

WILLIAM THOMAS BERTOTTO
BORN 2 - 8 - 1874 DIED 24 - 4 - 1946

DIARY OF
WILLIAM THOMAS BERTOTTO
KEPT DURING HIS SERVICE WITH
THE VICTORIAN CONTINGENT
IN THE WAR WITH CHINA
(BOXER REBELLION)
1900 - 1901.

COURTESY - DENNIS BERTOTTO.

Part of the Bertotto Family History,
Prepared by Shirley M. Joy,
10 Abbott Street,
Sandringham. 3191.
May, 2000.

Log of S.S. "Talamis" Transport No. 105
 Melbourne towards Taku
 North China

Wednesday	August 1 st 1900	00
Embarked Victorian Naval Contingent at Port Melbourne 5 pm, hauled to outer anchorage 5:30; hove up & got under way 7:30 anchored off Dromana 10:15 ~ 200 Officers P.O.'s & men		
Thursday	August 2 nd	00
Got under way at daylight; cleared Port Phillip Heads & dropped pilot 8:30 am Passed Wilsons Prom entry 5:30 pm Clifty Is 7:15 pm Course E by N		
Friday	August 3 rd	00
Passed Tabor Is 3:30 am 30 hands employed shifting gear to no. 2 hatch		
Saturday	August 4 th	00
Passed Montague Is 4:15 pm issue of pipes tobacco &c		
Sunday	August 5 th	00
Entered Port Jackson 6:15 am arrived		

at Sydney 8:0 am Church Parade 10:30

Monday August 6th 00

Shipped to Woolloomooloo and took in all gear for New South Wales Contingent

Tuesday August 7th 00

Embarked New South Wales Contingent (250 officers petty officers & men) & hauled out to Farm Cove

Wednesday August 8th 00

Got under way 4:30 pm 5:00 pm wind shifted to S.W. hard breeze looking dirty: Cleared Heads 6:00 pm

Thursday August 9th 00

Passed Smyth Cape 3:30 pm second issue of tobacco

Friday August 10th 00

Lat 26° 31' S. Long 155° 14' E

Distance from Sydney 480 m

" " Melbourne 1062 m

274

Saturday August 11th 00

All hands exercise Boat Stations cigars issued
Fore topsails, 2 to gallant, 7 & topsail set 2:30 pm

Lat 21° 50' S Long 156° 43' E Course N ½ W 29

Sunday August 12th 00

All sail set inspection of hands: 10 am

Church: 10:30 am Wind S.E. fine

Lat 16° 59' S Long 156° 15' E Course N by W 29

Monday August 13th 00

All sail set spread awnings; passed Louisiade
Island 6:00 pm (sunset) Wind S.E. Course N by W

Lat (at noon) 12° 30' S Long 154° 43' E 28

Tuesday August 14th 00

Wind S.E. all sail set instruction in ambulance
work all fore noon; after-noon instruction in ammunition

Wind S.E. Cloudy, fine Solomon Islands abeam
at midnight Course N by W

Lat (at noon) 4° 44' S Long 153° 53' 0' E 29

Distance at noon from Hong-Hong 2961 m

Wednesday August 15th 00

Taking in all sail 6:00 am Passed St Johns Is at daylight; passed native canoe fully manned with apparently whites among them waving vigorously 9:00 am Passed wreck of large canoe floating bottom 10:30 sighted New Ireland at 1:00 pm heavy rain all forenoon wind light variable Passed Topsail schooner apparently bound to New Ireland 2:30 pm

Lat (at noon) 3° 19' 0" S Long 152° 43' 0" E

Course N.W. at 1:30 pm Wind S.W.

290

Cleared New Ireland 6:30 pm wind various very hot

Distance from Hong-Kong at noon 2671 miles

Thursday August 16th 00

With daylight heavy rain & wind squalls; passed wreck of large canoe 9:30 am

Neptune's Barnard's Day

Lat (at noon) 0° 43' 0" S Long 149° 06' 0" E

278

Wind various Course N.W. by N.W.

Distance to Hong-Kong 2,393 mi

Crossed the Equator at 3:00 pm in Long

140° 0' 0" E

Days
run

Days
run

Friday August 17th 00

Wind light variable weather very hot: Concert on main decks open to all hands.

Passed spar like schooners lowermast or ships topmast at 4:15 pm later passed through considerable quantity of wreckage Wind various.

Lat (at noon) 2° 4' 0" N Long 145° 5' 0" E

Dog watch calm and very hot Course N.W. by N. N.W.

Distance from Hong-Kong at noon 2,100 miles

290

Saturday August 18th 00

Picked up S W monsoon 10.00 am breeze freshening all afternoon; looking bad N.W. 6.00 pm thick squally & heavy rain, third issue of tobacco at noon

Lat (at noon) 4° 38' 0" N Long 141° 23' 0" E

Wind S W squally at 8.00 pm

Course N.W. by N. N.W.

Distance from Hong-Kong at noon 182 1/2 miles

278

Sunday August 19th 00

Weather Cloudy fine Captains inspection 10:30 am

Church at 11:00 am Pelew Island abeam at noon

Sunday August 19th 00

Lat (at noon) $6^{\circ}48'0''$ N Long $137^{\circ}29'0''$ E

Wind S.W. monsoon Course N.W. by N. $\frac{1}{2}$ N.

Distance from Hong-Kong at noon 1563 266

Monday August 20th 00

Turn out scrub & repair all hammocks of Str Watch
new bayonet issued Topsails & Fo-gallant sails
set 11:30 a.m.

Lat (at noon) $10^{\circ}2'0''$ N Long $134^{\circ}29'0''$ E 271

Wind S.W. monsoon moderate gale 4 bells dog watch
took in Topsails & Fo-gallant sails wind freshening
Course N.W. by N. $\frac{1}{2}$ N.

Distance from Hong-Kong at noon 1292 m

Tuesday August 21st 00

Set fore topsail, trysail, & jib 6 a.m., moderate
gale, afternoon exercise signals.

Lat (at noon) $13^{\circ}6'0''$ N Long $131^{\circ}6'0''$ E

Distance from Hong-Kong at noon 1022 m 270

Days
Run

Days
Run

Tuesday

August 20th

00

Wind W.S.W. Course N.W. by N. by N.
Log-watch took in all sail; Wind dying

270

66

Wednesday

August 21st

00

6.00 am Weather thick moderate gale; Forenoon, water-
proof sheets, pocket filters, identification cards, and first
-aid dressing, issued to W.N.C. Afternoon first
aid, and ambulance instruction

Lat (at noon) 15° 15' 0" N. Long 127° 11' 0" E

Wind W.N.W. Course N.W. by N.

Distance from Hong-Kong at noon 759 m

263

271

Thursday

August 22nd

00

Forenoon hard gale moderating at noon; Set topsails
topsails & to' gallantsail 1:00 pm; Took in all sail 2:30 pm
Wind W.S.W. Course N. by W.

Lat (at noon) 17° 01' 0" N Long 123° 10' 0" E

9:15 pm blowing stiff, with electric squalls S.W. by N.W.

250

270

Thursday

August 23rd

00

Took cast of D.S. lead at 9:30 am no bottom at 105 fathoms; Dead slow all night

Distance from Hong-Kong at noon 609 m

250

Friday

August 24th

00

Full speed at 4:45 am 6:15 am sighted Luzon Philippine I. passed lighthouse 8:30 am; mustered in heavy marching order, 9:30 am; Run into N.W. breeze 4:15 pm, Cleared Luzon 5:00 pm looking thick
Lat (at noon) $18^{\circ} 44' 0''$ N Long $121^{\circ} 26' 0''$ E

Wind W.N.W. Course N.W. by N.

Distance from Hong-Kong at noon 450

Dog watch Wind W.S.W. Course N.W. by N. by N.

207

Saturday

August 25th

00

Forenoon Wind light variable; very hot; Clear ship

Lat (at noon) $20^{\circ} 51' 0''$ N Long $117^{\circ} 45' 0''$ E

Distance from Hong-Kong at noon 210 m

245

Saturday

August 25th

00

Wind E.N.E. light. Course N.W. by N.
Fog watch wind & weather the same

Sunday

August 26th

10

6:30 am wind light E.N.E. sighted land on Port bow 6:45
arrived off Victoria (Hong-Kong) 9:30 am wrote letter home
Distance from noon 25th 248

Monday

August 27th

00

Shifted up to abreast of Merry Pier; Liberty for Star-
board watch; liberty men returned 10:30 am
Wind light variable, very hot.

Tuesday

August 28th

00

V.N.C. and N.S.W.N.C. taken in charge of Capt
Jillispie; Five German warships arrived at 11:30 am
Paid port watch one month's pay

Wednesday

August 29th

00

Starboard watch paid one months pay; Liberty for starboard watch.

Thursday

August 30th

00

Morning employed taking in 12rd field guns: 4 Maxims; limbers, ammunition, & rifles
Afternoon, re-armed with Lee-Enfield marks II* rifles; made ready for sea

Friday

August 31st

00

Left for Wu-Sung 10:30 AM; Cleared channel at noon; Wind N.E. by E. light; Course N.E. by N.

Saturday

September 1st

1900

Passed steamer bound S. 8 AM; Steamer S. 11:30 AM
Sighted Pescadores Is at noon; Steamer S. 2:30 PM
German warship S. 8:30 PM; Cleared. Pescadores Is
9:15 PM

269

Sunday

September 2nd

00

Passed steamer S 7.0 am Steamer S 11:30 am weather clear, very hot distance from Wu-Sung at noon 292 passed lighthouse 4:0 pm Wind light variable

Monday

September 3rd

00

Picked up pilot 5:30 am; passed "Jung-Sha" lightship 7:0 am passed "Hiu-Toan" lightship 7:35 am; Anchored off Wu-Sung 9:30 am; Captains go up to Shanghai for orders, returned 7:30 pm; Orders: Proceed to Taku: Weather fine Clear; Wind variable

Tuesday

September 4th

00

Inspection by Captain Clarke. S.B.N.C. in the forenoon; Afternoon rain cleared off, stiff breeze sprang up from N.E., no pilot available till morning

Wednesday

September 5th

00

Three German warships arrived from Hong-Kong 10:30 am
pilot aboard 10:45 am; Left Wu-Sung 11:0 am, anchored in-
side bar waiting tide 11.45; got under way 5.15 pm
cleared Yang-Tse-Kiang 7.0 am, dropped pilot 8.0 am
passed vessel showing search-light 9.0 am Course E. 1/2 N.

Thursday

September 6th

00

Wind fresh S.W. passed steamer with two masted
vessel in tow at noon bound N. Steamer B at
6.0 am Course N by E Wind S.S.W. fresh

Friday

September 7th

00

Sighted Shang-Tung Promontory at daylight; anchored
in Wei-Hai-Wei 9.0 am. Cruisers "Terrible" & "Dido" laying
in harbour; Transports "Antillion" & "City of Cambridge"
arrived from Taku 1.00 pm Liberty men returned
6.00 pm Weather fine, clear Wind variable

Saturday

September 8th

00

Got under way 6:0 am, cleared Wei-Hai-Wei 7:30 am
passed B. F. Co's Transport 9:0 am bound S. steamer
with two masted vessel in tow bound N. at 1:30 pm
French cruiser bound N. 2:00 pm. passed Chee-Poo 6:15 pm.
Mustered in heavy marching order; one days field rations served out
Course W by N. Wind W.S.W light

Sunday

September 9th

00

Arrived off Taku at mouth of Pei-Ho river, and
anchored 7:0 am distance one and half cables n.n.e from
H.M.S. "Barfleur". Shifted to outer anchorage 10:0 am
2 cables from Hospital ship "Carthage" Visitors from
U.S.S. "Brooklyn" 2:0 pm wrote letters home

Monday

September 10th

00

H.M.S. "Hido" arrived from Wei-Hai-Wei 6:0 am Comd's
goes to Taku for orders, returned, 5:0 pm
Weather fine clear Wind various

Tuesday

September 11th

00

Transport "Formosa" arrived with 34th Madras Pioneers from Shanghai. Admaril inspected and said we would land and proceed to Tien-Tsin in two days. M.S.S. Transport arrived 6:00 pm. Weather fine. Wind S.E.

Wednesday

September 12th

00

1

Race between N.S.W. & "Dido" whalers two miles easy win for N.S.W. boat. Russian cruiser arrived 2:00 pm. Weather fine. Wind various, no orders.

Thursday

September 13th

00

Orders to leave for Tien-Tsin to-morrow at 5:30 am. Weather fine, clear. Wind various; Liberty men leave for concert on board H.M.S. "Barfleur" 7:30 am. Disembarkation postponed till Sat 15th.

Friday

September 14th

00

Friday

September 14th

00

Inspection by Rear-Admiral at 11.30 am. Italian
Transport sailed for the South 4.0 pm. Japanese cruiser
for port unknown 4.30 pm. Lighter "Taku" alongside 5.30 pm.
Transferred all stores & baggage into her by 8.30 pm

Saturday 15th

September.

00

Turn out 4:0 am Breakfast 6:0 am. Res. Transferred.
to "Taku" 7:50 Started for Tien-Tsin 7:45 am
With all hands of V. N. C. & N. S. W. N. C. on board

W. J. Beutotte A.B.

No 49 V. N. C.

China 15th Sept 1900

Personal Log of W. J. Bertotto. R.B.

No. 49. Victorian Naval Contingent

Saturday

September 15th

1900

Left Transport "Salamis" off Takoo at 7:45 am
passed Takoo Forts 9:15 am, started up Pi-Ho river
landed at Hsin-Ho 10:15 am for orders

Proceeded up river 12:0 noon in tow of tug "Heron"
anchored in mid-stream 7:0 am. Mosquitoes and other
insects very troublesome

Sunday

September 16th

00

Drove up and proceeded up river 5:0 am Great number
of corpses of all ages and sizes floating down the
river; smell sometimes unbearable; Arrived at
Hsin-Hsin 1:0 pm. Disembarked all hands except
about 12 hands including self 1:30 pm, these marched
out to camp; remainder, getting stores and gear out
of lighter, packed on mules and sent to camps

Sunday

September 16th

00

continued -

Finished getting gear out 5:30 am and started for camp; arrived in camp 6:30 am to find tents pitched; so we had tea & smoke & being tired turned in, to sleep as well as insects and land-crabs would allow

Monday

September 17th

00

Parties out foraging for water, vegetables, or anything useful; Field guns and ammunition arrived from Hien-Tsin; very heavy thunderstorms with rain all afternoon; which cleared off in the evening

Tuesday

September 18th

00

All hands turn out 5:0 am down to the canal to swim, which was not very enjoyable as the water was very dirty and evil smelling; showering till breakfast. Inspection by Senior Military Officer at 10:30 am: Stand easy all afternoon

Wednesday

September 19th

00

Forenoon same routine as yesterday; weather very hot
Messenger arrived in camp, from Headquarters with orders
to march at once to Pei-Tang Forts 1:30 p.m.

Hands sent out to bring in foraging parties; remainder
prepare for the march; except those Officers and
men who being unfit for a hard march, were told
off to remain behind as camp party; Assembly; amm-
unition served out (200 rounds per man); - Left camp
4:45 p.m. :- Arrived in Tien-Tsin and waiting for
lighter to get down the river; as country was said
to be very wet & marshy; so water transport deemed
quickest and safest; About 9:30 p.m. some of our men
who had been out foraging; and not returned when
we left camp, joined us after a great amount of
trouble with the German Guards; Embarked in
lighter 10:30 p.m. started down river Pei-Ho 11:00 p.m.
men and mules all huddled together, with no room
to sit or lay down; Rations served out (3 biscuits
and 2 ounces of tinned meat per man) 11:30 p.m.
Weather looking bad with vivid lightning

Thursday

September 20th

00

Heavy thunderstorms with drenching rain, started about 2:0 am and continued till daylight; Lighter took ground about 3:30 am; also another lighter loaded with Italian troops at a point between Tong-Shu and Hsin-Ho, so all hands from both lighters ^{landed} at 5:30 am and after a very light breakfast consisting of biscuit and tinned meat started for Pei-Tang Forts 6:0 am. The day opened very hot, and about 10:0 am men all along the line began to ~~feel~~ feel the effects of the heat, and a good many lay down, unable to proceed further; marching one hour with ten minutes halt each stage, till in sight of the Forts, and seeing that fighting was going on, we kept on until passing the Russian ^{6:0 pm} lines got a message saying that the Forts were taken at 5:0 pm so we camped for the night; search parties went back along rout of march to bring in stragglers; all in camp by midnight; some arrived on mules; some in doolies, and others on foot; water here very dead; no wood and only a little grass with which to boil water.

Friday

September 21st

00

Started on return march to Tien-Tsin 7:0 am. Weather again very hot, and men suffer greatly from heat and sore feet. Arrived at Ching-Lang-Chang railway station at 11:0 am. Sent men back by train who were unable for the march; and continued the return march till 2:30 pm, when we arrived at Hsin-Ho where we camped for the night; here we met again the Italian troops who started from Tien-Tsin with us; also some companies of Cossacks; rations and rum served out 4:0 pm, so then we had tea, then a swim in the river, and turned in to get as much sleep as the mosquitoes would allow us; having only the sky above us we were soon wet to the skin with the heavy dew but I for one slept soundly till morning. Half battalion of Afridis arrived in camp before midnight.

Saturday

September 22nd

00

Turned out at 4:0 am, made breakfast off yesterday's rations which was very scanty; broke camp 6:0 am and continued the return march; weather still very hot, and

Saturday

September 22nd

00

continued water very bad, the worst that we have met so far; a thick green scum on top, and smell very high could not drink much of it; Arrived outside Eastern Gate of Tien-Tsin 10:35 am, halt till 11:30 am, passed through Eastern Gate into the City through the City to the Pao-Shan or Western Gate (which was held by Japanese Artillery) out to our original camp where *noon* we arrived at 1:30 pm Stand off all afternoon. I got attack of fever during night

Sunday

September 23rd

00

Camp routine: mustered for inspection at 10:30 am
Dismissed at 11:30 am Stand off all afternoon

Monday

September 24th

00

Party of us go to Tien-Tsin, and stow away all spare gear in "Barfleur Barracks". while looking through some ruins, we found large quantities

Monday

September 24th

00

contin

of Russian compressed tea, which we commandeered
Returned to camp 3:0 pm, stand off for remainder of day

Tuesday

September 25th

00

Guard of Honour goes to Tien-Tsin; usual camp routine
Weather fine, and warm

Wednesday

September 26th

00

Guard of Honour goes to Tien-Tsin again, also 20 men
for Police Duty in Tien-Tsin. Weather squally.

Thursday

September 27th

00

Guard of Honour goes to Tien-Tsin at 7:0 am and
returned at 12:30 pm 50 extra blankets issued
usual camp routine. Weather cool and
showery; scrub and wash clothes

Friday

September 28th

00

Usual routine till 9:30 am, go scouting about 5 miles to the West, "no signs" returned to camp 11:45 am. Three and half hours leave, some of us go to Tien-Tsin and enjoy a square meal returned to camp 5:0 pm routine

Saturday

September 29th

00

Reliefs sent for Police in Tien-Tsin. Paid \$21 one months pay less about 25 cents

Sunday

September 30th

00

Go out with party and loot a couple of farms and get sufficient vegetables for all hands for a day went out at 9:0 am returned to camp 11:0 am mustered for inspection 11:30 am; leave for starboard watch till 5:00 pm; party of us visit ruins of West Arsenal which was blown up in August; great quantities of machinery, arms, and all classes of shell

Sunday

September 30th

00

cont in all stages of manufacture, lying about in all directions
A large bronze bell eight feet high, by seven feet diameter
and about six to eight inches thick, covered over the whole
surface with Chinese characters and figures about half inch long
on one side in Roman figures 1878 Anno Domini supposed
to be the date of casting; I take four small shells, at
curios returned to camp 4:45 p.m.

Monday

October 1st

00

Inspection by General Casslee 8:30 a.m. I go with
party to Tien-Tsin to weigh and pack mule loads
at 9:30 a.m. returned to camp at noon; leave for
men not on leave yesterday: Weather fine & cool

Tuesday

October 2nd

00

I go to Tien-Tsin with party for water returned
to camp 11:45 a.m. Party out route marching
returned to camp 2:10 p.m.

Wednesday

October 3rd

00

Parties out skirmishing all day. Camp partly wash, make and mend clothes; weather fine

Thursday

October 4th

00

Battalion drill all forenoon; Defaulters up at 11:30 am. one sentenced to ninety (90) days in Hong-Kong gaol; six (6) men told off to join Pom-Pom Battery; weather close, overcast

Friday

October 5th

00

Usual camp routine forenoon; orders to prepare to march out came in from headquarters at 1.0 pm extra ammunition served out 100 rounds at 5.0 pm no further orders at 9.0 pm turn in

Saturday

October 6th

00

Turn to at 8:0 am. Take two maxim machine guns to

boat

Saturday

October 6th

00

Tien-Tsin and quantity of ammunition and other gear, with which we loaded seven junks ready to proceed up the river; returned to camp at noon; on arrival we heard of the death of Rodgers, N.S.W. marine which occurred at 6:0 am; Rodgers buried at 4:0 pm

Sunday

October 7th

00

Mustered for Inspection at 10:0 am. Review and march past at 11:30 am returned to camp at noon; Went to Tien-Tsin with rations for men on guard on the junks 1:00 returned to camp at 5 pm. Weather looking dirty

Monday

October 8th

00

Twenty nine (29) men (Victorians) sent to Tien-Tsin to relieve N.S.W. men on patrol duty at 9:0 am, very heavy rain all forenoon; N.S.W. men who having been relieved, arrived in camp 4:30 pm Still raining heavily 6:0 pm Weather cleared little 9:30 am

Tuesday

October 9th

00

Broke camp 7:30 am. got all guns and camp gear to Tien-
Tsui by 1:30 pm. after yesterdays rain the road is very
bad each gun (12 lbs) taking twenty-five men to drag her,
mud over axle-trees in places. Escort for burial of
Capt Bruce of 1st Madras Pioneers at 4:0 pm

Wednesday

October 10th

00

Working all day getting maxims and 12 lbs guns aboard
the junks: a large fleet of junks got ready for trans-
port of ammunition and stores up the river towards
Pao-King-Fu. N.S.W. Contingent left at 7: am for Peking
Nine men of N.S.W. N.C. who had been left behind on
account of sickness, arrived at our quarters scarcely able
to crawl. they were left behind with-out anyone to
attend to them and without food; but we soon
fixed them up as well as our resources would admit
for we were not over flush of rations

I have another attack of fever, which is more
severe than the last. I am not used to the fever yet

Thursday

October 11th

00

Inspection by General Lorne Campbell at 10:30 am
remainder of day packing & strapping gear not required on
the march, orders to march out at 7:30 tomorrow morning

Friday

October 12th

00

Turn out at 6:30 am had breakfast; Boys & Gibbs taken
to Base Hospital, suffering from fever 6:30 am
Marched out at 7:0 am. met column about two
miles outside Tien-Tsin consisting of one battery of
R.H.A. with 15 lbs; one battery of Pom Poms, Madras
Pioneers, Madras Sappers & Miners, 31st Madras
Light Infantry; four squadrons of Bengal Cavalry,
six squadrons of Bombay Lancers, making in all
about 7,500 men in the fighting line; and
about 1,000 camp followers and muleteers,
Formed up with Artillery and Cavalry leading
followed by the W.R.C; and Indian Troops, and
Bombay Lancers, as advance and rear guards,
marched off at 9:30 am. Halt for few minutes at

cont Friday

October 12th

00

noon, marched again till 2:00 pm when we had arrived outside village of Kang-Lang-Sheng; camped for night went foraging for wood & water till dusk, had a light supper, posted sentries, and turned in with the sky for a roof. slept like a mole till daylight

Saturday

October 13th

00

Turned out at 5:30 am had breakfast, 7:0 am packed the mules and marched out from Kang-Lang-Sheng at 9:0 am, halted for twenty minutes about 10:0 am Arrived at Tu-Liu shortly after noon camped for the night. killed a cow and had fresh beef for supper, went down to the river and met the junk coming up so we got bread, and tents back to camp again pitched our tents and turned in at 9:00 pm

Sunday

October 14th

00

Struck camp at 8:45 am raining hard and very

cont

Sunday

October 14th

00

cold: roads very heavy; halted for few minutes at 10:15 and 12:00pm. Arrived at Wang-Cha-Hiu 2:00pm and camped for night.

Monday

October 15th

00

Turned out at 6:00 am. Breakfast 7:30, struck camp at 8:00. made halts of about ten minutes every hour till our arrival at Wen-An 5:30. This the largest city that we have met so far; its walls are about fifty or sixty feet from the base to parapet, and in very good order, we get wind that some of the "Boxers" are inside so preparations are made for entry in the morning: having had a long march to-day all hands are glad to turn in.

Tuesday

October 16th

00

Captain and General's with a strong body-guard enter the City at 8:30 am; having passed through without opposition, or getting any prisoners, returned at 11:30 am.

cont

Tuesday

October 16th

00

Struck camp at noon, and made a good pace till 3:30, when we arrived at Wo-Yang-Tu. some of us go into the Town on the look out for things eatable, and have a fair amount of success, in fowls, eggs, and maize-meal, so when we returned to camp; we made a good meal of eggs and poultry, and cakes which we made from the maize-meal; the best meal since landing in China

Wednesday

October 17th

00

Turn out at 5:30 am broke camp 8:00 am halted twice for about ten minutes, and arrived at Kou-Tu 3:00 pm This a very old city, the walls of it, being nearly circular, and judging from the state them, they must of been built about the time that the "Ark" standed. In some places large trees apparently a hundred years old were growing out of them, and it is not likely that they were allowed to take root while the walls were new. Here in a Temple which stood between the walls and the

cont

Wednesday

October 17th

00

City, (which are about a mile apart). ten "Boxers" were captured, with two field guns and a quantity of ammunition, by the R.H.A. While foraging about in the City in the hope of picking up something for supper we came into a large house, to all appearances, a bank where we found ten or twelve large stone ^{jars} each four feet high, by two feet wide, filled with brass and copper cash, we emptied some of them hoping to find some silver coin, but we were disappointed. The large quantity of cash was no use to us so we left it behind us. Next thing we found was a fair sized room, more than half full of boxes of gold-leaf, but these being too bulky to carry we had to leave them also; we found some maize-meal and millet, and three fowls so we returned to camp and made a meal off them and turned in; the prisoners were shot at sunset

Thursday

October 18th

00

Turned out had a little breakfast and marched

cont Thursday October 18th 00
out from Row-Tiu at 8:0 am. and with a good level
country we made Row-Shi-Shien at 1:0 pm. This
was a very bad place for food everything seemed to be
very scarce; but we managed to get three ducks and
some pigeons to keep us going till morning

Friday October 19th 00

Turn out usual time left Ren-Shi-Shien at 8:0 am
arrived Khou-Yang-Shien at 2:30 pm. Marched through
the City and came into camp about a mile outside
the Western Wall. The natives here brought us plenty
of food-stuffs fowls, eggs, maize meal, and cakes made of
millet, so there was no need to go foraging we
made a good meal and turned in

Saturday October 20th 00

Turn out and break up camp at the usual time; and
left Khou-Yang-Shien at 8:0 am. Weather very cold.
and raining hard all day; rations very low only two

cont

Saturday

October 20th

00

2 jupatees (cakes made of Indian corn flour and baked on ashes), per man raved out to day; Arrived at village of Slik-Pha-Chow at 1:30 pm; as it was still raining hard, we occupied the village (Ten men one house) we soon had good fires going to dry ourselves and cook by; There being plenty of fowls and eggs in the house which my tentmates and I had taken for the night, we had a good supper, after which we cooked sufficient to do us for tomorrow meanwhile the native owner of the house, having first removed his family to some place of safety, busied himself getting fire-wood for us, and getting children's clothes stowed away in case we should take a fancy to them, but I for one preferred his poultry and eggs. And before we turned in we gave him a good meal and then he went to sleep on the roof the rain having ceased he slept till we called him at daylight next morning.

Sunday

October 21st

00

over

Sunday

October 21st

"00

Turn out at daylight, had a good breakfast, and left Hih-Pha-Chow at 8:0 a.m. a deep nullah or ditch had to be ^{crossed} so we were delayed for a little over an hour building a road across to get the guns over: after which we marched on again with a couple of halts of ten minutes each; and arrived outside Pao-Ting-Hu and we camped for the night on the Eastern side of the City outside the walls

Monday

October 22nd

00

Struck camp at 7:30 a.m. marched out at 8:30 a.m. and arrived outside the Western Gate at 10:30 a.m. this gate is a very massive structure being about eighty feet high to the top of the parapet, and seventy feet thick at the base, ~~with~~ a number of brass cannons mounted on the top of the wall on either side of the gate

As the officials surrendered the City to the Allies there was no need for any further waste of time in bringing theingleaders to book, so at

cont

Monday

October 22nd

00

2:0 pm a patrol party consisting of twenty-five men were sent into it to capture and make prisoners of any rebels that they may meet inside. Those remaining in camp made preparations for a few days rest for which we were all very much in need of.

Tuesday

October 23rd

00

This day was spent in squaring up generally; Sergeant of Madras Pioneers accidentally killed, by the overturning of a transport waggon, we buried him near a well, under a tree, on which we cut his name, age, rating, place and date of birth, and death:

Self and two others, placed under orders of the Provost Marshal, for police duty in camp; and on the march, whenever moving about the country to prevent any looting by any members of the column, or any other irregularities that may occur among the camp followers and muleteers
Column instantly left for the hills 3:30 pm

Wednesday

October 24th

00

Men told off for patrol duty in the City left camp at 9:30 a.m.

Pom-Pom Battery, and Bombay Lancers left to assist the German Infantry in the hills where sharp fighting has been in progress for several days. Germans reported to have lost heavily.

Thursday

October 25th

00

Party consisting of two officers and twenty men go into the City to take charge of prisoners at 11:30 a.m. Relieved the German Guard at noon, and as soon as we had lunch, we bound eight of the prisoners who had been found guilty of taking part in the massacre of missionaries and traders and handed them over to the Germans to be shot; so they taken outside the Walls, made to dig their own graves, and then stood in line and shot; they were rolled in and covered within an hour, of their being handed over.

contd

Thursday

October 25th

00

Three principal prisoners (a General, a Colonel, and a Paymaster of the "Boxer" Army) taken to be tried before the International Court at 3:30 pm and brought back at 4:30 pm all found guilty, and sentenced to death.

We have a very unpleasant night watching these prisoners they being, including the Mandarin of the City, holders of high positions in the "Boxer" Forces, with numerous sympathisers in the City with a population of over half a million; and we, having no secure place to keep them, had to watch them very closely, for fear of an attack on us, which was very probable considering the small number of Europeans in the City, but night passed off without anything more serious than an outbreak of fire in one of guard-rooms at about 2:30 am.

Friday

October 26th

00

Sent the Mandarin up for trial before the International Court; while on his trial he denounced another official who had taken a prominent part in the outbreak, and

Friday

October 26th

00

both of them, having been found guilty by the Court were sentenced to death, and brought back at 11:30 am both to be beheaded on to-morrow: A welcome change in the arrival of the French (Zauaver) at 12:45 p.m. who relieved us, so we bade good-bye to our captives hoping that we would not meet again, and left them in the kindly hands of the Zauaver: arrived in camp at 1:30 p.m. Patrol party returned to camp 3:0 p.m. R. P. Battery and Punjab Infantry, and Bombay Lancers, returned from the hills two killed and several wounded during the fight with rebels; Orders to strike camp at 7:0 am to-morrow.

Saturday

October 27th

00

Struck camp at 7:30 am Inner Temple blown up by the Madras Sappers and Miners at 8:0 am passed through the outer City by 10:0 am. halted for half an hour from 11:30 am till noon, at 2:0 pm met a French hospital camp with large number of wounded, being the unlucky ones of a company that had been trying to take a village, held by

contin Saturday

October 27th

00

the "Boxers" for two days ^{without} but ^{much} success. We came up with the main body of the French at 3:00 pm outside the village of Cheng-Tung. The whole column prepared to take the village by a combined attack; but previous to an attack an advance guard was sent to demand its surrender, and after about an hour's parley the mandarin decided to take the offer, and so saved further ^{trouble}. Two smaller villages would not surrender, so an attack was made on them, and the inhabitants routed, after which the villages were looted and burned, after this was finished we went into camp for the night, heavy rain continued till about midnight.

Sunday

October 28th

00

Heavy fog: Struck camp at 8:30 am Bombay Lancers and one company of Punjab Infantry left camp at 6:00 am to burn a village lying about two miles to the South. The whole village was in flames by 9:30 am and then we continued our march Eastward, arrived at

contin Sunday

October 28th

00

Tang-Ho river at noon, bridge had been destroyed during previous night, so we were compelled to go down the river to find a possible fording-place and it was 3:0 pm before we succeeded, but it was not a very secure crossing as the water was up to our shoulders, with a very strong current, and we had to carry our clothes, arms, and ammunition on our heads to keep them dry. But the mules that were carrying our blankets got a little out of hand, with the result that we had wet blankets that night; arrived at Sung-Tsun and went into camp at 4:10 pm. Bombay Lancers and Punjab's arrived in camp at 5:00 pm and reported having burned Shai-Chung and Han-Ho-Chung.

Monday

October 29th

00

Struck camp at 7:30 am; Looted and burned two villages during our days march namely Jiu-Pa and Shu-Liu-San. Routed out the rebels and left the villages in flames; arrived Shau-Yang and camped near a large Pagoda at 3:0 pm. This pagoda was about ninety feet high.

contin

Monday

October 29th

00

and thirty feet diameter, and in one respect it resembled the "Leaning Tower of Pisa" as it had a lean of about fifteen degrees, from the vertical, how it remained standing seemed wonderful considering its great weight.

Tuesday

October 30th

00

Struck camp at 8:0 am, and continued the march at 9:0 am passed through two peaceable villages and crossed Yang-Ho river by pontoon bridge at 1:0 pm arrived at Mou-Chow at 3:30 pm and camped for night.

Wednesday

October 31st

00

Struck camp at 8:0 am, marched out at 8:30 am. crossed Yang-Ho river by pontoon bridge at 9:30 am. I had a long chase after a runaway prisoner, which terminated in his capture. so I brought him back to the column. Arrived at Mou-Chow-Shien at 12:30 pm; only marched ten miles to day. Officers looted this City.

Thursday

November 1st

1900

Struck camp at 8:30 am; marched out at 9:0 am; Looted and burned village of Li-Hung-Pao, and took five prisoners, arrived at Chang-Fang at 4:30 pm and camped went foraging for food and had plenty of luck with chickens, eggs, and meal; Caught six Chinese trying to steal some of the mules (which we commandeered here on our last visit), brought them in at 6:0 pm and they were shot at 6:30 pm; days march 17½ miles

Friday

November 2nd

00

Struck camp at 8:30 am and marched out at 9:0 am Arrived at Wen-An at 1:30 pm. The city is hostile and would not allow an officer or man in, so as there were supposed to be "Boxers" in hiding there, the Madras Sappers and miners were sent to lay mines under the main (North Gate) and the North-East and North-West corners of the Wall, over each of which stood a large watch tower over a hundred feet high, and as artillery was useless on such massive structure, the mines were to be fired

contin

Friday

November 2nd

00

in the morning, if a peaceable entry was still refused

Went out to some outlying villages, foraging; and during my rambles I secured, an image of "Budda" a small one, a bow and set of arrows, and a Mandarin's crest; we had good luck in securing plenty of meal, chickens, and eggs so we returned to camp well satisfied, and we cooked and eat a good supper; mails and despatches arrived in camp from Tien-Tsin at 9:0 pm; days march 10½ miles

Saturday

November 3rd

00

The mines laid yesterday were fired at 7:45 am with the result, that the Main Gate, and both corners of the Wall, with the watch towers, were in a heap of ruins by 8:0 am and as a great crowd of the inhabitants, had assembled at these places, and all along the Walls, evidently preparing to open fire; the blowing up shook them up a little, and shook some of them out of this World altogether. We marched away from Wen-An at 9:0 am leaving the Artillery, and Cavalry to square up accounts with the

contin

Saturday

November 3rd

50

The wounded and prisoners; and as heavy firing was heard until late in the afternoon, I reckon that they did it alright

We burnt and looted two villages between 10:am and 12:0 noon. Arrived at Liu-Ho at 12:30 pm - while ^{we} were foraging in the Town, by some ^{means} a fire broke ^{out} in the portion in which we were, so we got out of it, and were not any too early in doing so, for we had scarcely got half way back to camp, which was about half a mile outside the Town: when a terrible explosion took place, wrecking all that portion of it which we had just left.

Days march 8 miles

Sunday

November 4th

00

Shelled a Temple outside the Town which was held by some "Boxers" and as they bolted out of it when the shells began to burst around them. The Bombay Lancers charged through them and so broke up their little "garden party"

Struck camp at 8:30 am, and marched out at 9:0 am

During the forenoon, we burnt two Towns in which quantities of arms were found; arrived at Wan-Cha-Ho 3:0 pm

Days march 12 miles

45

Monday

November 5th

00

Struck camp at 8:00 am, marched out at 8:30 am. Marched through Wan-Cha-Kho entering by the Eastern Gate and leaving by the Western, some curious cannons were mounted on the walls of this town. By appearance they may have been used at the "Siege of Babylon". Blowing a fierce dust storm all day, making it very difficult to see twenty yards ahead; and the transport animals were very troublesome they wanted to run before it, and so it took us all our time to keep them together.

Arrived at Yu-Liu at 12:30 pm, and occupied portion of the town. About 6:00 pm some war junks which had been captured by the river Column, and had all the explosives placed on the bank of the ^{river}, ready to be destroyed; when it suddenly exploded; killing over 60 Indians and Chinese coolies; and injuring as many more several of whom died before reaching Tien-Tsin; days march 12 miles

Tuesday

November 6th

00

Struck camp at 7:30 am marched out at 8:00 am, crossed over Pei-Ko by junks at 9:00 am. Weather fine, halted for

Tuesday

November 6th

00

Ten minutes at 12:15 p.m. Arrived at Yu-Cha-Tai at 1:30 p.m. and camped. Tien-Tsin in sight, distance about 6 miles. Advance Guard and Staff left for Tien-Tsin at 3:30 p.m. Days march 12 miles

Wednesday

November 7th

00

Struck camp at 8:00 a.m. Marched out at 8:30 a.m. Halted at 10:00 and had tiffin + marched again at 11:15 a.m. Arrived in Tien-Tsin at 12:30 p.m. Went into a large godown which had been fitted up for us, as our winter quarters, all spare ammunition collected in and stored; got our letters from home so we spent the remainder of the afternoon reading and telling news

Thursday

November 8th

00

Spent the day getting things squared up, and preparing for winter by rigging, hammock beams and struts, and getting in fuel

Friday November 9th 00

Cleaning guns and small arms; and getting in a supply of fuel

Saturday November 10th 00

Paid one months pay \$23.00 dollars (Mex)

Sunday November 11th 00

Captains inspection of men and quarters at 10:30 a.m.

Monday November 12th 00

First issue of winter clothing, consisting of monkey-jackets, socks, moccasins, and mittens in forenoon
Employed all the afternoon, in transferring all spare ammunition to the Ordnance Base Tripot,
and in getting in a quantity of large earthenware chatees for holding a reserve of fresh water
Weather fine and cold.

Tuesday

November 13th

00

Working about barracks: storing ammunition &c in Base Ordnance Dept. Weather, fine & cold

Wednesday

November 14th

00

All 303 ammunition called in: J. Young, L.S. and myself, received orders at 11:0 am. to proceed up the river Pei Ho to escort a number of Chinese Christians to Hien-Tsin: So we got ready, taking 300 rounds of ammunition each and two days rations, and at 11:30 am we left our quarters accompanied by a native guide, and an interpreter. After leaving we met two Japanese Cavalrymen, who were also to accompany us; so we all took rickshaws, and rode to the outside of the City, and down to the river, above the locks, where we engaged two snake boats, of course looking out for the fastest sailers that we could get and got our gear aboard, and started up the river at 2:15 p.m. There was a strong breeze blowing and so we made good headway; we reckoned

cont

Wednesday

November 14th

00

that we done a good eleven miles an hour. Arrived at a villiage at 4:30 pm, and as the wind hauled ahead, we took up lodgings for the night - had a good supper and turned in, with our side arms on and our rifles loaded alongside of us; quite a happy family, two Australians two Japanese, and two Chinese all in one room. and slept with one eye open, but nothing of note occurred during the night which was terribly cold

Thursday

November 15th

00

Turned out at 5:30 am had breakfast and got ready for a start; but when we got down to the river, we found that our two snake boats which we left in charge of four Chinese boatmen, moored to the bank, were both firmly frozen in; but seeing some other boats in mid-stream, we arranged with two of them so as to continue the journey, then we paid off the other two, and, started up at 8:30 am; Arrived at Kwang Su Canal at 10:00 am
Going up here we had a head wind for about a mile, and

cont

Thursday

November 15th

00

so we were compelled to tow the boats, the Canal being frozen to about one inch thick, over the whole surface, made towing hard work, while walking along the banks towing, we ^{were} passing over heaps of human bones all along the Canal, evidently dumb witnesses of some fierce battle, or perhaps of a plague. About 11:0 am we came to a bend in the Canal, which brought the wind on our beam, so we got onboard again, and set sail, the wind being strong we made very good headway, considering that we were forcing our way through ice as well as water, nevertheless, by carrying as much sail as possible, we got a good ten miles an hour, out of the boats. Arrived at the head of the Canal, and secured two (panchaus) native carts, and two good teams of ponies, and started for Wong-Chang across country at 1:30 pm. Learning now for the first time since leaving Tien-Tsin where we were bound to. The ponies proved to be good goers, passed through Pui-Chang at 4:30 pm. Arrived at Wong-Chang at 6:0 pm it being then quite dark but our guide soon found the people that we wanted

cont Thursday

November 15th

00

who were almost wild with delight when they knew that we were to escort them out of the City, which was in a state of seige. They brought us food of all descriptions, enough for a score of men, and we being hungry, had a good meal, after which we made all necessary arrangements to have everything ready for an early start as it would be unsafe to attempt to leave the City after daylight; for our Interpreter told us that the "Boxers" outside the City were over 20,000 strong. We put up for the night in the house of one of the Christians they preferring to keep guard, which suited us as we were tired, so we turned in and slept till 4:00 am

Friday

November 16th

00

Turned out at 4:30 am and had breakfast, then we got our waggons and carts all ready with, 55 women and children 4 merchants, and 2 of the City officials, we made a start at 5:30 am we made all possible speed till sunrise, and by that time Wong-Chang was nearly out of sight behind us we had come thus far with

cont Friday

November 16th.

00

out being seen, so we eased our speed so as not to be too hard on the animals; as their strength might be required later on. Passed through Pei-Chang at 10:0 am here we met a British outpost consisting of 25 men and 2 officers of the 31st Madras Light Infantry, who reported to us that there were ^{rebels} no to be found in this City, so we were able now to choose our pace. Arrived at the head of the Hwang-Su Canal, about noon, where ~~to~~ we found our two boats waiting. But we had to secure two more boats to carry all our pilgrims with all their traps, so it took us till 2:0 pm before we had them all ready for a start down. We left the village at the head of the Canal at 2:15 pm. We were not any too soon getting away from here as the ice was getting very thick there only being a channel barely wide enough for the boats to pass through which had been kept open by our two boats continually passing up and down for that purpose. Entered the Pei-Ho river at 3:30 pm which being clear of ice, we were able to make good headway. Anchored in midstream at dusk (5:30 pm)

Saturday

November 17th

00

Turned out at 4:00 am and continued down the river till 6:30 am when we arrived at a lock and finding that the lock could not be opened before noon. So we transhipped all the gear and pilgrims, into two large junks, which were lying below the lock, continued down the river at 10:00 am. Arrived in Tien-Tsin at 1:15 pm, and landed all the pilgrims and quartered them in a compound in charge their friends, after which they made us some presents, and then we left them, and returned to our own quarters

Sunday

November 18th

00

Usual routine: Attend lecture in the evening

Monday

November 19th

00

Two prisoners sent to Hong-Kong: Employed fitting up hammock beams, latrines, fire-escapes and lighting arrangements.

Tuesday November 20th 00

One extra blanket issued to each man :-
Paid division of loot money \$1.25 cents.

Wednesday November 21st 00

Out on picket. usual routine

Thursday November 22nd 00

Issue of winter clothing consisting of :- mocassins,
gloves, mittens, underpants, & comforters; usual
routine work carried on

Friday November 23rd 00

Same as yesterday :- Weather very cold

Saturday November 24th 00

Leave to attend sports at Hsin Ho. left Tien
Ho by train at 12:25 am Arrived at Hsin Ho 2:25 am

contd Saturday

November 24th

00

We spent the afternoon more like an International Brigade than anything else: There were some very good exhibitions of horsemanship, especially by the Bombay Lancers and Russian Cossacks
Left Hsin-Ho at ~~at~~ 4:15 pm arrived in Hien-Tsin at 6:10 pm

Sunday

November 25th

00

Captain's inspection at 10:30 am: Leave for Post
Watch from 1:30 am till 9:00 pm

Monday

November 26th

00

Tao chuns and myself went to the German Military Hospital, and spent a very enjoyable evening, telling and hearing our different experiences, in different parts of the Country; till 11:00 pm after which we had some supper and grog and returned to our quarters at midnight

Tuesday November 27th 00

"Canadian" coats and wollen socks issued to all hands. Australian mails arrived, and I got a parcel of four letters, so I had plenty to read

Wednesday November 28th 00

Usual routine: Leave for Starboard Watch from 1:30 pm till 9:00 pm

Thursday November 29th 00

All available hands at drill (field exercise) all forenoon. usual routine in the afternoon

Friday November 30th 00

Usual routine: Two men told off to guard stores on the Tien-Tsin and Faku railway
Weather getting colder every day

Saturday	December 1 st	1900
Sunday	" " 2 nd	00

Nothing beyond usual routine, with cold weather

Monday	December 3 rd	00
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To-day was pay day \$23:0. but I did not draw mine

Tuesday	December 4 th	00
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Sharkee serge issued six yards per man

Wednesday	December 5 th	00
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Weather very wet and squally: thermometer 23:0

Thursday	December 6 th	00
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Very heavy snow fell till 1:0 p.m. then the weather cleared a little, and the sun came out for about an hour, and showed the snow covered ruins, and other buildings up, like a "picture"

Friday December 7th 00

"Balaclava" caps issued to all hands, Ther 17:00

Saturday	December 8 th	} Ther 16:00 1900 " 8:17 " usual 8:20 - routine 8:28 " 7:29 " 8:30 "
Sunday	December 9 th	
Monday	December 10 th	
Tuesday	December 11 th	
Wednesday	December 12 th	
Thursday	December 13 th	
Friday	December 14 th	

General Lorne Campbell, inspected our quarters and gave us great praise, for the clean and comfortable appearance, which he said were the more notable, considering our surroundings: Ther 8:31

		Thermometer
Saturday	December 15 th	8:30
Sunday	December 16 th	10:42
Monday	December 17 th	8:40
Tuesday	December 18 th	9:45
Wednesday	December 19 th	9:42

Thursday	December 20 th	1900
Friday	December 21 st	.. 00
Saturday	December 22 nd	.. 00
Sunday	December 23 rd	00
	Out on Picket Duty	
Monday	December 24 th	00
Tuesday	December 25 th (Christmas Day)	00

Took 12^{lbs} guns and ammunition ready to send to Peking

Wednesday	December 26 th	00
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Sent 12^{lbs} and ammunition to Peking

Thursday	December 27 th	00
Friday	December 28 th	00
Saturday	December 29 th	00

On Picket duty ÷ Paid one months pay \$ 22.. 0

75 cents short

Sunday	December 30 th	00
Monday	December 31 st	00

Drew November pay \$ 23.. 0 25 cents short

Tuesday January 1st 1901
 Review of all British Troops outside Pien Tsin
 New Year's Day half days leave given to one
 watch, and in the evening we had an International
 Concert, with three, good, military bands; French
 American, and Australian. We had songs and
 music in ten languages, so we had a variety
 and we kept going till midnight

Wednesday January 2nd 01
 Thursday January 3rd 01

Snow fell heavily: Australian mail arrived

Friday January 4th 01

Out on picket duty. Weather very cold & clear

Saturday January 5th } 01
 Sunday January 6th } 01

Posted letters home

Monday January 7th 01

Brought in 300 rifles, of different patterns, from the Chinese Arsenal also 2 field guns 2:25

Tuesday January 8th 01

Wednesday January 9th 01

Thursday January 10th 01

Friday January 11th 01

Saturday January 12th 01

Went out route marching each day for the want of something better to do. F.B. made a couple of trips into the "Thieves Den" on business. This place was situated on the outskirts of Tien-Tsin, just outside the wall and close to the river bank. This of course was the meeting place thieves and criminals of all classes, young and old, rich and poor, all intermingled hustling and jostling in eagerness of making "trade" You may buy or sell anything, only mind that it is not stolen from you five minutes later. Gun handy, and eye skinned you must have

Sunday

January 13th

01

Went out on the Canal, and took a sledge for a trip up to the West Arsenal. we got about a couple of miles, along all right, till we run foul of a lot of ice, which had been cut out and scattered about: we got a bad tving up, when I was able to look around I saw "Bun" lying, looking at the clouds, the sledge about fifty yards away, the sledge boy doing a grin. so I dragged myself over to B. who soon came round, and we both very pleased to find that we had no bones broken; only I had a few patches of skin knocked off, and a bump on the left knee, which made the leg useless, for the remainder of the day. however the boy brought the sledge along, and we returned to Tien-Tsin quite satisfied

Monday

January 14th

01

Tuesday

January 15th

01

Wednesday

January 16th

01

Out on picket duty: Got letters from home
also three papers.

Thursday January 17th 01

I was told of to join the International Patrol Police and to remain with them till further orders.

Friday January 18th 01

Saturday January 19th 01

Got letters and papers from home

Sunday January 20th 01

Heavy snow commenced to fall at 3:0 pm. - Wrote letters home

Monday January 21st 01

Usual routine. Posted letters home

Tuesday January 22nd 01

Party at 12:30 pm for Peking at 12:30 pm, arrived at

contin

Tuesday

January 22nd

01

Cheng-Wang-Fu at 9:0 a.m. and camped in Prince Juan's Palace which was the headquarters of the R.S. Wales Contingent

Wednesday

January 23rd

01

We visited the "Temple of a Thousand Years", a very beautiful place about two miles outside the walls of the Tartar City. The most striking features of this Temple were; a massive marble gateway of beautiful design, about thirty feet high; a great image of the "God of War", fifteen feet high, standing on the back of a huge turtle both of bronze; and a large image of "Buddah", in a sitting position about eighteen feet high, also of bronze. I got a good idea of the great size of it, for I stood on the top of the ear and could just reach the top of the head, this also was of bronze, and the workmanship was beautiful. We "annexed" a few curios, and then left to visit the Summer Palace of the Dowager Empress, at Mount Wan - She about twelve miles to

contin

Wednesday

January 23rd

01

to the South West, riding in franchaus, (native carts, with wooden wheels, and no springs) The Palace, a very pretty place, stood among its surrounding buildings, on the edge of a beautiful lake, at the foot of Mont Wan-Sho. The lake was about a mile and a half long, by three quarters wide, in the centre stood Marble Island, connected with the main land, by a marble bridge, all beautifully carved. The water-front on the main land in front of the Palace for about a mile was a pier of marble, and marble barge (a three decker) the decks all inlaid with very small porcelain tiles of all colours. We then climbed a broad marble stairway to the Pagoda above the Palace, from which we had a splendid view of the places around, all the roofs of these buildings being porcelain tiles of the Imperial colour, yellow, which very pretty in the sunlight. We then went through most of the "state" rooms, the furniture being a sight not to be forgotten, all splendid carvings, in marble, bronze, & wood, we annexed several curios, I managed to get away with a carved panel, which I took off a sideboard. We then returned to Peking arriving at 4:30 p.m. feeling a bit tired after the rough ride.

Thursday

January 24th

01

Starting out at 8:0 am, We visited the Great Lama Temple in the Tartar City, here there were all the favourite Gods, statesmen, warriors, and animals, cast or carved in different materials, mostly bronze. Instruments of torture, a great many of which had been used quite recently, as blood and hair of some unlucky beings still adhered to them. A large frame in the centre of the Temple, had the 100 "Bells of Heaven" secured to it on these bells the priests played, before offering sacrifice, the bells were of silver-bronze and about six inches long by five inches diameter at the mouth. I borrowed one, and got away with it.

We then left the Temple and went to the British Legation and had a look around, it seemed as if the whole fire of the besiegers had been poured into this place, as there was ^{not} a brick or a stone that was not marked with a shot, in some places the buildings had been reduced to a heap of ruins. We next went to the Forbidden City, the gateway of which also bore the marks of fierce fighting; in front of the gateway was a marble bridge with 20 carved marble pillars; and on either end there were two large marble columns about 40 feet high and about 8 feet diameter at the base; and had a dragon carved spirally on them and

contin Thursday

January 24th

01

on the top was a peacock, the most striking features of these columns were that each one was only one piece of marble; Another bridge at entrance to Chinese City also of marble had 20 short pillars about five feet long and beautifully carved with different designs; returned to our quarters at 4:0 p m
The following message was posted for general information :-

"It is, with the most profound sorrow, and regret that
"That the Lieut-General, reports the death of our
"beloved Queen, Her Majesty, passed peacefully away.
" at 6:30 a.m. on the 22nd instant" —

Friday

January 25th

01

Started out after an early breakfast on another cruise of inspection. we visited the "Temple of Heaven", which with its shrines, and altars were inclosed by a wall about 20 feet high. The grounds and parks occupied about 300 acres. The "Alter of the Sun" was about in the centre of the enclosure consisted of a circular series of terraces with steps from one terrace to another. There

contin

Friday

January 25th

01

were 2 slabs six feet by twelve, each with a dragon, and peacock carved on it. The altar measured 80 paces across the top of the terraces, the whole of it being of white marble; at the centre of it stood the tabernacle about 40 feet diameter and 45 feet high. The roof was of azure blue porcelain tiles surmounted with a large gilded sphere. We next visited the "Altar of the Moon" which was similar in many things to the "Altar of the Sun" the roof was of yellow tiles and not as high the latter. but there^{were} a great many bronze fire pots each weighing about a ton & a half, standing at regular intervals on the terraces, one slab of marble on the main stairway measured 20 feet by 6 with a large dragon carved on it. Next we went to the "Altar of Heaven" which was of the same design and material as the "Altar of the Sun" but had no tabernacle; but there were a greater number of firepots; at this place the Emperor worships only once a year; it is believed by the Chinese to be the centre of the Earth's surface. From here we went to the top of the Wall of the City and had a good view of the City the wall measured 50x60x40 feet high

Saturday

January 26th

01

Went out to the Peking Observatory, which is supposed to be oldest in the World. There were a great many instruments, some very queer looking ones, all made of bronze. There was also a curiously shaped tower or pagoda, shaped like a large bottle, the whole of its base being covered with small figures from 2 to 6 inches long, it stood about 45 feet high and below it were several under ground passages.

We next entered the Forbidden City by the back or Western Gate; not much of interest here so having met a party of Japanese, we all went to Coal Hill which being the highest point in the City we had a very good view of the whole of the Imperial City which looked very pretty in the sunlight; all the roofs of the buildings, being of tiles of the Imperial colour: yellow. We then returned to our quarters, had tiffin, and went out again in the afternoon. went through the French section of the Peking City, in this section stood the R.C. Cathedral a beautiful building of light grey brick, the front and facings being of marble, looking very conspicuous among the other buildings: A contrast between East and West.

Sunday

January 27th

01

We turned out at 4:30 a.m., had breakfast, and packed up our traps, and started back to Hien-Tsin, leaving Cheng-Wang Fu at 6:0 a.m., entrained at "Temple of Heaven" station. Peking 7:45 a.m. and started almost at once. We made the following stoppages: Heng-Tai 8:15 to 8:25 a.m. How-Ang-Tsong 9:15 to 9:30 a.m. An-Ting 10:5 to 10:15 a.m. Lang-Hang 11:15 to 11:30 a.m. Lo-Ha 12:0 to 12:15 p.m. Yang-Tsun 1:0 to 1:55 p.m. arr Hien-Tsin 3:0 p.m. Arrived at our winter quarters at 4:0 p.m. Got letters and papers from home dated 24th & 25th December 1900

Monday

January 28th

01

Out on picket duty: Weather cold & snowing

Tuesday

January 29th

01

We held a sale of some of the loot secured by us, on the Pao-Ting Fu expedition after which we divided the proceeds among all hands; including those who were in hospital. one on special duty

Wednesday

January 30th

01

Usual routine carried on $\frac{2}{3}$ weather very cold Ther 4 below zero

Thursday

January 31st

01

We played a football match against a team from H.M.S. "Phoenix" today which resulted in a win for the visitors. Thermometer 6 below zero, and the ground was a sheet of ice

Friday

February 1st

01

Out on picket duty: Pay day \$2.3 = 25 cents (Mex)

Saturday

February 2nd

01

Memorial service held in honor of H.M. the late Queen Victoria. All troops available having to attend; The service was held in the open, with about two feet of snow on the ground, and the thermometer 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ below zero, we were obliged to stand with "arms reversed" for an hour and three quarters, so we felt the cold keenly, and were not sorry when it was finished.

Sunday February 3rd 01

Had a half day off, so I wrote letters home

Monday February 4th 01

Squared up for back pay and tobacco till December 31st 1900

Tuesday February 5th 01

Wednesday " 6th 01

Thursday " 7th } Out on 01

Friday " 8th } Patrol duty 01

Saturday " 9th 01

Sunday " 10th 01

Monday February 11th 01

To-day being the Emperor of Japan's Birthday, there was a "banzan" day among the Japanese troops, and of course all were very pleased to entertain a foreigner. Some of us joined them in their enjoyment, and we were treated to the best of everything, the whole of the Japanese quarter of the town was illuminated with Japanese lanterns, of all possible colours

contin Monday

February 11th

01

Music by all nationalities, abundance of food of all kinds, sweets, saki and dancing and a gorgeous display of fire-works, We enjoyed ourselves immensely till the ~~the~~ small hours of the morning, then we returned to our respective quarters, well satisfied.

Tuesday

February 12th

01

Till

Out on Patrol

Monday

February 18th

duty

01

Tuesday

February 19th

01

Posted letters home :- Chinese New Year - "Alarm" and turn out at 8:00pm nothing serious only an overrated street disturbance which was soon quelled, and we then returned to quarters 10:00pm

Wednesday

February 20th

01

I got orders today to join six other men on duty patrolling the British section of the Pei-Ho river. The river being completely frozen, the only traffic on it was by means ice boats or sledges

Thursday

February 21st

01

Letters and papers, by mail from Australia arrived
via Chee-Hoo by ice boats at 11:30 am

Friday

February 22nd

01

River showing signs of breaking: a very busy day among
the the junkmen breaking the ice out from inside the junks
and making all ready for work as soon as the river opened

Saturday

February 23rd

01

Ice commenced to show blow holes along the edges, and
large cracks across the face in many parts

Sunday

February 24th

01

Ice completely broken up causing considerable damage
to bridges, as great masses came down the river
sometimes bringing with them a junk, or snake-boat
still frozen in

Monday February 25th 01

A busy day for us all on the river, as large quantities of ice came down with the strong current carrying away everything of light construction in its path

Tuesday February 26th 01

Fire broke out in Victoria Road at 1:0 am in a godown occupied by Messrs Forbes & Son, party of us told off to assist to extinguish it, but owing to the lack of water, and proper means, we were unable to save it. but we managed to save the two adjoining stores, by cutting away the wooden bridges between them, and the burning buildings

Wednesday February 27th 01

Thursday " 28th 01

Usual routine carried out;

Friday March 1st 01

Lay day: Paid \$ 21.00

Saturday	March 2 nd	01
Sunday	" 3 rd	01
Monday	" 4 th	01
Tuesday	" 5 th	01

These four days were spent by us in getting bridges repaired and in their respective positions

Wednesday	March 6 th	01
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First lighter since the river opened; arrived from Taku.

Thursday	March 7 th	01
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First lighters left for Tong-Shiu at noon:— We were paid \$2.30.00 for working at Forbes' fire.

Friday	March 8 th	01
Saturday	" 9 th	01
Sunday	" 10 th	01

Out on patrol on the river:— usual work carried on

Monday

March 11th

01

"Shamrock" and "Tien-Shan" arrived from Taku in tow of "Heron" at 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday

March 12th

01

General Fasteo, and General Lorne-Campbell, inspected men and quarters. (at 3:00 p.m.)

"Shai-Ping" and "Lotus" arrived from Tongku in tow of "Shai-Tai"
"Chin-Shan" and "Swallow" arrived from Taku in tow of "Shai-Tai" at 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday

March 13th

01

"Shinkijihawa" Japanese steamer arrived from Port Arthur at noon

Thursday

March 14th

01

"Olive" Viceroy's late steam yacht left for Hsin-Ho at 12:30 p.m., on a punitive expedition against river pirates

Friday

March 15th

01

Differance arose between the British and Russian authorities relative to the right of a strip of railway territory on the East bank of the Pei-Ho river. All available men called out for action at 6:0 p.m. Extra ammunition issued, and Field and machine guns got ready, for immediate use; opposing parties only 25 feet apart, things began to look serious; and, International feeling ran high. British only mustered, 1,900 men in the fighting line, while the Russian force was over 6,000

Saturday

March 16th

01

Engs. "E-Wo," "Ha-Isai," "Ha-Ku," and "Heron" arrived with lighters from Taku and Hsin-Ho. "Shinhijihaw" sailed at 10:0 am for Kobe via Taku and Port Arthur.

Two war junks captured by us up the river in November and which had been frozen in all the winter, arrived at noon to-day, in charge of an Indian escort.

Relations between British and Russian, still the same; We were awaiting for orders from Peking, and from the British War Office.

Sunday

March 17th

01

A mutiny broke out among the French troops (Foreign Legion) so plenty of street fighting was the order of the day and night but by 9:00 p.m. it was getting too hot; so General Lorne Campbell called out the Bombay Lancers, and Bengal Cavalry to clear the streets. They did so with a will, for after they had charged through the streets once, there were not many remaining to make trouble. There were none killed but a good many wounded.

Extra men had to be sent out to reinforce the men on guard at the Hospitals, and Consulates

Position the same between British and Russians

Monday

March 18th

01

American steamer "Liscum" arrived from Taku at noon
"Veteran" with lighter in tow arrived from Tonku at 2:30 p.m.

A notice was posted today stating that the Australians would probably be relieved by the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, on or about the 24th March

Tuesday

March 19th

01

nil

Wednesday

March 20th

01

Call to arms at 10:0 am. in readiness for the decision of the British and Russian Generals, we expected to be in the thick of it before night fall, but were not sorry because we were not, Lorne Campbell said that we would have a definite answer by 8:0 am to-morrow.

Thursday

March 21st

01

At 8:0 am, the "Union Jack" was hoisted on the disputed strip of Territory, as usual, but the Russians, did not respond. and we were told at 9:30 am that the Russians had backed down, so ended that picnic.

Arrivals by river to-day were: "Ha-Tasi" at 11:0 am from Tonku with "Shai-Ping" in tow. "E-Wo" at 11:30 am from Hsin-Ho with "Taku" in tow

Friday

March 22nd

01

Arrived: "Lee Shin" at noon with "Peh-Tang" in tow from Tonku

Saturday

March 23rd

01

Arrivals: "Yhimikawa" Japanese steamer at 9:45 a.m. from Tung-Shan. "Lee-Tak," at 11:30 a.m. with "Pie Shan", and "Nan-Shan", in tow from Hsin Ho. "Heron" at 11:45 a.m. from Lonhu with "Tien-Shan" in tow. "Yia-Yu" at 2:0 p.m. from Taku with lighter "N^o 8" in tow, having on board 420 men of the "2nd Battalion" Royal Welsh Fusiliers; and 100 men of the "H. K. R." (Hong-Kong Regiment). The R.W.F. having come up from Hong-Kong via Shanghai to relieve us and the N.S. Wales. men.

Sunday

March 24th

01

"Lee-Cheung" arrived at 3:0 p.m. with Shamhock in tow from Hsin-Ho. We were relieved by the R.W.F. today, after handing our orders over, we returned to our quarters and packed our gear, ready to leave.

Some lively street fighting occurred in the evening between the Indians and French. The "Bengal Cavalry" were called out to clear the streets. eleven French and several Germans seriously wounded

Monday

March 25th

01

We had all our gear removed to the Bund, and stowed aboard lighter "No. 9" by 10:0 a.m.

We were inspected by General Lorne - Campbell at noon after which he thanked us for our work and behavior while attached to his command; He then wished us a safe passage home: We gave him a cheer and another for the people of Tien-Tsin, and then we got aboard the lighter; passed out the tow-line to the "Heron" and started down the river at 12:30 p.m. Good-bye to Tien-Tsin.

Passed Zhaku at 6:30 p.m., anchored at Hsin Ho 7:50 p.m.

Tuesday

March 26th

01

Got under way at 5:30 a.m. passed Tongku at 6:30 a.m., passed Yaku at 7:0 a.m. and Yaku Fort 7:45 a.m. Arrived alongside "Ching-Tu" Transport No 106 at 9:0 a.m.

We were busy all day stowing away all our gear and loot in the fore and main holds.

We could now look to the West and to the land in the distance and say. "Good bye" North China.

Log of S.S. "Chingtu" Transport N^o 106
Yaku North China
Toward Australia

Tuesday

March 26th

1901

Men and gear of Victorian Naval Contingent aboard by noon
Afternoon - working about stores required for the run

Nobody knows what happened to us, nobody
knows or cares.

Only those who fought Old Kruger, are allowed
to put on airs.

We had no crowd to see us off, no Mansion
House invite.

The bugle our only warning, in the dead
of a sultry night.

Nobody cared when we landed, only those
we came to save.

But those that we left behind us,
Will ne'er have a stone to their graves.

We were our own stretcher-bearers, our own
commisariat too.

And we didn't fight in a parkie rig,
But in our own serge suits of blue.

Our baggage followed close behind us, we
had it on our backs.

Our base of supply was never far off, it was
in our haversacks.

Donkeys and horses were nuts to us, or a mule
of an unknown age.

The rear-rank found the bill-of-fare, while
The front-rank found the range

Our grub was worse than Baden Powell's,
Even he served out a trifle more;
But men who are used to starve at sea,
Won't growl at the same ashore

We got no Jam-o-Shanter caps, no chocolate
in a box.

No knitted stockings came our way, but we
gave the "Boxers" sox

Our guns went out at the guns-crews heels,
And not in a railway train

But some of the crews are still alive, and
fit for the same again.

We are back on board of our ships again
Back from the jaws of H-L.

And the soldiers can finish the racket
We have cleared the road so well.