

The complete contents are detailed herewith including Codes for destinations and addresses of friends and relatives.

THE DIARY OF AMBROSE EDWARD BECKER

PAGE 1 : Friday 24th July Mick
Please return to
Mrs. P. Becker,
38 Lincoln Street.
Stanmore.
N.S. Wales.

Enlisted at
Victoria Barracks
on May 15th 1915.

Went into Camp
at Liverpool on
19 May 1915.

PAGE 2 : CODE
Egypt X
India B
England K
Dardenells L
France Y
Albany Z

Anybody finding
this Book
please send to
Mrs. Becker
38 Lincoln St
Stanmore
N.S. Wales. Sydney.

PAGE 3 : E.A. Carter Corp.
10 Reinforcements
4 Battalion
Liverpool

Miss Phillips
C/o Miss Notts
Confectioner
Melbourne.

PAGE 4 : Blank

PAGE 5 : Egypt $\frac{1}{8}$
India $\frac{1}{8}$
England $\frac{1}{8}$
Dardenells $\frac{1}{2}$
France $\frac{5}{8}$
Albany $\frac{3}{4}$

PAGE 6 : Private A.E. Becker
2nd Reinforcement
17 Battalion
Entermeadate
Base
Egypt
1865

PAGE 7 : 1915
Left Sydney July 28
Arrived in Melbourne 30
Left Melbourne 31
At Sea in the great Australian Bight
Weather very rough on Tuesday night was on duty as a M.P.
Was very disappointed at not calling in at Freemantle.
August 11 In the next page blank

Seventy five years on and when 54 Veterans are going to Gallipoli to celebrate consider it appropriate to preserve the Diary of Ambrose Edward Becker pencilled in a small notebook and carried with him at all times while away from Australia. Future Generations should know what these men did to preserve Freedom and should be very grateful to those 8,000 soldiers who gave their lives at Gallipoli.

Dairy of No. 1658

Private A.E. Becker
2 Reinforcement
17 Battallion
July 28.1915

Private Address
A.E. Becker
"Newenden"
38 Lincoln St.
Stanmore
Sydney
N.S. Wales

Dairy of Private A.E. Becker
2 Reinforcement
No. 1658 17 Battallion
Gallipoly

Left Sydney at 2.p.m. July 28.1915

A very enjoyable trip across. Arrived at Port Melbourne at 3.p.m. July 30.

We were all very disappointed at not getting leave in Melbourne. It caused a riot with the Guard, that were on duty guarding the Main Gates. Some of our men being badly injured through the Guard using the Bayonets. Through the trouble we left Melbourne rather unexpectedly we had to take 500 Melbourne men with us. But the Authorities fearing trouble on the way across very wisely left them behind. We left Melbourne on Sunday Morning 1.30 on July 31 had a very fair trip until we reached the Bight. Then we encountered very heavy weather. A heavy gale blew and a terrific sea washing over us carried away our wash places. Two of the seamen had broken legs and broken arms one of our men that were on Guard at the Aft part of the Ship had a narrow escape from being washed overboard a big wave through him up against the railing knocking him about a great deal.

It is now August the 8th

We are now in the Indian Ocean and the sea has gone down. We were again doomed to disappointment as we thought we might be calling in at Freemantle to have a look again at dear old Australia. But we sailed right ahead.

August 11th

We have now quite settled down to life on the ship.

We turn out at 6 p.m. and then if the weather is Permitting we go on deck and do some Physical Culture. At 9 p.m. the Bugle sounds lights out. When every man has got to be in their Hammocks.

I am a M.P. Military Policeman. Its a very easy job we dont do any drill. Our duties are to see that there is not smoking etc. and to keep order which is very easy the Lads amuse themselves of a night time playing all sorts of games.

August 12th

Weather very calm only rather Hot. We are now nearing the Tropices everything is going on alright

August 20

We will be crossing the line to Morrow and of course there are the usual arrangements for the crossing of Father Neptune. The old Ship's Bosun is arranging the Affair.

August 21
Saturday afternoon

We are crossing the line and have a Canvas Minature Bath rigged up on Deck. Father Neptune reads out the names of those that have to go through the ceremony. Then the Barber lathers the Patient with Paste and then he gets pushed in the water with a severe Ducking. We had a good afternoon. While I am writing this a Fly has just landed on my hand The first I have seen since we left Sydney.

August 23

We are about to enter the Red Sea in a Day or two and are about a week off our destination. There was a bit of excitement on Board a little while ago. As we have just passed a Steamer for the first time since leaving. And of course there was all sorts of speculation as to what she was But she was too far away for any of us to find out. But the crew says she was a Tramp steamer from India to Africa.

August 24

We have all sorts of sports on Board. Tug-of-War Potato Race Boxing. Etc. I entered for the Heavy Weight Competition and managed to fight a Draw in the final. For which we have to have another Fight to morrow night. It is getting rough again as we are now in the Monsoon Belt. Saw several Steamers pass by to Day there was a big Cruiser amongst them and we were all excitement wondering what nationality she was. But she must have been either a French or British Boat. We saw land for the first time since leaving West Australia. It was part of Africa. I think the land was Somalaland (Somoliland). We are now in the Gulf of Aden And expect to call in at Aden about Mid Night. Where they say we are to get our Mails taken off. Which will be very handy.

August 25

Passed the Lighthouse about 9.p.m. It is the Light for the Port of Aden. We were expecting to call in to deliver the Mails. But we were again disappointed. Passed several steamers through out the Day. Getting very hot.

August 26th

We are now in the Red Sea and just passing the straits they call Hells Gates. It is well named. There is also an Island near named Przel it is a British Garrison Stationed there. Its an awful hot place. We are going alongside the Arabian Coast and can just see in the distance a very big Town called Mokah. Its noted for the export of dates. Its a common occurrence now to pass three and four steamers a day. And two Warships. We have no drill now. The weather being too warm. Saw a very fine sight to Day a laight -house called Jazabel Teir one time belonging to Turkey.

27 August

Still in the Red Sea and the weather is very hot. we all sleep up on Deck now. Its impossible below we are about Three Days from landing.

August 28

We are getting it a bit cooler now. And the weather is very nice. We had the wind up of our Sports to night. The Boxing contests came off. I won the Heavy Weight Tournament. The man I had to meet forfeited. But I boxed a cove a 4 round spar.

August 29

Sunday on Board is just as busy as any other Day. We go to an early Mass but all the same we have to fall in at 10 O'clock for a general Parade. We passed a big Mail Boat to-night. It seemed to fly past us. Of course our boat only does

about 10 Knots. We also passed a light House in the Red Sea called the Deadless Light a light that stands alone in the middle of the Sea.

August 30

We expect to be in Egypt to-morrow. And we are having a Concert to-Night. We passed a big island to Day I think its named Gardin island. Its where they get the Parafin oil from there is not a blade of Grass or tree on it its very desolate.

August 31

We arrived at Port Suez at 1.30 this Morning its a very pretty place we cast anchor here. The natives came on Board and sold us papers. Its the first news we have had since leaving Australia. We have just got news that we are going ashore at 11.30 so we are all very pleased as soon as we got on shore. Its a very nice trip in the train from Suez to Cairo a distance of 130 Miles. There is a Canal runs the full length of the trip its a wonderful Country, And the natives still have the old ideas of years ago. We arrived at Cairo at 9.30. to night. And we marched out to the Camp a distance of about 1 Mile. And we were all dead beat and glad to turn into Bed. we slept in a Big long shed here all made of wood and very airy. Its all sand here and a very big Camp.

September 1st

Woke up after our first sleep in Egypt. We had no orders as what we had to do. so one by one we went into Cairo. A Beautiful City in some parts but one of the Dirtiest in the World. They have some Marvellous Buildings here. we were all round the place in Carriages. The place is too vast to put in writing. to morrow we start work to-morrow in real earnest.

September 2nd

We were up at 5 O'clock this morning. It is awfully hot. all of the chaps are out on a route March this Morning. And they feel it very much after taking things easy. I am on Picket Duty. We have just taken a prisoner from the Police station in Cairo to the Hospital in Abbaseah. A very big Hospital.

September 3rd

I have been off Duty with a bad toe. The Boys go on Parade at 5.30 and come back at 8.30 then we have breakfast at 9 O'clock. Had a look round the famous Hellilipilis the Hotel is taken by the Government I have only seen the outside as yet.

September 4

I got leave to Day and went all round Cairo. Took a trip out to see the famous Citadel. Its over a Hundred years old. Built in 1811. And took 35 years to Build. Its all Built of Marbel and Alabaster you have to pay a Guide to show you round and you wear sandals when you go in.

September 5

Again in Cairo have just heard that Joe Spencer is here in one of the Hospitals I am going out to see him when I get a chance. Am going out to the Pyramids to Morrow. Had a ride all round Cairo to Day in a Carriage.

September 6

Went out to see the Sphinx and Pyramids a most Wonderful sight. It was built 3000 years B.C. and has tombs and Catacombs that have not yet been discovered. we

went right through it. Its 500 Ft. High. We get plenty of Drill here we get up at 5 O'clock every Morning. And go out and Drill then we come back and have breakfast. which is very light. We have plenty of exercise here. We have no news as to when we are going to the front.

September 7

Drilling as usual although I dont do any Drill. Iam what they term a Mess Orderley we look after the Meals.

September 8

I go into Cairo nearly every night you never get tired of seeing the Sights.

September 9

We are going out to see the Zoo I believe its one of the best in the World.

September 10

We have got word to Day that we are leaving for the front to Morrow. We were all very much surprised at going so soon. As we thought we would be here for some time to come. So all the Boys are very excited and are having there last Day out in Cairo. They have a real good time too riding about on the Donkeys Etc.

September 11

We got up this Morning at 4.30 and got all our things together ready to leave we marched up to Station and left Cairo at 10 O'clock for Alexandria arrived at Alexandria at 3 O'clock. We had a look round the town and just got back in time to catch the Boat. We left here at 7.30 there are over 1000 troops on Board. And the ship is very much cramped up. We expect to be at Lemnos Island in a Day or so As we are in the danger Zone of the Submarines we have to be careful.

September 12 Sunday

We have not seen land since leaving we expect to be at Lemnos Island in a Day or so. This is one of the worst Boats you could travel on we are all cramped up like sardines.

September 13

Very little tucker on Board all the Boys are complaining about the food we have not had a decent Meal on Board. There is great excitement we are just in the Quarter where a transport was sunk about 10 Days ago so we have to be careful.

September 14

We are not very far off our landing place. But we are not certain if we will land right away. Had a very exciting time as were coming across last night every light we saw we were sure it was a submarine. We have been hovering about between islands all Day out of sight.

September 15

We arrived at Lemnos Island this Morning about 4.30. Its a very pretty place. Rented by the British off the Greeks. We are at present in the Harbour waiting orders. We think we are going to try and effect a new landing. We will be all very glad to get off this Boat. As we have not had a decent feed on Board. This place is full of Warships belonging to the Allies. The Mail Boat Aquatania one of the largest in the World is Anchored here we are staying here all Day, And expect to leave here

for the Front to Morrow. The weather here is lovely nice and cool.

September 16

This Morning is all excitement. We get Transhipped in Mine Sweepers to be taken to the Penninsular. All the Boys seem bright enough. We left here this Morning. And after a very fast trip across we reached the front at about 16.30. It was a real wonderful sight. To see all the shot and shell passing over. The sight of a life time. We were fired on by the Turks. It was not until about 2 in the morning that we landed safe. We came across inn barges and when we landed we marched to a place called Rest Valley. Where we - slept for the night amidst shot and shell going over us.

September 17

We came back to our Battallion to Day And we have been getting ready to go to the top of a hill called Quinns Post where we are making an attack. It will be our first time in Action we are just making this our Headquarters.

September 18

I went up in the trenches for the first time to night. I am working on the Aceteleyne Lamps. There are bullets flying around us all night. Its a nerve racking job in the trenches. I am in a dug out all the time.

September 19

This is a quiet Day the turks seem to have a little respect for us to Day. I had a narrow escape from a bomb this morning. I just got away in time.

September 20

We had a heavy fire across us to-Day the turks fire is very severe. But we managed to give them a good return. The turks snipers pick off our men now and again.

September 21

We are holding Quinns Post. Its one of most Particular points in the Place. The Turks throw Bombs over in our trenches but they take little effect.

Wed September 22

Things were very quiet to Day. but we are expecting some heavy work soon.

September 23

Had some Artillery over us to Day. One of our coves got badly blown with a Bomb. Its the first accident with our lot.

Sept 24

We are getting ready for a charge shortly although things are very quiet now.

Sat Sepp 25

We had a very lively time last night there was a Bombardment by our Artillery. They did a lot of Damage to the Enemy.

Sun.26

Went to Mass this Morning. There was a good roll up of men coming from all round the Penninsular. Things have been very busy here.

Mon. 27

We are going back in the firing line to Morrow and we expect to have a lively time.

Tue 28

I have ~~just~~ been put on to a job as a Bomb thrower a job you have to be very careful as you can very easily get injured.

Wed 29

A very lively night we kept them going all night throwing Bombs we have some narrow escapes from Bombs.

Thur 30

Still throwing Bombs and keeping them awake.

October 1

Had a very busy night bombing the turks, They threw us over cigarettes and Tobacco. And we sent some Bully Beef to them.

Oct 2

Things very quiet we are taking our turn in the Trenches throwing Bombs.

Oct 3

We have one or two casualties every day the Mail came in to Day.

Oct 4

This is Eight Hour Day in Sydney. We were on all night. And were enjoying a sleep when the Turks started a severe Fire we very near got smothered in the Trenches But luckily I got out of it alright had a very narrow escape from a shell.

Oct 5

We left the Trenches to go down to Rest Valley for a week or so. After doing a week day and night we can do with a spell.

Oct 6

In Rest Valley We got a shock to Day as we thought we were going to get rain and we have no cover.

Oct 7

Things very quiet all Day but a bit of a rally in the night.

Oct 8

Things are very quiet there is something coming off soon.

Oct 9

It rained to night for the first time. And we were in an awful fix the rain and wind carried away our Blankets and we put in a rotten time.

Oct 10

We are doing some heavy work sapping. There was some heavy Bombarding by the Artillery. We got told off to Day as a Guard for the Money. We are getting some money to Morrow.

Oct 11

We got paid to Day for the first time since leaving Gallipoli a lot of our men are sent away through being ill.

Tue Oct 12

We are back again in the Trenches after a week's spell in the Gulleys. I am having a spell off Bomb Throwing.

Wednesday 13

My Birthday aged 30 having a rather novel Birthday in the Trenches. But this last day or so things have been very quiet. We get a day off now and again went down to the Beach to try and buy some Chocolates but the Canteen is not yet opened.

Oct 14

There is a big demonstration coming off soon. So things are very quiet just now. the New Zealanders are doing good work here.

Oct 15

Had a bit of flare up last night But there was not much damage done where we were where. Although there was any amount of row all the fighting was on the left.

Oct 16

This is the Turks Christmas Day and they are very quiet so far but they have a new gun they are doing some damage with they only got twelve of our men and then our Artillery smashed them up

Oct 17

Sunday went to Mass and met Tim Lawler there had a good old chat with he was better we are expecting a big charge any time now.

Oct 18

Started to rain last night. But not severe it was pretty rotten in the trenches have a rotten cold. Most of our Company have dysentery and have gone away.

Oct 19

Had a rather novel time to Day. We seemed to have a Mutual understanding to have a look over the trench which we did also the Turks and we had an exchange of Tobacco and Cigarettes. They had there heads and shoulders over the Parapet but neither of us fired a shot. It lasted for about an Hour. Have to go back in the Bomb Trench To Night.

Oct 20

Had a day off went down to the Beach. And had a real good feed of Sardines and Tomatoes. It was a real treat after what we have been used to.

Oct 21

Very cold in the Trenches its starting to get nasty weather.

Oct 22

The Turks were very troublesome last night they almost came across in our trench but we bombed them out.

Oct 23

We heard this Morning that the Narrows had been forced there was great rejoicing but we are not certain yet.

Oct 24

We are expecting to be moved away from here any time now round to the left.

Oct 25

We move off Quinns Post to Morrow.

Oct 26

Have to stay back on the Post and throw Bombs.

Oct 27

Very cold of a night time we are expecting a very severe winter.

Oct 28

Some of our Mates had an accident with the Bombs we have lost a fair number of our reinforcements.

Oct 29

Heavy Artillery duel it must have killed a great number. have got the same old cold I had when I landed.

Oct 30

Getting windy weather here and Blizzards things still very quiet.

Oct 31

Not feeling too good with this cold but don't want to let it get me down.

November 1st

Things are still unchanged had a heavy gale this washed away our jetty.

Nov 2

We are starting to do a lot of fighting and have taken a lot of Trenches.

Nov 3-4-5-6-7

Situation much the same nothing doing.

Nov 8-9-10-11

The War-Ships are Bombarding the Narrows. Most of our men have gone away sick. Tho was here has settled down to Bomb Duels.

November

Nov 12 13 14 15

We have been having a lively time lately with the Bombs. they have caught a lot of our fellows

16 17 18 19

Its the coldest we have had it for some time the Wind washed away our Wharf. so we have to go without Bread for some time. Plenty of Bombs.

20 21 22 23 24 25

The hardest part about here is the Weather. Our feet get terribly I dont know how the Turks stand the cold We have been keeping very quiet lately. The Turks cant make it out some of them made a rush across on the 25th but they done no good we dont like the Idea of a Winter Campaign it will be bad for both sides. I think the winter here is going to be severe. but we hope to get away before the worst comes.

26 27

We have been keeping very quiet and letting the Turks do all the firing and Bombing and we have to let them do it all and not retaliate we are wishing it would be over and we can get our own back.

28 29 30 Nov

We have got over the three Days of waiting for the Turks to charge and this Morning they started to come across thinking that we had left the place but they got a bit scared and turned back. We shot a few of them.

December 1 2 3

Started to snow and had three Days of it the cold was awful some of the chaps felt it very much. I think that my feet are frost bitten they are very sore.

4 5 6

I think we have an average of 20 men go away from our Battallion a week it is leaving us very short and we have just got about enough men to hold our Post.

7 8 9

We had 50 of the 3rd Reinforcements arrive here. we can do with them all as the rate the men are going away. Its a strange thing our Reinforcements have suffered more than all the Battallion there are not many of us left now.

A short time later a Bomb ended the period of service in Gallipoli for Private A.E. Becker. A Turkish bomb landed at his feet whilst he was Bomb throwing. He was able to dispose of his Bomb but in moving the Turkish Bomb it exploded. He lost his right arm and was mutilated down the right side of body and legs. He fortunately survived, was sent to Heliopolis Hospital and left there for Australia on 19 January 1916.

Ambrose E Becker overcame his war wounds and lived a full happy life. Passed away 7th August 1962 aged 76 years.