also the rest of our party and had such a jolly luncheon all nine of us. Another trip around the shops after tea at the G.O.H. and back again to the *Malwa* and sailed at 4pm.

### Friday April 23rd

### Sunday May 2nd

Feeling very sad up on deck all morning with Boomin, Cousin, Wilkie, and Hollous, watching the view which was very beautiful and saying our last farewells. Boomin bought Wallace and I a photo of the boat over, got signatures of our specials on it, pottering about the deck all the afternoon some went with us. Left the *Malwa* by tender 4:30pm all the passengers lined up and waved us a hearty farewell. Had a great old bother to catch train met by soldiers and shown the way all along. Had dinner on the train, very nice but too much money six shillings. Arrived Cairo 11pm went to Heliopolis Palace for the night. A most beautiful palace used as a military hospital hundreds of wounded, nurses working terribly hard. Wallace and I with some of the others had a chat to some girls we knew before turning in. Garven, Martin and Todhunter. Got to bed about 1am dead tired.



### Monday May 3rd

Up at 6am breakfast and sent to Luna Park on duty, 700 wounded there overflow from The Palace everything in a frightful muddle as they had not half enough nurses. Patients packed like sardines, men so brave and cheerful. Motor ambulance arrives in backwards of wards for all meals. Working hard all day. Off duty 8:30pm. Up to The Palace to get our belongings as we moved out to Prince Ibrahims Castle which is to be our home. Wallace and I were talking to Tod and Garven and missed the car so Miss Noles brought us up in a jarvey, we got a lecture of course for being unpunctual. We two got a dear little room together downstairs, no furnishings only two beds but that was all we wanted. It is a beautiful house but too far out and not many conveniences. Slept like a top this night.



### Tuesday May 4th

Breakfast 7am motored to work, on duty all day and working very hard getting chaps a bit more ship shape, it is heartbreaking to see all our finest men cut about as they are. Miss Graham Adelaide is in charge of us very nice too.

### Wednesday May 5th

On duty till 2pm then off for the rest of day Solling and I went to Cairo by train poked about the shops, it is a fascinating place but hard to get the hang of the money. Sent cables to our respective mothers, went to bed early in the eve.

### Thursday May 6th

Another long day on duty very busy too, the patients had a concert given for them in the afternoon, very good. Capt. Brown (1<sup>st</sup>) introduced us to his wife she is going to begin nursing. Met Bob Stoddard much to my delight and had a short chat with him he leaves for the front on Saturday.



**Friday May 7<sup>th</sup>**

Another long day on duty but not quite so busy a number of convalescent patients were moved on, bed soon after dinner 8:30pm.

**Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup>**

On duty till 2pm Wallace and I with two of the other girls went to Cairo in the motor ambulance did a little shopping and came back again. Had a gorgeous blow and saw quite a lot of the country. We were going out in the evening but too tired. Wrote letters went to bed.

**Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup>**

Went to Luna as usual at 7am but at 9:30am Miss Graham told Wallace and I to go back to the house collect a few things enough for about a week and catch the 12 train to Alexandria which we did . Slept heavily all the way down arrived here 3pm met by a little Frenchman who put us in a trap and brought us to Miss Smythe Matron at quarantine office. We both feel a bit scared as we did not know this little man and had to come back through the native quarters however we reached our destination safely.

Miss Smythe was on the wharf so we went to her, we are to do train transport duty between here and Cairo. Wallace is on number 2 ambulance train left for Cairo 7pm. I came to the room with Miss Smythe after the train went we had some tea about 9pm and to bed. Wallace and I have a lovely big room between us overlooking the harbour.

**Monday May 10<sup>th</sup>**

I am on number 3 ambulance train Major Murphy Medical Officer, five wards on each train with twenty berths in each. Generally carry 150 lying down cases and 150 sitting up. Give patients tea and bread and butter and fruit during the journey and do any dressings which are necessary and attend to the patients generally. Mrs Ruffs, Mrs Spratt and Mrs Harvey are red cross ladies two of whom come with us every time to give a helping hand. Major Murphy gives us very nice meals on board even to liqueurs and cigarettes. He belongs to the Indian army and is a very nice man. We have an assistant Indian too and also two Indian orderlies for each ward. No 3 took patients to Cairo leaving here midday and returned about 11:30pm. Major Murphy brought us back in a trap.

**Nothing until Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup>**

No trains all day. On the wharves in the morning and in the afternoon. Lt Boltier a friend of Wallace's was coming to take us for a drive but rang up to say he had an immediate op. So we two went out to Moustafa Barracks convalesce camp. Found a Dr Wallace and a Dr Maher two men who we met in connection with our trains. Afternoon tea at their mess and had quite a jolly time. Wallace tried to find a friend of hers who was wounded but no luck got back here at 7:30pm

**Monday May 31<sup>st</sup>**

On the wharves all day long Wallace's train went to Cairo at 2pm and mine at 4pm. Matron came on train arrived at Cairo 8pm and we were told we had to stay till next morning taking convalesce back. Wallace had waited to relieve on my train but we went out to the House for the night packed up all our things and brought as much luggage back with us as we could. Mrs Goodchild drove us in her ambulance car and called for us at 7am the next morning.

**Tuesday June 1<sup>st</sup>**

Arrived back from Cairo 4pm with convalescent patients going to England on *SS Delta*. Wallace and Matron both on the train. We all had dinner together with Major Murphy. Wallace took some snaps when we arrived on the wharf. Had afternoon tea tidied up our room dressed and Wallace and I ran into town for about an hour.



**Wednesday Jun 2<sup>nd</sup>**

I feel very seedy all day Wallace went out to German hospital with Matron in the morning to enquire after Mrs Rannier (measles) they got back about 12 had lunch and lay down till 4pm. Matron and I went to wharf to find out if any trains. Saw some German prisoners being taken to Malta. A train left with New Zealanders No1. Matron went with it as she wanted to go to Suez. Wallace was down at the wharf when we got back about 10pm.

**Thursday June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Matron away all day, feeling better, but poor old Wallace feeling very off today. We both stayed at home and rested all day long. No trains thank goodness. Matron did not return until 10:30pm and we were in bed.

**Friday June 4<sup>th</sup>**

We all three went down to the docks this morning then into town for a short time and a little shopping. Got home about 12:30pm had some lunch, did a bit of washing and three of us fixed up part of the hall as a sitting room for ourselves Matron brought up a few of her things from Suez, Wallace and I went to town about 5pm got some grey stuff for uniforms and went 'Groppi's the swell tea shop and had ice-creams (2 piastri) spent the evening cutting out uniform dresses.

**Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>**

Breakfast 7am on the wharf at 7:45am ambulance train left 12 noon with French soldiers. Took some to Mansoura and the remainder to Zagazig. Patients well and not much to do, very pretty trip, got back at midnight had dinner on train with Major Murphy. Wallace had no trains.

**Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>**

No trains for us however Wallace went on No 1 as far as Benha with convalescent troops. I stayed in all day long nearly finished two grey uniforms.

**Monday June 7<sup>th</sup>**

Matron went to Cairo 8am on No 2. I left with No 3 at 2pm and Wallace on No 1 at 8:30pm. When we arrived we had to change all to No 2 as the others wanted to return to Alexandria. Mrs Ruffs and I had dinner with Major Murphy first then went along to No 2 to sleep. In sheds very hot and we could not sleep very much.

**Tuesday June 8<sup>th</sup>**

Left Cairo 2:30am for Palais au Coobai. Took convalescent troops from there to Suez also seven sisters all left by troop ship *Wallachia* we left Suez 6pm on train all night.

**Wednesday June 9<sup>th</sup>**

On wharves all the morning, only got back from Suez 6am. No3 train left for Port Said 4pm with wounded. Lovely trip up. Got there 11pm 60 patients were taken to hospital the remainder being left till next morning. I was up all night and fairly busy too. Mrs Ruffs and Major Murphy went to bed.

**Thursday June 10<sup>th</sup>**

At Port Said gave my patients morning tea and biscuits at 6am. They went off to hospitals between 7am and 9am. Major and Mrs Ruffels went to town till 10am I was too tired. We left at 10:15am and I slept nearly all the morning. Very pretty along the canal and saw a mirage for the first time. Lunched with the Major 1pm and we two yarned nearly all the afternoon. Got to Gabarri at 5pm and left again at 8pm with wounded for Heliopolis. Landed them at 12:30am a lovely lot of Australians.



**Friday June 11<sup>th</sup>**

Arrived back at Gabarri 6:30am came home washed my head had a bath and rested most of the morning. Wallace out with Matron all the morning and Dr Thompson. Wallace's man arrived by *Euripides*, she saw him. He came here to lunch. The two of them went off for the afternoon after 4pm and stayed out to dinner. Matron and I went to town and shopped, sewed all the evening I finished off my uniform dress.

**Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>**

At home all morning, sewing towels etc. for train. Lunch at 1pm Wallace and Dr Thompson away for the whole day. Matron and I went to Mrs Broadbent for afternoon tea. Then the three of us came to town and shopped. Had ice-cream at hotel we got back here after 8:30pm when we had our dinner.

**Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup>**

Went to trains at 9am and was pottering around till nearly 12. Wallace went around to see if *Euripides* was there and found her Dr. They came around to meet Matron and I at M. Eubai Ration Office. We came back here and all had lunch together. Wallace and her man went off together for the afternoon. He had to leave by the *Euripides* 6:30pm. I went to church alone (afternoon spent writing) St Marks a pretty little church crowded with soldiers and I quite enjoyed the service. First time to church since leaving Australia. Service at 6:15pm got back about 8pm to find Wallace home after saying goodbye to the Dr. We all had dinner together and bed soon after. No trains went out.

**Monday June 14<sup>th</sup>**

No trains went out and today Matron and I were shopping all morning and fixing up about several things for the trains. Wallace stayed at home. Since lunch we have only been sewing. Got my first Australian mail from Mother, Mabs, Dad and Parry. Also we both got our first cheques, sixteen pounds and eight pence. Wallace yarned all the evening very hot at 10:30pm we went out and made ourselves some tea. I took a snap of Wallace sitting on the floor attired in her nightie.

**Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup>**

No trains again, spent the morning sewing, at 2pm Wallace and I went to town and met Dr Wallace and Dr Maher who took us to tea at Groppi's which we thoroughly enjoyed, then we two shopped till 7:30pm. Directly after dinner we peeled out of our things and went to bed. Very, very hot night.

**Wednesday June 16<sup>th</sup>**

Frightfully hot day with fierce hot wind. I was in town all the morning with Mrs Smythe. Feeling very seedy, cold I think. Rotten head all the afternoon didn't move out anywhere, night a little cooler, no trains all day thank goodness sleeping and getting terribly tired of having nothing to do. Hope something turns up before long.

**Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup>**

Wallace's train went to Cairo for convalescent troops at 4:15pm Mrs Smythe went with her. I was in all day long feeling very seedy with heavy cold. Got a nice long lovely letter from Eng.

**Friday June 18<sup>th</sup>**

Alone all the morning most of my time spent at the telephone. A letter from dear old Bertha saying she was in Cairo. Wallace and Matron to wharf at 2pm. Bill Coulter, one of their passengers, so little Wallace rang me up and I went straight down in launch, met them all, had a long chat with Bill, he looks a wreck. We three came back here had lunch and Matron and I went off to the boat again 5pm. I found Bill again and spent the afternoon with him. Stayed to dinner on the hospital boat *Nevasa*. We spent evening on the boat deck yarning. Bill is going to England for a rest. Got back here by ambulance about nine.



**Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup>**

No 3 train to Cairo, wounded off *Grantully Castle* (ship) we left at Midday only a 108 on board, and not very sick ones. Tried to see Parry but no luck. McWhirter rang up for me from Cairo station but could not get her. I sat in his office while the train was in at Cairo station, one hour, we got back here at 10:30pm and got the ambulance home.

**Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup>**

In all the morning, Wallace's train went out at 12 and after that Matron came back here and we had lunch went to wharf and loaded No1 train between 1:30pm and 3pm. My train postponed until tomorrow so Matron and I went to Mrs Broadbent for afternoon tea and supper. Spent all our time in the garden even to having our meals there and very nice too, a young English officer is staying there for a week, not very exciting – got back around 10:30pm to find little Wallace already home and wondering where we had got to.

**Monday June 21<sup>st</sup>**

Pottering about the train all day long expecting it to go out and got word at 5pm to say we were not going at all. Had afternoon tea on train with Dr Murphy then went to town in ambulance and had an ice at Groppi's with Mrs Harvey, came back here got Wallace and she and I went off for an ice and poked around town getting home around 8pm.

**Tuesday June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

On the wharf at 8:30am train in at 9am and we got Turkish wounded prisoners the *Alwyne Castle* (ship) took them to Cairo, 72 of them, a fierce race of men they were too.

No Red Cross ladies with us. We had a guard of twelve men with us two men to each bogie and were met at Cairo by another guard. Had three hours in Cairo so went out to see Bertha and stayed with her till my train was due to leave. Got back here at 10:30pm.

**Wednesday June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

No trains for us Wallace went on hers at 3pm and got back at midnight I was at home all day. Except for about an hour on the train in the afternoon.

**Thursday June 24<sup>th</sup>**

Train left with wounded from *SS Leviathan* for Cairo we left at 12:10pm landed at Heliopolis went into Cairo station. Major Murphy took us (Mrs Spratt, Harvey and self) to the Continental for afternoon tea then for a beautiful drive over the Qasr al-Nil Bridge and back over the Baloudin Bridge passed the Anglo Egyptian Hospital also the Gherian Hospital. Train left at 7:15pm and we got back here at 11pm and I drove out in the ambulance with the ladies then came home myself. Wallace went to Suez away all night.

**Friday June 25<sup>th</sup>**

In town with Matron all morning getting things for our trains from Red Cross. Rested till 3pm then we went out sailing all the afternoon with Mr and Mrs Tassel and Mrs Broadbent and a Mr Clark (English soldier) took afternoon tea with us and had a beautiful afternoon went right outside the breakwater, got back about 7pm. Bed after dinner per usual.

**Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup>**

No trains going out. On the wharves and trains with Matron till 11pm then Wallace and I came back here got an 'arabber' and went to town. Wanted to get some photos developed. Met Major Murphy who took us to Groppi's for an ice. Then we wandered into an Egyptian curio shop and spent quite a lot of time looking at the collections. After lunch we then got dressed straight away and went out to the Beau Rivage Hotel had afternoon tea there in the garden which is most picturesque with its beautiful old trees, little



green houses etc. On our way back we called at No 15 Hospital to ask about Wallace's trunk which has gone astray. No satisfaction, did a bit more shopping, came home dinner and bed. Wallace in all day.

### Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup>

Down to the train at 8:30am and we loaded up and left at 11:30am, wounded Australians from the *Scotia*. Very busy trip but a nice lot of men. After unloading at Heliopolis we shunted to Cairo station had an hour to spare so Major Murphy took Mrs Harvey and I for a beautiful drive. Out to Gezirah and back we bought lovely cakes at Saultz and came back to the train for afternoon tea. Got back here early around 9:30 and I drove out with Mrs Harvey and Major came home too. Wallace in all day.

### Monday June 28<sup>th</sup>

No trains in town all the morning with Matron shopping for trains. Wallace and I hunted town for a hat in the afternoon we had no luck at all. We had ices at Groppi's. Saw two of the nurses who came over with us. They are at No. 17 and like it.

### Tuesday June 29<sup>th</sup>

At Cairo all morning no trains to go out Wallace and I went to see Solling, she Wood and Robertson have been moved to No 15 Hospital here and are sleeping at the Hotel du Nil not nice either we all went to town together and Wallace and I left them at 5pm as we had to be back to go to the hospital with Matron. However the Matron had changed her mind when we got home so we went off out again and looked about again for a hat. Each got a very nice one at Steins and a little more shopping came back about 7:30pm.

### Wednesday June 30<sup>th</sup>

Both our trains went to Cairo with wounded off the *Scotia*, Wallace at 11am and mine at 1:20pm. I tried to see Parry at Cairo but no time to go out and could not get her on the phone so went to Saultz with McWhirter and had an ice then a walk around town and back to our train which left at 8pm. Wallace and Matron came back with us. Dinner with Major Murphy.

### Thursday July 1<sup>st</sup>

At home all day long sewing, this afternoon I got a beautiful big budget of letters from England, 22 and so had a very happy afternoon and evening reading them all. Wallace went on her train to Port Said returning here tomorrow with convalescent patients.

### Friday July 2<sup>nd</sup>

In town all morning with Matron sent a cable to Mother also Dad, saw Solling for a few minutes and she gave me a letter from Con (my sister). My train left at 4pm for Cairo to bring back patients in the morning. Wallace not returned when I left. Major Murphy took a friend with him Monsieur Dr Saudez. We played cards all the way up 'la maine'. Arrived Cairo 9pm. I went straight out to El Gezirah Palace Hospital. Met Parry and Captain Plant went for a grand drive all round and finished up at Saultz for supper. I slept at Palace with Bert (Birtha) and we had a great old chat. Thompson who shares Bets room slept in another for the night.

### Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup>

I left El Gezirah at 7am and went back to my train had breakfast and we loaded up about 8:30am but 11am when we left with 200 patients invalided to England. Got to Alex at 2:30pm loaded all the patients on the *Letitia* got back here to find No 1 and 2 trains both going out. Wallace's left at 8pm and her red cross was unable to go so I went with her and we had such a nice peaceful trip. We love being together, work is so cosy again. Got back here at 5:30am next morning.

### Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup>

Beach quarantine at 7am had breakfast after finding out there were no trains and we went to bed for the day. At 3:30pm we were wakened by Parry and Thompson dashing into our room, they had a day and came



to Alex to see us, spent from 12 to 3pm looking for us. They had Ted McCulloch with them, picked him up on the train (one of the Andrew Mc Cullochs) we dressed very quickly and we all five went out to the Beau Rivage for afternoon tea came back 5:30pm saw the two girls off by 6pm train to Cairo. Ted Mc brought us home. After dinner Capt Plant (Gun) rang up to ask if he could come to see us, delighted of course. At 9pm he and his brother "Ike" and Cpt Wassel came round in a car so we all five went for a run in the motor. The first car broke down at the gate so we took an arabber into town got a good car and toured all over the country near Ramleh, San Stephens and Victoria. Saw a native wedding and bought some beautiful flowers, smoked our cigarettes etc etc had a beautiful time and did not get home at 11:45pm, about the jolliest day we have had since we landed here. Found out that I had taken Ike Plant and Wassel both on my train when they came back wounded from the Dardanelles.

### Monday July 5<sup>th</sup>

Ted Mc rang up and wanted us to go out but I had to go off to my train, took French convalescence from St Stevens to Damanhur, Tanta, Ben-ha, Zagazig, Mansura, got back at 7pm saw Wallace's train off then came home with Matron had dinner and went to bed.

### Tuesday July 6<sup>th</sup>

My train left at 11am with wounded for Port Said very crowded train (233) all English and such a hot day. Arrived there about 6pm landed our patients and Major Murphy and I for a drive and stopped at the casino for ices. Such a lovely big hotel on the sea shore then we walked out on the pier got into our arabber and drove into all the streets for a look round and through a native village. Got back to our train just as it was leaving 8pm had dinner played 'la maine' till about 11pm supper and bed, slept on train. Wallace was with Ted Mc all day and had dinner with the other three at the Windsor in the evening. I was to have been with them but no luck.

### Wednesday July 7<sup>th</sup>

Got home about 7am had a bath and rested all the morning and part of the afternoon. Poor little Ike Plant left for Dardanelles again by the *Nile*, Wallace and I had tea with Wassel and Andrew Plant then later left us



at

over there and went off for a blow to the Noosfa Gardens. Could not stay long worse luck. Oh they are so lovely too but we met Matron at Rainleh 6pm and went to dinner at Mrs Ruffers, they have a lovely home full of interesting curios and a beautiful garden we played bridge all evening deadly as I had a rotten head. Colonel Twedie, Mr and Mrs Swindlehurst were also there did not get home till midnight.

**Thursday July 8<sup>th</sup>**

Wallace's train went off at 1pm Matron when with her, mine left 4:15pm only a hundred wounded from 'Sicilla'. Among my patients were, Tom Goring and Reg 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Queensland, Wise brothers and AA Warden 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Queensland, latter a relation of old Mrs Bob Warden and such a dear thing. Wallace had sister King, old Prince Alfred Hospital and Chas Wassel what we called stowaways, they both wanted a trip to Cairo and Major Murphy took them, had such a nice trip, arrived Cairo 8pm and left 10pm. Wassel came back with us Mrs Ruffels went to bed early and Mrs Sprat, Wassel, Major and I stayed up chatting until 12midnight. All slept on the train, came home early in the morning.

### Friday July 9<sup>th</sup>

Arrived home early from train all the morning with Matron. Wallace's train went out to Heliopolis at 4:15pm. I met Cpt Wassel at Groppi's at 4:30pm we had tea and went out to the Noosfa Gardens. Spent a lovely afternoon, got home about 7:30pm had dinner did a little sewing and so to bed.



**Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup>**

Trains on wharves all morning Wassel came around at 3pm and he, Wallace and I went off to the races. No trains, Met Mrs and Major Kelham out there and we had such a jolly afternoon. Only got one winner so came away poorer than we went no matter it was such a gay sight with so much uniform about. All had afternoon tea together. Chas(Wassel) went home from there and we went back with Mrs Kelham to dinner after which (9pm) we all four went to the circus. Met CW (Wassel ) again and he joined us for a very jolly evening. Wandered around the side shows in the interval. Had a throw for five scent etc etc (rings). CW (Wassel) brought us home at 12:30am.

**Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup>**

No trains at home all the morning Wallace and I washed our heads. Met Wassel in the afternoon and went out to the Nouza Gardens for afternoon tea, came back at 7pm and went to Mrs Broadbents for supper Matron also there, had dinner on the lawn and some music afterwards. Dr Oliver Smith rang up Wallace and we were to have met him too but he had to go back to Cairo early.

**Monday July 12<sup>th</sup>**

My train left at 3pm for Damanhur, Tanta, Benha and Mansura with English convalescence, Matron and Lt Healey on the train. Got back at 11pm to find little Wallace entertaining Chas (Wassel) and Jack Beith in our little sitting room quarantine. The former had had dinner and spent the afternoon with her, the latter came along after dinner he is being sent back to the Dardanelles they both left about 11:30pm and Wallace and I set to work and damped down the clothes, tidied our rooms etc etc. Turned in to bed at 1am very tired.

**Tuesday July 13<sup>th</sup>**

Both in all the morning Wallace made some melon jam for the men and I made mosquito net covers with beads for them also did a bit of ironing. Wallace went to Quay at 12 noon in case she was wanted but only Indians and she and Matron came back to lunch. Chas rang up to say Jack's boat was leaving so he would call for us at 3:30pm which he did and we came to town Wallace and Jack in one trap and Matron and I in another. Left Matron at Dr Ruffles and we then went on and met Chas at Groppi's had ices and a chat, did a bit of shopping for jam jars, tin whistles etc etc then Chas left us to meet Mrs Morrison. Jack, Wallace and I off in an arabber went for a lovely drive, got out at Stanley Bay and had lemonade and cake which we had with us, then to the Summer Palace Hotel, met Chas again and we four had such a jolly little dinner. Tried to two step to the band afterwards on a side veranda, etc etc. Got back to Quarantine about 12:30am we dropped Jack at hotel and said goodbye to him.

**Wednesday July 14<sup>th</sup>**

At home all the morning Matron on the boats at 12 she came back and dear little Jack B was with thought. His boat was to leave in the afternoon stayed with us about an hour and Wallace took him back in the launch. After lunch we got a message telling us we were to be transferred from the trains and to go to the (German) deaconesses' Hospital next morning. Met Chas in the afternoon at 3:30pm had tea at Groppi's and went for a drive in the trains Victoria direction. Went on to the beach near Beau Rivage took a couple of snaps with my new camera. Chas expected a friend to send dinner so we went back to Quarantine, they saw Sister there and they were having dinner with Matron, Wallace and I said we had had ours. Jack B rang up, boat not leaving till morning. Chas's friend never turned up so we two girls went off and met our two men and had a jolly night at the Kursale, supper up at a place near Rawleah, left poor old Jack at No. 6 really good trip through town and we got home 12:30am Chas with us of course.

**Thursday July 15<sup>th</sup>**

The boat 'Galeka' really left with our pal Jack feeling very sad. Wallace and I got our belongings and went up to the hospital, two arabbers with ourselves and the other with luggage. Called at Windsor on the way over to leave a small parcel for Chas. Arrived German Hospital 9am only to be told we could not sleep there but by a bit of good luck Matron gave us the whole day to hunt around for a room. We got a fairly



decent room at the Hotel de France. No meals here but we are to have most of them at hospital. It was about 11am when we fixed up here, rang up Charles to tell him about our doings. Wallace and I unpacked and rested till 3pm when Chas came round we all three had tea at Groppi's had a chat with Major Murphy while there we went to see the Catacombs, very interesting. A nice drive up then to the Windsor with Chas for dinner got up from our meal at 10pm and went off to the picture show near Cooks another very nice evening got home sometime after 12 and had supper at the restaurant near Rawleah.

### Friday July 16<sup>th</sup>

On duty till 2pm Wallace and I off together off then till 5pm Charles spent the afternoon with us in our little room very nice too. Back to work again until 8pm got back here about 9pm and we spent the whole evening driving around Rawleah such a jolly drive. Wallace and I had a cosy little 'dug out' on either side of the dear boy, rested the horses near Victoria Hotel and went on to the beach for half an hour, had great fun coming home prying into Charles pockets etc etc. Got back at midnight and the switch with us!!! Staying for good!

### Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup>

On duty half day and very busy, Wallace off between two and five Charles had to go back to the Dardanelles came in to see us at 2pm, up in our room and stayed with us till 3:30pm, his boat was timed to leave at 4pm. One of the *Khediva* line '*Abboussyiah*'. He was so brave and never a word but he was blue and my word Wallace and I were sad too as he has been such a dear to us and we just hate their friends going over there these days. Wallace had to go back on duty so I slipped down to the boat and said good bye again. Saw his cabin and left a note in it from Wallace for the dear boy which I know he loved. Came back here after doing a little shopping then went out to hospital and met Wallace, we came home straight away and went to bed. Felt so sad and lonely without our pal.

### Sunday July 18<sup>th</sup>

On duty all day long Wallace off between 10:30am and 1pm had a very busy day, things all in a hopeless muddle food bad and patients most discontented. I have officers to look after. Our food too dreadful, not edible in fact. Wallace and I came home in an arabber so tired and went to bed at once.

### Monday July 19<sup>th</sup>

On duty till 2pm then we were both off afternoon and evening. Colonel Owen came to see Wallace at 4pm and we three went to Groppi's for afternoon tea. From there to the water works to watch some tennis at Mrs Bladen's. The colonel is staying there. They have such a nice little room fixed up for about six convalescence soldiers everything so nice and comfortable with a beautiful garden. Left there about 7pm and went along to see Mrs Smythe but found her out. Came back to town, bought some food, bread butter and sardines and had such a nice little meal in our room. Received cable from Garrett

### Tuesday July 20<sup>th</sup>

I was on duty all day long and very busy too. Wallace off for a while in the middle of the day Cpt Le Mesurier came around for us at 9:15pm and we were to go to the Kursale but thought it too hot so spent the evening driving instead. Called in at the Beau Rivarge for drinks when we got back to town midnight had ices at patisserie and 'Freddie' presented us each with a box of chocolates.

### Wednesday July 21<sup>st</sup>

Wallace on duty all day, I got off at 2:30pm came into the hotel and rested till 4pm then dressed and went out to Victoria Hospital to see poor old Campbell Garrett he is so ill. Shot in the lung, he was so delighted to see me. On my way home I bought some bread, Wallace got in about 7pm, we had a little meal together and went to bed. At 10pm Cpt Le Mesurier called to see us but we were in bed so asked him to excuse two poor tired souls.



**Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Had a terribly day did not get off duty till 9:30pm going hard the whole day, patients very sick, Arabs all sent away so we had the sweeping and washing up to do as well as everything else. Lady Benkinch was a grand help. Wallace was on all day but got off duty earlier. She waited for me dear kiddie. Mrs Hopkinson drove us home in her car. We went to Rawleah and bought some bread and butter and came home here and had a meal.

**Friday July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Had a terribly busy day, short-handed and charged with stretcher cases for Eng. That means hard work as they all have to be prepared dressings etc etc. Supposed to have a half day but could not get away till 6pm then came back to hotel straight to bed. Got letter from Mrs Lord, Hawkers and Ainsley Warden etc, latter in Ghazereh Hosp. Wallace had a half day she was very seedy with a cold so came here and went to bed.

**Saturday July 24<sup>th</sup>**

Not quite so rushed today only 20 patients left. Cleaning and clearing out wards for another lot. I got off at 3pm Wallace off till 5pm. She went back then I went to town and did a little shopping came back here washed my head etc and went to bed. Poor old Betsey did not get back till 10:30pm.

**Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup>**

I was on duty got off to town about 8:30pm came straight back and went to bed.

**Monday July 26<sup>th</sup>**

Off from 3pm, had a hot bath before I left hospital. Wallace only off from 2pm till 5pm. I went to see Miss Smythe both sisters and a Mrs Molesworth (Eng) there we all had afternoon tea then went out to the key to see the No 3 doctors for The General Hospital off. They left for Lemnos, too late to get on board but we waved them off. From there we all went to Mrs Broadbent's for dinner she has a Mr Harrison staying with her so we were quite a big party. Had dinner out under the trees. I drove back with Mrs Molesworth and the others then went straight to Quarantine. Wallace back in bed.

**Tuesday July 27<sup>th</sup>**

On duty all day but not very busy. Got off to town. Wallace had a half day but only did some shopping.

**Wednesday July 28<sup>th</sup>**

On duty till 2pm only ward 8 still. Wallace only off for a short time in afternoon. I went out to Victoria Hospital to see Campbell Garrett he looks better but is still very ill poor kid.

**Thursday July 29<sup>th</sup>**

I was on all day long and Wallace only off in the afternoon so we are not moving till tomorrow.

**Friday July 30<sup>th</sup>**

Wallace and I both had a half day and moved our quarters. Left the Hotel de France, could not stand it any longer and have come to the Hotel Winsor. Could only get single room on separate floors but we both still sleep together and mess together too.

**Saturday July 31<sup>st</sup>**

On duty all day very busy too. The convoy came in and we got 27 medical cases extreme dysentery on the roof, all terribly sick. Did not get off duty until after 10pm told to be ready in case I am wanted for hospital duty.

**Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup>**

Went on duty as usual met Matron who sent us back to the hotel to pack up my things as there was still talk of my going on transport duty. Got back on my ward 9am and was frantically busy all day long.



Transport all off, we think Matron made us miss the boat as she is so short of nurses and in a way I don't blame her. Moved from officer's quarters on to the roof and put in charge of the new medical cases. Wallace both off duty late, met Lt Short (patient Wallace had) and he came back to hotel with us and we sat down stairs and yarned till midnight. We had lemonade too late to get anything else.

### Monday August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Very busy all day got off at 4pm came back here did a bit of washing and went to bed Wallace on all day long not back till late.

### Tuesday August 3<sup>rd</sup>

On duty all day did not get off till 9:30pm Wallace had a half day. Matron and Sister Solwn came to see us here in the evening another lot of wounded in today.

### Wednesday August 4<sup>th</sup>

I had a half day feeling dog tired so came straight back to the hotel and went straight to bed.  
Thursday no entry

### Friday August 6<sup>th</sup>

Left Hotel Windsor this morning and very sorry we both are too as we were so happy and comfortable. On Duty all day long arrived at the house. Just near the hospital, five minute walk, to find Matron had never sent for our luggage as promised. The house is not furnished simply a bed in each room not another thing we got an electric light and half a candle allowed us. We had to sleep in our singlets and use our petticoat bodices for towels. One consolation we have a room together.

### Saturday August 7<sup>th</sup>

On duty again all day long and very busy too. Got to the house at 8pm to find no luggage again. Wallace was having a half day and with the (new) tenants to arrive I got a trap and went straight to the hotel and brought it out with me. Found Wallace back when I got here we carried our things upstairs had some supper and went to bed.

### Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup>

Both hard at all day long and went to bed as soon as we got back.

### Monday August 9<sup>th</sup>

We were both off for three hours in the afternoon so first went to the Windsor to enquire for letters, got none then did a little shopping and flew back to work. We were told when we got back tonight at 8pm that we had to pack up as we were to live in the second house instead, so before turning in we packed up our belongings.

### Tuesday August 10<sup>th</sup>

On duty all day long slept in our new quarters, don't like it half as much as the first house everything is very old dark and tumbling down, no furniture of course, simply a bed and our luggage.

### Wednesday August 11<sup>th</sup>

Half day for me, Wallace off from 2 till 5pm then went to the beach near the sporting club with two other sisters. They all bathed except me, I fixed up low tea in Mrs Tennants shed which we all enjoyed. Came back early, Wallace went on duty again and I went to bed.

### Thursday August 12<sup>th</sup>

On duty all day long and very busy, discharged a lot of my medical cases.



**Friday August 13<sup>th</sup>**

Had a terribly busy day big convoy in and I discharged about 50 medical cases from my ward in the morning. Got in 64 surgical all arriving this afternoon and very bad ones too. Got off duty that night at 11:45pm dog tired.

**Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup>**

Very busy all day long and not off duty till nearly 11pm all my men very sick. Found Jack Massey amongst the officers wounded but getting on well.

**Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup>**

Another long and busy day

**Monday August 16<sup>th</sup>**

On duty all day long and dreadfully weary. Sister Cook's husband came to Alex from Maadi camp and I let her go off at 3pm and don't expect her till midday tomorrow.

**Tuesday August 17<sup>th</sup>**

Off from 5pm we went to town and did some shopping called in at Mrs Tennants on our way back and had a hot bath. Two Aus. there for dinner a Mr Thompson and Matron we stayed till around 10:30pm and had some music. Mrs Tennant is a sweet little woman busy at the water works her husband too is a dear and she has one little girl. Their house is so comfy and they have been most awfully sweet to we two girls. Poor old Wallace was awfully sick all night long, hardly got a wink of sleep and in great pain and I could not give her much relief poor dear. A little bit easier towards morning. Cook arrived back at 12:30pm much to my joy.

**Wednesday August 18<sup>th</sup>**

On duty all day long and very busy. Poor little Betsy looking very seedy but stuck to work. We went straight to bed when we got off duty.

**Thursday August 19<sup>th</sup>**

Sister Cook away all the morning. I was very busy but managed to get off about 4:30pm also Wallace We went to town Delawares and several site Shops had some cold supper at Groppi's then went to see Miss Smythe, drove along with two soldiers who we did not know from Adam. Smythe very pleased to see us we chatted with the other three nurses then got an arabber back to the flat.

**Friday August 20<sup>th</sup>**

Off for two hours but did not go out did a lot of washing odds ends and my head, was off duty late but managed to get some dinner at the House.

**Saturday August 21<sup>st</sup>**

Busy all day got off around 3:30pm and Wallace and I were going to see Mrs Tennant for the evening but Wallace was too seedy. I intended going to the House for dinner and afterwards but Mrs T wasn't coming but went to sleep and never moved until 8:30pm and got out of my clothes and went to bed very tired.

**Sunday August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

On duty as usual in the morning Matron sent a relieving sister up at 11:30am and told me I was to go to the sisters rest house, Abou-Kir, for two days holiday. I got off duty 1:30pm collected my belongings and caught the 3:30pm train from Sidi Gabir about an hour trip in the train, arrived at the station and found an Arab with a quaint little sulky sort of trap with a mule in it. He took my suitcase strapped it in put me in the trap and I drove along while he ran alongside and lashed the steed. Most quaint, about 10 minutes drive. It is a beautiful bungalow house with glorious wide verandas right on the sea side. Have all our meals on the veranda, afternoon tea first. Eight other nurses here. After tea we came to the boat house which is



beautiful so clean and well kept. Most of us sleep here it is so much cooler than the house. The girls all bathed all the afternoon I only looked on, very deep but very pretty, plenty of life belts. Rode back about 8pm for dinner and came back to boat afterwards. All turned in early and slept like tops. The dearest little bunks? and such comfy beds.

### Monday August 23rd

On the house boat – Noahs Ark. Arab brought us tea at 6:45am after which we all had a dip just beautiful in the water, went over to the house for breakfast at 8:30am came back soon after and got into our bathing suits again, rode to the shore and practised swimming until nearly 12. Lunched at 1pm and back to our house boat again, slept till 4pm. More swimming till 6:30pm a stroll on the beach dinner and bed about 9pm.

### Tuesday August 24th

On the Ark. Morning tea at 7am a good old dip and over to breakfast at 8:30am back again directly afterwards and into our bathing things swimming in the shallows all morning. Back to the boat at 12. I dressed and packed up to come back. Lunched and left by the mule cart at 1:30pm a Sister Taylor Moore came in with us to San Stefano. At the flat all the afternoon had a good old tidying up amongst my things, waiting for Betty now just 6:30pm. Betty not off duty til 8:30pm I went for a blow in an arabber with Cook between 7 and 8pm, had a long dinner at the House then went along and met Wallace. We called in at Mrs Tennants on our way back. (Betty for a hot bath.) We stayed about an hour had a long supper and got back here about 10pm

### Wednesday August 25th

On duty till 5:30pm. Ward was not quite so busy Wallace had a half day she went to town and I met her at .....?? at 6pm we went to Groppi's for a cool drink and some sandwiches. Then went to where some met, Mr Frances and Thompson were there but we got there too late so we turned around and came back to bed very disappointed. Lady Bentinck? Gave my ward a gramophone we are awfully delighted of course.

### Thursday August 26th

I was off at 2pm Very tired so slept most of the afternoon.

### Friday August 27th

I was on duty all day long Cook had a half day, very busy and not off till after 9pm.

### Saturday August 28th

Sister Cook moved from my ward at 12:30pm to the school, Sister Foster in her place, I had to stay on duty all day, very busy too.

### Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup>

Off from 2pm till 5pm also Wallace and we both went to see Miss Smythe. Two NZ men in a car met Wallace when she was walking from hospital and drove her to the flat picked us up and then they drove us straight to the Quarantine office. Dr Anderson was the (enamoured) of our Wallace, we did not know either of them but they were awfully nice. Had afternoon tea and a chat with Matron enjoyed it of course and then we got an arabber back to hospital. Neither of us was off duty till 9pm so of course to bed. Home letters, Mother, Mabs and Mrs Arthur.

### Monday August 30<sup>th</sup>

Supposed to be off at 5pm but a convoy arrived at 4:30pm so I did not get away till 7pm, rotten luck as I wanted to go to town to meet Wallace, also to see about my uniform.



**Tuesday August 31<sup>st</sup>**

Wallace and I both off till 5pm from 2pm we went to town and met Thompson and Frances for afternoon tea at Groppi's I left my camera snaps and we came back to work again. Got off at 8:30pm met the two boys again and had a bonza little picnic in the park near here. They provided the salads, chicken, cheese sandwiches lemonade and claret. We did enjoy it, simply topping. Frances and Betsy yarned on one seat and Thompson and I wandered a little farther on to another seat. He was most awfully sweet and had such a happy time together. All met again at 11pm and came back here.

**Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup>**

On duty all day long hoped to get off at 5pm but a convoy arrived and I didn't get away till 7:15pm had arranged to meet Thompson at 7pm he waited for me and we didn't bother changing into mufti slipped on my grey apron, we went to the same little spot as the night before and had a very happy evening, he is a dear kid. Wallace was to have gone to dinner with Dr Vickerman but convoy kept the poor kiddy on till 8:30pm I got back at 11pm and found Betsy waiting for me. A little chat over both turned in.

**Thursday September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

On duty till two. I washed my head at the hospital then came to flat and rested feeling very tired after two late nights. On duty again from 5am got off about 8:30pm.

**Friday Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Both of us off from 6pm and rang up the two boys at home asking them to come in but they couldn't get off duty so we did a little shopping had some sandwiches and lemonade at Groppi's and came home to bed.

**Saturday Sept 4<sup>th</sup>**

A beautiful budget of letters today off duty from 2pm till 5pm. Both of us went to town to do a little shopping.

**Sunday Sept 5<sup>th</sup>**

I was off from 5pm Wallace off in the afternoon. I went to Mrs Tennants about 6pm and had supper there. Thompson and Mc Hale also there. Wallace joined us at 8:30pm and we had a bonza sing song evening. Mrs Tennant is such a dear and so good to us. She has a little girl Molly about 8year old and such a pet of kiddie. A birthday cable from home today.

**Monday Sept 6<sup>th</sup>**

On duty all day Sister Foster had a half day, Wallace went out to drive with Mr Vickerman and I met Thompson at 8:15pm and we spent a very happy evening together in the gardens he is a dear boy we are such good pals.

**Tuesday Sept 7<sup>th</sup>**

Had a half day and so did Wallace and we first went in to town and did some shopping rang up Thompson and Francis and arranged to meet them at the Tonnauf Bathing Hut at 6pm. The four of us had another moonlight picnic on the sand. Very jolly. Thompson and I went for a stroll and were caught beautifully with a big wave, I got so wet but soon dried in the wind. We did not get back here till 11:30pm Wallace and I provided the provisions this time. Tongue, asparagus, peaches, bread and butter cake and tea. We used the Tennant's crockery.

**Wednesday Sept 8<sup>th</sup>**

On duty till 2pm came to flat also Wallace and we slept till 5pm back to work till 8pm. Temperature up and a very sore throat. Hope the kiddie doesn't get ill as we were going on duty at 5am, we met Plant and she has had a couple of days in Alex and was out to see her cousin who has just come back from Gallipoli (medical). He is in F.



**Thursday Sept 9<sup>th</sup>**

Wallace off duty all day and feeling very sick. Thompson down from Cairo for a weeks holiday and he spent the afternoon with the kiddy. I was off at 6pm, came back to flat so I could be with Wallace, went to bed early.

**Friday Sept 10<sup>th</sup>**

Off between 2pm and 5pm spent time at the flat with Wallace who is still in bed. Thompson was with us and he brought lovely cakes over we had afternoon tea together.

**Saturday Sept 11<sup>th</sup>**

Wallace still very seedy but up for a short time we went for a lovely drive 6 till 7pm I brought the kiddy home then went out myself met Thompson but came home about 9:30pm as I did not like leaving Wallace alone. Little girl seems so blue and not a scrap well.

**Sunday Sept 12<sup>th</sup>**

Off duty between 2pm and 5pm stayed in with Wallace. Thompson spent the afternoon with us and he took Wallace for a drive when I went back to work.

**Monday Sept 13<sup>th</sup>**

Off duty between 2pm and 5pm Wallace went to Abou Kir for a week I went to station and saw her off missing her dreadfully. On duty till 8pm, met Thompson about 8:15pm and we spent such a happy evening together, got home about 11pm Wallace gave me such a beautiful camp chair for my birthday wrote a dear little verse on it for me.

**Tuesday Sept 14<sup>th</sup>**

On duty till 1:30pm leaving the Roof and very sad about it going on night duty in E section. Have come to Mrs Tennants to write letters instead of going to bed. Thompson here also they have all gone out for a spin in the motor. I am lazing on the sofa. Began duty in E section 8pm very quiet night. Civilians no soldiers. Feeling very sick about it.

**Wednesday Sept 15<sup>th</sup>**

Off duty 8am to bed till 3pm then went with the Tennants had afternoon tea, Mrs Tennant took me for a lovely drive in the motor, Victoria way. We went to Rawleh Station picked up Mr T then to the hut and picked up Molly got back about 7pm I got into uniform and went on duty. Another quite night.

**Thursday Sept 16<sup>th</sup>**

In bed all day duty 8pm very quiet night. Wallace still away, so lonely without her.

**Friday Sept 17<sup>th</sup>**

Wallace still away I slept very badly today got up at 3pm and went to see Miss Smythe found her out but Stolly and Findlay there had tea with them we all came to town did a little shopping and the two girls came out with me for the drive. Rang up Thompson from 3046.

**Saturday Sept 18<sup>th</sup>**

Got up at 2:30pm and Cook and I spent the afternoon in town. Groppi's for tea and poked around the shops again. Met a Sergeant Shelley and Cpt Edwards friends of Cook's awfully nice men. Shelly is a brother in law of Oliver Walsh. Wallace still away.

**Sunday Sept 19<sup>th</sup>**

Got up at 12:30pm met Thompson at 2pm Rawleh Station and we two went off to the Tennants hut on the beach for the afternoon. Boiled the billy and had tea. Had such a grand old chat he is a dear boy. We came back to the Tennants about 5pm and I stayed with them till 7:15pm had to fly to flat and dress for duty.



Left Thompson at the station. Matron did rounds 8:30pm and told me Wallace would be back in the morning and was coming on night duty on D ward next door to me. Of course I was very delighted.

### Monday Sept 20<sup>th</sup>

Straight to flat at 8pm packed up all my own and Betty's things and came to the Khedivial Hotel Rue Rosethe where we are to eat sleep and drink hence forth. Very nice in one way as it is decently furnished and very airy but the old house sister is rather a tyrant and makes us get in on time etc etc. Fixed up all our rooms waited for Betsy till 1:00pm but no sight of her so went to bed. Got up at 6pm dressed on my way to look for Wallace when she came rushing in. Had only got Matrons telegram in the afternoon. So had a terrific rush. She is very well again and had a very good time at Abou Kir. I helped the kiddie fly into her uniform and we both went on duty, grand having her back again.

### Tuesday Sept 21<sup>st</sup>

Stayed in bed all day Wallace and I yarned most of the afternoon. Quite a lot to tell each other after separated for a fortnight.

### Wednesday Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>

We both got up at 3:30pm and went to the Tennants for the afternoon only Mr T there but he had two officers from No 19, Cpt Wallace and Lt Hobbs and we all had afternoon tea together. Wallace had a note form Jacky Beith and he is at Rosel in the convalescence home.

### Thursday Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>

I stayed in bed all day Wallace went for a short drive this afternoon with one of the No 19 officers.

### Friday Sept 24<sup>th</sup>

Went to the hairdresser directly after breakfast had a shampoo got our nails manicured then came back to bed for the whole day.

### Saturday Sept 25<sup>th</sup>

Found Bob Stoddard here in F, wounds and depression, looks rotten poor old thing we had a chat and all going for a drive together on Tuesday. Wallace went to the races in the afternoon with Vickerman.

### Sunday Sept 26<sup>th</sup>

Wallace slept all day I got up and went out with Jacky B drove out towards Victoria and back via the Nouza Gardens I took a snap of the lake though it was no good. Got back about 6:30pm had dinner and on duty.

### Monday Sept 27<sup>th</sup>

Met Jacky Beith at 4pm and he, Wallace and I went to the Tennants for afternoon tea. Cpt Wallace and Lt Hobbs (No. 19 patients) also there Mr T out but Mrs T there and we spent a very nice afternoon.

### Tuesday Sept 28<sup>th</sup>

Slept till 3pm dressed and went to meet Bob Stodart at Groppi's. Met Major Murphy on the way he is on the Gilford Castle now looking awfully well. Met Bob at 4pm and we had tea then a bonza drive and yarn. He is most likely returning to Gaza poor old thing is terribly depressed and needs a change very, very badly.

### Wednesday Sept 29<sup>th</sup>

Got up at 3pm and first went to cable office then we took a jarvey to the Tennants. Mrs T was away but Mr T and Molly were there. Thompson and Francis were also there. About 6pm Wallace and the others went in the side car to Cholby's and picked up Mrs Tennant. Thompson and I went for a stroll in the garden went back to hotel at 6:30pm left the boys there. Mr T drove us back in the side car beautiful, ran into the old Matron but she said nothing, we skipped dinner.



**Thursday Sept 30<sup>th</sup>**

Got up at 3pm met Jacky Beith and we three went to the Tennants for afternoon tea. Cpt Wallace, Hobbs, Gunn also there and very jolly time. Took some snaps of Molly in the garden. Took a jarvey back to the hotel about 6:30pm duty at 8pm Bob came along for a chat in the evening skipped breakfast this morning.

**Friday October 1<sup>st</sup>**

Was to have met Bob Stodart for afternoon tea but he had to go to Cairo so Cpt Dodds came along instead. Oliver Walsh also, we then had tea at 9am then we left Dodds and did some shopping. Wallace out with Lt Hobbs duty at 8pm Bob came along for a chat in the evening.

**Sat Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Feeling very seedy this morning so went to bed all day. Wallace out with Dr Vickerman.

**Sun Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Wallace with Edward Hobbs Lt she came home very happy practically engaged and he is a dear man. I spent the afternoon at the Tennants had a drive then came straight up here. Molly has a new donkey and we took the kiddy for a ride. Cpt Wallace there for afternoon tea. Wallace came in just before I left. Had chat to Thomson on the phone poor kid has been seedy with Malaria they are talking of moving camp.

**Mon Oct 4<sup>th</sup>**

Wallace out with Edward again things more settled and both little people absolutely happy. I poked about town seeing about uniforms etc then went to see Miss Smythe. Cook so tired and worn out so glad to see me. She is such a dear, rather busy when I came on duty only saw Edward for a minute but had time to congratulate him and tell him how pleased I was.

**Tuesday Oct 5<sup>th</sup>**

Wallace and I spent over an hour at the phone after breakfast. She wanted Abou Kir and I phoned Jack. I got my number so we went to Groppi's for tea then for a bonza drive towards Moharrem Bay round by Nouza and Victoria and back. Changed in to mufti. Wallace of course went with Edward and had a jolly good time the kiddies seem so awfully happy he gave her a sweet little gold (signet) ring today with his initials. It had to be altered so we got a jarvey at 7:30pm after dinner went Rue Sheriff Collard and got it then came on here.

Wednesday nothing

**Thursday Oct 7<sup>th</sup>**

I was feeling seedy so stayed in bed all day. Betty and Edward out together in the afternoon.

**Friday Oct 8<sup>th</sup>**

Lt Hobbs left for Eng by the HMS *Maheuo*. Betty and I went to see him off but got on the wharf too late the boat was just sailing but saw Edward and he jumped on to the wharf for a second longer with Betty a last hand shake and then we went to see Miss Smythe and had afternoon tea. Did a little shopping after. Ordered our uniform dresses at Challow's, got back to hotel about 7pm. skipped dinner.

**Saturday Oct 9<sup>th</sup>**

Got up at 12 noon met Thomson at 1pm and we went to Nouza Gardens, took some lunch with us and sat yarnning there till 4pm then got a jarvey and came into the Tennants for afternoon tea. They were just going for a blow but we went in and had some tea. They came back as we were finishing. I went back to the hotel at 6:30pm left Thomson with the Tennants Wallace too very tired so stayed in bed all day. Dr Tebbutt (Major) and a Cpt Carter went to see her about 6pm. She was up when I got in. I saw both men for a few minutes. Tebbutt went back to the peninsular on the '*Gaeka*'?



**Sunday Oct 10<sup>th</sup>**

Wallace and I were both to meet Jacky and Carter to go for a sail at 3pm, Wallace seedy bad head, I got up and met the boys and we went first to Groppi's then sailing. Went outside, a perfect afternoon and I loved it all, got in about 6pm.

**Monday Oct 11<sup>th</sup>**

Wallace and I were both to meet Lt Butcher but I stayed in bed all day had a rotten head.

**Tuesday Oct 12<sup>th</sup>**

We both got up at 2pm met the two boys Carter and Jacky, took over thermos and some cake and all four went for a bonza sail in the King George lovely big sailing boat. We went a long way outside had afternoon tea in the bottom of the boat a bit rough and the boys got quite squeamish and of course we roasted them horribly did not get back until nearly 7pm after having a grand old time.

**Wednesday Oct 13<sup>th</sup>**

I met Jack at 3:45pm we went and had afternoon tea with Miss Smythe then went for a lovely drive along the seaside as far as Ras-el-Tin. Loved every minute of it. Wallace stayed in bed all day.

**Thurs Oct 14<sup>th</sup>**

Wallace and I were both to meet Butcher again but Wallace could not wake up so I went on my own. Met the boy and we got a jarvey and went to the Summer Palace for afternoon tea. A gorgeous afternoon and I enjoyed the drive.

**Friday Oct 15<sup>th</sup>**

Wallace and I both met Jacky at 4pm tea at Groppi's then we went to Ras-el-Tin Hospital Wallace wanted to look up somebody. Drove as far as the point afterwards then back again, another lovely afternoon and as usual we loved our outing.

**Saturday Oct 16<sup>th</sup>**

Jacky, Carter, Vickerman, Betty, Passmore and I went out sailing etc whole afternoon. Took afternoon tea with us and Betty just loved every minute of it. Passmore was a big disappointment and such a stick and we thought she would be so bright. We got in about 6:30pm after going right outside of course in the big sailing King George.

**Sunday Oct 17<sup>th</sup>**

Betty and I got up again and went out with the two boys again Jack and Carter. We got a car first, went to the Summer Palace for afternoon tea then motored almost to Abou Kir such a good road we did not get back to the hotel till around 7pm. Said good bye to the two old dears and felt very sad too. They are to leave tomorrow by Troup Ship 'Bonden' Phillip Vickerman who has been fighting hard for Betty for quite a long time came along to the ward on Sunday night I did sentry. Two people came out a very, very happy pair, two people engaged, joy everywhere.

**Monday Oct 18<sup>th</sup>**

Stayed in bed all day Betty and Phillip out together all afternoon and the girlie came back beaming. Jacky rang up at 12:30am and told us they had not left after all they had been on the boat all day and at the last minute got orders to tranship to another boat *SS Minnehaha* they expect to leave tomorrow.

**Tuesday Oct 19<sup>th</sup>**

Betty out with her beloved having a very happy day I went to town and did a little shopping on my lonesome.



**Wednesday Oct 20<sup>th</sup>**

Washed my head before going to bed got up at 2pm and met Thompson we went to the Beau Rivage for afternoon tea then went out to the beach. Drove back via the park at round point got out and had a stroll and a little chat. Came back to the hotel around 7pm skipped dinner.

**Thursday Oct 21<sup>st</sup>**

We were to meet Butcher for afternoon tea but were both a bit off colour so stayed in bed instead. Pearson came up to see us about 4pm she is still on the Delta and very happy.

**Friday Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>**

In bed all day again Betty out with Vick had another happy afternoon.

**Saturday Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Both of us in bed all day had a grand rest. Vick had to go to a long promised picnic much to his sorrow and Betty's too.

**Sunday Oct 24<sup>th</sup>**

Wallace and I got up at 2pm met Cpt Vickerman at 3pm we were to have Mc Kewe? with us a little Canadian doctor but he couldn't get away so we three went for a sail, took afternoon tea with us, went outside, had tea quite rough but none of us minded. Coming home we met Mr Walker on another sailing boat he had just been seeing a convoy off. He joined us, we were cruised about a bit and landed about 6pm. Got two jarveys a pair in each, went for a nice drive along the seashore and got back to the hotel at 6:30pm after a lovely afternoon. Betty very happy she did look such a picture. Home letters this morning.

**Monday Oct 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>**

No entries

**Wednesday Oct 27<sup>th</sup>**

Betty and I went out together so nice to have the kiddy with me don't see much of her now she is engaged but I love to see her so happy. We met Cpt Chadwick in town and drove out to the Summer Palace Hotel, Snow Clayton joined us and we had a very jolly little afternoon tea. Snowy is playing there but may go back to the peninsular any day.

**Thursday Oct 28<sup>th</sup>**

Up at 2pm and met with Thompson at 2:45pm we got a jarvey called in at Mrs Tennants for the key and spent the afternoon down at the hut on the sands. Came back to the Tennants at 5pm. Had a very nice afternoon tea had a chat and came home. Thompson stayed here to dinner Betty out with PSV.

**Friday Oct 29<sup>th</sup>**

Betty out with PSV I did a bit of shopping then went down to see Miss Smythe found only Stolle then had a chat and came back.

**Saturday Oct 30<sup>th</sup>**

I stayed in bed all day Betty out with PV a terrible accident to the nurses about 15 of them coming to hotel in middle day by the mule ambulance the train gates were left open and just as they were driving across a train crashed into them. Killed our Sister Griffiths who was trying to save Kavanagh's life. Kavanagh was helping the driver who was thrown out and has concussion. Kavanagh broke her arm nearly lost an eye and her face is very much cut but she is getting on all right. Other girls suffering from shock only. Such a gloom all over the hospital and that night a VAD died, gangrenous appendix.



**Sunday Oct 31<sup>st</sup>**

Got up at 3pm and went to Mrs Tennants for the afternoon wore my uniform and took my cap and apron so went straight to hospital. Wallace was to meet PV but he did not come so she came along with me and stayed just for afternoon tea. Thompson and five other soldiers (English did not catch their names) Thompson walked down to the 19<sup>th</sup> with me. He with his camp probably leaves for Cairo tomorrow.

**Monday Nov 1<sup>st</sup>**

Got up 3:30pm Betty out with PV, I went and had my head shampooed then on to the schools to see Sargent Livingstone who is very ill with (Enteric) Typhoid, looking awfully ill and condition much the same. Temp 103

**Tuesday Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Got up at 2pm and met PSV and Harry Clayton and all four went for a bonze sail. Took the thermos and some sandwiches etc and we got in about 6pm and drove to The Majestic where we had liqueurs. The band was playing so jolly. Got back to hotel around 7pm and dressed for duty at 9pm. Thompson rang me up from the railway station to say good bye his camp moving out tomorrow to either the Peninsular or Suez.

**Wednesday Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>**

I stayed in bed all day. Wallace with Major Wood for afternoon tea at Summer Palace.

**Thursday Nov 4<sup>th</sup>**

Betty out with her husband! I did a little shopping then went to see Miss Smythe, found her out came back to town ran into Smythe and we potted about town together. I came back and dressed for duty.

**Friday Nov 5<sup>th</sup>**

Betty out with her husband!! Passmore and I went to the schools (Orwa-el-Waska) to see Sgt Livingstone, he was a tiny shade better but still very ill. Came in to town afterwards and did a little shopping.

**Saturday Nov 6<sup>th</sup>**

Betty out again, stayed in bed all day could not be bothered going out.

**Sunday Nov 7<sup>th</sup>**

Betty out again with Phil I had quite a head so stayed in bed all day again.

**Monday Nov 8<sup>th</sup>**

Got up about three and went to see Mrs Tennant found her out so came to town and potted about the shops. Betty out with Phil.

**Tues Nov 9<sup>th</sup>**

Got up about three went to Taylor's with Betty and we were to have met Major Mc Kenzie at 4pm but we did not get to our meeting place till 4:30pm and he was gone. I went along to Miss Smythe found her out so came back to the hotel. Betty met Phil at 5:15pm and they went for a blow together. Betty has her ring. A single diamond.

**Saturday Nov 13<sup>th</sup>**

Was out all the morning with Pearson we went to Nouza Gardens and got quite a nice lot of snaps. Betty out in the afternoon with Phil and I slept.

**Sunday Nov 14<sup>th</sup>**

Betty out with Phil I was awfully tired so stayed in bed all day long still in G.



**Monday Nov 15<sup>th</sup>**

Betty out with Phil and I was going to the Tennants but got down stairs to find Lt Serwew? waiting to see me, such a nice boy, we had tea at Groppi's then went for a little drive. He is at 17 Hosp. has had dysentery but convalescent again. Looks a wreck. Still in G (German Hospital?)

**Tuesday Nov 16<sup>th</sup>**

Got up at 2:30pm also Betty and we met Cpt Littledale and Major Wood and all four went for a sail together, lovely afternoon and we quite enjoyed it.

**Wed Nov 17<sup>th</sup>**

All ready for duty tonight when we got a message from Matron telling us we were both off. Terribly disgusted about it, rotten to be told at the last minute. Betty and I had been shopping all the afternoon so Phil was on duty. We came up to our room after dinner packed up all our things were busy till 12:30am

**Thursday Nov 18<sup>th</sup>**

Betty went out at 7am to meet Phil and didn't get back until 9am. We moved down to room 109 got dressed into mufti and went off with our suitcases to the Windsor for the night. Got such a lovely double room, white and gold overlooking the sea. We poked about town till 12 went to station and had lovely tea then Betty caught the train to Abou Kir for the day with Phil I went to the Tennants for lunch and afternoon tea. Mrs T away I just spent a lazy afternoon there. Mr T drove me to town about 5pm I had my nails done then went to Miss Smythe for dinner. A warm welcome. Got back to Windsor hotel 9:30pm and wrote letters till Betty came in 11pm.

**Friday Nov 19<sup>th</sup>**

Betty and I didn't get up till late had breakfast about 9:30am potted about town till about 1pm and came to the hotel for lunch. Phil came along about 2pm and suggested a sail. Got hold of Mr Watkins and we all four were off. Lovely afternoon. Got back about 6pm went to Hotel Majestic for some refreshments. Mr W left us about 8pm and then we went to the Windsor for dinner. Dear old Phil's shout. Tried to get a late pass but Matron would only allow us till 10:30pm however we went to the Grotesque at the Alhambra which was very good. Ran in to Miss Wilson when we came in and she lectured us about not wearing uniform. No more muftis I am afraid rotten luck.

**Saturday Nov 20<sup>th</sup>**

On duty 7am Betty went back to D and I went to H amongst the Tommies again and like it so much. Two Australians there such dear old things and they seemed so glad to see us. I am extra so not very busy. Off for three hours in the afternoon but did not go out. Tidied up our room instead, Betty on all day.

**Sunday Nov 21<sup>st</sup>**

I am still in H had a half day and so did Betty she was out with her 'hubbie' all the afternoon and I went to see Miss Smythe found her out but I got my papers and some letters came back here at 5pm and went to church at 6:15pm such a nice little service all soldiers and nurses came back to find Betty just returned much to my joy and surprise. Phil had to go back on duty we both went to our little beds.

**Monday Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>**

On duty all day long, also Betty. Carter went out to dinner with Phil I came up to bed. We got about 12 new cases in today and six of them are from Anzac.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov**

Still in H and was to have had a half day but Matron sent me to relieve sister in G. A maternity case, baby two days old. Got back to Khedevial 6pm came to bed and wrote letters. Betty has a half day out with Phil.



**Wednesday Nov 24<sup>th</sup>**

In H all day thank goodness off for three hours in afternoon went to town with Kavanagh and Hopkins, potted about the shops and finished up with tea at the shop near the Khedevial. Went on duty again about five, Betty on duty all day.

**Thursday Nov 25<sup>th</sup>**

Betty had a half day out with Phil all the afternoon and back to dinner. I was in H till 12 came to first dinner then relieved in G 20 all the afternoon. Came off duty 5pm also Hopkins. We tidied and went to town together. Got back here at 7pm and she, Betty and I all went to first dinner and came to our rooms directly afterwards. We had a heavy shower of rain in the afternoon and it rained heavily all night the first real rain we have had. Quite strange to see rain in Egypt.

**Friday Nov 26<sup>th</sup>**

Special a bad head case in H till 11am he was transferred to G and I went with him. Till 1:30pm then Matron gave me a lazy day as she wanted me to come back and disinfect myself, the head case is suspected Enteric (Typhoid) I rested till 3:30pm then went to town ordered my coat at Challow's saw Major McKenzie and had a chat with him bought some cigarettes then went out to the school to see Sgt Livingstone. He is ever so much better, normal chat, may get up on Wednesday. Got back here about 6pm had a hot bath made myself some tea could not be bothered going to dinner and spending the evening sewing until little Betty returned 8:30pm as she has been on duty all day.

**Saturday Nov 27<sup>th</sup>**

Still in H specialising a bad kidney case all day. Not off duty at all. Betty had half day but was unable to go out. Changed her ward which meant duty all day. Still on D landing but with the officers instead of nurses.

**Sunday Nov 28<sup>th</sup>**

Specialising liver case in H all day again. Off for three hours in the afternoon and spent my time at the Tennants Mrs T and Molly are back again. Mrs Wale and others also two other friends forgot their names. Mr Tennant drove me back in his motor. Betty had her half day and was out with Phil. They went to Abau-Kir.

**Monday Nov 29<sup>th</sup>**

Still in H specialising two cases today Kingsland and Drabsh the latter is an Australian has been in hospital since the beginning of August had a sec.....? this morning very ill all day but better tonight. I was off for three hours in the afternoon slept most of the time Betty on duty all day.

**Saturday Dec 4<sup>th</sup>**

I was off from 2pm to 5pm Betty had a half day I got my parcel too from Mother. Lovely collection of treasures also got a small parcel from Babs and Old W Smith. Big convoy in, wounded and frost bite.

**Sunday Dec 5<sup>th</sup>**

Half day, also Betty, we met Phil at 3:30pm and all went to the Grand Hotel where Cpt and Mrs Boulton and her mother Mrs Little are staying, friends of Betty and such dears. We stayed to afternoon tea with them such a nice afternoon.

The first half day Betty and I have had together since we came off night duty. She and Phil went off together about 5pm they drove me to Miss Smythe first where I stayed to dinner. Sister Sinclair off duty ill so I am in charge of H XII

**Monday Dec 6<sup>th</sup>**

On duty all day being awfully busy big convoy again.



**Tuesday Dec 7<sup>th</sup>**

Betty and I had a half day we met Mrs Boulton and shopped till 4pm. Chose stuff and style for Betty's wedding doings white satin with tulle over to be made at Challow's I came back here and wrote letters, cards till 10pm

**Wednesday Dec 8<sup>th</sup>**

On duty all day going hard all day very late off duty.

**Thursday Dec 9<sup>th</sup>**

Half day also Betty, Mrs Boulton came up here about 2pm and we then went shopping together I was feeling very off colour so after I left Betty at 4pm came and stayed home and went to bed.

**Friday Dec 10<sup>th</sup>**

On duty all day very busy

**Saturday Dec 11<sup>th</sup>**

Half day did not get off till after 2:30pm so missed lunch, Betty and I shopped till 4pm then we met Phil and I went and had a shampoo then went on to the Tennants for supper. Betty joined me there at 8pm Mr T drove us home in his car. Met Scrivener in town and I am to meet him next Wednesday.

**Sunday Dec 12<sup>th</sup>**

On duty all day long a very busy, lovely long letter from the Mater.

**Monday Dec 13<sup>th</sup>**

Off duty from 2pm Betty, Mrs Boulton and I went to the skating rink and had a very jolly time, met a very nice Australian boy who took us around quite a lot and the 'garson' was very good and gave us quite a lot of tips. From there I went to see Miss Smythe had afternoon tea with her. Betty met Phil and Mrs Boulton then home to her hubby.

**Tuesday Dec 14<sup>th</sup>**

On duty all day very busy.

**Wed Dec 15<sup>th</sup>**

Betty and I had our half day as usual went to skating rink with Mrs Boulton I only stayed till 4pm then came back here and met Scrivener. He and I went to the sporting club for afternoon tea, got back here about 7pm after I left him I went to see Miss Smythe. She got Esmarn to get 6 dozen oranges for me I wanted them for my patients. Betty had a happy afternoon at the rink got back here about 8pm

**Thursday Dec 16<sup>th</sup>**

On duty all day and again going solidly all day long took the oranges to the patients and they did love them dear old things.

**Friday Dec 17<sup>th</sup>**

Half day we spent all the afternoon at the rink again Boultons Mrs Little and Phil there. Scrivener joined us about 6pm and would have skated but there were no skates. Betty, Phil, Scrivener and I went to the Tennants for dinner and had such a jolly little sing song evening.

**Saturday Dec 18<sup>th</sup>**

On duty all day long



**Sunday Dec 19<sup>th</sup>**

Half day, Betty went off to a bank with Phil I stayed and did some washing and had a read. Went to church on my lonesome saw Garrett in the afternoon

**Monday Dec 20<sup>th</sup>****Friday Dec 24<sup>th</sup>**

I was off for a short time in the afternoon had Jones over did some ward Xmas shopping had tea with Cpt Stirling and Louie Muller got back to the ward early worked till 9:30pm decorating.

**Saturday Dec 25<sup>th</sup>**

On duty all day and gave the patients as good a time as we could. The wards all looked very bright with decorations and we laid a long table in No XII for all the walking patients to sit at. A lively song and dance in the evening just till 8pm, then I flew off in a jarvey to the Tennants. Struck the end of their dinner but the dear things had saved some turkey and pudding for me. Had lovely fun with mistletoe. I came back here at 9:30pm and read, tired and crawled into bed in about three minutes. Betty had got off at 7pm and went with Phil and the Boultons to dinner and dance at the Summer Palace. She stayed away all night.

**Sunday Dec 26<sup>th</sup>**

On duty all day long and very busy had a Christmas tree for the patients in the evening they did enjoy it. Cpt Watkins dressed up as Santa Clause had our Christmas dinner at the Hotel that night. Very deadly Betty dodged it and went to bed. Rang Jacky up he is staying at Ras-el his convalescence house.

**Monday Dec 27<sup>th</sup>**

On duty all day and very busy as M ward is full up, had a chat to Jacky on the phone.

**Tues Dec 28<sup>th</sup>**

On duty half day and very busy got away about 2pm skipped lunch dressed and met dear old Jacky Beith he is looking awfully ill, jaundice and has got so thin we had a long chat down at the Summer Palace for afternoon tea then went to the Tennants for dinner. Sat around a fire in the evening quite lovely. Got back here around 9:45pm. There was a big concert and tea on here in the afternoon but I dodged it.

**Wed Dec 29<sup>th</sup>**

No half day ward not quite so heavy lost my worst patients, were transferred this morning. Jacky went to Cairo by midday train I am sorry to say.

**Thurs. Dec 30<sup>th</sup>**

Half day ward not quite so busy washed my head. Betty on duty all day. Went to see Miss Smythe found her out but had some tea there and got my letters.

**Friday Dec 31<sup>st</sup>**

On duty all day got a wire form Thompson in the afternoon saying he was arriving at the Tennants tonight to stay till Monday.

**Saturday Jan 1<sup>st</sup>**

Cable from home all well. Half day got back quickly by jarvey missed lunch dressed and met Thompson at 2pm he is looking well but thin. They are on the canal. We went for a drive together Bulkley Way, left our jarvey and had a lovely walk on the beach. Got to the Tennants about 4pm and had tea, big crowd there I stayed to supper and we spent a very nice little evening together. The four of us chatting Mr T drove me home here and Thompson joined us.



Sunday Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>

Thompson still with the Tennants I managed to get off duty at 6:30pm and went straight down to the waterworks again and stayed for supper. Thompson in good form. There were many other men there forget their names. A very wet night so Thompson brought me back here by jarvey he was leaving next morning by train for his camp.



Lorna Backhouse front row and patients



Sister Griffith(right), Wallace and self at back with Indian orderlies on train.





Betty Wallace



Betty's wedding



Street scene



**Appendix: General family information**

Monday 2<sup>ND</sup> August 1880 Sydney Morning Herald: Marriages.

BACKHOUSE-WANT.-July 28, at St. Mark's, Darling Point, by the Rev. Thomas Kemmis, assisted by the Rev. Wm. Hough, Ernest Benjamin, third son of Benjamin Backhouse, Ithaca, Elizabeth Bay, to Ida Frances, eldest daughter of the late George Want, solicitor.

Saturday 29 October 1918 Sydney Morning Herald : Marriages

LORD-BACKHOUSE.-October 17, at St. Chad's, Cremorne, by the Rev. C. E. Curtis, Harry Lord, of Brisbane, to Lorna Blachford, eldest daughter of E. B. Backhouse, of Tamworth.



Groppi's Tea House Alexendria Egypt

<http://www.egy.com/landmarks/96-06-15.php>

