

Colombo to Bombay.

IMAGINE the bitter dissapointment the troops received when they were informed that no leave would be granted at Colombo. The city authorities thought it advisable not to let the troops ashore on account of there previously being very serious riots between the Mohammedans and the Cingalese. In any case, time would not permit leave because we received orders to sail for Bombay the same evening at five o'clock. The Aparima also sailed at 2 p.m. for Madras. Great arguments have arisen as to whether these two ports will be the destination of the Fifth New Zealand Re-inforcements. At the time of the publication of this souvenir it is not definately known whether they will dis-embark at Bombay or go on to Egypt. The horses will certainly be put ashore on account of them not being required at the Dardanelles. The three ships which apparently left Wellington on June 13th for the same destination, are now in different parts of the world.

Nothing of any note happened on the way up to Bombay. After a very pleasant trip of four days we arrived there at noon on July 16th.

MEMORANDUM.

To be filled in by owner if troops do not dis-embark at Bombay.

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THE EUROPEAN WAR.

SOUVENIR

of Voyage on
TROOPSHIP No. 25. ex R.M.S. TAHITI.
LEAVING WELLINGTON ON JUNE 13th. 1915.

COMMANDER:

F. P. Evans, Lieut. R.N.R.

SHIPS OFFICERS

J. Plowman Chief Officer	D. McDonald 2nd Officer
A. L. Fraser 3rd Officer	W. F. McIntyre Chief Engineer
F. W. Errington Chief Steward	H. M. Lamb Wireless Operator

MILITARY OFFICERS

COMMANDING OFFICER

Captain D. J. Gibbs, 4th. Coy. N.Z. Engineers.

MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Major W. McAra, N.Z.M.C. Capt. K. E. Tapper, N.Z.M.C.
Captain Carlos Van Gomez, N.Z.V.C.

ADJUTANT.

Lieut. D. T. Wood, C.Y.C.

Captains: C. Sommerville, N.Z.G.A. A. E. Wilkinson, 3rd Ack. M.
J. Jenkins, 5th Otago M.R.

Lieutenants: A. S. Herbert, Otago M.R. R. L. Macfarlane, C.Y.C.
R. J. Milligan, N.Z.G.A. C. G. Haytor, 8th M.R. N. G. Grant, 9th M.
M. Reed, 3rd M.R. T. C. Hislop, 6th M.R. L. J. Ford, 12th Nelson K.
A. L. Gray, 13th Cant. & Westland Regt. P. Stevens, 2nd S. Cant. R.
W. M. Thom, Cant, District, S. G. Bowron, (Ships Q.M.) J. P. Hew.

EVENTS OF THE TRIP.

Our Departure.

MISERABLE weather prevailed when the 5th New Zealand Reinforcements left Wellington for the Front. Saturday June 13th saw the troops and horses embark on the three transports, Tahiti, Maunganui and Aparima. In spite of the downpour of rain, a huge crowd assembled on the wharf to cheer those who had nobly offered their services to their country. The ships anchored in the stream and sailed the next morning (Sunday) at 6.30. a.m. thus leaving the land that some might never see again. The Tahiti had on board 21 Officers, 750 men and 350 horses.

Wellington to Albany.

Boistrous weather was encountered outside and the troops began to feel the exhilarating effects of the Mighty Ocean. The weather continued to be very rough, and what with losing a few horses and half the troops sea sick (and not feeling quite as brave as they did when the ship left the wharf) the aspect looked none too cheerful. However after a few days the mens messroom began to fill up and everybody was beginning to make themselves quite at home.

On June 21st news was received from the Aparima of the death of Private J. J. Merrick, A.S.C. from Meningitis. He was given the usual military funeral and the ships were stopped during the burial service.

June 26th brought us to our first port of call, Albany. Unbounded pleasure received the announcement that general leave was given from 2 a.m. to 12 p.m. After the somewhat tiresome journey from N.Z. everybody was pleased to again be able to walk on Terra Firma.

Trooper (to his friends on the wharf) Yes we are going through the "Sewage Canal" and then to the "Jargonelles"

- ALBANY. -

A STRANGER entering the usually quiet little town of Albany on June 25th would most certainly have mistaken the place for a Military Base. Crowds of New Zealand troops were parading up and down the main streets and bombarding shops of every description, purchasing any article that might add to their comfort through the long journey they had to face. Their behavior whilst on leave gives great credit to the country they hailed from, and the Australians could not help but admire the friendly spirit they all possessed. We had the pleasure of having the band come aboard to entertain us during one part of the voyage.

Albany to Colombo.

On Tuesday morning the 29th June we left Albany for our next port which was Colombo. The following day the Maunganui received orders to proceed to Egypt at once therefore leaving the other two ships behind. A few days sailing brought us to the tropic of Capricorn which we entered on July 3rd at 11 a.m. The weather was now rather warm and the troops were removing their beds on to the deck or on top of the horse boxes. The band, which has done exceedingly well during the short time they have been formed, gave us several afternoon entertainments on the Poop deck. The concert element on board is painfully lacking seeing that no such functions have been held as yet. Perhaps the weather is too warm for the vocal talent to risk their voices in. Those of the pugilistic turn of mind have made a bit of a start by attempting to alter the design of each others faces, much to the amusement of the spectators.

The Equator was crossed on July 10th at 3 a.m. and several persons were known to feel the world-renowned bump.

Monday July 12th brings us to the much talked of town of Colombo after a very warm but most enjoyable trip from Albany. Various descriptions of this place were given by would be globe trotters and everybody was very keen to get ashore to judge for themselves.

Overheard at the Officers Mess: Waiter to Lieutenant who has just consumed a rather big dinner. "Dessert Sir" Lieut. "No fear, not when I can get a feed like this."