

January 27, 1915.

Left Zeitoun Camp at 9 A.M. as baggage guard. Entrained for Is-malia which we reached at 7 P.M. Country very fine and excellently irrigated. Bivouaked with orders to be ready for alarm.

January 28.

No alarm. Musketry drill, plentuous rumours but no news to write. Aeroplanes buzzing around. Another bivouac but no alarm.

January 29.

Tents arrived from Zeitoun. Entraining practice.

January 30.

Tent pitching in morning and bathing parade in afternoon. Town very clean and green. Gardens lovely. 25% leave granted. Went to town.

January 31.

Bathing parade and church parade - washing. Near our camp is a large camp of Indians, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ divisions strong, also Egyptians.

February 1.

Left at 1.30 P.M. for Serapeum where 3rd Platoon did outpost work. Got nearly eaten by mosquitoes. Two or three shots were fired, and three prisoners taken. Left for camp again at 8 A.M. Cold day. Made cocoa in name - condensed milk got burnt on bottom and spoilt biz. All these days heavy firing and from guns has been heard. The Turks were shelling and gun boats and men-of-war answering.

February 2.

Standing by all day waiting for something to happen. 1st and 2nd Platoon still out. Rumours of wounded, and heavy fighting.

February 3.

Supplying fatigues and standing by. Very heavy firing from guns. Turks shelling trenches. Shrapnel bursting 100 yds. from 1 and 2 Platoons. Got first lot of shrapnel. Base kits arrived. Things looking very much like war - 3 batches of prisoners brought in and taken on to Cairo. Poor devils looked half starved and only half clothed. Many without boots, some wounded.

1st lot about 66

2nd " " 250

and a third batch about 9 P.M. Our fellows gave everyone a cigarette and oranges. Two battalions of Australians came down and bivouaked near us.

February 4.

Raining in night and very cold wind. Nothing much doing. Parade for musketry at 9 A.M. - left as guard over equipment. 2.30 P.M. Off to Serapeum (where the mosquitoes bite) for some time (uncertain.) One of the 12th was shot here yesterday. English blew up artillery blew up over a company of Turks here yesterday while in return they kept up a hot rifle and artillery fire putting one of our guns out of action and killing some of the crew. Estimated last night to be 30,000 Turks here. Great crowds of natives fleeing to Cairo. Scared of their lives for town is within range of Turkish guns. Supposed to have been 3,000 Turks killed.