



Robert William Pridmore

8 Sep 1909 – 9 Sep 1982

Robert was the son of William Pridmore and Annie Elizabeth Taylor of Collingham in Nottinghamshire. He was the eldest of two children, his sister Susan being born in 1913.

He trained as a Methodist minister between the two world wars and decided to join the army as a chaplain in 1939, being assigned to the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. His service record follows.

Robert W Pridmore

P/76038
Regular
Methodist
DoB 8.9.1909

Granted Commission T.A.	10.8.1938
Appointed 4 th Class Chapl	1.8.39
Southern Command S.P.A.	1.8.39
“ “ Blandford	1.8.39
“ “ 5 th Bn. D of Cornwall LI	14.12.1939
Eastern Command 5 th Bn D.C.L.I 106 Inf. Bde. 45 th Div:	5.40
Northern Command “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ 1 Corps	9.11.1940
Scottish Command 1 st Bn Cambs. Regt.	6.2.1941
“ “ 1 st Bn Cambs Regt. 54 th Inf. Bde. 18 th Div	6.2.1941
Western Command 1 st Bn. Cambs. Regt. 55 th Inf Bde 18 th Div.	13.4.1941
“ “ 6 th Bn. Royal Norfolks 53 Inf. Bde. 18 th Div.	26.6.1941
Embarked for Malaya 1 Bn R. Norfolk Regt	28.10.1941

Missing Malaya 15.2.1942 Cas.List 77 of 14.3.42
Prisoner of War Malaya – 15.2.42 Cas List 1019 of 30.12.42

Repatriated P. of War Disembarked	18.10.45
Granted Permanent Commission	4.12.1945
Western Command T.O.S HQ while on 42 days rep: leave	21.10.45
Western 21 I.T.C. Carmarthen Stn.	1.1.46
“ “ S. Wales Dist	30.4.46
London Tempy . Victory Parade	4.11.46

L.DA.C 20.5.1947 for B.T.A embarked 24.5.47
T.O.S. BTA posted Pool of Chaplains Austria 27.5.1947
S.O.S - BTA to UK on Reversion to H.E. w.e.f. 26.7.1949

Southern Command – Appointed Staff Chaplain Southern Command	14.9.49
HQ Southern Command	8.6.1953
Posted to FARELF (Malaya)	23.7.1953
Disembark Singapore TOS & Malaya Sub.Dist & FARELF	20.8.1953
TOAS HQ 1 st Fed Div Dist	1.10.1953
Emb. Singapore for UK	14.3.1956
Diemb UK ex FARELF – posted N. Cmd. Sup.	11.4.56
Att K.O.Y.L.I. (14.6.56) T/att 61 Filed Regt from	23.7.56

Selected for duty Salisbury District 1.8.56
Retires on Retired Pay (Reserve Liability) 8.9.59
(L.G. 8.9.59)

Ceases to belong to RARO -8.9.64
Retaining the rank of CF 3rd CI

Wesley Mance Southwell Note (21 & 1959)

While stationed in Malaya in 1942, Robert was captured and imprisoned by the Japanese army and began a three year period of incredible hardship, from which he somehow survived. His Christian faith was never broken and apart from the rigours of the camp duties and work parties, he continued to carry out services and even formed a choir. His diary still exists from his time just before and throughout imprisonment and is reproduced here.



**THE JOURNAL
OF THE REVEREND
ROBERT W PRIDMORE**

1941 – 1945



P/76038 Robert W Pridmore

Born 8th September 1909

...wireless fixed on sun deck for this purpose. Took evening prayers and service for Duckworth.

Tuesday Dec 9th

Arrived Cape Town South Africa, first sight of Table Mountain. Went ashore in evening. Lovely scenery from the ship. Went to social evening. Gen. Smuts came and spoke to us. (Kelvin Grove Club) next to the test cricket ground.

Wednesday Dec 10th

Went into Cape Town in a.m. Taken for a ride into country in the afternoon by a lady named Mrs Gill. Martin went too. Had tea with Mrs Gill and her sister and had another ride in evening. Magnificent sea and country views. Visited residence of Gen. Smuts. Saw Rhodes monument. Heard of sinking of Prince of Wales and Repulse.

Thursday Dec 11th

Shopping in Cape Town in a.m. and afternoon dined out with Capt Campbell out at Del Monica hotel in the evening. Visited Methodist Book Room in a.m. and met Rev. Everleigh – (Ex President S. A. Conference) and Rev. Walls (Minister Metropolitan Methodist church). Bought number books. Very good selection. Very healthy Methodism in Cape Town. Membership growing rapidly.

Friday Dec 12th

Cape Town a fine city! Dazzling white sands and purple blue background mountains. Green forests of Fir and Pine crowned with peaks and jagged rocks. A shouting chorus of – *illegible word*. Shopping in town. Spent a lot more time at Book Room. Went out to lunch with Mr Everleigh, Walls and Ross. Sent cables to Doreen and home. Shore leave finished at 12p.m. Spent evening with Ross at home of Leigh, Walls with us too. Lovely manse looking out to sea. A very delightful stay in Cape Town. Very impressed with everything. People wonderfully hospitable. A long white town straggling with its suburbs for 15 miles round the vast blue bay. A riot of summer flowers, *illegible word* – morning glory, bougainvillea, and pink oleanders.

Saturday Dec 13th

Departed Cape Town 4.45p.m. Cloudy day. Table mountain shrouded in mist as we saw the last of the cape.

Sunday Dec 14th

Church parade at 9.15a.m.. Communion 3p.m. In Indian ocean. Already getting much warmer. Very considerable roll. Sailing close to African coast.

Monday Dec 15th

Sailing close to African coast. Less roll. Getting very hot again.

Tuesday Dec 16th

Still close to African coast. Growing steadily hotter. Calm sea. Nothing of note in day.

Wednesday Dec 17th

Very hot. Still close to African coast.

Thursday Dec 18th

Very hot but showery. Still near coast. Calm seas. Lots of flying fish in these tropical seas. They leave the water for 20 or 30 feet at times.

Friday Dec 19th

Very hot, showery. Calm seas. Sailing thro straits of Madagascar. Took evening prayers and service for Methodists.

Saturday Dec 20th

Very hot. Calm seas, but cloudy and showery. Off Mombassa.

Sunday Dec 21st

Very hot. Calm seas. Church parade sun deck 9.15am. Communion 3.0pm.

Monday Dec 22nd

Very hot sticky heat. Calm seas.

Tuesday Dec 23rd

Very hot. Orders received for this Brigade to return to Mombassa. No escort. Sailed 22 knots. Moonlight night.

Wednesday Dec 24th

Very hot. Carol singing on decks in evening in lovely moonlight. About 150 miles from Mombassa 7.45pm. Had Communion Service at 11.45pm in library.

Thursday Dec 25th

Service on sun deck 9.15am followed by Communion Service. Very hot. East Africa sighted 9.30am. Docked Mombassa (Kenya) went into Mombassa in the evening. Very hot smelly town. Martin walked into town with me.

Friday Dec 26th

In am went into Mombassa, visited the CMS. Met Canon & Mrs Hillyard (Australians) had tea and food with them. Visited the RC and Anglican cathedrals. Did some shopping. Bargained with the Indians who run all the shops. Very hot sticky.

Saturday Dec 27th

In Mombassa in am. Showery but very hot. In afternoon had motor ride into country. Went into jungle & saw primitive African life. Also saw Italian prisoner of war camp. In the evening dined out at the Manor House with Dean & Duckworth.

Sunday Dec 28th

Parade service 9.15am. Terribly warm, had stroll around Mombassa am & evening visited Manor House again. Met Ross & Naval Chaplain from "Emerald".

Monday Dec 29th

Departed Mombassa 9.30am. Very sticky unpleasant heat. Pleased to leave Mombassa. Hot smelly town. Very cosmopolitan. Indians all business people. Turks, Arabs & Africans.

Tuesday Dec 30th

Very warm & very showery. Met another large convoy. Four ships joined with us.

Wednesday Dec 31st

Cloudy & showery. Very hot sticky heat. Nothing note to report.

1942**Thursday Jan 1st 1942**

Cloudy. News received about Day of Prayer. Conducted a service at 4.30pm on sun deck.

Friday Jan 2nd

Very hot & cloudy. Took service for Methodists in library at 8.15pm.

Saturday Jan 3rd

Very hot. Nothing of interest to note.

Sunday Jan 4th

Service on sun deck 9.15am. Communion service 3pm. Refuelling at – unclear, looks like - Search Couse island base. S.W. of Ceylon. We think the bottom of the Maldive group.

Monday Jan 5th

Moved off 10am. Rougher seas.

Tuesday Jan 6th

Cooler. Played volleyball in afternoon. Nothing of interest to note.

Wednesday Jan 7th

Very hot. Took service at 8.15pm.

Thursday Jan 8th

Suddenly taken ill in the morning with awful pains in the left side. Given a dose of morphia & - word illegible -. At night taken into ships hospital.

Friday Jan 9th

In hospital. Bad night. I had to call the American M.O. to give me a shot of morphia in the early hours of the morning. Excellent M.O.s these Americans.

Saturday Jan 10th

In hospital. Coast Sumatra sighted. Escort increased.

Sunday Jan 11th

In hospital. Very bad night. Too ill to take parade service. Along coast Sumatra.

Monday Jan 12th

In hospital. Better night.

Tuesday Jan 13th

Still in hospital. First glimpse Singapore 11.30am. Nearly struck floating mine. Docked 1.10pm. Simply pouring with rain. Put into ambulance with Malay driver & sent to Alexandra military hospital. Airman next bed. Crashed and was badly burned, Flight Lt Appleton. Burma squadron No. 60. Very nice fellow. Surprisingly cool weather.

Wednesday Jan 14th

In Alexandra hospital. Raid warning 10.am. Nothing much happened. Cool day. Visited by A.C.G. Hughes & - *illegible word*– chaplain.

Thursday Jan 15th

Bad pain in am. Jap bombing raid in 10.30 saw Buffalo fighter – *illegible word*-. Buffalos too slow. Rain in afternoon.

Friday Jan 16th

Air raid 8am. Air raid 10am. Then quiet day. Raining in afternoon, hospital train arrived with wounded from Malaya at night.

Saturday Jan 17th

Short alert early hours am. Alert 8.45am. Air raid 10am. Saw large formation Jap(anese) planes. A.A. bursting around them. Bombs dropped very near hospital. Under X-ray unit at the time strapped to table. Awful feeling of helplessness. Quiet for rest of day.

Sunday Jan 18th

Cool weather again. Saw officer who had Japanese flag & binoculars taken from Jap(anese) officer in fighting – Capt. Vickers, E. Surrey Regt., in ward bed opposite. Air raid warning 10.15. Air raid warning 12pm. Lots of noise & rumble of Jap planes. Attack on Naval base. Tanks set ablaze. Met a Methodist officer, Lt James, A.A. unit. Visited by A.C.G.

Monday Jan 19th

Warm cloudy morning. First intimation that I am moving off to convalescent depot. No Air raids.

Tuesday Jan 20th

Four air raids between 9am & noon. Saw large formations Jap(anese) bombers. Bombs dropped in residential quarters Singapore. Another raid in afternoon. Sent to convalescent depot at Changi, eastern tip of island. Arrived about tea time very nice quiet spot. Barracks of Gordon Highlanders. Quite comfortable night. So ends first week in Singapore.

Wednesday Jan 21st

Cool morning. Two air raids between 9am & noon. Saw formation of 24 Japanese bombers. One shot down by A.A. fire. Another alert 12 noon, nothing happened. Chinese women in front of barracks digging trenches. Women do work here – dressed in slacks & light blouses. A very interesting meeting today, met Capt. Moss RAMC who went to 5th DCLI just after I left.

Thursday Jan 22nd

Hot morning. Air raid about 9.30am. No incidents. Air raid about 11.30am. Saw two formations of about 50 odd planes. Rain in afternoon. Then very quiet day. Rain about tea time.

Friday Jan 23rd

Cool breeze blowing off straits of Johore in am. Three Jap raids between 8.30 & noon. Saw another large formation of Jap bombers. Visited by Headley C.E.C.F.

Saturday Jan 24th

Cool cloudy morning. No raids before 12.45am – touch wood. Naval vessels sailed up straits Johore this am. Hope reinforcements have arrived! Air raid siren about 8pm. Nothing happened.

Sunday Jan 25th

Cool cloudy morning. Two raids between 9am & eleven. Terrific winds & rain storm developed. After lunch moved into new quarters – about two miles away. Quite close to Straits Johore. Delightful spot. Facing Ubin Island. Raid warning in night. Malay General Hospital took over our quarters.

Monday Jan 26th

Very warm morning. Raid about 9.30 heard loud bombs quite close. Siren 2.30 saw British submarine on surface sailing out to sea. Very sinister looking boat! Went into Changi – Chinese shops. Bought sandals. Siren 9.45pm.

Transcribers note: Here is a loose and much damaged page. The diary appears to stop for several pages, and becomes a collection of spiritual thoughts and names and addresses.

I say these things to (Illegible word) to some men & to comfort others.

“Where’s your courage? You are trembling with fear” says one to another.

Yes, perhaps so, but the man who even tho trembling, meets the situation as it ought to be met shows far more courage than the other.

Is there any way in which we can increase our little stock of courage?

There is.

1. This is a lowly way – but it has served many men.

Let us fear most the showing of fear. That I'm sure will help us to increase our stocks of courage.

Once give way to fear & show fear & you increase your own fear.

You probably know that you can (Missing word, page torn) an emotion by stimulating its (Missing word, page torn) symptoms.

Transcribers note: Here the page turns, and the entire left hand edge of the page is damaged and missing. Most of the words here are missing.

...can produce a certain amount of
...fulness, by making your face smile
throwing out your chest & behaving as if you
...cheerful.

Once give way & express the physical sign
...ear, & you deplete your store of courage,
...hat is even more serious, you will
...ect your comrades.
...r is very infectious indeed.

Let us feed our courage by admiring
...age.
...become like the things we most admire.

...' said John Drinkwater
...we worship (Illegible word) passing by,
...Ourselves are great!
...read stories of courage – some of the
...a poem like Kiplings "If" & to
...the story of the events which show
...atchless courage of Christ – stiffens
...
...practice in small ways. Let us
...to discipline ourselves to do the
...hing in times of difficulty.

Transcribers note: Here ends the damaged page.

4. Above all, let us open our minds & hearts to the impact of God.
Be strong & of a good courage – for the Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest.

You & I as Xtian soldiers & sailors want more than pagan courage – a courage that is consistent with despair. We want the courage that is based on faith.

Faith in God who is working a Devine plan - & who calls on us to aid him – a God who is tireless, undefeated & undismayed – whatever appearances may suggest to the contrary

That was the courage of Jesus Xt – and nothing less is offered to us all.
“Be strong & of a good courage be not affrighted, neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee, withersoever thou goest.
He hath sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat.
He is sifting out the hearts of men before the judgement seat.
Be swift my soul to answer Him, be jubilant my feet!
Our God is marching on.

Every soldier in the British Army knows what ‘Blighty’ means. It is a queer word with a doubtful history.

Most people seem to think it has been snatched from the conversation of the Indian bazaars.

There is a word in Hindustani which bears a certain resemblance to it in sound. This word meaning ‘Foreigners’ was applied by the natives to our soldiers, & they seized upon it as meaning Englishman or England.

Blighty signifies little or nothing to the Englishman who lives at home, but to the exile it means everything.

There is something intimate about it which no formal name can ever possess.

Saxon, Norman or Roman conquerors may have named our land & their words may stand scientific criticism & be supported by age old tradition but Blighty – it is my name for my shore of England – it is home.

What a scale of value it has revealed. Men have stood on the deck of a ship in the Indian ocean & dreamed of some little cottage in Norfolk. Let a man say ‘Blighty’ to a group of his comrades & there are as many different visions called up as there are men who hear him speak & understand his words.

Blighty is the centre of desire – but it is not the vast acreage of England so much as the home where one lives – be it Park Lane or Poplar. There is something deeper than geographical significance in the word. It is a spiritual conception that has lent such magic power to it. ‘Home’ says the dictionary is ‘ones own abode’. It is the constant residence of the family of which one forms a member.

For my part I am content to think that home is the abode of my heart, & said Jesus Xt where your (Illegible word) is, there is your heart also.

We would give anything to know that neither bullet nor bomb, bayonet or disease would separate us from our loved ones or make us perpetual outlaws from Blighty.

In some of our souls there is a mystical awareness of a Blighty bigger & brighter than England – a wonderful Blighty which the angels tend & guard & make ready.

Record of officers and men buried at Changi Military Cemetery

Capt. 5879974 J Newson	1 st Battn Cambs	32 years	Wed April 1 st .
Cpl. 1629586 B Nunn	1 st Battn Cambs	36 years	Mon April 6 th .
Gnr. 4858289 F Johnson	14 Regt. RA	30 years	Mon April 6 th .
Pte. Hathaway	15 th Leicesters	21 years	Sat April 11 th .
Cpl. H Pinlett	18 Div. Postal Unit	36 years	Fri April 24 th .
Pte. Patrick	1 st Cambs		Fri May 15 th .

Wan Rang, Thailand

Maj. Adrian Joseph Staples	8 th Punjab I.A.	42 years	Jan 7 th 1943.
Pte. Geoffrey Robson	RAOC		Jan 7 th 1943.
Sgt. 2337886 Bell	Penang Fortress Signals		Jan 11 th 1943.
Gnr. Short	9 th Coastal Regt. RA	28 years	Jan 27 th 1943.
Pte. Watson	5 th Norfolks	27 years	Feb 4 th 1943.
Pte. 7612601 Forsay	RAOC		Feb 6 th 1943.

Pak Ki Len, Thailand

5832842 J A P Walken	1 st Cambs.	22 years	Feb 27 th 1943.
Sig. 2359037 A Waring	18 Div. Sigs.Regt.	23 years	March 4 th 1943.
Gnr. 994874 Paterson	135 Field Regt.	22 years	March 7 th 1943.
Pte. 1572489 Scattergood	6 th Battn. Royal Norfolks		March 24 th 1943.
Pte. Gray	RAOC	23 years	March 24 th 1943.
CQMS 5825850 Watling	1 st Cambs.		April 15 th 1943.

Officers and men at Wan Rang and other stations:

Lt. Col. Swinton	E. Surreys	Camp Commandant
Maj. Braughton	Royal Scots	
Maj. Laiming	High Court Judge, Saim	
Lt. Col. Dean	125 Anti Tank Regt.	
Maj. Wyle	125 Anti Tank Regt.	Rector, Houghton-le-Spring.
Capt. Griffiths	6 th Royal Norfolks	
Lt. Offand	6 th Royal Norfolks	
Capt. Englefield	Sherwood Foresters	
Sgt Burton	6 th Royal Norfolks	
George Gisham	RNF	6 Stanhope Street, Newcastle-On-Tyne
Maj. Halford Thomson		135 Field Regt.
Major Gisham	I.A.R.A.M.C.	
Lt. Col. Parker	12 th Frontier Rifles I.A.	Australian.
Capt. Evans	I.A.	Died at Takaroon
Capt. Wilson	I.A. 6/1 Punjab	Newzealander
Capt. Coyle	I.A.	Canadian
Major Phelps	17 th Dogias	
Major Pilling	135 Field Regt RA	
Major Stapleton		
Capt E Gowlon	Argyles	
Capt. Back	I.A.	

Capt. McLean	Argyles	
Capt. J Mortimer	1 st Punjab Regt. I.A.	
Lt. MacKenzie		
Col. Larkin	I.A.	
Major Stephen Strong	I.A.	
Major Brown	I.A.	
Capt. Stone	RAOC	
Capt. Westoby	RAOC	
Lt. Kelso	Ghurkas	
N T Ellis	5 th Gloucesters	
Maj. R Neap	I.A. Brigade Major	
Major Wingfield	I.A.	
Lt. Buchannan	Malay Regt.	Rubber Planter.
Lt. Smith	Malay Regt.	Civil Service Malaya.
D R Sutherland	125 Anti Tank	
Col. Milner	10 Batt. C.O. Signals	
Col. Pine-Coffin	11 Batt. I.A.	
Capt. O'Flynn	Manchesters	11 Battn.
Lt. Ross	Royal Scots	Att. Argyles
Lt. Gisham	Royal Scots	Att. Argyles
Col. Stitt	Gordon Highlanders	Commanding Officer
Capt. Howard Potts	88 Field Regt.	
Capt Cole	RASC	
Major Tate	Royal Signals	
Capt Hickie	RAOC	Died
Sub. Conductor W A P Smith	RAOC	
Gnr. Palmer	85 th Anti Tank	
W H Hopwood		
Harold Morley.		

Funerals Continued: Buried at Kinsayok, Thailand

Pte. VX62612 R W Keegan Ordnance Stores Coy. A.I.F. Died 2/5/43

Buried at Camp 211: 5 Kilometres North of Teknoon (Teknung)

Sig. 2337025 G F Wheeler	Royal Corps of Signals	Died 16/5/43
Gnr. 871274 F E Darke	125 Anti Tank Regt.	Died 26/5/43
Cpl. Tinkler	RAOC	Died 30/5/43
Brig. Einhart	Dutch Army	Died 31/5/43
Pte. 3855116 D Longworth	2 nd Battn. Loyals.	Died 1/6/43
Gnr. 1115167 A J Denmead	135 Field Regt RA	Died 4/6/43
Gnr. 1107647 Frank Roblou	125 Anti Tank Regt.	Died 4/6/43
Sig. 2335834 J W Leith	3 Corps Signals	Died 4/6/43
Sgt. 4191708 W A Williams	85 th Anti Tank Regt.	Died 9/6/43
Gnr. 1088910 N M Dibben	135 Field Regt. RA	Died 9/6/43
Gnr Cooper	135 Field Regt. RA	Died 10/6/43
Pte. 5778296 Brady	5 th Battn. Royal Norfolk Regt.	Died 10/6/43
Pte. Luff	6 th Battn. Royal Norfolk Regt.	Died 10/6/43
Pte. 5778296 C A Sparkes	5 th Battn. Royal Norfolk Regt.	Died 11/6/43

Gnr. 1543081 Downer	5 th Searchlight Battery RA	Died 11/6/43
Gnr. 901385 A Welsh	122 RA	Died 11/6/43
Pte. 5779627 T S Palmer	5 th Royal Norfolk Regt.	Died 12/6/43
Pte. 3372857 S Bowgen	196 Field Ambulance RAMC	Died 13/6/43
Cpl. 5569110 Levey	R. Corps Signals	Died 13/6/43
Gnr 940900 Casbon	135 Field Regt. RA	Died 14/6/43
Sig. 2347788 F Thompson	R. Corps Signals	Died 15/6/43
Pte 5774975 R Hammond	5 th Royal Norfolk Regt.	Died 15/6/43
Cpl. 3446742 Freer	Manchester Regt.	Died 15/6/43
Sig. 2697283 Wagstaff	Malay Corps Sigs.	Died 15/6/43
Sig. 2595043 Burton	11 Div. R. Corps Signals	Died 16/6/43
Sig. 2594199 G Cooper	R. Corps Signals	Died 16/6/43
Pte. 38532211 Thomas	2 nd Battn. Loyals	Died 17/6/43
Gnr. 986435 Garrett	122 Field Regt. RA	Died 18/6/43
Cpl. 2331665 Benton	3 Corps Signals	Died 18/6/43
L/Cpl. 3526486 Glass	Manchesters	Died 18/6/43
Pte. 2889825 Wilson	Gordons	Died 18/6/43
Gnr. 1709731 G A Thompson	5 th Searchlight Battery	Died 19/6/43
Cpl. 3526649 Fluck	1 st Manchesters	Died 19/6/43
Gnr. 850322 Humpage	11 th Heavy Battery	Died 19/6/43
Drum Major 3527196 J Davis	Manchester Regt.	Died 19/6/43
Driver 2349517 A Williams	Malaya Command	Died 20/6/43
Henry Knox	Gordons	Died 20/6/43
Pte. 3534126 Ball	Manchesters	Died 21/6/43
Sgt. 7593682 H Smith	RAOC	Died 21/6/43
Gnr. 11001988 Sanders	RA	Died 22/6/43
Dvr. 2346269 J G Hodge	Signals	Died 22/6/43
Dvr. 2349360 Sanderson	Signals	Died 23/6/43
Dvr. 2347901 Powrie	Signals	Died 23/6/43
Sgt. Ward	6 th RN Regt.	Died 23/6/43
Sig. 939959 Tathan	Sigs.	Died 24/6/43
Gnr. 923104 Benson	125 th Anti Tank	Died 25/6/43
L/Cpl 5107831 Gasson	R. Corps Sigs.	Died 25/6/43
Gnr 1076093 Christie	85 th Anti Tank	Died 25/6/43
Pte. 2876517 Cooper	Gordons	Died 25/6/43
Gnr. 805394 T Bradley	85 th Anti Tank	Died 26/6/43
6003140 Collins (Staffs)	I.A.C.C.	Died 27/6/43
921588 H Howarth	122 Field Regt. RA	Died 28/6/43
Gnr. 1074590 H Tregarthar	85 th Anti Tank	Died 28/6/43
2333360 Westwood	Malay Command	Died 28/6/43
Gnr. 6285850 Dyres	85 th Anti Tank	Died 28/6/43
Gnr. 940712 C West	122 Field Regt. RA	Died 29/6/43
1543347 Albert Abbott	5 th Searchlight Regt. RA	Died 29/6/43
1700002 John Webb	35/L/AA/RA	Died 30/6/43
Sig. 2592881 Wilfred Grimes	R. Corps Signals	Died 30/6/43
Gnr. 914882 T Gibson	85 th Anti Tank	Died 30/6/43
Pte. 5775778 W Cook	6 th Royal Norfolks	Died 1/7/43
Sig. 2337308 D Smith	Malay Corps Signals	Died 1/7/43

Pte. 3530087 Rogers	Manchesters	Died 1/7/43
Capt. 155605 R H Hallam	R.Corps Signals	Died 3/7/43
QMS 1866422 Ford J R W	RE	Died 3/7/43
Sgt 528206 Dimelor	11 Battn. Manchesters	Died 3/7/43
Pte. 5955533 Denny	Beds & Herts	Died 3/7/43
Pte. 2879188 Basket	Gordons	Died 5/7/43
Sig. 2337521 W Clive	3 Corps Signals	Died 5/7/43
Cpl. 5346147 J A Wittingham	6 th Norfolks	Died 6/7/43
Sig. 881203 C Wilkie	3 Corps Signals	Died 6/7/43
Pte. 5778281 H W Sands	6 th Norfolks	Died 9/7/43
Gnr. 1442231 H Brown	85 th Anti Tank RA	Died 9/7/43
Pte. 3526624 J Hall	1 st Manchesters	Died 10/7/43
Cpl. 2351824 Gardner	Signals	Died
13/7/43		
Sig. 2350441 Douglas	Signals	Died
13/7/43		
Pte. 5773706 Solomon	6 th Royal Norfolks	Died 15/7/43
Pte. 5776596 H G Loake	6 th Royal Norfolks	Died 15/7/43
Bdr. 918145 E Constantine	125 Anti Tank	Died 20/7/43
Dvr. 2347199 Hall	R.Corps Signals	Died 25/7/43
Sgt. 3527527 Love	1 st Manchesters	Died 25/7/43
Gnr. 993687 Gibson	135 Field Regt. RA	Died 27/7/43
Pte. 1X3578 A T F Paulton	2/40 th Bn.	Died 27/7/43
Pte. 5888052 Bettinson	6 th Royal Norfolks	Died 29/7/43
Pte. 2979727 Micham	2 nd Argyle & SH	Died 31/7/43
Gnr. 738036021 Day	135 Field Regt. RA	Died 1/8/43
Sig. 2349443 Chew	3 Corps Signals	Died 1/8/43
Pte. 5775750 Attewell	6 th Royal Norfolks	Died 2/8/43
Capt. 77690 Munro	2 nd Gordons	Died 3/8/43
Bdr. 1117303 Brady	85 th Anti Tank	Died 5/8/43
Pte. 2879052 Irvine	Gordons	Died 5/8/43
Pte. 3533758 Kelly	Manchesters	Died 5/8/43
Pte. 6147418 King	East Surreys	Died 5/8/43
Pte. 4867050 Edmonds	Leicesters	Died 5/8/43
Sig. 2336793 Papworth	11 Div. Signals	Died 5/8/43
Capt. Hickey	RAOC	Died 6/8/43
Sig. 2359637 Thompson	Malaya Corps Signals	Died 6/8/43
Pte. 3863451 S Hernink	RASC	Died 6/8/43
Sig. 2597670 Dand	3 rd Corps Signals	Died 6/8/43
Dvr. 4969494 Stokes	3 rd Corps Signals	Died 6/8/43
Cpl. 5774843 Oldfield	5 th Norfolks	Died 6/8/43
Bdr. 963728 Christopher	122 Field Regt. RA	Died 6/8/43
Gnr. 962444 Ramon	135 Field Regt. RA	Died 7/8/43
Pte. 3526771 Morrisey	1 st Manchesters	Died 7/8/43
1087828 McGrevy	85 th Anti Tank Regt. RA	Died 7/8/43
CSM 3524539 Harrison	1 st Manchesters	Died 7/8/43
Sgt. 9506 O'Hoar	I.A.C.C.	Died 7/8/43
Pte. 2046811 Foulks	Leicesters	Died 7/8/43
Dvr. 170471 Stiles	RASC	Died 10/8/43
RQMS 1421557 Watson	122 Field Regt. RA	Died 10/8/43

Gnr. 895162 Tokens	135 Field Regt. RA	Died 10/8/43
Gnr. 1592818 Arnall	316 Searchlight Battery RA	Died 10/8/43
3323216 W Campbell	Argyle & SH	Died 11/8/43
Gnr. 1635313 Southgate	35L/AA/RA	Died 11/8/43
Gnr. 1089482 Swingler	155 Field Regt. RA	Died 12/8/43
Pte. 3854772 Byrne	2 nd Loyals	Died 13/8/43
Gnr. 1104097 Hunt	135 Field Regt. RA	Died 13/8/43
Sgt. 7591456 Bendall	Telegraph Party RAOC	Died 13/8/43
Bdr. 940656 Duroe	122 Field Regt. RA	Died 14/8/43
Pte. 5776582 W Smith	6 th Royal Norfolks	Died 15/8/43
Pte. Hucknall	Leicesters	Died 18/8/43
Gnr. 963776 Bowes	122 Field Regt. RA	Died 18/8/43
Bdr. 1483295 Wheeler	35 L.A.A	Died 18/8/43
Sig. 2366826 Carr	3 rd Corps Signals	Died 22/8/43
Sig. 2365661 McKewan	3 rd Corps Signals	Died 22/8/43
Gnr. 1094824 Palmer	85 th Anti Tank	Died 30/8/43
Gnr. 948882 Gamblin	135 Field Regt. RA	Died 30/8/43
Gnr. 953014 Robinson	135 Field Regt. RA	Died 3/9/43
L/Cpl 2876503 Ness	Gordons	Died 5/9/43
Pte. 2875608 Scoggie	Gordons	Died 11/9/43
CSM 813817 Nichols	135 Field Regt. RA	Died 13/9/43
Sgt 168519 Breve	(Dutch)	Died 19/9/43
Gnr. 910639 Deebank	122 Field Regt. RA	Died 19/9/43
Pte. 3857622 Brown	2 nd Loyals	Died 20/9/43
Sig. 2343310 Upton	Royal Corps Signals	Died 20/9/43
L/Cpl 2324209 Dacklam	Royal Corps Signals	Died 21/9/43
Pte. 5828796 King	5 th Suffolks	Died 24/9/43
L/Cpl 2349518 Winsor	Royal Corps Signals	Died 25/9/43
Sig. 2353491 Russell	Royal Corps Signals	Died 26/9/43
Dvr. 3219810 Rawley	RASC	Died 27/9/43
Pte. 5777207 Reeve	5 th Norfolks	Died 28/9/43

Takeung Base:

Gnr. 1121282 Waddington	135 Field Regt. RA	Died 21/10/43
Gnr. 771868 Sivyer	5 th Searchlight RA	Died 12/11/43
Pte. 1455883 J Roberts	6 th Royal Norfolks	Died 4/12/43
Pte. 3322720 R Airey	Argyle & SH	Died 4/12/43

Chung Kai:

Cpl. 2876752 Grant	RASC	Died 9/1/44
Gnr. VX35128 J A Gray	H.A.T.A.	Died 9/1/44

Here the diary resumes:-

Tidworth – Salisbury Plain area August 1 1939.

Blandford – *illegible word*– camp. September 1 1939.

Joined 5th Battn. DCLI Fort Scraesdon December 1939. Moved with them to Denton

Newhaven May 1940.

Posted to France June 1940.

Rejoined 5th DCLI the next day. Stayed with DCLI at Newhaven till November 1940.

Then we moved to Wythgoss, Sussex for 10 days, then moved to – *illegible word*– Yorkshire.

Left DCLI February 1941. Posted to 18 Div. Reported to Scottish Command & sent to 1st Battn. Cambridgeshire at Galoshields.

Moved with 1st Cambs. to Cannock, Staffs April 1941 then to Nuneaton.

Posted to 53 Brigade 6th Royal Norfolks June 1941. Left for overseas October 28th 1941.

Docked Halifax, Nova Scotia November 8th 1941.

Docked Capetown, South Africa, December 9th 1941.

Docked Mombassa, Kenya, December 25th 1941.

Docked Singapore January 13 1942.

Was in Alexandra hospital Singapore for a few days on arrival with stomach trouble.

Jan 29th.

Reported to 1st Malaya General Hospital Singapore. (Changi)

Feb 10

Moved with 1st Malaya G. Hospital to Fullerton Buildings, Singapore.

Feb 16, 1942

Taken prisoner by the Japanese Imperial Army.

Feb 20, 1942

Sent to prisoner of war camp, Changi.

Commenced this diary from notes already made. Alexandra hospital, Singapore.

March 3, 1942

Posted back to 1st Cambs. & went with them to Farmer Park, Singapore to work.

March 9, 1942

Returned to Changi.

May 6, 1942

Sent with a composite battalion to Kepple Harbour Immigration Dock P.O.W. camp. 1 Batt composed of 9th RNF, 1st/5th Foresters, Recce Corps, 1st Cambs and Div. Signals.

Oct 31, 1942

Moved to River Valley camp, Singapore.

Nov 7, 1942

Departed Singapore for Siam.

Here the diary goes back to Sunday 26th October 1941, seemingly to put detail on the forgoing bare facts and dates....

Sunday Oct 26

Took parade service for 6th Batt. Royal Norfolks in the park at Prescot. In the open air prior to moving overseas. Then went back to Weaverham.

Monday Oct 27

Left Weaverham finally. Motored to Prescot – Doreen, manoi and Page in the car. Said goodbye to Doreen at lunchtime.

Tuesday Oct 28

Departed Prescot at 3.0am. Raining. Marched to station with Capt. Westgate. D company left about 3.50am. Arrived at Gurrock, Scottish port of embarkation on Clyde about 4pm. Embarked on ‘Duchess of Atholl’ Canadian Pacific liner.(Sister ship to the ‘Empress of Britain’ sunk by air attack).

Wednesday Oct 29

Lying out in the Clyde for the day.

Thursday Oct 30

Still at anchor in the Clyde till 11.30pm & then anchors lifted & we pulled out line astern. Moonlight night, stayed on deck & watched for an hour, then turned in to bed.

Friday Oct 31

Calm seas. Saw Scottish islands and Northern Ireland. Escort of British destroyers & AA ship.

Saturday Nov 1

Calm seas. Nothing of note to report.

Sunday Nov 2

Conducted a service at 3.30pm in the dining hall. Good attendance.

Monday Nov 3

Rough seas. Beautiful sunny afternoon. Went to concert in C deck dining hall at 7.45pm.

Tuesday Nov 4

Rough seas.

Wednesday Nov 5

Mild weather. Raining. Very poor visibility.

Thursday Nov 6

Very cold. Sea as calm as a mill pond, lovely sunny afternoon. Escort increased by American destroyers – cruiser, aircraft carrier & battleship. I was on deck early in the am & saw the planes from the carrier first appear over us. A marvellous site. Really

thrilling.

Friday Nov 7

Off coast of Newfoundland. Sunny a.m. with fog banks. Thick fog in the afternoon. Censored a number of letters. American escort left us. Wonderful feeding on the 'Duchess', a lovely ship.

Saturday Nov 8

8.0am first glimpse of Nova Scotia. Lovely sunny cold morning. Beautiful scenery. Pulled into Halifax about lunch time. American transports lying in the harbour. Disembarked about mid afternoon & transhipped to USS Mount Vernon. In the evening went for a walk in Halifax.

Sunday Nov 9

No services on the ship. Went into Halifax for service at 11.0a.m. at St. Matthews United church of Canada. Very good service. Raining. In the afternoon visited 1st Cambs., on the Manhattan. Met Martin for the first time. Methodist Naval chaplain.

Monday Nov 10

Left Halifax at 8.0a.m. Mild weather. Poor visibility. Last glimpse of Canada. Spent an hour or two with Martin. Escort of destroyers & aircraft carrier met us a few miles out.

Tuesday Nov 11

Sunny cold morning. Rough seas. Crossed Gulf Stream about mid day, then warmer. Did library duty in the a.m. Took evening prayers in our improvised chapel.

Wednesday Nov 12

Library duty. Rough seas. Warmer, lots of sunshine. Off Bermuda at 6.0p.m.

Thursday Nov 13

Calm seas. Warm. Sunshine.

Friday Nov 14

Calm & very blue seas and skies.

Saturday Nov 15

Mid day passed thro Windward Straits. Very hot. Saw islands of West Indies, St Domingo etc. Many Catalina's flying around.

Sunday Nov 16

Church parade (united service with American navy) on promenade deck at 9.30a.m. Communion service in chapel at 3.0p.m & service at 7p.m. Very hot.

Monday Nov 17

Reached Trinidad (Leased to the Americans) West Indies 10a.m. Very hot. Anchored off Port of Spain. Refuelling 5am mainland South America.

Tuesday Nov 18

Still at anchor off Port of Spain. Attractive hilly country. Rainy season here. Very hot. Winter here, whatever must summer be like? Taking on provisions. No black out.

Wednesday Nov 19

Departed Trinidad at 1.45p.m. Still very hot. Chaplains conference in am. Robertson, Dean, Duckworth, myself.

Thursday Nov 20

Very hot. Calm seas.

Friday Nov 21

Very hot & unpleasant. Took evening prayers at 8p.m. Afterwards conducted a service for Methodists in Chaplain Martin's library.

Saturday Nov 22

Very hot. Nothing of interest to note.

Sunday Nov 23

Church parade 9.15a.m. Communion service 3p.m. Today we crossed the Equator. Navy celebrated crossing with customary rough play. Hair cutting and water flowing everywhere. Duckworth was forcibly taken out and his hair was 'mutilated' & he got a thorough drenching from the hose. I luckily escaped.

Monday Nov 24

Very hot. Nothing of interest to note.

Tuesday Nov 25

Cooler. Very rough. Sunny. Nothing of interest to note.

Wednesday Nov 26

Reasonably cool. Took evening prayers at 8p.m. Service for Methodists at 8.15. Watched the games played by American sailors in afternoon.

Thursday Nov 27

Humid morning. More cloud than usual. Some rain. American seaman overboard 10.45a.m. Suicide. Watched boxing in afternoon.

Friday Nov 28

Cloudy. Watched boxing in afternoon.

Saturday Nov 29

Nothing of interest to note.

Sunday Nov 30

Church parade 9.30a.m. Communion at 3p.m. Spoke to small Salvation Army group before evening prayers.

Monday Dec 1

Very calm seas. Glorious moonlight night. Saw whale in the afternoon.

Tuesday Dec 2

Calm seas. Nothing of interest to note.

Wednesday Dec 3

Cooler. Calm seas. Took evening prayers at 8p.m. & service for Methodists in library at 8.15p.m.

Thursday Dec 4

Rough sea. Quite cold.

Friday Dec 5

Cold (wearing battle dress). Rough seas. Took evening prayers.

Saturday Dec 6

Cold. Rough seas. Roughest seas we have experienced at night. Tremendous roll.

Sunday Dec 7

Church parade postponed till 7p.m. Very rough & cold. Sunny at times. Communion service at 3p.m. Several Albatross seen. News received that Japan had attacked American islands.

Monday Dec 8

Cool but rough. Had grand view of Albatross, magnificent bird. Listened to President Roosevelt's speech declaring war on Japan.

Tuesday Jan 27 (1942)

Cool a.m. A fortnight today since I arrived in Singapore. Incessant air raids saw large formations Jap bombers. Leaflets dropped in Tamil & Chinese. Bad morning. Heard whistle of bombs. Visited by Headley. Terrific rainstorm in afternoon. Warning about 9p.m.

Wednesday Jan 28

Air raid about 9.30a.m. Saw large formation Jap bombers. Saw submarine come in. Very 'blowy' afternoon. Saw another submarine go out. Five or six air raid warnings in night.

Thursday Jan 29

Cool, pleasant morning. Numbers of air raids. Went to Singapore to see A.C.G. Received orders to report to 1st Malay General Hospital, Changi. Arrived about 5p.m. Six air raid sirens between 8.30p.m. & midnight. Met Short, C.E. Chaplain.

Friday Jan 30

Air raids all morning. Went round with Headley. Met Stallard with Beds & Herts. Warning in afternoon. Very 'blowy' quiet night.

Saturday Jan 31

Very hot. Incessant air raids in a.m. Met Stallard again. Troops retired into Singapore & we are besieged.

Sunday Feb 1

Very hot morning. Air raid warnings in abundance. Spent the morning visiting the wards. Met many 2nd Camb. Weather getting much hotter. No services today. Quiet night.

Monday Feb 2

Cool am. Incessant raids till evening. Quiet night. Visited the wards.

Tuesday Feb 3

Cool a.m. Continuous air raids. Very hot later in day. Visited the wards. Sent cables from Changi for patients. Quiet night. New C.O. took over (Lt.Col. Middleton). Met R.S.M. Leveridge(wounded). Met Pugh (C.E.) Chaplain 6th Norfolks.

Wednesday Feb 4

Bright a.m. but cool. Not so much air activity. Went to Changi in afternoon with Capt. Diggle (Dental Corps). Visited wards and paid out many men.

Thursday Feb 5

Cool in a.m. Lots of artillery fire rumbling. Dive bombing attack. Very heavy rain in afternoon. Visiting wards. Quiet night.

Friday Feb 6

Hot sticky morning. In wards visiting & paying out. Air raids and dive bombing attack quite near. Page reported back to me in afternoon. Very quiet night.

Saturday Feb 7

Visiting & paying out all morning. Very heavy bombing raid on Changi about 2.30p.m. All bombs unleashed together. Very frightening. Hot sticky day. Quiet night. I was nearly hit. Just got to a trench in time. Nearest bomb about 10 Ft away!

Sunday Feb 8

Service at 11.a.m. Very noisy a.m. Air raids, dive bombing, R.A. fire. Very scared. Very bad raid about tea time. Hundreds bombs very near. Our quarters demolished. Luckily nobody there. Noisy night. Worked very hard with casualties.

Monday Feb 9

Very hot. Very busy. Terrific artillery fire. Terrible raid in afternoon. Hospital hit, V.A.D. killed. Bombs in abundance very close. Nearest about 10 Ft from me. Fortunately I was in a trench. What a wash!

Tuesday Feb 10

Posted back to 6th Norfolks. Too late! Hospital evacuating Changi after heavy bombing. Arrived Singapore, Victoria Hall.

Wednesday Feb 11

Awful day. Bombings all day. Japs in suburbs of Singapore. Driven out at night rumour says. Thought we should capitulate – but situation improved. Sleeping in cricket pavilion. A very flimsy building.

Thursday Feb 12

Raids – tho not so heavy. Rumour says Japs being driven back. Lots of noise, artillery etc.

Friday Feb 13!

What a day & night. Shells, bombs, mortars everywhere. Indescribable. Slept in Supreme Court. Very safe building.

Saturday Feb 14

Usual sounds of battle.

Sunday Feb 15

Fullerton Buildings. Awful day of bombing and shelling. We capitulate just in time to save an awful massacre.

Monday Feb 16

Fullerton Buildings. Japanese occupy Singapore. First day of captivity. Saw Dan Morrish 1st Cambs in hospital. Very quiet, Japanese behaving very well.

Tuesday Feb 17

Fullerton Buildings. Quiet day visiting wards etc.

Wednesday Feb 18

Quiet day visiting wards etc. Met Lucas, 1st Cambs. Fullerton Buildings.

Thursday Feb 19

Quiet day visiting wards.

Friday Feb 20

Moved out to Changi prisoner of war camp. Spent first night with 198 Field Ambulance.(Col Barratt)

Saturday Feb 21

Went back to 53 Brigade HQ. Met lots of men I know. Grand to see so many alive, Broughton, Wood, Williams, John Dean. The Brigadier(sic) Witherick was killed.

Sunday Feb 22

Church Parade 10.30a.m. Memorial service. Evening prayers 7.15p.m.

Monday Feb 23

Spent morning with 1st Cambs. Chaplains conference 2.30p.m. The General came.

Tuesday Feb 24

Quiet day visiting around 1st Cambs etc.

Wednesday Feb 25

Japanese C in C visited us this afternoon. Everyone on parade on Changi ward. In evening visited 198 Field Ambulance. Thunderstorm at night.

Thursday Feb 26

Quiet day. Heard I am going back to 1st Cambs March 3. Very hot weather. Met S.C.F.

Friday Feb 27

Chaplain's conference at Div 2.30. Met George Birch (Foresters) had long talk.

Saturday Feb 28

Heavy rain in early a.m. Very pleasant day visiting etc. Met many old friends in the units.

Sunday March 1

Church parade 9.15a.m. Very good service. Spent day visiting. Met Harry Fitt, C.O. Recce Battalion. Went service at 7p.m. John Dean took service.

Mon March 2

Parade for visit Japanese Naval C in C. Very hot. Page came back to me.

Tues March 3

Reported to 1st Cambs. Went to Singapore with Batt for work. Slept in tented camp in Farrer Park. Very grim.

Wed March 4

In camp. Nothing much happened. Very hot day. Lots of flies by day and mosquitoes by night. Horrible camp.

Thurs March 5

Farrer Park. In camp. Very hot. Uneventful quiet day. Life rather boring.

Fri March 6

Very warm. Still in camp. Very quiet. Very bored.

Sat March 7

Farrer Park. In camp. Terrific thunderstorm & very heavy rain about lunch time. Met officer who knows Keinton & Somerset well. Had very refreshing talk about old times & familiar names. (Donaldson).

Sun March 8

Farrer Park. Quiet uneventful day. No service unfortunately. Late working.

Mon March 9

Not feeling to fit. Returning to Changi today. Very pleased too. Thought I should march but C.O. told me to ride on Q.M.'s trucks. Developed Dysentery. Very unpleasant. A really grim few days here. The dead bodies had hardly been moved.

Tues March 10

In bed with dysentery. Miserable day. Visited by Daniels & Dean & S.C.F.

Wed March 11

Moved to new camp site. Quite near & quite pleasant. In tents. I share a tent with Dr. Smith. Still down with Dysentery.

Thurs March 12

In a little better condition this a.m. Tent to be moved to a new site.

Fri March 13

Rained most of the day very heavily. Still down with dysentery. Saw a number of very pretty blue Kingfishers, very common here. Also grey squirrel. Very primitive life this. Tree full of ants for corner post of tent. Stallard came to see me in evening.

Sat March 14

Had a very good night, lovely a.m. Bad day, Cholic all day. High temp. Raining most of day. Good to see end of it.

Sun March 15

Very nice a.m. Feeling rather better, but very weak. End of first month in captivity. Lots of rain today again. Not making very much progress. Inclined to be depressed as day went on. Moved into a new tent later in day. Drier & healthier I feel. Started reading Dicken's Oliver Twist - & in evening 'Our present Discontents' by Inge. Lent by Stallard. Not a good night. Couldn't sleep. Harry Fitt came to see me.

Mon March 16

Feeling much better. Lots of rain again today. Very dreary. Got dressed & had a stroll around. Torrential rain commenced about 3.30p.m. Real tropical stuff. Maintained my improvement. Rain throughout day.

Tues March 17

Pouring with rain. Had a very long sound sleep 9.30 – 9.30 dusk to dawn. Reorganised the tent. Raining still at 2.15. Ants are a problem. Large red horrible looking creatures! Rain clears towards evening. So ends another day – rather dull & monotonous. Little variety in either food (rice) or temperature. Finished Inge's book.

Wed March 18

Very pleasant morning. Warm & sunny. Rain has developed later in day. Two funeral processions have passed to the cemetery in the jungle nearby. Very depressing sight.

Thurs March 19

Heavy rain during night & morning. Developed into torrential downpour about 9.45a.m. Discovered a Lime tree with no fruit in close proximity to my tent. Also another fruit bearing tree – rather like pears (Guala). Ripe one tasted grand. Went fishing, caught nothing. Too muddy. Another funeral. Went to see Ross.

Fri March 20

Lovely morning. Meeting with S.C.F. at 11.15a.m. A really beautiful day. Cool breezes & sunshine. Went fishing again – again with little success! Not feeling too strong yet. Seen lots of huge grasshoppers & dragonfly. Saw Driver House today. Reading life of Schubert. Met fellow from Trowbridge. No rain.

Sat March 21

Lovely morning. Spent very profitable day preparing a sermon for tomorrow. Lovely weather continues. Caught a chill during night.

Sun March 22

Lovely day. Not too well. Took two very good parade services. One at Division for Free Churchmen at 10.15. Then the Batt parade in the - *illegible word* – at 11.15. Padre Chalk died yesterday & was buried today. Died from gunshot wounds in

stomach. Went to funeral. End of 5th week captivity.

Mon March 23

Very nice morning. Had a good nights sleep. Feeling rather better. Went to a Chaplain's conference in the afternoon at Div. Finished making a sermon. Quite a pleasant day.

Tues March 24

Pleasant a.m. again. Ross came to see me & we had a very interesting talk. Sounds of the Last Post again this afternoon. Yet another funeral! Gordon Highlanders break into slow march opposite my tent & bagpipes start to play. Very impressive! Saw S.C.F. & CO & church parade arrangements made saw - *illegible name* - & Matheson.

Wed March 25

Sunny warm a.m. Spent afternoon with choir rehearsing hymns for Good Friday. Six funerals today, very sad sight.

Thurs March 26

Sunny hot morning. Another parade for some other Japanese official. I'm not on it – Thanks God! Chaplains forbidden to attend ceremonial parades. Very heavy storm in afternoon. Matheson came to see me. Two funerals passed. Had a good nights sleep. On whole very pleasant quiet day.

Fri March 27

Very nice a.m. Cricket match against Beds & Herts at 2.3.0p.m. Rain in afternoon. Very quiet & pleasant day.

Sat March 28

Warm pleasant day. Heard G.O.C. was coming to see our service tomorrow. Spent most of the day rearranging my tent & preparing sermon. On whole a good day. Lt. Atkins from RASC came to see me.

Sun March 29

Palm Sunday. Very nice morning. Service for Free Churchmen at 10a.m. at Division. Batt parade at 11.14a.m. Very good services. G.O.C. read lesson. Brigadier there, Brigade Major etc. Six weeks captivity. Spent rest of day making sermons.

Mon March 30

Very pleasant morning. Sermonising all day. Very profitable day. Storm in afternoon.

Tues March 31

Pleasant cooler morning. Spent day sermonizing. Rain in afternoon. Went to hospital in afternoon. John Newson died this morning.

Wed April 1

Very pleasant cool morning. Sermonizing most of the day. Buried John Newson in the afternoon! A terrific storm & rain. Poor Newson – after six weeks struggle! Am feeling very depressed.

Thurs April 2

Arose fairly early in cool of the morning & got to work after a decent night. Visited the hospital. Dan Marriott is better today. Saw Corporal Nunn (Methodist), very ill. We had thunder, rain in torrents from lunch time onwards. Met Fl.Lt. Appleton again, he is progressing well.

Good Friday April 3

Good nights sleep. Cool after the rain. Very pleasant morning. Lovely - *illegible word* - & sunset last night! Marvellous. Palm silhouetted against the rising moon. Service at 10a.m. at Division. Voluntary service for 1st Cambs at 7.30. Met Sgt Mitchell. Rained in torrents about 5p.m. again. Rained for the service, but we continued.

Sat April 4

Cool fresh morning. Arose early again & did some work. Torrential thunder rain at about 5p.m. again. Quite a busy quiet day.

Easter Day Sunday April 5

A beautiful Easter dawn. Cool & lovely. Service at 10a.m. at Division. Battalion parade at 11.15a.m. Quite good services. Pte House & Pte Harvey came to see me in afternoon. A terrific thunderstorm at bedtime with heavy rain continued thro the night. John Dean called.

Mon April 6

Cool a.m. after the rain. Buried Cpl Nunn & a Gunner named Johnson. Spent the day sermonizing. Felt very depressed in the evening.

Tues April 7

Cool pleasant morning. Rain developed later in the day. Spent day making sermons. Atkins. On whole a pleasant day.

Wed April 8

Cool pleasant morning. Working all day on my Bible talks. Torrential rain in the afternoon. Visited R.A.S.C. at night. Heard some depressing news when I arrived back. A British soldier found shot lying on the wire! Silly fellow. The Japanese have warned us.

Thurs April 9

Cool pleasant a.m. Arose before dawn. Working at sermons all day. Rain again in afternoon. Went to see S.C.F. Concert at night. I didn't go!

Fri April 10

Arose very early, 6.0a.m. Simply lovely here from dawn till 9a.m. Working at sermons all the day. Visited Foster Haig at about 3p.m. No rain yet 4.30p.m.

Sat April 11

Lovely a.m. Not up quite so early. Ross came in afternoon. Torrential rainstorm about 4.30.

Sun April 12

8 weeks of captivity. Lovely a.m. Two services. Division at 10a.m. Battalion parade at 11.15. A torrential downpour about 6.30. The Gordons have just passed piping another soldier to his last resting place. Funerals are very numerous this week. Wounds & Dysentery. The Gordons pipe the 'Flowers of the Forest' on the return journey.

Mon April 13

Lovely a.m. Many troops marched out as a working party to Singapore this a.m. Including our D company (Capt Stagg). Played cricket in the afternoon. Took two wickets & made two runs! No rain up till 8p.m.

Tues April 14

Cricket in afternoon v 148 Field Regiment. Arose quite early in time to watch the dawn! What a marvellous sight. Flaming colours. The palms silhouetted against this background are wonderful. The East begins to exert a strange fascination. We played 148 Field Regt & lost I had a bad match. Out LBW for 0 – and too miserably stiff to bowl. No rain as yet 6.30p.m.

Wed April 15

Lovely a.m. Slept soundly till 8.45a.m. Very stiff as a result of my cricket. Visited the hospital this afternoon. Saw six or seven 1st Cambs. Terrific rain about tea time.

Thurs April 16

Cool cloudy a.m. No rain. Slept well. Very dull uninteresting day.

Fri April 17

Lovely a.m. Went to hear Corps Commander give a lecture on Malayan campaign at 12a.m. Rest of day spent very quietly. Heard the depressing news that John Dean is very ill. Heavy storm about noon. Thunder all night.

Sat April 18

Terrific rainstorm broke about 8a.m. Torrential rain. Stallard just told me that John Dean died this a.m. at 9.45. Awful blow. We buried John Dean this afternoon! I do not fully realise it yet. In his last words he requested we sang last verse of 'The day thou gavest Lord is ended' which we did. Am feeling very sad.

Sun April 19

Nine weeks captivity. Warm pleasant morning. Slept quite well. Good services, quiet day.

Mon April 20

Cool a.m. Chaplains conference at Brigade 11.30a.m. Rain in the afternoon. Uninteresting day.

Tues April 21

Dull cool a.m. Chaplains conference at 11.30a.m. Quiet day from then on. Slept better having procured a mosquito net.

Wed April 22

Cool a.m. Thunder storms about. Sky very black & ominous. Torrential rain. Spent a quiet day except for visitors. Foster Haig, Ross, - *illegible name* – Atkins etc. Mess meeting at 7.30p.m.

Thurs April 23

Cool pleasant a.m. Meet Foster Haig at 10.30a.m. Rain in afternoon & heavy thunderstorm.

Fri April 24

Cool cloudy a.m. Rain about I'm afraid. Rained most of the day. Heard I was going to Singapore – but protested volubly & got out of it. D.A.C.G. called to see me (Lewis Brian).

Sat April 25

Beautiful sunny am. Large number of men gone to Singapore. Quiet day.

Sunday April 26

Cool sunny morning. Took two parades. Very good services. Rain developed as usual & it rained most of the night. What a climate! Saw Ross. Ten weeks captivity.

Monday April 27

Very pleasant day. Rain apparently gone. Moon in three quarters full. Ross came down in the am. C.O. gave us a talk at 12 noon. Finished a sermon.

Tues April 28

Hot but pleasant am. Very warm day. Went to see Ross & Foster Haig. Thunder about but no rain up to 8p.m. Very bright moonlight! David Lawrence sat in the compound with me till late, yarning.

Wed April 29

Very cool, pleasant a.m. Quiet day. No rain. Nothing of interest to report. Feeling very bored with captivity today.

Thursday April 20

Rain during the night. Very warm, sunny a.m. Did a fair amount of work. Went to see Foster Haig & Dr Lewis (4th Suffolks) in the afternoon. Very bright moonlight – nearly full moon.

Friday May 1

Cool sunny a.m. But thunder about. No rain, lovely night of full moon. Foster Haig, Ross, Lewis & Bottom came to see me at night. Heard the news that I am detailed for Singapore Sunday. Usual C of E – illegible word.

Saturday May 2

Lovely cool night and a.m. Very pleasant day. Saw a lot of 4th Suffolks. Had a little party over there in the evening. Bright moonlight night. Saw C. Burch in Forester's lines.

Sunday May 3

Not too good a night. A mosquito in my net bothered me. Two good services. Very hot day. Feeling a bit out of sorts. Cyril Burch spent most of the afternoon with me. Very 'homely' talk about – illegible word. Preached to United Free Church congregation in 4th Suffolk lines. Good do. End of 11 weeks captivity.

Monday May 4

Pleasant day. No rain. Went to 4th 25th Suffolks. Nothing of interest to note.

Tuesday May 5

Warm a.m. Chaplains conference at 11 a.m. Took communion service for 1st Cambs at 7.30. Nothing of note to report.

Left Changi for work in Singapore.

Wed May 6

Going to Singapore by truck. Keppel Harbour. Delightful ride, Indian driver from Madras. Very nice boy. Our situation here is a good one. Close by the sea. Japanese very reasonable. Spent an hour on pier in the evening watching Malays feeding in their houseboat. Very fascinating.

Thursday May 7

Lovely dawn. Had a very good night. Its grand here. Spent time on pier again.

Friday May 8

Went out working this a.m. Moving Ingotts into a Chinese boat on docks. Very enjoyable. Japs very reasonable & decent. Cool & pleasant, lovely breeze in the evening. Another very pleasant day.

Sat May 9

A lovely rosy dawn. Very hot after an hour or two. Went with a working party in afternoon. Very heavy work – unloading steel cable from Chinese boat. On whole, enjoyable day.

Sunday May 10

Very hot. No work in a.m. Going off at 2p.m. We went for a boat trip. Embarked in Chinese boats & were tugged round to another dock. Quite a pleasant ride. Very hot working. Loading bricks made in Castle Cary! Took a service at 9p.m. in the lights of the cook house! Quite good & so to bed. 12 weeks captivity.

Monday May 11

Looks like another very hot day. No work detailed as yet. Working in afternoon near at hand. Moving iron & tin Ingotts.

Tues May 12

Very hot day. Out twice. Marched to another dock & moved rolls of steel cable to our site. Was able to shop. Very pleasant day.

Wed May 13

Out working in the a.m. Hot but pleasant day. Nothing of note to report. Very hot night.

Thursday May 14

Working in a.m. Went for a boat trip to interior dock. Very hot. Free in the afternoon. Awful do at night. Pte Patrick of 1st Cambs shot by Japanese sentry. Men looting a go-down. Patrick probably the innocent man. Men have been warned time & time again.

Friday May 15

No work. Buried Pte Patrick about 1.15p.m. Not quite so hot. No work. Apparently it is a Japanese holiday. No further repercussions for the looting.

Sat May 16

Quite pleasant & cool. Glorious dawn. No work in the a.m. Working in afternoon close at home. Japanese unloading a ship load of vegetables. Given a cucumber & a banana. Had a good night.

Sunday May 17

Very hot a.m. My party out working on the dock close at home. Not feeling too well, headache & backache. Rather like Dhengi hope it isn't. Service tonight at 9p.m. in the cook house. Must – *illegible word*– Sunday somehow. Quite a cool afternoon. 13 weeks captivity.

Mon May 18

Confined to bed with Dhengi. Very unpleasant. Headache, backache etc.

Tues May 19

Still in bed. Very groggy. Cool cloudy day. Rain at night. Dhengi has most depressing mental effect.

Wed May 20

Still down with fever. Tho not so bad. Cool pleasant day.

Thursday May 21

Better today. Tho by no means A1. Slept well.

Friday May 22

Cool a.m. & feeling a little better – but still in pain behind the eyes. Page sent back to Changi with suspected Dysentery.

Sat May 23

Bad night. Temp went up. Stayed in bed whole of the day. Miserable. Homesick.

Sunday May 24

Better night. Whit Sunday & Empire day. 14 weeks captivity. Very browned off with this monotonous captivity. No service tonight.

Mon May 25

Terrific thunderstorm during night. Slept very little. Cool a.m. Slightly improved during the day but very depressed.

Tues May 26

Terrific thunderstorm about 6a.m. Feeling fitter. Improvement maintained but very fed up. One day exactly same as next.

Wed May 27

Cool pleasant a.m. Quiet day as usual. Utter boredom, very fed up. Concert at night. Very hot in bed. Moon $\frac{3}{4}$ full.

Thursday May 28

Cool a.m. Very like an English day. Rain developed about 10a.m. Rained most of day. No work, slept in afternoon. Saw large swallow tail butterfly. Magnificent. Quite 6 inches from wing to wing.

Friday May 29

Cool sunny a.m. Not too bad a night. Am quite recovered & feeling fit now. Developing into a hot day. Another shipload of vegetables being unloaded. Working in afternoon. Looks like being a very hot sticky night again.

Sat May 30

Cool sunny a.m. Quite a good night. Very moonlight. Went out with working party this a.m. Heard the sad news from Changi that Dan Marriott died about five days ago. Out working again in afternoon. Feeling very depressed. Visited Div.Signals billets. Looks like a full moon tonight, very sticky.

Sunday May 31 15 weeks captivity.

Cool a.m. Not a bad night. Cleaning the yard & billets this a.m. Japanese officer inspecting the place at 11a.m. Rain came in afternoon. Service at 9p.m. Quite a good service. Good night's rest.

Monday June 1

Cool a.m. There appears to be no work this morning. Very cool breeze. Very little work this afternoon. Spent an hour learning to play bridge. Japanese soldier came in for an hour or so. Very interesting chat.

Tues June 2

Sleepless night. Breeze dropped & it was terribly hot & sticky. But quite cool a.m. A simply wonderful coloured sky at dawn. No work today, Japanese holiday. Went out into Singapore on shopping expedition in afternoon. Very very pleasant. Like freedom again. Rode on trams. Shopkeepers very generous & kind (especially the Chinese).

Hot sticky night.

Wed June 3

A good night & a lovely dawn. Very interesting day. Embarked on a merchant ship & sailed out into the bay. Spent a long day working on the ship (An old British merchantman). Came back to Keppell harbour in an assault boat. We were paid at night 6//50. Rain about 10p.m.

Thursday June 4

A fair nights rest. Warm a.m. Did not go out with working party. Spent whole day in camp.

June 5 Friday

Good nights rest. Cool a.m. Most of the working party out. I am not going. A boring day with nothing of interest to report.

June 6 Saturday

A very good nights rest. Torrential rain in early a.m. Very cool, almost cold morning. Spent day in. Nothing of note to report. Had – *illegible word*– to get out & buy, but nothing doing.

Sunday June 7 16 weeks captivity

Very rough, cool a.m. Unusually rough. Not too good a night. Went out with a working party to Japanese H.Q. Chinese Methodist church opposite. Heard them singing in morning worship. Hymns. Holy, Holy, Holy 'I need thee every hour' & they do under Japanese rule! & Oh happy day! Very moving! Service tonight at 9p.m.

Monday June 8

Good nights rest. Cool a.m. Have caught a slight cold. Went out shopping had a good time. Many gifts from generous Chinese. Very happy trip.

Tuesday June 9

Cool a.m. Spent day in. Most of troops & officers out working. Quiet day. Cool.

Wed June 10

Cool night and a.m. Had a good nights rest. Pleasant cool day. Most of troops out working. I stayed in all day. Very quiet.

Thursday June 11

Restless night. Went out with working party in a.m. to Maxwell Road police station, Japanese HQ. Stayed in for afternoon. Rain in evening. Bad news rumours today.

Friday June 12

Slept very well. Cool night. Thank goodness my case from Changi arrived yesterday. Torrential rain in the a.m. Major Lawrence & Capt Coulson staying in today. Rained most of the day. Very cool.

Sat June 13

Torrential rain during night. Slept very well. So cool. Spent day in mostly sleeping. Feeling very browned off & miserable today. Major Lawrence, Coulson & Lewis in today. A very wearisome life this.

Sunday June 14 17 weeks captivity.

Slept very well. Wet in – *illegible word*– a.m. S.S.A. at home today. (Feeling very homesick). Very cool day, cloudy. Another very quiet day. Service at 9.a.m.

Monday June 15

A fair night. Cool cloudy a.m. Spent the day in camp. Have caught a chill. Weather very cool. Feeling depressed today. News rumours very disturbing. Rain about 7p.m.

Tuesday June 16

Had a dose of A.P.C. last night & sweated furiously. Slept very well. Cool a.m. Heavy rain about 9p.m. Raining on & off all day. Not feeling very fit. Neuralgia. Rained most of night.

Wed June 17

Dry cool a.m. Slept quite well & am feeling better. Rained in evening. Nothing of note during day. Monotony & boredom!

Thursday June 18

Not too good a night. Cool cloudy a.m. No rain today. Spent the day in again. New moon tonight.

Friday June 19

Quite a good night. I feel the cold has gone. A cool cloudy pleasant a.m. Rain in afternoon. Spent the day in. Nothing of note to report.

Sat June 20

Quite a good night. Pleasant sunny a.m. Japanese troops embarking from our dock. Heavy rain in evening. Browned off today.

Sunday June 21 18 weeks captivity.

A fair night, pleasant a.m. Working parties sent back today given a holiday. Rain & much cooler about lunchtime. Paid 5 dollars today. Service tonight 9pm.

Monday June 22

Very cool rainy a.m. Quite a good nights sleep. In all day. Cool & pleasant. Lovely moonlight night – moon half full.

Tuesday June 23

Very restless night. A terrific thunderstorm broke about 7a.m. A gale & torrential rain. This is the monsoon season. Rained whole of the day. Bad news Tobruk fallen again. Feeling very depressed. Did a little work on a sermon.

Wed June 24

Very good night. Cool. Rain ceased. Beautiful cool a.m. Very few troops out working today. Day in again.

Thursday June 25

Fair night. Cool a.m. Am going to Changi today. Trip to Changi off. Another day in. Nothing of interest to note. Had a note from S.C.F. Feeling very depressed. News not very good.

Friday June 26

A good night. Cool a.m. Have another slight cold this a.m. Developed into a very warm sunny day. Very bored & depressed.

Sat June 27

A good night. Lovely dawn. Every prospect of a hot day again. Stayed in whole day. Still bored & depressed. Moon in full tonight, or very nearly so. Troops in working party in very late tonight.

Sunday June 28 19 weeks captivity.

A good nights sleep. Lovely a.m. with prospects of a hot day again. Breeze cool. Day in again. Service at 9pm. Very good service. Bright moonlight.

Monday June 29

Sleepless night. Very hot & sticky. Storms about. Rain at about 10.30a.m. Most of troops went out today & some worked throughout the night.

Tuesday June 30

Very poor nights rest. Blazing hot a.m. Storms about 3p.m. which cooled it down. Have caught another chill.

Wed July 1

A good night. Cooler pleasant day. Have written a P.c. to Doreen today.

Thursday July 2

Good night. Cool breezy a.m. with slight rain. Nothing of note to report. Am sleeping outside the billet tonight. We are infested with bugs & its very hot & sticky.

Friday July 3

Sue's birthday. Cool a.m. But developed into a very hot day. Made a new bed of iron & wire in the a.m. – to combat the bug menace! They hide in wood. Major Lawrence & Dougy Renwick out today. Nothing of interest.

Sat July 4

A fair night. Cool cloudy a.m. Coulson out today with working party. Quiet uninteresting day. No news. No rain. Cigarette issue the one bright spot. Hot sticky evening.

Sunday July 5 20 weeks a prisoner.

Sleeping out. Very pleasant. Quiet day with nothing of note. Large working parties out. Service at 9p.m. Quite a good service.

Monday July 6

Fair night. Sleeping outside. Cool cloudy day. Capt. Clements O.M.E. 53 Brigade came to see me. Now a ships engineer for Japanese. Went on board his boat at night. Met 3 other British Naval officers. Very interesting.

Tuesday July 7

Sleeping out. A grand nights sleep. Very cool. Grubb's birthday. Spent day in. Cool breezy & thunder in afternoon. Sleeping out again tonight.

Wed July 8

Good nights sleep. Cool breezy a.m. Not too well, rather like another Dhengi attack developing. Hope not. Went to bed early.

Thursday July 9

Staying in bed today. This may be a cold. Not too bad a night except for bugs. Heavy storms in afternoon. I fear I have Dhengi again. Doc thinks so. Feeling pretty miserable as one always does with Dhengi.

Friday July 10

Very bad night. Not a wink of sleep. Bugs galore. A holiday today. No working parties out today. Cool bright a.m. Felt a little better. Nothing of interest to note. Moved into officers sickbay next to C.O. Very pleasant airy room.

Sat July 11

Good nights sleep. Cool bright a.m. Quiet uninteresting day. Paid 5 dollars.

Sunday July 12

A sleepless night. Cool pleasant a.m. 20 weeks captivity. Not feeling too fit. Service at 9p.m. A good congregation. Felt rather miserable all day. Slept outside.

Monday July 13

A restless night. Cool breezy a.m. Spent day inside camp. Very few men out working. Feeling very depressed.

Tuesday July 14

A good nights sleep outside. Cool breezy a.m. Very few troops out working again. Developed into very hot day. Cigarette ration the bright spot of the day. 14 cigs.

Wed July 15

A good nights sleep outside. Cool, cloudy a.m. No work detailed today again. Sharp heavy shower about 3p.m. New moon. Hot & sticky in early evening. Heard some rather good news rumours.

Thursday July 16

Caught in a rainstorm. Terrific rain during the night had to come inside in a hurry. Day grew hot & dry. No troops out. News not so rosy after all. Feeling very depressed.

Friday July 17

A very good nights sleep. Cool sunny a.m. Sold a lighter to a Jap. Very browned off.

Sat July 18

A very good nights sleep. Cool cloudy a.m. A British General reported to be inspecting the camp today. Terrific rainstorm about mid-day. General Percival visited us.

Sunday July 19 22 weeks captivity.

A very good nights sleep till 5.30a.m. when a terrific storm broke. Rained most of the morning. Cleared about lunchtime. Service today at 4.30p.m. owing to working parties going out tonight. Not back at role call 8a.m. A good service.

Monday July 20

A very good nights sleep outside. Cool breezy a.m. Quiet uneventful day. No rain. Sleeping out again.

Tuesday July 21

A good nights sleep. Cool sunny a.m. Nothing of note to report. No rain.

Wed July 22

A good nights sleep. Warm a.m. No working parties till 5p.m. Quiet uneventful day.

Thursday July 23

A fair nights sleep outside. Disturbed by the working party coming in about 3.30a.m. A very hot sticky a.m. Terrific storm at 11.30a.m. Saw a pigeon on the jetty this a.m. Blue – *illegible word*– exactly like the pigeons at home.

Friday July 24

A very good night indeed. Moon just over half full. Hot sticky a.m. No working parties out today. Cigarette issue the one bright spot. 14 London's. Very hot day.

Sat July 25

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. Very small working party out today. Dull uninteresting day. Cool day.

Sunday July 26 23 weeks captivity.

A fair night. Cool pleasant a.m. Very hot sticky day developed later. Service at 9.15p.m. Allan Lewis sent for from Japanese HQ, with Edmonds & Sanderson. We wonder why? Outbreak of Dyp! A Forester in 55 Brigade. Great consternation in the camp. Japanese doctors here. Very good numbers at service. 55 Brigade isolated for 7 days.

Monday July 27

A good sleep. Pleasant a.m. Moon almost full last night. Cool cloudy day. Nothing of interest to note.

Tues July 28

A very good night. Cool cloudy a.m. Nothing of note in the day. Dull & browned off.

Wed July 29

A very good night & a cool pleasant a.m. Day's weather continued much as the morning. Nothing of note to report. Life is exceedingly dull & uninteresting. One day is exactly the same as the other. Moon on the wane.

Thursday July 30

A very good nights rest. Cool cloudy a.m. Did my washing this a.m. Rainstorm about 11a.m. Hot afternoon. Paid today 4.50 one bright spot in a dull day.

Friday July 31

A good night – tho I was a long time getting to sleep. Cool cloudy a.m. A storm in the offing I'm afraid. Arrangements made for me to visit Bishop of Singapore unfortunately the wrong Bishop turned up – a Frenchman R.C!!! Bearded! (Bishop of Malacca). Very hot afternoon. Feeling very depressed. Early to bed – 9.30p.m.

August 1 Saturday

A good sleep. Very cool night. A storm about 7.45a.m. Cool, quiet day. Nothing of interest. Have caught a slight cold, sore throat.

August 2 Sunday 24 weeks captivity.

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. Sunny day. Service tonight at 9.15. Nothing of note during the day. Just dull. A good service. Large congregation.

August 3 Monday

A good nights rest. Cool pleasant a.m. Hot sticky day. Had a very interesting day. Went out into the town in the afternoon. Met the Anglican Bishop of Singapore. (Dr. Wilson). He gave me communion vessels & books. A very profitable contact. Then went into the town & was able to browse around with the doctor. Altogether a happy day as days go here. Cigarette issue.

August 4 Tuesday

A very good night. Sticky morning with prospects of thunder. My new batman started this a.m. Stanley R Hallan. 23 – *illegible word*- Rd, - *illegible word*-, Derbyshire. C Company, 1/5 Foresters. Quiet uneventful day.

Wed August 5

A good night. Warm a.m. Rather a cool blustery day. Nothing of interest. Dull & browned off.

Thursday August 6

A fair night. Cool pleasant a.m. Nothing of interest to note. Working party going out tonight again. – Grubb out. Spent day reading "Rebecca" by Daphne Du Maurier.

Friday August 7

A fair night. Cool cloudy a.m. Developed very warm in day. Finished "Rebecca". Very good story. Started reading "Lorna Doone". Rain about tea time. Hot & sticky in the evening.

Sat August 8

A topping night. Cool pleasant a.m. Developed into a very hot sticky day. Malay women working in camp today. Short & dressed in slacks with large round hats on their heads. They work very hard. Nothing else of note.

Sunday August 9 25 weeks in captivity

A very good sleep & am feeling very fit. Cool pleasant a.m. Jack Dawson visited us today – he is at River Valley camp. Two repatriation ships arrived in harbour today. Asama Mane. Service at 9.15 very good congregation. Reading Lorna Doone.

Monday August 10

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. Feeling a bit off colour today. We are now continually restricted in our movements. The dockside is completely wired off from us. Nothing of interest to note & its now 6p.m. Very dull & monotonous life this. The two repatriation ships still lie alongside the dock. White with black crosses on the sides. Paid today 2.25 cents.

Tuesday August 11

A good night. Very cool. The a.m. cool & pleasant too. Feeling quite fit again. A very hot a.m. Did a little sermon preparation. Saw the Asama Mane & the Conte Verde leave this a.m. Good looking ships. Nothing else of note to report.

Wed Aug 12

Cool night & a very good sleep. Anniversary of our wedding! What a place for a celebration! Very hot sticky day with nothing of interest to note. Rain about 8.30p.m. but the storm soon cleared.

Thurs Aug 13

A good night. Warm a.m. Sticky day. Nothing of note to report. Very dull & boring. Heavy storm at about 8p.m. Cigarette issue today, 14 Woodbines.

Friday Aug 14

A good night. Warm a.m. Later the day turned very cool very cloudy & very rough. Spoke with Mr Kunasi our camp commandant this afternoon. He is a very decent fellow. Finished "Lorna Doone" & commenced the 2nd volume of T.E.Lawrence Seven Pillars of Wisdom. New moon appears tonight.

Sat Aug 15

A good night apart from a disturbance when rain came on about 3.30a.m. Cool, cloudy a.m. Rained most of the day. Very cool. Nothing of note to report.

Sunday August 16 26 weeks captivity

Holy Communion at 7a.m. A dozen officers & men present. Another service at 11a.m. 16 present. A fair night. It was a very damp atmosphere. Today looks like being sunny & hot. Developed a headache. Service tonight at 9.15p.m. Conducted a memorial service for an F.C.Q.M.S. James Ormston. A good boy who died very suddenly.

Monday Aug 17

A fair night. Disturbed by rain about 3.15a.m. Cool & rainy morning. Finished reading the Citadel. A lovely book, but very tragic. A south Wales setting. I'm afraid it has made me depressed & homesick.

Tues Aug 18

A very good night. No rain. Weather appears to be settled again. Fine warm a.m. Day became very hot & sticky until the afternoon. Then a storm about 4p.m. - & then much cooler. British Generals left for Japan today. Two Japanese cruisers came into the harbour. Nice looking boats. Nothing of interest in the day.

Wed August 19

A very good night & a lovely a.m. Very hot today, no rain. Nothing of note to report. Lovely evening. Very still & warm. Excellent visibility. The islands look very near tonight. The vegetation can be seen. Moon half full.

Thursday Aug 20

A splendid night. Cool cloudy a.m. Warm a.m. Afternoon became cool & stormy with several heavy showers. Pay today 2.25 cents. Nothing else of note. Lots of rain.

Friday Aug 21

Slept in the billet. Lots of rain during the night. Slept very well indeed. Cloudy a.m. Lots of rain & a terrific storm in the evening. Nothing of interest to note. Slept inside again.

Sat Aug 22

Not too good a night. It was hot & sticky & the mosquitoes were very troublesome. A cool fresh morning however. A very nice day. Hot & sunny. Nothing of interest to note.

Sunday Aug 23 27 weeks captivity

A good night. Slept outside. Communion service at 7a.m. 20 present. Cool, cloudy a.m. 2nd communion service at 11a.m. Morning has become very warm. Received a very handsome parcel of hymn books, Bibles etc. from the Bishop. Also received 14 London cigarettes. Service at 9.15, excellent service.

Monday Aug 24

Slept well except for a disturbance at 4.30a.m. A terrific rainstorm drove us in. The heaviest ever! Cool, cloudy a.m. Developed into a very pleasant day. Made part of a sermon. Nothing of interest to note.

Tues August 25

Slept fairly well outside. Moon really full. Cool, cloudy a.m. Did quite a deal of sermon preparation. Very hot in the afternoon. Good rumours brought in. Slept outside till 2.15a.m. Then driven inside by the rain.

Wed August 26

Cool pleasant a.m. Rainstorm at 2.15a.m. Men driven in by rain. Otherwise good night. Sticky a.m. – cool & cloudy afternoon. But a dull & boring day. Allan Lewis out on docks. Nothing of note to report.

Thursday August 27

A good nights rest outside. Warm, cloudy a.m. Quiet day with nothing of interest to note. Bored & browned off!

Friday Aug 28

A good night outside till about 6a.m. Then a light storm. Very cool a.m. Nothing much of interest to note. Did an hour or twos work, otherwise browned off.

Sat August 29

Slept very soundly outside. Disturbed by rain at 6.45a.m. Very cool, breezy a.m. Quiet pleasant day. Choir practice at 9p.m. The first & shows very great possibilities. About 25 present.

Sunday Aug 30 28 weeks captivity

A good night outside. Communion at 7a.m. Eighteen present. Communion at 11a.m. One present. Working on my sermon most of the day. Avery good service at 9.15a.m. A very large congregation. Choir sang very well.

Monday Aug 31

A very good night, slept really well. Cool fresh a.m. Did some work on a sermon in the a.m. Nothing of interest to note in the day. Buying party went out & I bought another jar of Newzealand honey! - & a few Mangotsteans – very tasty.

Tuesday September 1

A very good nights sleep. Cool pleasant a.m. A quiet day as usual - except for a parade at 5p.m. We were counted very carefully by the Japanese. Did quite a lot of work.

Wed September 2

Slept outside. A very good night. Terrific wind & dust storms about breakfast time. Afterwards quite a pleasant, cool day. Nothing of note happened. One day is the same as another. Issue of 15 London cigs the high spot of the day. Did a little work.

Thursday September 3

A very good nights rest. Warm, cloudy a.m. Third year of war closes. Did quite a lot of work at sermons. Otherwise nothing of note. Very hot day.

Friday Sept 4

A very good sleep. Very hot a.m. A terrific storm about lunchtime. The heaviest we've had during our stay on the island. Then very hot & sticky again. Did quite a lot of sermon preparation.

Sat Sept 5

Slept very well after the first hour. Very humid – very hot a.m. Did a lot of work on sermons. Choir practice at 9.15a.m. Late working party spoiled it somewhat.

Sunday Sept 6 29 weeks captivity

A very good night. Communion at 7a.m. 14 present. Communion at 11a.m. Seven present. Service at 9.15p.m. Very large congregation. Was not feeling too well.

Monday Sept 7

A good sleep. Cool, pleasant a.m. Nothing of note in the day. Very dull & boring. Rainstorms in the a.m. Not too fit.

Tuesday Sept 8

What a place to have a birthday in! I hope to be home by the next one. A very good night. Very cool a.m. Heavy storm about 10.30a.m. Very depressing day. Bored & fed up. Mess meeting at 9p.m. Hot & sticky night.

Wed Sept 9

Slept quite well. Cloudy a.m. Cool pleasant day. Paid 2.25 today – the high spot! Hallan has made me a very nice table today. A rare boy he is! The best batman ever. Concert at 9p.m.

Thursday Sept 10

A good night. Hot a.m. Quiet day. Nothing of interest to note.

Friday Sept 11

A good night. Hot a.m. Did a fair amount of work. Quiet day otherwise.

Sat Sept 12

A good night tho disturbed by a terrific wind & rain storm. Cool, cloudy a.m. Quiet day. Rumours about the repatriation of non-combatants! It looks like it. Choir practice at 9p.m. Very good. New moon.

Sunday Sept 13 30 weeks captivity

A good night. Communion at 7a.m. Nine present. Communion at 11a.m. 8 present. No service tonight. We are all called upon to sign a document undertaking not to escape. The service will be held on Monday night.

Monday Sept 14

A very good night. Cool a.m. Will rain. Quiet day. My microscope arrived from Changi. Service at 9.15p.m. Good service. Not so many present because of a night working party. "Pray that your flight be not in winter" Text.

Tues Sept 15

A good night. Cool rainy a.m. Rather like an English a.m. Quiet day. Duggy brought a real English rose in today! A real scent of home!

Wed Sept 16

A good night till the early hours of the a.m. Then torrential rain set in. Raining for most of the a.m. The Tatuta Mam (Repatriation ship) arrived today. Hope she has mail on board for us! Quiet day. Concert at 9.15p.m.

Thursday Sept 17

A good night. Slept inside. Weather very like rain. A monkey has been brought into the camp. A very nice pet! Should like to have him & get him home! A working party unloading the Tatuta Mam tonight!

Friday Sept 18

Poured with rain in night again. Continued into the a.m. Then a nice day. Tatuta Mam departed today. She unloaded a terrific amount of food. Parade for Col Maritze! 4p.m.

Sat Sept 19

A very good night – no rain. Bright moonlight. Moon half full. Paid 2.25. Quiet uneventful day.

Sunday Sept 20 31 weeks captivity

Communion at 7a.m. 9 present. Communion at 11a.m. no communicants owing to a large working party leaving for the docks at 11.30a.m. A very hot sticky day. Service at 9.15p.m. a good congregation.

Monday Sept 21

A very good night. Hot a.m. Quiet, uneventful day. Feeling very browned off. Issue of Red Cross gifts, Jams, sweets.

Tues Sept 22

A very good night. Cool pleasant day. Not feeling too fit. Issue of 15 London cigarettes the high spot of the day. Choir practice at 9.15.

Wed Sept 23

A good night till early hours of a.m. Then a short storm which drove us in. A very hot, sticky a.m. Very hot day indeed. Had a dose of red palm olive oil. M.O.s have secured stocks. Supposed to contain vitamin A. Concert at 9.45p.m. Moon nearly full.

Thursday Sept 24

A fair night. Began to rain about 7.30a.m. Terrific thunderstorm around. Read “My Mystery Ships” by Admiral Gordon Campbell V.C. A very dull cool day. Quite pleasant, slept outside. No rain. Moon behind a thick blanket of cloud.

Friday Sept 25

A very good night. Cool cloudy a.m. with some rain. Another repatriation ship coming in today. The Kamakura Maru. Have just seen her coming alongside the islands 1.30p.m. Reported to have mail on board from home! Hope so. Concert at 9.15p.m.

Sat Sept 26

A very good night. Hot sticky a.m. Very hot! The Kamakura Maru has docked within sight of us. A very large ship. Nothing of note to report during the day. Choir practice at 9.15p.m.

Sunday Sept 27 32 weeks captivity

A good night. Communion at 7a.m. 6 present. The Kamakura Maru has left today. Communion service at 11.a.m. Four present. Three officers present. No service tonight owing to a very large working party being required.

Mon Sept 28

A good night. Rain early in the a.m. which continued till lunch time. Very cool & English like a.m. Service at 9.15p.m. Good service. Heard confirmation of the fact that officers are being paid. "What think ye of Xt?" Text.

Tues Sept 29

A fair night but very damp atmosphere. Rain commenced about 7.30p.m. Quiet day. Men were paid today. Heard of the arrival of Red Cross gifts. Sugar etc. David Orrock confided in me that he feels called to the Ministry. Very gratifying.

Wed Sept 30

A fair night. Warm but breezy day. Quiet uneventful day. No pay as yet. Concert at 9.15p.m.

Thursday October 1

A good night. Cool rainy a.m. Quiet day. Choir practice at 9.15p.m.

Friday Oct 2

Slept inside slight rain. A fair night. Warm sunny a.m. Paid 25 odd dollars. Nothing of note to report. Dark cool night. Very dark.

Sat Oct 3

A very good night. Cool, pleasant a.m. Day became very hot. Did a few hours sermon preparation. Large supplies of Red Cross goods arrived. Milk, Bully, M&V etc. Choir practice at 9.15p.m.

Sunday Oct 4 33 weeks captivity

A good night. Communion at 7a.m. Cool pleasant a.m. Communion at 11a.m. A terrific rainstorm at service time. Torrential. Then very cool. Issue of part of our Red Cross supplies. 1 tin milk, 2 tins bully, 50 odd V cigs. A very generous parcel & more to follow. Service at 9.15p.m. "God is our refuge" was the text.

Monday Oct 5

A fair night but had to come in about 12.45a.m. from slight rain. Cool & very pleasant a.m. Quiet uneventful day. Issue of Red Cross gifts, caramels & biscuits. We are very fortunate indeed with our food at the present.

Tues Oct 6

A fair night. Driven in by rain. Roll call at 7.30a.m. Quiet day, cool & cloudy. Very hot & sticky in the evening. Mess meeting after roll call.

Wed Oct 7

A good night. Rain about 7a.m. Cool & cloudy. Quiet uneventful day. Concert at 9.15p.m. An exceedingly hot & sticky night.

Thursday Oct 8

A good night. Driven in by rain about 6.30a.m. Large working parties out today. Sunny but reasonably cool. Very hot sticky night. Not feeling too fit today. It may be the excessive heat. Choir practice at 9.15.

Friday Oct 9

A good night. Very pleasant a.m. But the day became very hot. Moved around in the billet today. Dougy not at work. Men paid today. Very hot, sticky night again.

Sat Oct 10

A good night. Storm blew up about reveille time tho it just seemed to miss us. Cloudy but very hot a.m. Nothing of interest in the day. Very hot & sticky. Choir practice at 9.15a.m.

Sunday Oct 11 34 weeks in captivity

Very good night. No early communion. Communion at 11a.m. A very, very hot day. Spent a few hours with David Orrock & sermonising. Service at 9.15. On the whole a pleasant day. "Reconciled with God" text.

Monday Oct 12

A very good sleep. Cool, cloudy a.m. Quiet day. Sermonising. Issue of more Red Cross gifts. Milk 2 tins, Bully, cigs, sugar. Burying party out.

Tuesday Oct 13

A very good night. Cool & pleasant a.m. Became very hot & then rain. Very large working parties called for. Japanese submarine sunk in the bay in very queer circumstances. We could see her quite plainly. Quiet day. Did a little sermon work. New Moon.

Wed Oct 14

A good night, very cool. Cool a.m. with rain heavy cloud. A quiet pleasant day. Most of the men out working on the docks. Did quite a bit of sermon preparation. Concert tonight at 9.15p.m. Floating crane moved.

Thursday Oct 15

A very good night till 7a.m. Then a terrific wind & rain storm. Very cool a.m. Large working party out today. 400, docks. Rained very hard most of the a.m. Quiet day sermon making. Very bored with this life.

Friday Oct 16

A fair night. Cool, pleasant a.m. Very little of interest to note. Feeling very browned off. Early to bed. Moon half full.

Sat Oct 17

A good night till about 5a.m. Then a terrific downpour. Nearly caught me out!! Raining hard at breakfast time. Then developed into a cool, sunny pleasant day but I feel rather depressed & fed up with this captivity!! How long? Did a little sermon prep. Bought a sarong today. A very gaudy colour! Issued with a South African trilby – pants & jerkin.

Sunday Oct 18 35 weeks captivity

A good night till 5a.m. Then torrential rain & still a downpour at 9.15. Got to know L/Cpl Teasdale(Y.C.R.N.F) ex regular D.L.I. a good Methodist lad. Home address, 18 Rodwell St., Trindon Station, County Durham. Communion at 11a.m. Service at 9.15p.m. "Does it matter what a man believes?" subject.

Monday Oct 19

A good night, warm day. Japanese police searched our billets this afternoon. Another search tonight instead of roll call. Men paid today.

Tues Oct 20

Not a good night, hot & sticky to begin with. Driven in by rain at 5a.m. Pleasant sunny day. Making sermons. As usual, night became very hot.

Wed Oct 21

Could not sleep for the first hour or two. Then a decent night. Very heavy rainstorm about 7a.m. More rain in the a.m. Concert at 9.45. Sermon making all day.

Thursday Oct 22

Rain sent me in quite early. But had a very good night. Cloudy, cool a.m. & continued so with intermittent rain. Further Red Cross issue two tins bully, milk, sugar. Weather cleared towards evening. Choir practice 9p.m.

Friday Oct 23

Could not sleep for first few hours. A terrific thunderstorm at 4.15a.m. But slept very well afterwards. Cool cloudy a.m. Quiet day, did a little sermonizing. Otherwise nothing to note.

Sat Oct 24

A very good sleep. Rain at about 7a.m. Moon almost full. Morning became very hot. Heard the news that Ducksworth is back in Changi. Nothing very interesting in the day.

Sunday Oct 25 36 weeks captivity

A fair night. Moon at the full. Cool cloudy a.m. Communion at 11a.m. 7 present. Large working party out & another out tonight. So decided to run the service at 2.30p.m. Unfortunately it was a flop. A terrific storm on service time completely washed it out. Very cool for the rest of the day. Temp dropped 10°.

So one year in this diary ends!**Monday Oct 26**

Slept inside. Too cool & wet for outside. A very good night. Cloudy a.m. rather warm. Little to note in the day. No docks parties out. Feeling a bit browned off. Can see no end to this captivity.

Tuesday Oct 27

Tried to sleep outside, but driven in by rain. At 2a.m. a terrific gale & storm not too good a night. Very sticky early on & lots of mosquitoes. Then turned cool. Cool, damp day. Not feeling too fit. No dock parties.

Wed Oct 28

Slept inside, a good night. Wet & cool. Dull wet a.m. till lunch time. Raining on & off most of the day. Not too fit - & in a depressed condition mentally again. Wrote to the Bishop this a.m. for books, music etc. Docks party went out this afternoon. But returned in an hour or two. Concert at 8.45p.m. Sat on – *illegible word*– with Dougy.

Thursday Oct 29

A good night after the first hour or two. Very sticky early on. Cool, cloudy a.m. Day became very warm, tho still cloudy. Working party went out at 1p.m. Nothing of note in the day. Men paid. Choir practice at 9p.m.

Friday Oct 30

A fair night. Very heavy rainstorm about 5.30a.m. Continued well into the a.m. Turned warm & sunny. Just heard the news that we are all moving tomorrow to River Valley Camp, Singapore. Bishop of Singapore came into camp this afternoon. Allan Lewis out with the dock party today.

Sat Oct 31

A good night. MOVING TO RIVER VALLEY CAMP, SINGAPORE marched thro the town. About 4 miles. Very pleasant walk. Arrived about tea time. Looks rather grim. Congested camp. We are housed in Atap huts. Very little room. Bug bound. The scenery around the camp is quite pleasant. Lots of trees. I should imagine wealthy Chinese live in this district. There are several officers here I met before. Capt. Pickersgill of the R.E.s. Looks as tho we're in a tough spot.

Sunday Nov 1 37 weeks captivity

Not a good night. Lots of mosquitoes. All our men out working today. Short in C of E chaplains here. High in C. (No co-operation) I suppose we shall settle down! Rain at night. Met an officer who was a member at Westbury Park. Lt. Guest R.E. A Chinese canteen began to function today.

Monday Nov 2

A good night. I am getting better organised now. Large parties out. An Australian padre came to see me today from the adjoining camp. Rev Barrett a Methodist. A very nice fellow indeed. Quite a pleasant day. Am reading "Affairs of China" by Sir Eric Teichman. Spent an hour or so with Pickersgill & Guest at night.

Tues Nov 3

A good night. Wet a.m. A quite enjoyable day. Went to the Australian camp & introduced David Orrock to Padre Barrett. Went again in afternoon. By a very remarkable coincidence got back one of my books lost on the island 9 months earlier!

Wed Nov 4

A good night. Wet a.m. which soon cleared. A quiet day with little of interest. Spent an hour in the Australian officers mess. A fine set of men these Australians!

Thursday Nov 5

A fair night. Warm sunny morning. Made arrangements with the Aussie C.O. to send his men to church service. (Major Seneider). A very nice fellow. Quiet day till we heard the news we are going up country Sat! What a blow.

Friday Nov 6

Feverishly packing for the journey. Barratt came over twice. I'm afraid we shall have to jettison much of our kit. Packing most of the day. Nothing else of interest.

Departed Singapore**Sat Nov 7**

A good day. Today is the day of the move. Departure at 12. Leave at 1p.m. Marched to station. Departed Singapore about 6.30. Arrived Johore Baru about 7.30p.m. Saw the causeway & straits packed 32 into a van. No room to move. Shocking overcrowding. Hear it's a long journey. Johore looks very pleasant place. Saw palace & government building.

Sunday Nov 8 38 weeks captivity

Departed Johore Baru at 5.30 a.m.

There follows, in the diary, two pages of lists of villages which the train passed through and the relevant times of the day. During this time the train enters Siam.

Thursday Nov 12

We arrived at Bang Sapan Yal in the night. And owing to the line being damaged we are here for the day & perhaps a day or two. Torrential rain. The officers have been allotted another truck. So we should have a better night.

Friday Nov 13

Still at Bang Sapan Yal. A good night tho the area is very mosquito infested. A cool pleasant day a.m. Tho the place is a veritable bog. Water everywhere. The people step out of their houses into the floods. We are able to buy local grown bananas. So the food situation is a little better. Also we have been able to buy fags. Some very good Virginia & others sweetened with sugar. But very smokeable. We look like being here for a few days. Had a couple of torrential showers. Have fed well today on bananas, limes & Pomella. Saw a flock of white birds rather like wild geese (Kurung).

Sat Nov 14

Still at Bang Sapan Yal. A good night. Tho the floor or the railway wagon is very hard! Also it becomes very cold at night. Much colder than in Singapore. The day is passing very quietly & we are beginning to feel browned off. The food situation is very bad. The sun is very hot when its out. There are a number of Buddhist priests about here. Dressed in yellow sarongs. Less rain today.

Sunday Nov 15 39 weeks captivity

Still at Bang Sapan Yal. Had a good sleep. Cool pleasant a.m. Nothing of note during the day. The rains seem to have ceased. And it is exceedingly hot till evening. We had a service at 5.30p.m. Surely a unique Xian service! On the railway sleepers in the heart of Siam. There was a good attendance.

Monday Nov 16

Still at Bang Sapan Yal. A good sleep. Cool a.m. But the mosquitoes are very bad in the morning just at dawn. A quiet day. Very hot. Saw two more elephants. Not feeling too fit today. The moon is half full.

Tuesday Nov 17

Still at Bang Sapan Yal. Woke feeling very cold. The days are very hot & the early mornings very cold. Quite a hot day. Feeling quite fit now again. Heard we are moving tomorrow to repair the line 4 station ahead.

Wed Nov 18

Leaving here today. A good night. Another hot day. Departed Bang Sapan Yal at 1.35p.m. We are returning a few stations back we hear & will probably rejoin the Signals on the train following. Arrived at Chumphon at 5p.m. Met the other train & spent the rest of the day settling in.

Chumphon

Thursday Nov 19

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. A very hot day! & on the whole a very pleasant day. We had a game of football in the afternoon. Our train officers v the other train. We won 5-3. A good game I thoroughly enjoyed it. Met a boy in Div Signals from Ponty. Eifed Jones Bron-y-Guyn, Gillyen, Ponty. A most interesting talk with him.

Friday Nov 20

A fair night Cool pleasant a.m. Still at Chumphon. We have had two football matches today. Have heard that we are on the move tomorrow. A concert tonight. A rather attractive little town.

Sat Nov 21

Pouring with rain in the a.m. Still at Chumphon. Departed Chumphon 4.15. Arrived at Bang Sapan Yal 7p.m. A very hospitable village. They brought us heaps of fruit. I remember the village with affection. Departed Bang Sapan Yal at 7.45p.m. Reached the broken line at about 10.30p.m. Saw the Gulf of Siam in the moonlight. Stopped till the a.m. Slept outside on the rail track – and an excellent sleep too!

Sunday Nov 22 40 weeks captivity

The most horrible hike ever. We humped everything we had a few miles along the track. Over broken bridges. A ghastly walk. I'm completely beaten. But we stay here till the a.m. We arrived at 12.30p.m. The name of the place is Bang Kwai. A very fascinating little town. We are billeted in the square. Sleeping outside. The moon is almost full.

Monday Nov 23

Still at Bang Kwai. A good night in the open. No rain. A very cool a.m. We are supposed to be marching to another camp site today. About ¼ mile away. It seems we are going to repair the line. The – *illegible word*– all very bad. No shelter. Full moon.

Tues Nov 24

Still at Bang Kwai. Working parties are already at work on the railway. We have moved to our new camp site just a little way from the village. Disgusting! No shelter. Snakes – horrible overcrowding. The working parties go out night & day.

Bang Kwai

Wed Nov 25

A decent sleep considering we are on mother earth in mosquito infested jungle. The Major Lawrence & I are sharing a mosquito net. When the rain comes I don't know what will happen to us. Very cool early in the a.m. but the day becomes exceedingly hot. I may go on a working shift at 2p.m. Had a shocking cold these last few days. Went with working party. Hard boring work carrying baskets of earth to fill in holes in the railway line. Officers just sat around. We got back about 11p.m. Lovely evening.

Thursday Nov 26

A good night. Very cool a.m. Our bivouac is on the bank of a river. There is a breeze the whole time. There are several elephants about this a.m. Natives are trying to coax them across the river. Nothing else much of interest. Very hot. The food issue has improved.

Friday Nov 27

A fair night. Went out with the 8a.m. shift working party. Quite pleasant & cool today. Back in camp about 3p.m. Nothing else of interest.

Sat Nov 28

A fair night. A few spots of rain. Nothing over my head so have rigged the valise to give a little protection. Lets hope the rain doesn't come. It will be very bad indeed. Feeling very browned off today.

Sunday Nov 29 41 weeks captivity Bang Kwai

A bad night. We did not use the mosquito net and we were attacked by thousands of mosquitoes. Cool breezy a.m. Nothing of interest in the day. Very browned off. Service at 5p.m.

Monday Nov 30

A very good nights sleep. Cool, cloudy a.m. I am in camp all day. There is not much to note. We killed another snake today. About 4ft long green in colour. Not poisonous I believe. We have killed quite a few in this camp. Nothing else of interest.

Tues December 1st

A good night. Cool a.m. a storm around this a.m. Very sultry. Rain started in the afternoon. Saw a large vulture resting in a coconut tree. Met Eifed Jones again.

Wed Dec 2

Rain in the night. Most people got thoroughly wet. We are moving today.

Departed Bang Kwai at 4.9p.m.

Wam Pong 4.20p.m.

Arrived Ban Pong 2.30a.m.

Feeling ill. Awful trip. No space to lie down.

Thursday Dec 3

Marched to the camp at Ban Pong 6a.m. Had a very poor meal & then we were trucked to Kamburi (Kachamburi). There we crossed the weir in boats & then marched to the large base camp at Chong kai. Met two regular C.E. chaplains, McNeal & Babb. The camp is a very decent affair. Well organised canteen etc. We are only staying here for a meal and a sleep.

We now begin work on a railway from Ban Pong to Mulmein in Burma.

Friday Dec 4

Departed Chung Kye at 9.15a.m. Walked 10 kilometres thro the jungle to Wan Rang. We expect to stay here. Hope so. We've lived very rough for a month. There are quite a lot of officers here I know of old. Tommy Broughton etc. The walk thro the jungle was very interesting. I travelled light for a change. Heavy baggage went by canoe. Siam is a very pretty country the rivers & hills particularly so.

Sat Dec 5

A fair night, rain in the early a.m. Cool. We have moved into a new billet. Not so crowded. Still very cold at night & in the morning. I use all my available clothes.

Sunday Dec 6

Cold night & a.m. There are two combatant padres here. Major Wyle C.E. Lt. Gibson C of Scotland (Aberdeen) – *illegible word*– we arranged a service for 7.45p.m. but it was put off. Duggy' the Foresters went off up river today. There is a good market here for us to buy eggs, fruit etc. Tobacco grows in a field opposite our billet.

Monday Dec 7

Wan Rang. Cold night & a.m. Am wearing my service tunic. Quiet day. Had a long talk with Gibson. Concert at night.

Tuesday Dec 8

Very cold night. Bright & sunny a.m. Paid my daily visit to the native market. This is a great blessing. We are able to purchase cigarettes, eggs, omelettes, fruit, cakes & biscuits.

Wed Dec 9

Very cold night & a.m. Met a Methodist boy this a.m. A schoolmaster from Eccles. Kenneth Edington, 7 Hawthorne Avenue, Eccles, Manchester. 3 I. Corps Signals. Quiet day with the usual visits to the native market. Had a chat in the evening with Edington, Matheson & Clifton. New moon.

Thursday Dec 10

A good night. Not quite so cold. Just had a lovely walk along the railway with Donaldson. The scenery is simply glorious. Its exactly like an English spring a.m. Sunny & cool. The hills & jungle are very lovely. Hot sun for a few hours after lunch. Visited market. Met the group of boys again.

Friday Dec 11

A warm night, cool & pleasant a.m. Leonard Clifton, 30 Lessness Avenue, Bexley Heath, Kent. Another Methodist boy who came for a chat this afternoon. I discovered today that Col. Dean 125 Anti-Tank Regt. Is a Methodist. Choir practice at 7.45p.m.

Sat Dec 12

Wan Rang. Cool & sunny a.m. Had a bad night. Suffered for a few hours with indigestion. Day became very hot. Paid my usual visit to the market & bought a chicken for 50 cents which I demolished for dinner! Communion service at 7.45p.m. About 50 present.

Sunday Dec 13 Wan Rang – 43 weeks captivity

A good night. Quiet day. Service on the square at 7.45. A good service & a good congregation. Had another attack of indigestion at night.

Monday Dec 14

A poor night till I got rid of the indigestion. Cool sunny a.m. Quiet day. Nothing of interest to note. Very hot in the afternoon.

Tues Dec 15

A good night. Very cold in the a.m. with a fog. Then the day became very hot for a few hours. Quiet day. Choir practice at 7.45p.m. We are practising carols.

Wed Dec 16

A good night. Cold misty a.m. Very hot for a few hours in the day. Nothing very interesting to note. Had my usual chat with Col. Dean. Choir practice at 7.45 & my usual talk after with Edington (Westminster).

Thursday Dec 17 Wan Rang – (Japanese pronunciation)

A good night, cold misty a.m. We were confined to the hut today from 11.30a.m. – 3.30p.m. A Japanese General was visiting the area. Very hot for a few hours. Choir practice at 7.45p.m. Usual visits to the Kampong & Canteen.

Friday Dec 18

A good night – cold misty a.m. Very hot for a few hours. Nothing of interest as usual. Choir practice at 7.45p.m.

Sat Dec 19

Not too good a night, stomach a bit out of order. Cold misty a.m. But the day became very hot & sunny. Communion service at 7.45p.m. About 50 present. Very browned off today.

Sunday Dec 20 Wan Rang – 44 weeks captivity

Cold a.m. Quiet day. Very hot indeed. The heat in the day far greater than at Singapore. Service at 7.45p.m. A good service. Had a talk with Col. Dean afterwards. He's a grand old fellow! The night was very hot early on.

Monday Dec 21

A fair night. Cool a.m. Went on a party helping to build a hospital. Out on the same job in the afternoon. Very very hot. Choir practice at 7.45p.m. Another card written home.

Tues Dec 22

A fair night, very hot in the early hours. Cool pleasant a.m. Not feeling too fit. We were paid today – 90 dollars. We saw ‘Dougy’ Renwick today.

Wed Dec 23

A very good night. Am feeling better. Very hot day. Feeling a bit browned off. Choir practice at 7.45p.m.

Thursday Dec 24 – Wan Lung Wan Rang

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. Day became very hot. Spent the day trying (under very great difficulties) to prepare a sermon for Xmas day. Carol singing led by the choir at 8p.m. tonight. A first class carolare. Moon just on the wane.

Friday Dec 25 – Wan lung Wan Rang

So here is Xmas day. Very very hot. But strange to say a happy day! From the church point of view a very successful one. Communion at 9.15a.m. (200 present) Service in the square at 10.30a.m. A very good service. Grand to hear the strains of Charles Wesley’s ‘Hark the Herald Angels Sing’ in a tropical climate as a P.O.W. Communion at 11.45a.m. (100 present) Another service in a nearby camp on the river bank at 3p.m. Very good. In the afternoon fun & games in the camp. Communion at 7.45p.m. for any mess orderlies who may have missed the other opportunities owing to camp duties. Concert at 8.15p.m. The choir will sing a few carols in the programme. A very good show.

Sat Dec 26

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. A very happy day. Met the Welsh contingent today. Capt Griffiths (Schoolmaster) 9th Coast Regt.
Lt. Glyn Jones, Lloyds Bank Ltd, Temple Street, Swansea.
Communion at 7.45p.m.

Sunday Dec 27 45 weeks captivity

An exciting night!!! The first time we’ve heard the welcome sound. Hot a.m. Quiet day visiting the sick etc. Service at night at 7.45. Only a fair service.

Monday Dec 28

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. A bad day! Deplorable happenings in the a.m.

Tues Dec 29

A good night. Cool a.m. Quiet cloudy day. Officers out working. Choir practice 7.45.

Wed Dec 30

Cool pleasant a.m. with fog. A good sleep. Day became very hot. Had my first Welsh lesson this afternoon. Tutor Mr Green (In business in India). A pleasant evening.

Thursday Dec 31

A good night. Cool a.m. Making a cemetery in the jungle close by. There are two graves there already.

Major.....

Pte B Ellis 135 RA Regt.

Warm day. Sing song at night.

1943

Jan 1 1943 – Wan Rang (Wan Lung)

A good night. Cool a.m. Everybody is on holiday today. It is a Japanese national holiday. They celebrated with a fair amount of liquor.

Jan 2

Cool a.m. Cold in the night. Everybody out at work on the railway again today.

Working in the cemetery. Day became very hot. Communion at 7.45p.m. 12 present.

Jan 3 Sunday 46 weeks captivity

Very cold in the early a.m. but as usual the day became hot. Service at night but not a good one. Too much distraction, troops coming in from work, water bottle filling etc.

Jan 4 Monday

Very cold misty a.m. Then the usual heat. Quiet day with very little to do. Bought several tins of mandarin oranges in the kampong. A very great weakness of mine at the moment.

Jan 5 Tuesday

Cold misty a.m. Very good night. Day became very hot. Quiet uninteresting day. The kampong is mostly non-existent today. The canteens are closed. Choir practice 7.45.

Jan 6 Wednesday

Not a good night. Developed a nasty head cold with sore muscles. Cold misty a.m. Day became very hot. Not a good day. I have a very heavy cold. Major Staples died today. A cold in the head is very unpleasant indeed.

Jan 7

A very good night. Cold a.m. till the sun got up. I have two funerals today. I buried Major Staples today at 12.30p.m. Funeral of Geoffrey Robson followed immediately. Read the RC service for Major Staples. Nothing much else to note.

Jan 8 Friday

Cold a.m. I still have a heavy cold. Nose & eyes constantly running. Quiet uneventful day. Choir practice at 7.45p.m.

Jan 9 Sat

Cold misty a.m. The no 4 Batt has a holiday today owing to the Fusilier section moving off tomorrow. Cold is a little better. A good night. Went out with Col Dean in the afternoon down the railway. Communion at 7.45p.m. 20 present.

Jan 10 Sunday 47 weeks captivity

A very cool a.m. 55 degrees. The NF contingent have left today for a camp a little higher up. We have moved into their billet. A quiet day. Service at night 7.45.

Jan 11

Cold early a.m. Visiting the hospital. Sergeant Bell died today. Funeral service at 7.30p.m.

Tuesday Jan 12

A good night. Very cool a.m. The wind has remained very cool till well on in the afternoon. Am reading Douglas Reed's "A prophet at home" The wind was cool the whole day. Choir practice at 7.45.

Wednesday Jan 13

A year ago today I arrived in Singapore. A very cold night. I wore every available garment. Cold a.m. again. Went for a walk along the railway with Grubb. A lovely walk. The bird life here is wonderful. Lovely colourings! Then a quiet day.

Thursday Jan 14

A cold night. But a good sleep. Went for a walk along the railway in the a.m. Then a quiet day.

Friday Jan 15

A slightly warmer night. Had a very pleasant walk along the line to our working party & back along the jungle paths. Past Tai farmhouse dwellings. Usual visit to the kampong. Choir practice at 7.45p.m.

Sat Jan 16

A warmer night but the a.m. became very cold. Working in the cemetery in the a.m. Another Battalion arrived on its way thro. Col. Fitt, George Hill, Darlow, Phillips, Lucas, Darby, Sgt Parfitt etc. Communion at 7.45a.m. A good service.

Sunday Jan 17 48 weeks captivity

A good night. Not so cold. The other battalion has departed. Feeling a bit browned off today. Fed up with this captivity. Met a Free French officer today. (Capt. Rosenhal). A very decent chap with the Croix de Guerre last war & this. Service at 7.45 (spoilt by the late working party).

Monday Jan 18

A good night. Cool a.m. Had a long walk out to the working party in the a.m. On roll call at 6.30 & 8.15p.m. A quiet warm day.

Tues Jan 19

A good night. Roll call 8.30p.m. Quiet a.m. Then went for a walk along the railway with Col. Dean in the afternoon. Very hot. Major Lazenby Edmonds departed today with 60 Signals. Choir practice 7.45p.m.

Wed Jan 20

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. Went for my now usual walk on the railway & back thro the jungle. Then a quiet day.

Thursday Jan 21

A good night. Cold a.m. Day became very warm. Paid today 30 dollars. Quiet uneventful day. Not feeling too fit. Feeling a bit 'sickly'. Full moon tonight.

Friday Jan 22

A good night. Cold a.m. I'm afraid a fever is getting a hold on me. Headache and a general feeling of lousiness. There is a great deal of fever among the men. Malaria & Sandfly. Hope I manage to overcome it. Had a quiet day.

Sat Jan 23

A good night. Not so cold. Am feeling considerably better. The Japanese Col from Chung Kye visited the camp today. We are holding the service tonight. Many of the troops have a holiday today. Not a good service. Reading "Autic Hay" by Aldous Huxley.

Sunday Jan 24 49 weeks captivity

A good night. Cold a.m. Still not feeling too well. A quiet day. Still out of sorts. Heard the sad news that Tiger Wilson died at Chung Kye yesterday. Communion service at 7.45p.m.

Monday Jan 25

A good night. Am feeling slightly better this a.m. Quiet uninteresting day. Very warm in the afternoon. Am not in A1 condition yet. Communion service at 7.45p.m.

Tuesday Jan 26

A good night. Cold in the early a.m. Not too fit as yet. Another Batt called today for food & a nights sleep. Comprised chiefly of Gordons & Norfolks & Suffolks. Met Doc Lewis again. Choir practice.

Wednesday Jan 27

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. Gnr Short died in the night. Buried Gnr Short at 12.30a.m. 9th Coast Regt RA. The second Cambs arrived today on their journey thro. Dr Longbottom, Mapley, Bunkall etc.

Thursday Jan 28

A good sleep. Not so cold at night now. Cool pleasant a.m. Day became very warm. I'm afraid the warm season is coming. A very hot afternoon. Browned off today.

Friday Jan 29

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. Am reading "The island of sheep" by John Buchan. A dull quiet day. Very browned off. 15 officers detailed to move a little further up the line including unfortunately my choir master Capt. Englefield.

Sat Jan 30

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. A.V. KENT c/o 80 Station Road, Hebburn-on-Tyne. 125 Anti – Tank Regt. Quiet day. Communion service at 7.45p.m.

Sunday Jan 31 50 weeks captivity

A poor night. Very hot & sticky. Cool pleasant a.m. No 4 Batt is moving tomorrow. Major Lawrence, Bill Gurteen, Grubb, Ginge Donaldson are going. Service tonight 7.45p.m. A good service.

Monday Feb 1

Cool pleasant a.m. A fair night. Hot & sticky to begin with. The Cambs have moved. The hut is very silent. Quiet day. Another small Batt called today on its way from Chung Kye up country. Had a long chat in the evening with Capt. Forester Walker & Major Stapleton – 1st Kumoon Rifles, Indian Army. c/o Messrs Grindlay & Co Ltd, Bombay.

Tuesday Feb 2

Very pleasant a.m. Heavy cloud everywhere – as for the last day or two. Quite unusual. It would be strange to see rain again after about 3 months without. The Chinese are back again in the tobacco gathering the harvest & drying the leaves. Spent an hour or two with Col Dean making tobacco for smoking. Warm afternoon & evening.

Wed Feb 3

A good night. Cool sunny a.m. Another Batt arrived today on its way thro. Including Mr McLean the S.C.F. Good to see him & have a chat. Very hot in the afternoon. I enjoy visiting the kampong very much. The Thai's are a very kindly, humorous people. Very native life here. Bullocks carts etc. etc.

Thursday Feb 4

A good night. Very cool breeze in the a.m. Funeral today. Pte Watson 5th Norfolks. He died last night of dysentery. Funeral at 12.30p.m. Quiet day with nothing else of interest.

Friday Feb 5

A good night. Cool a.m. Then the day became very hot. An officers working party from Chung Kye arrived today. 150 strong on its way thro – including Ken Skinner, and Johnson & Ron Spooner. Also a school master from Java I met in the early days at Singapore. E.W. Benison, 30 Old Park Lane, Southport, Lancs. Quiet day.

Saturday Feb 6

A good night. Cool a.m. Very hot afternoon. Another fellow died today. Funeral tonight at 6p.m. Communion at 7.45p.m. 20 odd present. The officers are very regular communicants. New moon.

Sunday Feb 7 51 weeks captivity

A good night. No 3 Batt moved off up country today. Cool sunny a.m. Very hot day. Service at 7.45p.m. I move tomorrow with Col Dean's battalion – a ten mile march.

Monday Feb 8

I am not going up country after all. Col Swinton stopped it last night! What a man! No 3 Batt is not going either. Rain this a.m! Real rain. Thick heavy clouds & cool weather. Very pleasant surprise. The first since November. Rained on & off most of the day. Very cool. The thickness of dust is turned into mud. Reading Frenchmans Creek by Daphne Du Maurier.

Tuesday Feb 9

A good night. Cool a.m. Part of Col Dean's batt going up today 200. The hospital patients are going to Chung Kye today (Including Alan Lewis). It looks as tho this camp is being evacuated. Very hot afternoon. I am not feeling too fit. A slight feverish feeling. Also I'm browned off & home sick.

Wednesday Feb 10

Departed Wan Rang. Marched to Wan Ton Kin. I'm just about flat out – 15 kilometres – nearly 10 miles in the hot sun wearing all my worldly possessions. However, the accommodation is decent & the river is very near. For a wash. I'm with the officers battalion. Saw the Cambs & N F's on the way up. My trinkets from Cape town were stolen in the night.

Thursday Feb 11

A fearful days march. We left Wan Ton Kin & called at Bang Kow. Then we marched on to Dak Lin & arrived here about 6.30p.m. I was just about finished. We must have marched over 20 kilometres with all our worldly possessions on our backs. My feet are very blistered. However, we are here & the camp looks fairly pleasant. As at Bang Kow there is a school in the centre of the camp. The river is very near.

Friday Feb 12

~~Dak Lin~~ Pak-Ki-Len. A good night. Sleeping on the floor. Very rough. But was so very weary. Have had a look round the camp this a.m. It is very delightful. We are right in the middle of the village. Lots of lovely trees and the river view is lovely. A lot of the old friends are here too. 'Lulu' the kampong belle has arrived here. She will no doubt improve the kampong here, which at the moment is very poor. Not feeling too well today. Its very hot & I've got a headache.

Sat Feb 13

Very cold in the night. The officers are out working again today. Just been down to the river for a wash. Really, the scenery here is simply marvellous. The river is marvellous with the hills in the distance & the thick jungle everywhere. The Tai people seem to live – or a great proportion of them do – on boat houses. The rivers here, as in the whole of the Malaya peninsular teem with fish. I saw a soldier cleaning a fish last night. It must have weighed 4 lbs! He'd caught it on a hook with a worm. The natural resources of this country are – *illegible word*– I bought some fruits yesterday rather like oranges. A sort of cross between a pomello & an orange. The river scene here reminds me very much of the view of the Thames from the terrace at Richmond – except for a very high range of hills in the distance & the large dense jungle foliage.

Day became very hot – but a cool breeze. Had another bathe this afternoon & enjoyed the scenery once again. Saw two kampong girls canoeing down the river with a few wares for tonight. Very picturesque. But the kampong here is very poor indeed. The

Cambs & N F's arrived here tonight after a forced march. They will have to sleep outside I'm afraid. The old 'Granny' arrived in the kampong today from Wan Rang so the food situation should soon improve.

Sunday Feb 14 52 weeks captivity

A poor night. Very very cold again. A quiet day with no service. The rest of the prisoners from Wan Rang arrived today including Hallam. Thank goodness. Visited Col Dean in the tented camp at night. He is not too well. Eifed Jones I hear died at Bang Phong.

Monday Feb 15 Tak-Ki-Len

The anniversary of our capitulation in Singapore. There is no work on the railroad today. Presumably as a celebration of that event. It was a very cold night again. But Hallam fortunately had brought my greatcoat. The food here is very poor indeed. Chiefly rice up to the present. One pig between about 2,000 men. We have a roll call at 10.30a.m. I watched the school in operation yesterday. A wooden building lifted off the ground with desks & a blackboard. The teacher appears to take an interest in the children, and the children appear to take less interest in him! Feeling very browned off today. This billet is terribly dirty. Have spent quite a lot of today in the tented camp.

Tuesday Feb 16

A fair night but very cold again. Sunny a.m. The officers are out working again today. Very hot in the afternoon. Quiet uninteresting day. Had a chat with Judge Laiming in the afternoon. He says that due west from here we are only 20 miles from Burma. Saw a Hornbill flying across the river.

Wednesday Feb 17

A good night. Cold of course. Bright sunny a.m. I'm the coffee making officer now. Made a brew this a.m. It will occupy quite a lot of my time. The sun is very hot again now. There is a monastery in the village & today there are two Buddhist monks in the village. Apparently every Siamese male is a monk at some time in his career. Dutch prisoners arrived in the camp today. Coffee making most of the evening.

Thursday Feb 18

A good night. Not so cold. And not nearly so much dew. Saw another Hornbill this a.m. They make a curious noise in the throat as they fly. Quiet, uninteresting day. Very hot in the afternoon. I've had a couple of visits to see Col Dean in the field. He's not too well. 800 Dutch prisoners arrived tonight. They look very fit. They are from Changi – captured in the Dutch East Indies.

Friday Feb 19

Not a good night. Very warm. The morning is very hot too. The Dutchmen are leaving for a camp higher up river at 1.30p.m. today. I've had a chat with a few of the Dutch fellows. They are mostly bred & born in Java. Tall dark & swarthy. They look very fit. Better suited to this climate of course. Making coffee at night. Paid today 30 dollars.

Sat Feb 20 Tak-Ki-Len

A fair night, warm. Very hot a.m. Things are very difficult in the Kampong. The Tais have no change, no cents. Why I don't know. It is very difficult for us to buy. We are having an inoculation again today. Against Cholera. Apparently there is a scare. Held a communion in the field at 7.45p.m. 8 present. Visited some of the Dutch boys who are left behind sick. Rain all night. Very unpleasant. The atap is very thin on the hut & it rains thro. Hope we leave before rainy season.

Sunday Feb 21 53 weeks captivity

Cool a.m. Fair night. Day became very hot. Paid my usual visit to Col Dean after my morning wash. Service tonight at 7.45p.m. Otherwise a quiet day. I'm not too fit. A good service.

Monday Feb 22

A good night. Quite cold. Sunny a.m. Day became very hot & sticky. Not feeling too fit. I have sore lips - (possibly lips) -. Hope it isn't vitamin B deficiency. Am browned off. I have a service tonight for troops who have been in all day. An ordinary service followed by Communion. Very good services. About 20 at Communion.

Tues Feb 23

A good night. Became very cool in the a.m. Feeling a bit better I think. Day became very hot and I was not so well again as the day went on. It may be a cold. The remnants from Wan Lung arrived today. Coffee making at night.

Wed Feb 24

A good night. But very cold in the early a.m. There is a $\frac{3}{4}$ waning moon. I'm not feeling very fit. The day is very warm but there is a cool breeze. Great consternation this a.m. A 4ft black snake came into the hut – slithering over the beds of Evans & Wilson. The remaining Wan Lung remnants have just arrived. Coffee at night.

Thursday Feb 25

A fair night. Very cold in the early hours. Cool breeze most of the day. Not feeling very well. Stomach out of order now. Very browned off today. Sick at night. Saw a pair of Hornbills.

Friday Feb 26

A decent night. The sickness left me about 11.p.m. Very cold in the early hours. Not too fit as yet. Day became very hot. Visited a Cambs boy with dysentery at night. He was unconscious & not expected to live (Walker). Its an awful disease.

Sat Feb 27

Fair night. Very cold in early hours. Quiet uneventful day. There is a curious little man living opposite to me now. A Eurasian. He was bandmaster of the Penang & Province Wellesley Volunteers. He is a RC and gave me a rosary made in Changi. Cecil C Scott municipality Penang or c/o Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank. Communion tonight at 7.45p.m. Major Wyly will take it. I have a funeral at the same time. I went with Major McLure on the bulk purchase buying today. Tais come up by boat from Kamburi.

Sunday Feb 28 54 weeks captivity

A good night. Officers party on holiday today. Very hot in the afternoon. Quite a busy day – preparing for the service making tea etc. Good service – good congregation.

Monday March 1 Pak-Ki-Len

A good night. Cool, pleasant a.m. The officers are on holiday today. Nothing much to note of interest. There is a jungle fire burning on the hills just over the river. It has burned for about four night.

Tuesday March 2

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. Nos 1,2&3 battalions have moved to a camp about 7 kilometres up. A 1000 men. Col Dean has not moved I'm pleased to say. Am feeling much better now. No 1 & 4 batt. Have now left the field & come into the huts beside us.

Wed March 3

A very poor night indeed. Very hot & I was bitten by every conceivable kind of insect. Very cool in the a.m. Quiet uneventful day. Very browned off & miserable today. CO of the Cambs with Bill & George gone to Wan Lung.

Thursday March 4

A good night. Cool a.m. A boy died in the night. A signaller. Nightmare followed by a heart attack. Funeral today at 2p.m. Had a bath this a.m. Really its very beautiful here. If only we were seeing it under better circumstances. The Tai children are particularly attractive. They play – *illegible word*– just like the children at home. Tho they are far more developed at a very early age. The heat is very great now from 2 – 7.

Friday March 5

A good night. Had a bathe in the a.m. whilst it was cool. 4 men of No4 batt made off in the night. Sgt Kelly & 3 N F's. It's a very hazardous undertaking. Jungle & mountains. The day was quiet & very hot in the afternoon. I went into the jungle in the afternoon. Collecting bamboos for coffee & tea making. The trees are marvellous.

Saturday March 6

A fair night. Hot & sticky early on. Paid my usual visit thro the improvised hospital. Many of the boys are very sick with skin troubles, dysentery, beri-beri & general weakness complaints. Bamboo scratches are very troublesome. They are poisonous & ulcers form. Tommy Broughton is down with a similar complaint to the one I had on the way out. A 'stone'. I sympathise with him. Very very hot day. Helped with the bulk purchase racket & made tea. Check parade from 7.15p.m. – 9.15p.m.

Sunday March 7 55 weeks captivity

A good night. Check parade at 9.45a.m. (Parade was cancelled). Very hot, quiet day. Went for a bathe in the evening & a funny thing happened. An old Tai came down the bank leading half a dozen water buffalo into the water among the bathers. They revel in the water. They completely submerge with just their snouts protruding. They are queer tempered animals & do not like Europeans. Service at 7.45p.m. A good number present.

Monday March 8

A good night. Gnr Preston died at 4a.m. today. I feel very sorry indeed. The N Fs & Cambs have moved down to Chung Kai today. Hallam has gone. The funeral is at 4.30p.m. Today is terribly hot – tho there is a breeze. Quiet uneventful day. Spent the afternoon sitting on a log looking down river & playing around with Tai nippers. They are learning to count in English. New moon.

Tues March 9

A fair night. Cool & pleasant a.m. In the hospital most of the a.m. Had some interesting talks with the Dutch boys. They are Dutch Reform Church – very keen indeed. Coffee making in the evening. Dougy Renwick called in the camp today. He's had Malaria. But looks quite o.k. now. Very browned off.

Wed March 10

A fair night. Very hot in the early hours. Cool pleasant a.m. I have a Communion service tonight at 8p.m. – Ash Wednesday. I stood in the village & watched the opening of the local school this a.m. A very lovely scene. There is a large flagpole outside & the children line up & the national flag is hoisted at 11a.m. This is done everywhere in Thailand. There is a master & a young mistress running the school. It all looks very delightful. Nos 2 & 3 batts came back to this camp today. 14 at the Communion.

Thursday March 11

A bad night. A very heavy rainstorm at about 1a.m. & the atap is so bad it simply rained straight thro. We are in a mess this a.m. Dougy's people came in today on their way thro. Its very hot & sticky & tendency to rain. I am fed up with life as a prisoner.

Friday March 12

A fair night. Bitten by all sorts of creatures in the night. Cool pleasant a.m. Dougy's party has moved off. But hundreds of Dutchmen have come in. The camp is very congested. The Kampong is crowded whenever it is open. I'm very much out of sorts today. Rather like a fever of some kind. I've sweated buckets & I feel very limp. Oh, I'm fed up with this captivity. When will it end? The hot season is coming with a vengeance now.

Saturday March 13

A good sleep. Cool pleasant a.m. Still a bit feverish & out of sorts. It may be a cold. Communion service at 8p.m. Very hot day. The Communion was very well attended – about 50 present. There was a bad thunderstorm at night about 10.30p.m. Much lightning & thunder – but not so much rain.

Sunday March 14 56 weeks captivity

A good night. Cool, cloudy a.m. with prospects of rain. Very hot quiet day. Not feeling too fit. Service in the evening at 8p.m. We held it in the field in the Dutch camp. A good number present. Very thundery at night. There was a concert on the square. The Dutch have one or two brilliant musicians. Text Psalm 46 v1.

Monday March 15

Not a good night. Could not sleep. It was so very hot & I was bitten again. A small party has moved off in advance this a.m. 100 kilometres up! The day has become very hot again. I've been out today with Major McLure buying eggs etc. Eggs are rather

scarce at the moment. But a barge arrived in today with quite a lot. We went into the Tai village. They live in very attractive huts. They are lifted off the ground & the dogs, fowl etc. live on the ground floor. Concert at 8p.m.

Tuesday March 16

Not a good night. Very hot today. Nothing very interesting to note. We have had another inoculation against Cholera today some more Bangkok Chronicles have come into the camp. They make interesting reading.

Wednesday March 17

A good night. Cool a.m. Have just cooked my usual duck eggs for breakfast. Its like a scout camp kindling a small fire & cooking eggs in an old tin. But its worth the trouble. Even tho they are strong & 'fishy' they contain good food value. Hot, uneventful day.

Thursday March 18

A good night. Lovely a.m. as usual. Quiet day with nothing to report. Feeling very depressed. When will it end?

Friday March 19

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. We were paid today 30 dollars. Usual heat later in the day. Nothing much of note. The whole camp is still on holiday prior to the long trek.

Saturday March 20

Not a good night. Badly bitten again & very sticky. Cooked my usual eggs for breakfast. Very hot day with little of interest to note. Communion service at 8p.m. A very good number of communicants – about 50. These communion services will be interesting to look back on. We hold them in a clearing just outside the camp – near a Buddhist shrine – a small hut with a grinning face hung on the front & an alligator jaw inside the hut.

Sunday March 21 57 weeks captivity

A fair night. We had a morning service today at 10a.m. A good number present. Very hot again. I have been acting as camp librarian today. Making book swaps. Service tonight at 8p.m. A very good service with a large congregation. (Judas). Moon full.

Monday March 22

A fair night. Hot day. We are still on holiday. Had a T.A.B. inoculation – not feeling too fit maybe as a result. Headache. But it is also very hot & sultry. We had light rain. Nothing to note.

Tuesday March 23

Quite a good night. Had a bathe this a.m. Am not feeling too fit. The inoculation is upsetting me. Very browned off. Scattergood of the 6th Norfolks died this afternoon.

Wednesday March 24

Not a good night. Very hot & I was badly bitten. Another man died in the night. Gray of the RECCE (No 1 Batt also). Very hot day. Two funerals one at 2p.m. (Scattergood – 6th RN). The second at 5p.m. Very hot day indeed. I had another inoculation at night

against dysentery. We have not heard of this before. But hope it works. It's a loathsome disease & many of our men have died from it. My arm is very sore with needle pricks now.

Thursday March 25

A good night. There was a very majestic electric storm last night. Terrific lightning – but no rain. A quiet day till 3p.m. & then we were on parade in the hot sun for 3 ½ hours for the Japanese colonel & for a figures check. Did not feel too well.

Friday March 26

Not a good night. Bitten badly again. Cool a.m. but the day is very hot again. Nothing of interest. Storm at night with rain. No movement as yet.

Saturday March 27

A good night. Cool because of the rain. Cool dull a.m. Day became very hot. Communion service at 8p.m. A good number present.

Sunday March 28 58 weeks captivity

A good night. No 1 Batt moved up today. Col Dean is going back unfortunately. Service this a.m. at 10.15a.m. Storm at 8p.m. Hot day with thunder & some rain. Just heard we are moving tomorrow. – We were ordered to move at 8p.m. tonight. A very hurried packing. We marched thro the jungle for 3 kilometres in the dark to the line – then we got aboard a train – flat trucks with no top – diesel car for engine & rode for 8 or 10 kilometres. Then we were marched to the camp – 3 more kilometres & slept most of the night outside. The jungle walk was very – *illegible word*– possibly weird.

Monday March 29 Wam Po South

In the new camp. A lovely view. Very close to the river with terrific mountains all around. Very thickly wooded. There are some elephant tracks down to the river. But we have had little food yet. Am living with camp staff at the moment. We are in a tent tonight.

Tuesday March 30

This is a subsidiary camp. The main camp is about a kilometre away over the other side of the river. No 2 & 3 & camp staff are going over there today. I am going back to the officers batt in this camp. We had heavy thunder rain today. Saw a most unusual sight of thousands of white butterflies swarming in one place. Flying down the river by the hundred & then huddling all together. Most unusual sight. I am sleeping with the field officers tonight.

Wed March 31

A good night. Everybody is out working. I crossed the river this a.m. on the ferryboat to the other camp. I don't like the other camp. The huts are good but its very dismal. There is a very large bridge building here cutting thro the sheer lock. Each evening there is blasting close at hand. It is so near it may be dangerous. Stones fly everywhere. There are five elephants working in the other camp.

Thursday April 1

A good night. But it began to rain very heavily at 7a.m. & is still doing so at 9a.m. Fortunately our tent is dry. It poured all day. Frightful conditions. We are very crowded in the tent. Everything is wet & muddy.

Friday April 2

A fair night. Cool, overcast a.m. But its not raining thank goodness. But conditions here are frightful. Thick mud everywhere – the latrines are ghastly & food is scarce. Chiefly rice & water at the moment with a little pumpkin. And the work is very hard & the hours long. Lets hope conditions improve or there will be a lot of illness. A Dutch boy showed me a kind of spinach one can eat yesterday. I boiled myself a pot. Very good. It contains good vitamin content. Went out again today with Stephen Strong (Major I.A.) & gathered some more. We killed a snake on the journey, swimming out of a pool. A very pretty brown with a red neck. The morning was dry – but this afternoon there are rainstorms again. Shifts of men are working night & day. The officers Batt is out till 10p.m. Arrived in at 12p.m.

Sat April 3

A good night. Roll call this a.m. at 8.20a.m. – more ugly scenes. Morning is very hot. The rain appears to have gone. A quiet uneventful day. Rainstorms later in the day. Very hot & sticky at night. More spinach.

Sunday April 4 59 weeks captivity

Visited the other camp this a.m. A very hot day. I shall try to organise a service here tonight. A quiet day up to the present. A large party from Singapore arrived today. Col Carpenter in command.

Monday April 5

A good night. Visited Col Carpenter's party this a.m. & he came to the tent to see me. Good to see him again. He has received a letter from Mrs Carpenter. Sgt Muddleditch is here too. The party is chiefly 5th Norfolks. A very hot day. Communion service tonight at 8.30p.m. about 20 present.

Tuesday April 6

A fair night. Am not feeling too well today. Slight – *illegible word* – & a general feeling of lousiness. It may be a touch of the sun. The heat is very great now. The hot season is here with a vengeance. The bridge job is being rushed along at a terrific speed. There are all night shifts now. The kampong has arrived. All the Wan Lung people. This is a good thing. A python measuring about 11ft was killed on the railway today.

Wed April 7

A good night. Feeling rather better. Quiet day. Visited Col Fitt & Col Carpenter. Exceedingly hot. April is said to be the hottest month in Thailand. The work is going along at a great pace. Nothing of interest. Blasting & work all night. A rainstorm about 7.45p.m.

Thursday April 8 Wampo South

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. Went across to the other side of the river. Later in the day it poured with rain for hours. Not feeling too fit.

Friday April 9

A cold night because of the rain. I slept in my greatcoat. Have got a positively lousy fever today. Rather like an attack of dengue. Headache, backache etc. Feeling very browned off indeed. No food for 24 hours. Cool, cloudy day. New moon.

Sat April 10

A fair night. Feeling slightly better today. Very warm. Thundery in the evening. Nothing of interest to note. Been with Col Carpenter today. Dr Pitt is here with his battalion. Nothing much to note. Two very large snakes – about 12 feet long, were seen today.

Sunday April 11 60 weeks captivity

A poor night. Quiet a.m. In the afternoon I went with Major Phelps fishing hoping to see the two large snakes. But was unlucky. We got caught in a terrific rainstorm. However, I did my bit of washing. What a life we lead here! Communion tonight at 8.30p.m. The only time when anyone can come owing to the work.

Monday April 12

A good night & a cool cloudy a.m. after the rain. A party of sick people is moving to Chungkye today – including Cecil Taylor & Major Halford Thomson. They go down by train. Thank goodness the railway is working now after our work & - illegible word. In the afternoon I went across to Col Carpenters camp & had a chat with a few of the people I know there – Ken Skinner, Ron Spooner, John Stagg etc. Then went to the river to see Major Phelps fishing. Hibbert caught 3 large fish. Communion service in the evening. Very hot day. Not feeling too fit. Bright moonlight evening. Half full.

Tuesday April 13

A poor night & a very hot day. Quiet & uninteresting. I have just finished reading 'Napoleon' by Hilair Beloe & have started today a natural history book. 'The natural history of Selbourne' by Gilbert White. Great excitement at night. A native Tai caught a very large snake in one of the cook houses – & he tied it to a stall in the kampong & skinned it alive. About 9 or 10 feet long. Brownish green in colour. There is a variety of opinion as to its variety. Some say a – *illegible word*– very poisonous.

April 14 Wednesday Wampo South

A fair night. Cannot sleep in the early hours for some reason. It may be the heat a 'stickyness'. Very hot again as the sun got up. Had a long chat with John Stagg. Quiet day reading the very delightful natural history book. 'Sandy Edgar' who sleeps opposite me is a great authority on birdlife in Malaya. He has published many articles & several books. Slight rainstorm about 6.30p.m. Had a long & interesting chat with Col Larkin in the evening. We sat outside the tent till a late hour. He is Irish – an Indian army C.O. An excellent man.

April 15 Thursday

A good night. Cool a.m. As usual the day became very hot – with a tendency to storms in the evening. Nothing of interest in the day. Am reading 'English Saga' by Arthur Bryant. I've felt rather depressed today.

April 16 Friday

A good night. We were paid today 30 dollars. The bridge is well nigh finished & most of the men are on holiday. Have read Mussolini's Roman Empire by G T Garratt. Very hot day. Had a sad duty to perform this evening at 6p.m. C.Q.M.S. Watling of the 1st Cambs (5825850) was drowned in the river yesterday whilst bathing. I buried him today in a lonesome grave by the railway station here at Wampo South. Some rain in the late evening.

April 17 Saturday

A very good night. Cool a.m. Soon becoming very hot. Have developed a cold today, hope it isn't the forerunner of something worse. Stormy in the afternoon. Have just read 'Winston Churchill' by Robert Sencourt. Communion service tonight at 8.30p.m. Very heavy rainstorm at about 5.30p.m. Wet 'drippy' night.

April 18 Sunday 61 weeks captivity

A good night. Still got a horrible cold. General service over the other side at 9.45a.m. Followed by a communion service. Very hot stormy afternoon – & I'm completely browned off. I have discovered the name of the river we've been on since Chung Kye – the KWENOI – a tributary of the MAEKLONG. A service tonight in this camp at 8.15. Quite a good service on the hillside overlooking the camp. There isn't a single quiet spot in the whole site. From the church point of view this is the worst spot we've struck.

Monday April 19

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. Col Carpenters battalions are on the move today. The day is very hot for their march. Some Tamils & Chinese have arrived from Malaya for work on the railway. It is believed to be a scheme for relieving distress in Malaya. Communion service tonight at 8.30p.m. Quite a good service – just concluded before a terrific rain storm broke, & it rained in torrents for hours.

Tuesday April 20

A good night – a little bit disturbed by the croaking of bullfrogs in the pond nearby. Everything is very damp this a.m. The officers Batt is on holiday today, its very hot sticky weather. I feel extremely 'blue' today. The war seems to go on & on & get no nearer the end. Very heavy rain 5.30p.m. - & at bed time it poured in torrents.

Wed April 21

A good night. Some rain during the night & a heavy storm at breakfast time. Everything is very damp & unpleasant. Storms during the day. Surely the monsoon has started. The men working on the line are very unkempt & unshaven – they look like animals condemned to hard labour. The hot sun & hard work have melted the flesh off their bones – some of them are as thin as rails. A few more weeks & the rainy season will be here – and then we'll have to expect an epidemic of fever. Communion service tonight at 8.15p.m. A number present. Concert at 8.30p.m. A chat with Neil Matheson.

Thursday April 22

A fair night – somewhat disturbed by the squealing of pigs & the Dutch ration party. Cool, cloudy a.m. Went over the river this a.m. to the other camp. Rainstorms during the day. Very hot in between the storms. Am reading ‘The Pickwick Club’ by Charles Dickens. Very amusing. But I’m very very browned off. Another contingent of sick people gone to Chung Kye today.

Good Friday April 23 St. Georges Day

A good night. A very thick blanket of mist envelopes the hillside this a.m. It’s a bit chilly, rather like a foggy a.m. at home. I have a service over the other side at 11a.m. Ante-communion (Matins as far as Jubilate – then communion service to the end of Nicene creed). Service this side at 8.15p.m. No rain up to 6.30p.m. But very warm. Not feeling too fit. Very good service.

April 24 Saturday

Not a good night. Very sticky early on. Again the valley & hills are enveloped in mist. Quiet day. News of the move received. No 1 batt, No 2 & the officers move tomorrow. I go across the river to camp staff & move with No 3 batt the day after. I had the Easter Day service tonight at 8p.m. A good service & well worth while.

Easter Day Sunday April 25 Wampo – 62 weeks captivity

On parade very early 6.30a.m. for a check parade. Nos 1&2 & the officers have moved off. I have come over the river & joined No 3 batt. Easter Communion at 10a.m. There is a little RC church in the jungle nearby & we hold the service there. It’s very secluded & quiet. It was a lovely little service. Very strengthening for these bad days. We were bathing this afternoon & suddenly without warning blasting began & an officer was hit just above the eye. Service at 8p.m. Followed by a Communion.

Marching to Tarso arrived 12.30p.m.

Monday April 26

Early breakfast. Reveille at 3.30a.m. Moved off with camp staff & No 3 batt at 4.30a.m. A very long & arduous march of 16 kilometres to Tarso. A very large base camp. There are lots of people here I know. Dr. Smith, Longbottom, Atkins etc. A very tedious day till we got our tent. Allcock in here & Col Thomas of the Beds & Herts.

Tuesday April 27 Tarso

A very sound sleep. Cool pleasant a.m. Quiet day. Very hot in the later hours. Crowds of bedraggled troops coming in all day. Chiefly Dutch. They look awful – some marching in socks & some with old sacking for sandals. What a pitiful sight! Visited the cemetery here last night. There are 64 graves. Atkins came for a chat with me in the evening.

Wed April 28

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. Officers batt have moved off today on the first stage of the long trek. We expect to move tomorrow. Very hot uninteresting day. I shall be glad to move off tomorrow. The bathing facilities here are very poor - & there are thousands of prisoners in the camp. Col Thomas is here!

We begin a 120 kilometre route march.

Thursday April 29

Reveille at 5a.m. We were off at 7.30a.m. A good night. We arrived here at TONCA (near the main camp) at about 2.30p.m. having marched about 13 kilometres. Quite a pleasant & reasonable march. In the jungle shade most of the way. Met a boy from Lincoln today. Lewis. This is a small transit camp. We are in tents & the ground is very rough. A Japanese general inspected our march today. The Col from Chung Kye is also on the scene too.

Friday April 30

A fair night. Reveille at 6a.m. We moved off at 8a.m. A very pleasant march of 8 kilometres thro the jungle to near KANYU(I). There are hills to climb in this part, & we had several stiff climbs today. As yesterday. But its quite cool. We must be a good height now. We are marching on a road, (not the railway). A jungle track made for transport. We are right in the midst of the wild Tai jungle country. Its very beautiful. Terrific trees & prolific vegetation. The native ox carts are very interesting vehicles. Very – *illegible word*– & they carry very little. The oxen are rather pretty little beasts. There is a wonderful selection of butterflies here. Blue & green large orange tipped. We are on the road from Kamburi to Tavoy in Burma.

Sat May 1st

A fair night – bitten by mosquitoes. Reveille at 6.30a.m. Moved off at 8a.m. 8 or 9 kilometres to Kanyu No 5 camp. Quite a pleasant & easy march. Aussies in the camp. They have made an excellent water system of large bamboo pipes – showers etc. But I still don't like the look of things up here. Food will be short I fear. For the march we get a little dried fish, a little dried vegetable & a little sugar & rice. There are no canteen facilities. Rain made things very unpleasant.

Sunday May 2 63 weeks captivity

A good night. We marched off at 8a.m. A very 'drippy' foggy a.m. Very heavy going. The road was very muddy. Heard monkeys galore calling in the jungle – also saw a large acreage of wild bananas. We marched 15 kilometres to Kinsayok. We are sleeping outside in any old bivouacs we can make. Hope it doesn't rain. There is no Padre here. An Australian died today & I buried him. VX 62612 Pte R W Keegan. 2.3 Ordnance Stores Coy ATF. Died 2/5/43 at 12.10 hours. Next of kin, Violet Keegan, 430 Wellington Street, Clifton Hill, Victoria, Australia. Cause of death (A) Cardiac failure (B) Avitaminosis & dysentery. Heavy rain at 6.30 & we moved into huts. The move spoiled the service. The Dutch have buried 70 men here since Jan. The British 25 & the Aussies 6 in the last week.

Monday May 3

A fair night considering we were overrun with rats & bugs. Rats actually on my body. Dept about 8a.m. from here Kinsayok a long & arduous march of nearly 20 kilometres. Saw lots of parakeets & heard the monkey calls again. We arrived here at RIN-TIN about 3p.m. Very tired. Quite a nice camp. The Dutch are here. They have buried 130 odd since Jan. Poor Dutch! I am holding a service here tonight at 8.15p.m. & the Dutch padre is giving the address. A very good service. The Dutch padre has been in America for 9 years. An excellent man. We fed well here & the Dutch were very kind to us. Also the Japanese canteen served very good cheap coffee. Quite a

pleasant stay.

Tuesday May 4

An early start. We moved off at 7p.m. & made an 18 kilometre march to Hintarto. The end of the march was very arduous & tiring. A good job we got away in the cool of the a.m. Saw hundreds of parakeets again & heard the monkey cries all along. Also I saw a most marvellous dragonfly – deep maroon & very wide wings – tipped with transparent. The bamboo not so thick in this part. Very large teak forests on the journey today. There is a kampong in this camp & we hope to replenish our supplies. Met Frank Mundy tonight. Looking very fit.

Wed May 5

A fair night with a few mosquitoes. We left at 8a.m. & arrived here at 12a.m. after a shortish march of 10 kilometres. The name is PENAG KALI. I'm feeling the strain a bit now. The worst camp we've struck. Badly cooked rice. Dutch camp.

Thursday May 6

We set off at 7a.m. & we arrived here at TEKNOON at about 3p.m. It really was a hard walk & I'm completely flattened out. It must have been more than 20 kilos & some really large hills. We seemed to cross a range of mountains & it nearly pulled my inside out. However – *illegible word*– out, & bivouacing outside. I only hope it doesn't rain. It was very picturesque scenery on the journey. Lovely high mountains with the usual queer formations one usually sees in Thailand. But the walk was a switchback all the way. There was a beautiful large village a few kilos back TAKENOON. A very nice school & Buddhist temple. Trees of oranges & limes & bananas. I also saw a toucan – a large black bird with a terrific yellow bill – (resting in a palm tree). Hill & Dr. Lough of the 2 Camb people are here – also Sgt Parfitt – Max Pemberton & the officers batt. This is going to be a base camp for the Chungkye sector. It rained tonight about 6p.m. & we were outside. A simply awful night. Everything wet. I've seldom felt so miserable. Pigs at home are better off than this. I feel unwell too. Headache, backache & stomach trouble. When will this business end?

SANGKHLABURI north of Changwat Kauchanaburi cholera first broke out here. The disease spread rapidly along Maeklong reaching Bangkok 30th June.

Friday May 7 TAKENUNG

A bad night in the wet & dirt & I am feeling lousy this a.m. We've got to move off a few more kilometres this a.m. We set off at 11.30a.m. & arrived here 6 or 7 kilos about 2.30p.m. I was really exhausted. We have been making the camp all afternoon. Cleaning & burning jungle etc. The site shows very good possibilities. We have a very pleasant corner indeed. High & overlooking the river with terrific mountains in front. It should be a very pleasant camp. But I feel really faint & tired. We are sleeping out again tonight. But we hope for tents tomorrow. So ends the long trek thro the Siamese jungle. Food has been very scarce – I've just demolished a plate of plain rice. We have marched 80 or 90 miles from Wampo South. New moon.

Sat May 8

Not a good night. Slept on the ground outside & was smothered with small ants. Everything is pandemonium in the camp today. Everybody is making huts & clearing bamboo & generally making a campsite hospitable. But thank goodness we are not marching. Quiet uneventful day. Went on a search for dried spinach – but found none. Had a very long bathe. There are some very large – about ¾ inch long – blacks ants here. In fact there are insects of every kind & colour. The trees are lovely. Ration scale: Rice 10oz. Salt 1/5 oz. Tea 1/20 oz.

Sunday May 9 64 weeks captivity

A fair night in the open. No rain is a mercy. Am feeling slightly more fit today. Cool pleasant a.m. The troops are on camp constructing work again today. A poor day. Have felt groggy all day – Dyoreah (sic). We had a tent given to us by the Japanese at about 7p.m. Just in time to save us from a storm. No service. There is a way thro the jungle here where wild elephants are said to come to the water. There is a rumour that some Japanese engineers were killed. All the camps up here have bamboo fencing around to keep away the wild creatures.

Monday May 10 TAKENUNG – Woolfram mine near this village.

Not a good night. Simply worried by ants. In my hair & everywhere. I can hear the monkeys calling. There are hundreds about here. The men are starting work on the railway today. We are changing our tent site. The ground is being levelled. I'm very fatigued. I've never been so completely 'shagged' as I am today. It must be a reaction from the journey up – the shortage of food – the Dyoreah. Cool evening.

Tues May 11

A fair night. Busy day building a bamboo stage in the tent. Uneventful day. Rather moderate temp. Usual monkey cries across the river in the a.m.

Here the reverse of the page has been pasted over with a sheet at a later date. The following four days were thereby obliterated. A computer scanned copy is inserted on the next page.

Sunday May 16

A very good sleep. Cool pleasant a.m. The Dutch batts have moved today – 3 kilos further up. I have now got a church site which I have been cleaning up today. There is a service tonight at 8p.m. 65 weeks captivity today. Eddington has the swollen face, legs & ankles which denotes beri beri. I'm afraid there is far too much sickness at the moment.

A GREAT DAY – received 9 letters today. Wonderful to hear from Doreen & Collingham again. I feel a new man. But sad news too – Wheeler, a signaller in 2 batt died this afternoon – fever & dysentery. I was with him during the last hours. When will this business end? A good service. (Daniel 3. 1-18) a few words on that story. Had my usual chat with Neil Matheson. Late in the evening.

Monday May 17

A good night. Cool a.m. Very cold about 5p.m. I get into my greatcoat. The monkeys are – *obliterated word* – again this a.m. Funeral at 11a.m. A quiet cool day with slight rain – not so much work. Ken Few called today. Col Yarangita the commandant of this sector inspected the camp today. Its amazing the wonderful effect the letters have had on my mind. A large snake slithered toward me in the dusk last night.

Tuesday May 18

A good night. Cool a.m. I have been at work on the church site. This afternoon 3 officers have been detailed to help me build the church, cemetery & mortuary. I have moved the church site a little further back into a very secluded spot. Ideal. There is a natural altar, the whole spot is shaded by fig trees, and lovely young green bamboo. Incidentally, there are ripe figs on the trees & they are very good. During the clearing I found a nest of snakes eggs! Pure white & about as large as a linnet's. A small snake. The men have received their news in letter form. There is a spirit of almost gaiety in the camp tonight. Some rain.

Wed May 19

A decent night. Cool a.m. Working on my jobs again today. Worked on the job of building a mortuary!! We shall probably need it unfortunately, & it's very necessary to remove a dead body from among the living. The flies here are very bad. The camp is really taking shape now & the food is very much better. Camp HQ is now messing with Boswell the QM. We should do very well! I have now got the job of delivering the extra food & eggs to the sick men each day. Bulk purchase is now functioning quite well – but prices have soared owing to transport difficulties. Barges have to negotiate about 4 rapids before they reach us. Terrific storm at 7.30p.m.

May 20 Thursday

A fair night. Very heavy rain about 3a.m. & these tents leak! Ours looks very nice but monsoon rain will come straight thro I'm afraid. Quite a lot of additional troops have arrived in today. Including a party of Gordons. We are very congested now. Very short of tentage. Many men got a soaking last night - & there was another storm this afternoon. There are two Royal Scots officers in No11 batt I got know today. Ross & Graham. They fought with the Argyles. They came from Hong Kong to Singapore on a course & were caught in the war.

May 21 Friday Takenung

Terrific rain in the night. The men must have had an awful time. They are wet thro & have had no sleep. I had a decent night. But the doctor & officers on the other side of the tent were rained on. The tent leaks so badly. The monsoon must have started. A very quiet day. Rather overcast sticky as in monsoon weather. Col Stott of the Gordons is in our tent until he gets accommodation. I am very much fitter again now. My strength is back. I've done myself very well with food lately. Very fortunate I did the deal.! But the general food situation is much improved. We have a plague of large 'horse flies' about here today. They sting.

Sat May 22

A poor night. I could not sleep early on. Slight rain in the night. Sticky overcast morning. Service & Communion tonight at 6p.m. for 9 batt who have a holiday. Torrential rain in the afternoon. A real tropical downpour. This surely must be the start of the monsoon. We were paid today 30 dollars. Still it rains & rains. The men will be in a terrible condition. Wet all day & everything wet when they come home.

Sunday May 23 66 weeks captivity

Rained all night & still raining throughout the morning. Poured with rain the whole day. I am smitten with malaria today. Feeling very groggy. I am taking quinine tablets.

Monday May 24

A bad night. It rain much of the night. I was in a sweat the whole night. The rain has eased off a bit today. But everything is very wet. I've got a fearful headache – tho I feel slightly easier today. The rains soon started again & have been more or less incessant. This is an incredible life. In the jungle for the monsoon! We shall never be dry. We have been given another PC for sending home today. The river is rising by leaps & bounds.

Tuesday May 25

A decent night. Rain, but I managed to keep dry. A dull morning with the prospect of more rain. Feeling rather better. My head aches, I'm a little deaf & giddy when I walk, due to the quinine. Bad news today. Cholera has broken out in Teknoon. 6 BOR's have died & there are 25 cases. A little rain towards evening.

Wed May 26

A poor night in the early hours. Very humid. No rain. Dull overcast a.m. The monkeys are very merry. They say there are very large numbers. One officer saw 80 or 100 running across a log. They are the light coloured ones with black faces. (Very attractive pets). We have a few jungle fowl chicks running around the camp. They are like brown leghorn chickens. The variety of insects creeping & crawling around here is legion. Large, small & of all colours. Grasshoppers exactly like pieces of wood, centipedes, ants of all sizes – including the deadly white ant which eats anything. Of course the usual plague of flies common to the east. Owing to the cholera outbreak bulk purchase is suspended. So it looks as tho we are in for a thin time again. We seem fated in this camp. There is a check roll call tonight at 7p.m. Thank goodness the weather is bright & cheerful today. Heavy storm at 8p.m. A boy died today. Funeral tonight. Gnr Darke 125 Anti-Tank Regt.

Thursday May 27

It rained most of the night, poured. The tent leaks just above my feet so I had to sleep, or try to, in corkscrew fashion. The morning shows signs of improvement. Not much rain, tho dull & cloudy. I found a large scorpion in a pair of shorts I had hung on the line! Things here are still pretty grim & they look as tho they may be worse. Rations are cut to a base minimum. But we hope it won't be as black as it looks. Have been reading 'Handbook to British Malaya' by R L German.

Friday May 28 Takenung

Not a good night. Cannot sleep in the early hours. But very little rain. Cool, pleasant a.m. The old church site is now covered with tents. So this a.m. I have got permission & have been clearing a site just outside the camp. The news from Takenung today is that 22 have died of cholera & there are 62 cases. It may be under control. Looks like a storm this afternoon. Nothing of interest to note. A few nights ago I heard what I thought was a dog barking in a high pitched voice – it was a barking deer. Rain in the night.

Sat May 29

A fair night. Cool & pleasant a.m. Communion service tonight at 8.30p.m. Torrential rain at 1p.m. Had a cholera inoculation this afternoon which should be a good thing. Its an awful scourge if its not stopped.

Sunday May 30 67 weeks captivity

An excellent sleep. Cool, dull a.m. Cpl Tinkler (RAOC) No 9 batt died during the night of malaria. Many of the deaths are due to obscure causes. The doctor has no means of ascertaining with any certainty. Men get into a terrible mood of depression & just give up. And one cannot wonder at it, living under such appalling conditions. Only the strongest, physically & mentally will survive. Funeral at 3p.m. Rain in the afternoon. Service at 8.30p.m.

Monday May 31

A very good sleep. Cool, dull a.m. Am reading 'The Bride' by Margaret Irwin. The story of Louise & Montrose. Rain this a.m. The Tais are cutting trees down on the railway – *illegible word* – just outside the camp. They are using elephants (The usual small Asiatic type). The bellow very loudly now & again. A couple of lizards seem to have taken residence in our tent. They are always skipping about the floor. A Dutchman died today & I buried him this afternoon. Einhart (Brig). Dysentery.

JUNE 1st Tuesday

Torrential rain during the night. But slept very well. Simply poured with rain all morning. But the sun came out just after lunch time. Lots more heavy rain in the afternoon. I have been superintending the issue of extra stew for the sick today. We boiled a bullocks head & gave the stew to those which the doctors recommended. Funeral tonight.

Wed June 2

A good night. But the weather is terrible. It rained all night & is raining this a.m. Rained on & off the whole day. Bad news from the lower camp. 69 men have died from cholera. An average of 9 a day. This is really terrible. It's a ghastly disease. Violent sickness, violent Dyoreah, & death for 80% of the cases in a very short time.

Thursday June 3 Ascension Day

A good sleep. Some rain in the night. Pouring in the morning when we were getting up & it poured most of the a.m. I am holding a Communion service this afternoon at 3.30p.m. A number of men are in camp, & no doubt a little group will gather. A good service – over 20 present. Am reading 'Faraway' by J B Priestly. Rain eased off this afternoon.

Friday June 4

A good night. A little rain. Wet morning as usual. Two boys died during the night. I am burying them at 12.30p.m. I heard today the sad news that Sgt Marrison of the 6th Norfolks has died of cholera at Takenung. (A good Methodist boy). What a day! Another boy died this afternoon. A signaller. He wasn't even in hospital. He just passed out. Three in a day up to the present. Lots more rain in the afternoon. Funeral at 7.30p.m.

Sat June 5

A good night. Pouring wet morning as usual. The rice ration has been cut to half – 12oz. This is a heavy blow – especially for the men on the line. Pouring again in the afternoon. This weather is deadly – especially for the men on the line. They can never get dry. Tho I am quite fit at the moment. A bad afternoon. Torrential rain. The heaviest we've had.

Sunday June 6 68 weeks captivity

A fair night. It rained in torrents - & I got wet about the feet early on. Wet a.m. as usual. The doctor went to Takenung yesterday & got some correct figures. 122 deaths since May 5 – about half from cholera. They have had 140 cases of cholera & 60 deaths. I am not too well today. 'Tummy' trouble again. Pains & Dyoreah. I am inclined to think it a chill of the stomach. I am holding a service tonight as soon as the meal is finished. Fair afternoon. Young moon tonight.

Monday June 7

A very good sleep. No rain. But a pouring wet morning. Am feeling fit again. I have just heard that 'Taffy' Evans died at Takenung. Rain cleared after lunch. I worked on the cemetery this afternoon.

Tuesday June 8

A poor night. It rained in torrents. It is fine this a.m. however. Reading 'The treasure of Ho' by L Adams Beek. The story has a Chinese setting. Very readable. The most terrific storm ever this afternoon. A real tropical one. Bulk purchase has started again today. A boat load of supplies has arrived. Very good this.

Wed June 9

A great deal of rain during the night, & at morning parade time. Two men died during the night. No 9 batt again. Funeral for the two at 12.30p.m. Several heavy showers. Have just read a delightful book on cricket.

Thursday June 10

Moderately good night. Lots of rain. Cool cloudy a.m. with every prospect of rain. Another man died during the night Gnr Cooper, 135 Field Regt. Pte Brady (53 Brigade) died this a.m. Funeral at 12.24p.m. Lots of rain again. Another death – 3 today. No 9 again. Another death (No 3 batt at 9p.m. – 4 today.

Friday June 11

No rain in the night. Another No 9 batt man died this a.m. Sparkes. Fine a.m. as yet. Very rigid cholera precautions now. River out of bounds. The doctors are not sure of one man. Hope it isn't the use(*sic*) thing. No rain for many hours today. The best day for weeks.

Sat June 12

A decent night. Not much rain. No deaths during the night. It doesn't look as tho we have cholera – the death rate would be much higher. Tho we have taken great precautions & the Japanese medical people have been here. We are now cremating the bodies of the men who die. Palmer (5th Norfolks) died this a.m. Held the service tonight for Palmer. Welsh, Dower. The ashes were in bamboo containers. Torrential rain this afternoon. Read Ethel Mannin's 'Confessions & Suppressions'. What a – *illegible word* -.

Sunday June 13 Whit Sunday 69 weeks captivity

A decent night. No rain. Moon half full. One man died in the night. Bowgen R.A.M.C. Communion at 4.30p.m. Funeral at 6.30 (After cremation). A good number at Communion. Two more men died. One a fairly certain case of cholera. Torrential rain at 6.30p.m. Half moon.

Monday June 14

A decent night – but bitten rather badly. No rain up till late evening. There are lots people segregated into the hospital area now. Cholera suspects & contacts. I buried the ashes of four boys this afternoon at 5p.m. We are in a bad spot at the moment. Very sad do.

Tues June 15

A decent night. No rain. Fine a.m. Two men died in the night. Hammond & Thompson. (Thompson was at Communion on Sunday). A large boat of bulk purchase arrived yesterday. Thank God! Freer died this afternoon of cholera. We still keep getting a case or two. The doctor is very serious these days – as he must needs be. Very stringent precautions are being taken everywhere. No rain up till evening meal time.

Wed June 16

A good night. No rain & a fine cool morning. Two men died today. I am very depressed today. Really, as I thought on the situation here its ghastly. We have got cholera & the men are in a shocking state in every way. Over half the camp is ill - & even the fit men are for the most part only supposedly so. Its unbelievable really. They will have a very hard struggle many of them. But the selfishness & callousness in the camp. Certain people particularly horrible! There are so many sick men that no man seems to get very much sympathy. But I must close. I've got a fever & this may be the reason for very – *illegible word* - . Mr Smith came for a chat in the evening & I feel rather better.

Thursday June 17

A fair night. A bout of fever disturbed it. No rain. Moon nearly full. The weather is certainly improving. Cholera is raging in a camp higher up river. 200 Australians have died. Quiet day. Fever is still with me. I'm on quinine again. Quiet day. Moon full or nearly so.

Friday June 18

A decent night. Some rain early a.m. Have been reading 'Imperial City' the last few days. Today I read 'Sir Walter Raleigh' by Eric Ecclestone. Uneventful day. Warm & no rain. Feeling pretty lousy. Took Atabrin today. 3 deaths.

Sat June 19

A decent night. Cool pleasant a.m. Two deaths in the night – & two fresh cholera cases. A fine sunny day. Funerals at 5oclock again. Four deaths today – up to 8p.m. Too many!

Sunday June 20 Trinity Sunday 70 weeks captivity

Fair night. Cool, cloudy a.m. Building a fence round the cemetery. Two deaths today up till 7p.m. Funerals at 5oclock. Communion at 4p.m. – 20 present. Ration scale for day. Rice 16oz. Sugar 7/16 oz. Salt ¼ oz. Tea 1/20 oz. Oil 1/12oz. Fish 1/12 oz. Veg 6oz. Cow 4oz. The actual amount received is usually much smaller & the scale varies from day to day. Veg is often bad.

Mon June 21

A fair night. Cool, misty damp a.m. Working on cemetery in the a.m. Paid 30 dollars today. Heavy rain from 1oclock onwards. Service at 9p.m. There were about 30 there. Every night at 9p.m. I hold a service lasting about 15 minutes.

Tuesday June 22

A fair night. Cool damp a.m. with slight rain. Working on the cemetery & worked too hard. It is very easy to overdo it. We are very weak when it comes to heavy work. Four funerals at 5p.m. Service at 9p.m. Very little rain. Good service. I was vaccinated tonight. There is smallpox in a camp higher up. What a country!

Wed June 23

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. A bad night in the hospital. Three men died, two new cases were reported. 4 deaths up to 6p.m. Heavy storms after lunch. Funerals at 5p.m. Service at 9p.m. The doctor has been to Takenung. They have had 180 deaths in all up to date from cholera & other causes.

Thursday June 24

A good night. We are moving the tent site this a.m. This is now a dyoreah area. No deaths in the night & none up to 6p.m. Showers during the day. Service at 9p.m. Working all day on the removal. Funerals at 5p.m. Cholera inoculations & one death in the evening.

Friday June 25

A good night. Cool, rainy a.m. Ration scale for last 3 days, Rice 16oz. Sugar 2/5oz. Salt 1/4oz. Veg 8oz. Meat 4oz. One death in the night & one this a.m. One in the afternoon. Funerals at 5p.m. Service at 9p.m. Very good service indeed.

Sat June 26

Not a good night in the early hours. Bitten rather badly. Cool, pleasant, dry a.m. Quiet day – rather pleasant. Funerals at 5p.m. Service at 9p.m. One death today from beri beri.

Sunday June 27 71 weeks captivity

A very poor night. Rain in the morning. One death in the night from malaria. Working most of the day. Communion at 4p.m. Funerals at 5p.m. Evening service at 9p.m. Excellent service.

Monday June 28

A very good sleep after the first hour. Wet morning. Heavy storms in the day. 4 deaths. Funerals at 5p.m. Service at 9p.m.

Tues June 29

A good sleep. Rain in the night. Cool a.m. One death in the night. Another in the day. Lots of rain. Funerals at 5p.m. (4). Service at 9p.m. A busy day at the cemetery.

Wed June 30

A good night. Cool, pleasant a.m. Two deaths during the night. One in the day. Uneventful day until the evening, then a terrific rain storm. Funerals at 5p.m. Service at 9p.m. Working on the cemetery again.

JULY 1st Thursday

A good sleep. One death in the night. Capt Hallam (who knows John Downe) was stricken down with cholera during the night. Hope he pulls thro. He is a very splendid fellow. No rain up to 5p.m. Blazing hot in the sun. Funerals at 5p.m. Service at 9p.m. Two more deaths in the day.

Friday July 2

A fair night. Very hot in early hours. Dull cool a.m. No deaths in the night or day. Working on the cemetery. Little of interest. A very hot day. I am not too well. A touch of fever again. Funerals at 5p.m. Service at 9p.m.

Sat July 3

Sue's birthday. Cool pleasant a.m. Capt Hallam died early this a.m! Very warm a.m. We killed a cobra a short while ago. He was nearly in our tent – about 5ft long. Stricken down with malaria again. A blazing hot day & within 3 minutes I was trembling like a leaf, with my greatcoat & every shred of clothing on! Including a towel. Its an incredible disease. I'm on quinine again now. Three deaths today.

Sunday July 4 72 weeks captivity

A bad night. I've got a nasty attack of fever this time. Cool dull morning. Miserable day. The fever has got me down. I feel very 'groggy' tho I managed to take the burial service for Capt Hallam. I'm very sorry indeed. I hope John Whyllie will take the evening service tonight. I don't feel up to it.

Monday July 5

A rather better night. The fever is going I believe. Cool pleasant a.m. No deaths in the night or today up till lunch time. Funerals at 5p.m. Service at 9p.m. Two deaths later in the day.

Tues July 6

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. Feeling rather better of the fever. Working on the cemetery. Col Yarangita visited the camp this afternoon. The weather for the last day or two has been very cool. A heavy shower about 5p.m. Service at 9p.m. 1 death.

Wed July 7

A good night. Cool a.m. Quiet uneventful day with nothing of interest. No deaths. Funerals at 5p.m. Service at 9p.m. Some showers.

Thursday July 8

Good night. Lots of rain. Cool a.m. Working in the cemetery. Rain on & off whole day. No deaths. Funerals at 5p.m. Service at 9p.m. Uninteresting day.

Friday July 9 Takenung

A very good sleep. Cool cloudy a.m. Two deaths since last night. Rain to begin the day. Am feeling quite fit now. The moon was about the end of its first quarter last night. Working in the cemetery this a.m. Lots of rain throughout the day.

Sat July 10

A very good sleep. Lots of rain during the night. Cool a.m. Clearing a new church site. No deaths in the night & no new cases of cholera for 72 hours. Dare we hope it is under control? Funerals at 5p.m. Rain on & off whole day.

Sunday July 11 73 weeks captivity

Rained the whole of the night & still raining. Slept fairly well. Ants worried me a bit. Torrential rain in the afternoon which spoiled the communion service. An elephant is at work in the camp clearing felled trees. These conditions are really appalling again. Rain, rain, rain. The men are forever wet. The river is very swollen again. I'm terribly browned off & depressed these days. Inoculated against plague this evening. Service at 9p.m.

Monday July 12

A good night. Lots of rain. 150 sick are being evacuated today. Very cool a.m. (almost cold & wet). Another evacuation of sick today. Funeral at 5p.m. Communion service at 8.45p.m. Quiet uneventful day.

Tuesday July 13 Takenung

Torrential rain began about 3a.m. & still continues at 9.30p.m. A good night. The moon is just over half full. One death early this a.m. (Gardner. Sigs). 1.30p.m. & still pouring! Ghastly weather. I am now PMC. Richard Sharpe is on the railway. It has rained all day.

Wed July 14

A fair night. The bedding is very damp. Lots of rain again. I'm not feeling too fit. Rather like a cold. A better day. Not so much rain – but I feel rather lousy, as tho I have another fever. Funerals at 5p.m. (2 Signals). Have been reading selected passages from Plato (Livingstone).

Thursday July 15

A fair night. Cool, pleasant a.m. with prospects of a sunny day. Sunny a.m. but a torrential rainstorm in the afternoon & very much more rain in the evening & night. No service owing to the weather. Quiet day.

Friday July 16

A good night. Cloudy a.m. with prospects of rain. 110 men & some officers are detailed to move up 16 kilos for work. The advance party moves today & the main body tomorrow. A most amusing sight to see the men on the advance party loading their rations onto an elephant. The elephants here are most intelligent creatures. This one got down on his knees to be loaded. Quiet day with a small service at 9p.m. Mr Smith paid his usual visit. Re-read some of – *illegible word possibly 'Corduroy'* – by Adrian Bell.

Sat July 17

A poor sleep. Pouring rain began in the early hours & continues still. Atrocious weather. Richard Sharpe & the party have marched off in it. It will be a horrible walk – 16 kilos. A quiet uneventful day with almost incessant rain. A short service at 9p.m.

Sunday July 18 74 weeks captivity

4th after Trinity. A good sleep. Heavy rain in the night & continuing throughout the day. Atrocious! Communion service at 4p.m. Rained incessantly from 3.30p.m. till late evening. Paid today.

Monday July 19

A good sleep. Very heavy rain in the a.m. again. Then the weather cleared & it was a very nice day. We are putting a new roof on our cook house. I have been working quite hard. Quite a good service at 9p.m.

Tuesday July 20

A good sleep. Short shower at reveille. But prospects of a fine day. Moon in the a.m. on the wane. Quite a pleasant uneventful day. Plenty of work roofing cookhouse etc. Richard Sharpe came down in the evening & stayed the night. Communion service at 9p.m. A good service with a good number present.

Wed July 21

A good sleep. Rain in the night & at parade time. A lot of rain during the day. Quiet, uneventful day. Funeral 5p.m. A service at 9p.m.

Thursday July 22

A fair night. Rain. Dull a.m. with every prospect of more rain. The prospects have been abundantly fulfilled. It has rained in torrents most of the day. I have been working on the railway for 2 hours today. Every available person is gradually being roped in. But ours is not a difficult task & short hours. Rain spoiled the service. Saw a huge spider – yellow & black.

Friday July 23

Slept well. Torrential rain in the a.m. An awful sight to see the men on work parade. Half naked, & some completely naked & bootless. Standing in the dripping rain. It has rained most of the day & I'm not too fit. Worked on the cemetery. Service at 9p.m.

Sat July 24

A good night. Heavy rain. A very cool wet a.m. What miserable weather! On the line again this afternoon. Torrential rain. Wet thro again. Nothing else of interest in the day. Service tonight at 9p.m. Another miserable day. There are lots of Tamil coolies working on the line. Tamils & Chinese coolies from Malaya.

Sunday July 25 75 weeks captivity

5th after Trinity. A fair night. Not so much rain. Fine a.m. for a change. A small number of men on the line. The majority of the camp is down sick. Feet troubles now owing to the continual wet. The ulcers here too are huge & loathsome. Communion service at 4p.m. – just finished in the nick of time before a heavy storm broke. Service at 9p.m. Some Aussies pulled in by barge at night on the way up river. No 4 group. They dropped a cholera case off & another in the a.m.

Monday July 26

A decent sleep. No rain in the night & a very pleasant day. Cool a.m. The Aussie barges are moving off now 9a.m. The weather today has been very pleasant indeed with no rain. I worked on the line for 2 hours. A good service at 9p.m. Reading 'Dawn watch in China' by Joy Homer. Funeral at 5p.m. Hall.

Tues July 27

A good sleep. No rain. Cool pleasant a.m. These hours of dry are a great blessing. The weather is really perfect. It is like living in a painting. Mountain after mountain on either side of us in fantastic forms & of course the everlasting riot of greenery. At work on the railway. I found it very arduous today. The monkeys were quite close this afternoon. I saw them drinking from the river just opposite. Two deaths today. An Aussie left here & Gibson. Funeral at 5p.m. Service at 9p.m.

Wed July 28

A fair night. Some rain. Cool, dull, damp a.m. A number of small showers & the day is very humid. I don't feel too well. It may be the weather, or it may be the fever again. I've taken Quinine anyhow. Am reading Rudyard Kipling's 'Wee Willie Winkie' & other stories. Buried two men at 5p.m. The Aussie & Gibson. Service at 9p.m. There are a large number of Tamil coolies working near us now. Already they have cholera among them & no medical attention. Poor devils! How many will see Malaya again?

Thursday July 29

A fair night. Cool, pleasant a.m. The weather is vastly improved. Quiet uneventful day. One death – but not of cholera. Service at 9p.m. Good service. Mr Smith gave the talk.

Friday July 30

A good sleep. Slight rain in the night. Cool a.m. with mist enshrouding the hills. Another quiet uneventful day. Lots of rain. Service tonight at 9p.m. Very good one.

Sat July 31

A good sleep. Cool, pleasant a.m. Working on the railway in a.m. Rain on & off. Service at 9p.m. Buried Bettinson at 5p.m. Richard Sharpe came down today again. I was very sorry to hear that George Graham of the NF's died of dysentery.

Sunday Aug 1st 76 weeks captivity

6th after Trinity. A pouring wet a.m. & this month is reported by some authorities to be a dry month before the heavy monsoon! My mind is full of Llanngenereth today & very happy memories they are. Those days will come again. Am reading Priestley's 'Good Companions' delightful! Buried Murchant today. Rain nearly all day. Spoiled the service.

Monday August 2

Slept well. But it poured in torrents the whole night never once letting up. And it still continues after parade. Went to the railway but it rained off work. Still it rains incessantly at 6p.m. The river is very swollen again and there are large trees in the flotsam & jetsam being washed down. A strange Bank Holiday!

Tues Aug 3

A good sleep. But rain in the night. The usual downpour this a.m. Almost incessant for 3 days. Pouring still at tea time! Incredible weather. Am still reading The Good Companions. An absolutely awful day. Rain the whole time & a wet night. Mr Munro of the Gordons died unexpectedly & very suddenly this afternoon. Three funerals at 5p.m.

Wed August 4

A fair night. Rain, and it continues well into the morning looks like it. A couple more cases of cholera yesterday. Hope its not starting up again. There is a lot of it among the coolies I'm afraid & our men are working close alongside them. On the railway at 10a.m. But its hopeless trying to work in a sea of mud. Lots more rain throughout the day. Service at 9p.m.

Thursday August 5

A good sleep. Some rain during the night. Tho the morning is a little better. Cholera has started again now with a vengeance. Five or six new cases – 3 deaths - & 15 new cases. Much better weather with spells of sunshine. Buried Mr Munro at 6p.m. I read the RC service as he was an ardent RC. A very bad day, 6 deaths & 24 new cases. A more virulent attack of cholera than before. Its spreading like wildfire. Inoculated against cholera tonight again.

Friday August 6

A good sleep. Very heavy rain in the night & a.m. Two deaths including Bill Hickey. Very sorry indeed. 400 odd British troops from Saigon arrived here last night on their way up the track. They slept outside on the road in the pouring rain! Poor devils. This life is unbelievable. Raining hard most of the day. 6 deaths up till 6oclock! Awful. The weather helps the disease. We are in a deplorable state. 7 deaths today.

Saturday August 7

A good sleep. Heavy rain throughout the night. But the morning is not quite so bad. Col Baker & his party are off this a.m. 1 death in the night. The weather is better – quite a lot of sunny periods. I'm not feeling too well - & very depressed. The Japanese doctor is here today – taking stool tests. I buried 10 men at 5p.m. today. Awful! Read the RC service again. Donaldson, Williams & Schofield were on the party going thro today. It was grand to see them again. Late tonight Major Wylie was put into hospital with cholera. Service at 9p.m.

Sunday August 8 7th after Trinity 77 weeks captivity

A good sleep. Dull a.m. The weather is very much better today. Very little rain. No deaths in the night & none up till seven this morning. But John Wylie is very ill. Funerals at 5p.m. Communion service at 8.30p.m. 9 officers present.

Monday August 9

A good sleep. Some rain in the night. No deaths. A beautiful sunny a.m. Am reading 'The Merry Queen Marie Antoinette' by Pierre Nezelof. We were stool tested today by the Japanese doctor, to see whether we are cholera 'carriers'. Two officers & 130 odd men have returned from Takenung today. They are fit again now. Its been a glorious day. No rain & no deaths. Service tonight at 9p.m. Moon nearly half full.

Tues Aug 10

A fair nights rest. No rain. Cool a.m. Two deaths in the night. Warm sunny day. Richard Sharpe is here again. Two more deaths in the day. Service tonight at 9p.m. L/Cp Payne died today in Col PCs camp. Service at 9p.m. Bright moonlight night.

Wed August 11

A poor night. A bad dose of indigestion. My stomach is in a poor state these days. I'm a bit off colour this a.m. Cool pleasant a.m. Two deaths in the night. Campbell is not of our camp. He is on the communications party & was brought in with cholera yesterday. Rain in the afternoon. Buried three men at 5p.m. Service at 9p.m. Stool tested again.

Thursday August 12

Wedding anniversary. A good night. Some rain. One death in the night. Quiet sunny day with the odd shower. 3 funerals at 5p.m. I'm not feeling too fit & the day is somehow oppressive. One leg will hardly drag after the other. Have finished 'The Merry Queen' today. Service at 9p.m. Twelve present.

Friday August 13

A good sleep. Cool pleasant a.m. Morning became sunny & warm. Rain in the afternoon & very sticky. I feel 'lousy'. Three deaths. More rain in the evening. The weather seems to have broken again. Service at 9p.m.

Sat Aug 14

A fair night. Slight rain at reveille. Sawing an old tree down this a.m. very hard 'Mahogany' tree. Did a little sermon preparation. Rain & long warm dry periods. The Japanese have presented us with 25 black – *illegible word* – (Possibly 'Horse cigs'). Service 9p.m. One death today.

Sunday August 15 8th after Trinity 18 months captivity

A fair nights sleep. We've got rats about now. A wet a.m. A sick man wondered off yesterday – a mental case. He was found this afternoon. A pleasant a.m. Torrential rain after lunch. Funerals at 5p.m. Reading 3 plays by Bernard Shaw. John Bull's Other Island. Major Barbane how he lied to her husband. Very amusing. But I'm terribly homesick & browned off. Communion at 8.30p.m. 20 odd present.

Monday August 16

A good sleep. Cool, pleasant a.m. We are very short of fresh veg these days. So Col Madden & 2 spent the a.m. gathering wild spinach on the river bank. Torrential rain in the afternoon. Inoculated for dysentery. Service at 9p.m. This afternoon I sat & quietly watched the birds in a tall tree near my tent. A most interesting time. The foliage here is so thick that if one doesn't watch carefully one doesn't see. I saw at least ten different kinds. A lovely green woodpecker was working on a broken stump. A pair of grey birds as large as a dove with a magnificent long tail. The finest of birds with a bright red breast. Lovely bright yellow birds with black backs. Then at night a colony of monkeys came down to the river to drink & play on the sand. Mothers & fathers & children. A most interesting site.

Tuesday August 17

A good sleep. Cool pleasant a.m. Sunny. Torrential rain in the afternoon & continues well on into the evening. Sermonizing today. Nothing else of interest – except an evacuation of 100 sick – leaving us with 402 on our hands.

Wed August 18

A good sleep. Pouring wet a.m. One death in the night. Quiet day. Rain & pleasant periods. Service at 9p.m.

Thursday Aug 19

A good sleep. Heavy rain in the night. Rain all the morning. A move is about to take place. Am I for up or down? I don't know yet. Quiet day with lots of rain. Service tonight at 9p.m. Life is very dull & drab at the moment.

Friday August 20

A good night. Some rain & raining as usual this morning & on & off throughout the day. Am feeling much fitter these days. I attribute it to the fact that I cook wild spinach for myself now. Funeral at 5p.m. Am reading Dickens' Nicholas Nickleby.

Sat Aug 21

A good sleep. Heavy rain in the night & this a.m. Cool. It now looks as tho I may stay here. They will probably leave the sick in the camp. Lots of rain during the day. Quiet & uneventful. Very good service at 9p.m. Good congregation.

Sunday Aug 22 9th after Trinity 79 weeks captivity

A good sleep. Heavy rain during the night. Fair morning. One death. Very cool these days. A party moving up country today. McNeal is with it. Had a long chat, also George Hill, Lucas, Darby, & Lewis. Poured with rain all afternoon & it looks like a wet night. The weather may spoil the Communion service. Two local purchase barges in today. Eggs & brown sugar. The Communion was held – 11 present.

Monday Aug 23

A poor night. Stomach trouble spoiled it. Fine a.m. Cool. Heard a barking deer very distinctly this a.m. The coolies on the line had apparently disturbed him. The weather has been better today. More sunshine, less rain. But a dull, uneventful day. Service at 9p.m.

Tuesday Aug 24

A good sleep. Lovely morning with every prospect of a hot day. Not too fit. Stomach out of order again. I have been watching a chameleon this a.m. It's amazing how they completely change colour according to their background. Two funerals at 5p.m. Really a lovely day. No rain. Doc Graham has gone to Takenung for medical supplies.

Wednesday Aug 25

A good sleep. Cool pleasant a.m. The cholera cases evacuated this afternoon. Warm dry day. Not feeling too fit again. There are literally hundreds of barges going up river these days with supplies. Service at 8.30p.m.

Thursday August 26

A fair sleep. A terrific storm at lights out. Rain, thunder & wind. It tore our tent rather badly. Cool pleasant a.m. Then the weather became sunny & warm. Quiet day with nothing of interest. Am reading 'Ivanhoe' Scott. Service at 9p.m.

August 27 Friday

Another storm swept down on us in the night with tropical suddenness. Torrential rain. But I had a good night. Cool calm pleasant a.m. The hornbills are very noisy. They make noises like geese. Quiet day. Slight rain but lots of sunshine. Service at 9p.m.

August 28 Sat

A fair night. Quite a lot of rain. Cool pleasant a.m. Nights are rather 'sticky' these days like Singapore. Had a good view of the monkey family this a.m. Had a chat with two Indian boys on my way to the cemetery. Nice fellows. They are from Singapore & are working on the line. They look very pathetic. Quiet day. Service at 8.30p.m.

August 29 Sunday 10th after Trinity 80 weeks captivity

A very good night. No rain. Lovely cool a.m. Day became sunny & warm. The Japanese carried out a search of our tents this a.m. I have a Communion service in the hospital at 4p.m. today & a Communion here at 8.30p.m. Am reading 'No place like home' by Beverly Nichols. Torrential rain from 8.30p.m. onwards.

August 30 Monday

Not too good a sleep. Cool pleasant a.m. One death in the night. I'm very sorry it is Palmer – the Methodist boy from Gloucester. I feel very upset. The monkeys are on view this a.m. Another death today. Very warm with showers. Quiet uneventful day. Service tonight in the hospital area. Cholera inoculation.

August 31 Tuesday

A good sleep. Cool a.m. Day became warm. The fit are moving up the day after tomorrow. I do not move. Dozens of barges are on their way up river again today. I'm not too well. The inoculation seems to upset me. Funerals at 5p.m. Service at 8.30p.m.

September 1st Wednesday

A fair night. Not too well again. Cool a.m. 'Tummy' trouble & fever again. The move for the fit comes off tomorrow. There is the usual 'flap' today of preparing for the move. Reading 'Ivanhoe'. Nothing of interest.

September 2 Thursday

A fair night. Swinton & the fit party have gone. Reveille at 6a.m. We may get a little peace & quietness now. The coolies are in the camp cutting down trees. It's a cool pleasant a.m. Elephants are working here too. We have no guard on the camp. It looks like being very quiet & pleasant in the camp. I'm sorry these lovely trees are being cut down.

September 3 Friday 4 yrs of war!

Cool, pleasant a.m. One death in the night. Very hot day. Very quiet & peaceful. I'm not a bit well. My stomach is very queer. The weather for Sept has started excellently & rumour says it is a wet month. Ian Gordon S & A H sleeps beside me now. He is a very decent fellow. In the Anglo Iranian Oil Co. he knows Stevenson.

Sept 4 Saturday

A better night. Cool a.m. Am feeling a little better. Very hot afternoon. The heat for a few hours has been intense for the last few days. Funeral at 5p.m. Torrential rain in the afternoon & evening.

Sunday Sept 5 Takenung 81 weeks captivity

Fair night. Still not too well. Another death in the night. A service in the hospital this a.m. Quiet life here now. Reading 'Pickwick Papers'. Rain in the afternoon. Moon is now about 4 nights old.

Monday Sept 6

A very good sleep. Cool pleasant a.m. Quiet pleasant day. Funeral at 6p.m. Service in the hospital at 9.30 a good number present.

Tuesday Sept 7

A good night. Service at 9.30a.m. in the hospital. Very warm day. The elephants here are amazing creatures. Their intelligence is incredible. Just a word from the boy & they will do almost anything. Kneel or use their trunk or almost anything. Rain in the afternoon.

Wed Sept 8

A good night. Cool a.m. Service at 9.30a.m. Quiet warm day till evening. Then rain. I am enjoying the quietness of this camp. Heavy rain in the evening. Moon half full.

Thursday Sept 9

A poor night. Cool a.m. Service at 9.30a.m. in the hospital. Very hot later in day. Rain in the afternoon & evening. Quiet day.

Friday Sept 10

A good night. Rain began at reveille. I was going to Tecknoon to fetch cattle. We waited most of the day for a barge but it didn't arrive till evening so I got off the party. Cool day. Rain at night.

Sat Sept 11

A good night. Rain. Cool a.m. Quiet day. Rain in the afternoon. This range of limestone hills runs thro Malaya, Siam, & Burma as a sort of backbone. Heard the railway train today.

Sunday Sept 12 12th after Trinity 82 weeks captivity

A fair night. Rain. Cool pleasant a.m. Communion service in the hospital at 9a.m. The railway is past the camp today. Robert Coles is with the party. I'm not too fit. Rain in the afternoon & evening. Am feeling very depressed. Kenneth Eddington died at Tecknung. Quiet day. Communion here at 7.30a.m.

230 Kilos (Revised No)

Monday Sept 13

A good sleep. Bright moonlight night. Cool a.m. Day became very hot. Quiet uneventful day.

Tuesday Sept 14

A very good sleep. Cool dull a.m. Cool & rainy most of the day. Quiet & uneventful. Buried CSM Nichols at 5p.m. Browned off.

Wed Sept 15

A good sleep. Cool a.m. Day became very hot – with showers. Weeding the cemetery this a.m. Not too fit again. A sort of indigestion. Very unpleasant. Looks like rain tonight.

Thursday Sept 16

A good sleep. Cool dull a.m. Hot & showery later in the day. Quiet & uneventful. Heavy rain at night.

Friday Sept 17

A very poor night. Wet most of the day. I am down with a bad fever. Very miserable day.

Sat Sept 18

A fair night. Feeling very miserable with this fever. Pouring with rain. The second monsoon is on us again. Rained the whole day. I am very unfit with fever.

Sunday Sept 19 13th after Trinity 83 weeks captivity

A fair night. Rain most of the night & raining this a.m. Rain most of the day. Still full of fever.

Monday Sept 20

A fair night. Cool damp a.m. The river has risen about 8 Ft in the night. There must be torrential rain in Burma. Quiet uneventful day. Very browned off & miserable.

Tues Sept 21

A very poor night. Cool sunny a.m. for a change. Sunny warm – very warm till evening then a torrential downpour. Quiet day as usual. Funeral at 5p.m.

Wed Sept 22

A good night. Cool a.m. Warm day with showers. Uninteresting & dull. Concert at night.

Thursday Sept 23

A very poor night. Heavy rain. Cool day with lots of rain. Nothing of note as is usual now. Weeding cemetery.

Friday Sept 24

A very poor sleep. Usual sort of day. Fair intervals & torrents of rain. Paid today.

Sat Sept 25

A good sleep. Cool pleasant a.m. Day became very hot indeed. Little rain. We killed a cobra outside the tent this afternoon. Funerals at 5p.m. (3).

Sunday Sept 26 14th after Trinity 84 weeks captivity

A good night. Cool a.m. but day became very hot. Communion at 8.30a.m. Service in hospital at 6p.m. No rain.

Monday Sept 27

A good night. Cool pleasant a.m. Quiet day – very hot. Funerals at 5p.m.

Tuesday Sept 28

A good night. Heavy rain in the a.m. Wholesale evacuation today. 100 men gone to Teckanung.

Wed Sept 29

The worst night ever. My gall stones gave me a night of terrible pain. I was nearly out of my mind till the doctor gave me some morphia in the morning. Then I was fairly rested tho all the pain continued the whole day. Another hundred men went off today.

Thursday Sept 30

A better night. The pain is very much eased. Cool a.m. but I still feel sick & weak. Very quiet day. Magnificent sunset at night.

Friday October 1st

A good night. Rain. Cool pleasant a.m. Very warm & showery. Funerals at 5p.m. Quiet day.

Sat Oct 2

Only a fair night. Very cool a.m. Been on a sick parade & am down for evacuation.

BASE CAMP**Sunday Oct 3** 15th after Trinity 85 weeks captivity

A good night. Beautiful cool a.m. Evacuated to the base camp. Travelled in a barge. A lovely ride down the river. Many people here I know. New Moon.

Monday Oct 4 Teckanung Base Camp

A fair night. Lovely day. The food here is excellent. Am meeting lots of people I know. Visited the cemetery this a.m. A very large one. 91 in one grave! Visited the hospital. Saw Major Wylie (Recovering from Cholera).

Tuesday Oct 5

A fair night. Turned very cold & continued so till the sun got up. The cold spell seems to have started up here. The rain seems to have ceased – sincerely hope so.

Wed Oct 6

A good night. Very cold again. Medical inspection this a.m. by the Japanese doctor. Very hot later. Quiet uneventful day. Chungkye officers going thro today.

Thursday Oct 7

A good night. Very cold again with mist in the a.m. Then very hot for a few hours. Quiet day. Bill Norris came for a chat at night. Hear there are letters for me!

Friday Oct 8

A good night. Not so cold. A beautiful day again. A large scale evacuation – 400 odd to Chungkye this a.m.

Saturday Oct 9

A good night. Not so cold. Lovely cool sunny a.m. Quiet pleasant day. Met Babb & McNeal in the afternoon. Maclure came here today.

Sunday Oct 10 16th after Trinity 86 weeks captivity

A good night. Cool dull a.m. Heavy storm at 6.30p.m. Service at 8p.m. McNeal took it. Quiet day.

Monday Oct 11

Good night. Cool dull a.m. Day became very hot. Quiet as usual.

Tues Oct 12

Poor night. Very moonlight. Cool a.m. Quiet day – very hot for a few hours. Debate at night in one of the huts.

Wed Oct 13

A good night. Moon nearly full. Dull a.m. with the usual mist. A great day letters from Doreen. C & Auntie Hannah. Quiet day. Very hot in the afternoon. Very bright moonlight.

Thursday Oct 14

A poor night. Rats disturbed me. Am feeling very homesick after reading my letters. Quiet day. Very hot.

Friday Oct 15

A good night. Full moon. Cool misty a.m. Not feeling too fit. Quiet uneventful day. Very hot.

Sat Oct 16

A good night. Cool misty a.m. Very hot day. Visited the hospital. Henry Babb is down with fever. I am taking his services tomorrow. From 2 till 6 intensely hot.

Sunday Oct 17 17th after Trinity 87 weeks captivity

A very good night. Cool misty a.m. Today is a holiday from work for the camp. Service in the 'Skin Ward' at 12p.m. Service in the surgical ward at 7.30p.m. Good services. Very hot in the afternoon. I'm not too well. The heat gets me I think.

Monday Oct 18

A good sleep. Cool misty a.m. Quiet day. Blazing hot afternoon.

Tuesday Oct 19

A good sleep. Cool misty a.m. 200 more sick evacuated today. Usual intense heat in the afternoon & early evening. Quiet uneventful day.

Wednesday Oct 20

Not a good night. Warm & the bugs were active. We are moving into a hut on the river bank today. Out of tents. Cool dull a.m. Day became very hot. I did not get into the hut after all. 'Slats' not finished. Slept in the M.I. room with Dr Longbottom & Donaldson.

Thursday Oct 21

A good night. Very hot day. Taking a funeral for McNeal at 6p.m. Quiet uneventful day. Still in the M.I. room.

Friday Oct 22

A very bad night. My gall stones gave me absolute hell. However Dr Pemberton saw me this a.m. & he knows exactly what the trouble is. The pain has gone somewhat tonight. A very very hot day. The steam train passed here today. We have met with the Burma side now.

Saturday Oct 23

A good sleep. Cool a.m. Am very much better. Quiet, hot uneventful day.

Sunday Oct 24 18th after Trinity 88 weeks captivity

A fair night. Cool misty a.m. Moved into the new hut today. A very pleasant billet. Light & airy. Easily the best we've had in Thailand. Very hot afternoon. Service at 8p.m. Several coaches of high Japanese officers passed thro today.

Monday Oct 25

A good night. Cool a.m. It is a holiday. There are some sports competitions – an issue of tinned fish etc. A memorial service in the cemetery tonight at 6p.m. It has been a sports day too. Competitions in jumping etc & football matches between the British, Dutch & Japanese. The service was very impressive.

Second year of this diary begins

Tuesday Oct 26

A good sleep. Cool pleasant a.m. with slight rain. Cool the whole day with gentle rain 'Rice rains'. Am reading 'The epic of Mount Everest, an Anthology of Modern Poetry' Quiet day.

Wednesday Oct 27

A good night. Very cool & some rain. Very cool dull rainy a.m. Heavy rain from lunch till late into the evening & very very cool. Quiet uneventful day.

Thursday Oct 28

A good night. Cool foggy a.m. Just like a Nov a.m. at home. Day became warm but the breeze was cool. Quiet uneventful. Coolies on holiday a Hindoo holiday. New moon.

Friday Oct 29

A good sleep. Cool misty a.m. Reading Pickwick Papers & Totem & Taboo. Also An Anthology of Modern Poetry. Pleasant, quiet day.

Saturday Oct 30

A good night. Dull & very cool morning. Cool cloudy day. There is a cinema show tonight, I shall go.

Sunday Oct 31 19th after Trinity 89 weeks captivity

A good night. Misty rainy & not nearly so cold. Slight rain & dull most of the day. Service at 8p.m.

November 1st Monday

A good night. Cool sunny a.m. Quiet cool day. Nothing to note.

November 2 Tuesday

A good sleep. Heavy rain in the night & early hours. Then sunny fine & cool day. Nothing of note as usual.

November 3 Wednesday

A good night. Quiet. A warm a.m. Day became very warm. It is a holiday from work – the Japanese emperor's birthday. Tom Fairburn (N F's) was in camp today. He passed on the news that Padre Short is dead.

November 4 Thursday

A good night. Cool a.m. Warm quiet day. Am answering a question in a quiz tonight on codices.

November 5 Friday

Only a fair night. Hot. Cool cloudy a.m. with some rain. Cool & rainy later in the day. Am reading Silver by A Bell. Very delightful.

November 6 Saturday

A good night. Lots of rain. Warm sunny a.m. Quiet uneventful day. Cholera inoculation. Another case today.

Nov 7 Sunday 20th after Trinity 90 weeks captivity.

A good night. Cool dull a.m. A holiday. Took a service in the hospital at 4p.m. Service at 7.30p.m.

November 8 Monday

A good sleep. Cool a.m. Then very hot quiet day.

Nov 9 Tuesday

A good night. Cool a.m. Very cool breeze. Not too fit. Slight cold. Sunny quiet day.

Nov 10 Wed

Doreen's birthday. Cool a.m. A poor night. A colossal wind & rainstorm with thunder in the afternoon. Service at 8.30p.m. Otherwise day as quiet as usual.

Nov 11 Thurs

A good sleep. Remembrance Day service at 11a.m. Warm & cloudy. Quiet.

Nov 12 Friday

A good sleep. Cool a.m. No work on the railway. Job is finished. Funeral at 12p.m. Then a quiet warm day. Full moon.

November 13

A good night. Very cool a.m. Heard of the death of Foster-Haig – & Duckworth's reported to be in a hospital in Burma. Cool cloudy day. Quiet. Read 'A Village in a Valley' B McLees.

Nov 14 Sunday 21 after Trinity 91 weeks captivity

Very good night. Cold. Sunny cool a.m. Service in hospital at 4p.m. Evening service at 7.30p.m. Quiet day.

Nov 15 Monday

Good night. Cool dull a.m. A fair amount of light rain. Preparing a quiz. Quiet uneventful day.

Nov 16 Tuesday

Good night. Cool dull a.m. Quiet day. Read 'Keeping Cool' – *illegible word*.

Nov 17 Wed

Fair night. Misty a.m. Quiet day. Service at 7.30p.m.

Nov 18 Thursday

Good night. Dull a.m. Hot afternoon. Quiet. Influx of - *illegible word* – party troops.

Nov 19 Friday

Good night. Cool cloudy a.m. Heard Ken Darlow is dead. Quiet day.

Nov 20 Saturday

Good night. Cool sunny a.m. Read 'Sherston's Progress' S Sassoon.

Nov 21 Sunday 92 weeks captivity

Good sleep. Very cool a.m. 22 after Trinity. Very rough blowy day. Paid 30 dollars. Service at 7.30p.m.

Nov 22 Monday

Very cold night & a.m. Sleeping in my greatcoat & still cold. Quiet day.

Nov 23 Tuesday

Cold night. Good sleep. Cold wind whole day. Concert 8p.m.

Nov 24 Wed

Cold night & a.m. Cool day. Quiet. Service at 8.30p.m.

Nov 25 Thursday

Very cold night & misty a.m. Quiet cool day.

Nov 26 Friday

Cold night & misty a.m. Saw two gekko. Quiz at night.

Nov 27 Saturday

Not so cold. Misty a.m. Quiet day as usual.

Nov 28 Sunday 1st in Advent 93 weeks captivity

Finished Oliver Winwell – Kenneth Roberts. Service at 4p.m. in the hospital. Base ball match at 3p.m. Evening service at 7.30p.m.

November 29 Mon

Much warmer night. Rain in a.m. Football Eng 3 v Scot 3. Quiet day.

November 30 Tuesday

Good night – *illegible word* – Pleasant a.m. Read ‘Rape of the Netherlands’. Quiet.

December 1st Wednesday

Good night. Foggy a.m. Service at 8.30. Not too well.

December 2nd Thursday

Good night. Foggy a.m. Quiet day.

December 3rd Friday

A fair sleep. Foggy a.m. Not too well.

December 4th Sat

Good night. Cool day. Quiet. Two funerals at 10.30. Concert at 8p.m.

December 5th Sunday 2nd in Advent 94 weeks captivity

Good night. Cool bright a.m. Service in hospital at 4p.m. Evening service at 7.30.

December 6th Monday

Fair night. Cool a.m. Issue from Tai Red Cross of 26 cigs. Quiet day.

December 7th Tuesday

Good night. Cool dull a.m. Quiet day. Swinnerton (Officers Batt) trained at Bangor & knows St Mary’s. Had an interesting chat.

December 8th Wed

A good night. Foggy a.m. Service at 8.30p.m. Quiet day.

December 9 Thursday

A good night. Cool sunny a.m. The weather is almost perfect now. Cool sunny & breezy. Very delightful. And the moon is $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Quiet day.

December 10 Friday

Very cold bright moonlight night. Cool, sunny blustery day.

December 11 Sat

Very cold night & a.m. but very lovely when the sun came up. Concert at 8p.m. Full moon tonight. At this time of year it is difficult to conceive of a more lovely climate. I feel very fit now the weather is cool. But I'm short of warm clothing unfortunately.

December 12 Sunday 3rd in Advent 95 weeks

Very cold night. Moon full. Took the hospital services for Henry Babb today. He has a cold. Very good services. Service at 7.30

Dec 13 Monday

Cold night & a.m. Then very hot quiet day. Made two sermons.

Dec 14 Tuesday

Good night. Not so cold. Cross cut sawing this a.m. Hot in the sun. Sermonizing. Quiet day.

Wed Dec 15

A good night. Rehearsal for the parade tomorrow at 9.45p.m. Service at 8.30.

Thursday Dec 16

A good night. Communion service at 12p.m. Mac is up country, Henry Babb is sick, so I take the service. The Japanese Colonel is speaking. It is a holiday.

Friday Dec 17

Fair night. Warm misty a.m. Ken Few is going to Bryn Cali today.

Sat Dec 18

Good night. Quiet day.

Sunday Dec 19

Evacuated at about midnight to Chungkye sick with a fever.

Monday Dec 20

Travelled till 7p.m. Enjoyed the journey & lovely scenery.

Tues Dec 21

Settling in very pleasantly. Lots of old friends here. Paul Webb (Presbyt). Thomson C.E. A guard camp this. The facilities here are amazing. Canteen & P.R.I.

Wed Dec 22

A good night. Quiet uninteresting day. Funerals at 12p.m. (2).

Thursday Dec 23

A good night. Have developed a nasty throat & cold. Quiet day.

Friday Dec 24

For the 2nd night in 4 no – *illegible word* – possibly unusual – noises! Still full of cold. Miserable.

Sat Dec 25

Another miserable Xmas day. Took services in the wards. My cold is still with me. Lots of entertainments today. We try our best to keep sane! I feel jolly miserable today.

Sunday Dec 26

Very miserable today with cold & dyoreah. Service at 8.15p.m. Very good.

Monday Dec 27

Feeling a bit better. Very cool a.m. Quiet pleasant day.

Tues Dec 28

A good night. Feeling very much better. Pleasant quiet day. DAVISON came back Fit & - *illegible word*.

Wed Dec 29

A poor night. Cool a.m. Buried 4 men today at 1p.m. For a few hours in the day here it is terribly hot. Quiet day with good feeding – banana, fruit – *illegible word*.

Thursday Dec 30

A fair night. Cool a.m. Quiet day. Am feeling very fit again. A dish of fruit & eggs makes a big difference!

Friday Dec 31

A fair night. Cool a.m. The rats were a nuisance in the night. Quiet pleasant day. Chaplains meeting this a.m. to arrange the work.

SATURDAY JANUARY 1ST 1944

A good night. General holiday. Col. Larkin died today.

Sunday Jan 2

Good night. Taken both services. Webb has a fever. Quiet day.

Monday Jan 3

Quiet day. Hot with a storm. Moon about half full.

Tuesday Jan 4

Poor night. Not feeling too fit. Sgt. Burdin died today.

Wed Jan 5

Poor night. Off colour. Quiet day.

Thursday Jan 6

Poor night. Very hot in early hours. Quiet day.

Friday Jan 7

Poor night. Quiet day again. Rather cooler.

Sat Jan 8

Good night. Quiet pleasant day.

Sunday Jan 9

Poor night. Two services & three funerals. Very hot day.

Monday Jan 10

Good night. Two funerals. Quiet day. Taking evening prayers.

Tues Jan 11

Sleepless night. Full moon. Night noises. Not too fit. Evening prayers.

Wed Jan 12

Sleepless night. Quiet day. Buried 5 men today.

Thursday Jan 13

Poor night. Noises! Service at 8.15. Quiet hot day.

Friday Jan 14

Fair night. Quiet hot day.

Sat Jan 15

Good night. Quiet day. Another PC today. Took evening prayers.

Sunday Jan 16

Good night. Very busy day. 3 services in the wards. Two in church & one communion.

Monday Jan 17

A good night. Very cool. Quiet. Very tired after the Sunday.

Tues Jan 18

Good night. Quiet hot day. Roll call at 6p.m. Signed for pay.

Wed Jan 19

Fair night. Officers on parade at 10a.m. Buried two men today.

Thursday Jan 20

Quiet & pleasant day. Service at 8.30p.m.

Friday Jan 21

A good night on my La long mattress! Cool a.m. 6 funerals (RC).

Sat Jan 22

A good night. Quiet day. One funeral.

Sunday Jan 23

Good night. Six services. Very good response. Hot day. Tired.

Monday Jan 24

Fair night. Cool. Hot quiet day. Evening prayers.

Tues Jan 25

Quiet uneventful hot day. Evening prayers.

Wed Jan 26

Quiet day. Very hot. Sick with a fever.

Thursday Jan 27

Still sick of a fever. Real Malaria complete with fever.

Friday Jan 28

Bed down 7 days on Quinine.

Saturday Jan 29

Bed down. A little better.

Sunday Jan 30

Rather better but the MO will not let me take services. Quiet day.

Monday Jan 31

A poor night as usual now. Its so hot & sticky. Moon $\frac{1}{4}$ full.

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 1st

A poor night. Feeling better of my fever. Tho I have a few of these very common sores. Many of them are in a loathsome condition – a sort of scabious sores. The view from the river here is very lovely. The river is very wide & on the opposite bank there are palm trees & bananas. The heat from midday to sundown is very great.

Wed Feb 2

Good night. Quiet pleasant day. Very hot for a few hours. Dr. Donaldson arrived.

Thursday Feb 3

Good night. Quiet day. Service at 8.30.

Friday Feb 4

Good night. Quiet day. Feeling unwell. Very hot.

Sat Feb 5

Quiet day. Feeling weak & unfit.

Sunday Feb 6

Took the two services, but sick with an abscess on the thigh.

Mon Feb 7 }

Tues Feb 8 } Bed down & very sick. A very large & painful abscess.

Wed Feb 9 }

Thursday Feb 10

Sent to into hospital.

Friday Feb 11

Major Moon cut the abscess this a.m. Felt very lousy after the anaesthetic – but easier.

Sat Feb 12

In hospital & better.

Sunday Feb 13 }

Mon Feb 14 }

Tues Feb 15 } In hospital improving tho I have picked up some scabious sores.

Wed Feb 16 }

Thurs Feb 17 }

Fri Feb 18 }

Sat Feb 19

Discharged from hospital.

Sunday Feb 20

Took the evening service. Quiet day.

Mon Feb 21 }

Tues Feb 22 }

Wed Feb 23 } Not too fit & a quiet uninteresting period.

Thurs Feb 24 }

Fri Feb 25 }

Sat Feb 26

Stricken with Malaria. A blood slide revealed B.T. Malaria.

Sunday Feb 27

Confined to bed.

Monday Feb 28

Still not well. Full of quinine.

Tues Feb 29

Rather better but feeling lousy.

Wednesday March 1 }

Thursday March 2 }
Friday March 3 } Sleeping in the church vestry now! Not very fit with Malaria.
Sat March 4 } All the up country troops are now in the camp.
Sunday March 5 }
Monday March 6 }

Tues March 7
Nocturnal noises! Bright moonlight.

Wed March 8
Quiet day. Very hot.

Thurs March 9
Very hot. Taking the service tonight at 8.15 'Ciaphas'. Improving health.

Friday March 10 }
Sat March 11 } Quiet time. Very hot weather.

Sun March 12
Took morning service at 10.30a.m.

Mon March 13 } Quiet uneventful period. Feeling rather better.
Tues March 14 } Very hot.
Wed March 15 }

Thurs March 16
Service at 8.30p.m. Judas.

Friday March 17 } Quiet days. Very hot. Bathing in the river is first class.
Sat March 18 } Still not very fit.

Sunday March 19
Service at 10.30a.m.

Monday March 20 }
Tues March 21 }
Wed March 22 } On prayers this week. Very warm uneventful period.
Thurs March 23 } The Tai drums are beating every night. A local festival
Friday March 24 } probably. Received 44 letters on – *illegible word* -
Sat March 25 }

Sunday March 26
Took a.m. service. Met the son of Rev Page, Super at Bath. New moon.

Monday March 27 }
Tuesday March 28 } Quiet period. Very hot. 110 – 113° in the shade.
Wed March 29 }

Thursday March 30

Service. Pontius Pilate.

Friday March 31

Very hot. Quiet.

April 1 Sat

Very hot. Quiet. Rain.

Sunday April 2

Preached at 10.30a.m. Very good congregation.

Monday April 3 }

Tuesday April 4 } Quiet time. Very hot with occasional showers.

Wed April 5 }

Thurs April 6 }

Friday April 7

Good Friday. Service at 10.30a.m.

Sat April 8

Sunday April 9

Easter day. Grand services 10a.m. & 3p.m. communion service.

Monday April 10

Very hot. Quiet.

Tuesday April 11

R.A.M.C. service at 4.30p.m.

Wed April 12

Very hot quiet day.

Thursday April 13

Service at 8p.m.

Friday April 14 }

Sat April 15 } Quiet uneventful hot days.

Sunday April 16

Service at 10.30a.m. 4 hospital services.

Monday April 17

Very hot, quiet.

Tues April 18

On evening prayers this week.

Wed April 19

Quiet. Hot with the occasional storm.

Thursday April 20

Service at 8. Life after death sermon.

Friday April 21 }

Sat April 22 } Quiet. Hot with showers.

Sunday April 23

4 services in the wards. Very, very hot.

Monday April 24

Very hot.

Tuesday April 25 }

Wed April 26 } Quiet & hot.

Thursday April 27

Very good service 8p.m. Large congregation.

Friday April 28 }

Sat April 29 } Quiet period. Heavy showers in the evenings.

Sunday April 30

Holiday. Japanese Emperor's birthday.

Monday May 1st

Tuesday May 2

Diagnosed as having Amoebic Dysentery.

Wed May 3

Service at 8p.m. Life after death sermon.

Thursday May 4

Quiet & very hot with some showers.

Friday May 5 }

Sat May 6 } Four Group moving away in small parties.

Sunday May 7

Dutch communion at 9.30. Service at 10.30a.m. Presbyt Comm at 8p.m.

Monday May 8 }

Tues May 9 } Four Group still moving.

Wed May 10

Rumoured we move too. Terrific storm at night.

Thursday May 11

Service at 8p.m. Life after death service.

Friday May 12

Lots of rain. Buried Wright, 4th Suffolks. A Methodist (Dysentery).

Sat May 13

Heavy rain. Dry at night.

Sunday May 14

Took morning service. Very heavy rain throughout the day.

May 15 Mon

Very warm throughout the day.

Tues May 16

Quiet & lots of rain.

Wed May 17

Thurs May 18

Service at 8.30.

Friday May 19

Departed Chung Kai at 12a.m. by train.

Sat May 20

Arrived Nakrom Practom (Naklon Patlon) Holy city of Buddhism in hospital camp.

**Sunday May 21 }
Monday May 22 } Quiet period settling down in the new camp.
Tues May 23 }**

Wed May 24

Showery weather. The air here is very good. Feel quite fit. We are near the sea I believe. Can see a very impressive Buddhist Pegoda from the camp.

Thurs May 25

Friday May 26

Sat May 27

Sunday May 28

Service at 11a.m. Whit S.

Mon May 29

Quiet & nothing to note. Doing P.T. in the mornings.

Tues May 30

Met a bunch of Australians at night, yarned about Methodism.

Wed May 31

Lovely weather.

Thursday June 1

Lovely a.m. P.T.

Friday June 2

Sat June 3

Quiet days. Usual Monopoly games in the afternoon.

Sunday June 4

Buried an Australian named L/Cpl Ball. Took service after evening roll call.

Monday June 5

Hot sticky day. Air raid just after lunch.

Tues June 6 } }

Wed June 7 } } Some showers. Quiet uninteresting period.

Thurs June 8 } } We hear the gong in the Buddhist temple at night.

Friday June 9 } }

Sat June 10 } }

Sun June 11

Services at 11 & 8.30. Quiet day – except at evening service.

Mon June 12

Quiet pleasant day.

Tues June 13

Wed June 14

Thursday June 15

Friday June 16

Sat June 17

Sunday June 18

Services Communion at 4.30. Service at 8.30p.m.

Monday June 19 } }

Tuesday June 20 } } Quiet period.

Wed June 21 } }

Thurs June 22 } } Lots of rain. Now heavy showers.

Friday June 23 } }

Sat June 24 } }

Sun June 25

Service at 11a.m. & 8.30p.m.

Monday June 26

Heavy showers.

Tues June 27

Dull heavy day. Nothing of interest.

Wed June 28

Saw a lot of vultures. Torrential rain. We are almost under water. This is a paddi field.

Thurs June 29

Friday June 30

Sat July 1

Moved to hut 40. We are well nigh flooded.

Sunday July 2

Services at 11a.m. & 7.15p.m.

Monday July 3 }

Tuesday July 4 } Quiet period. Lots of heavy showers.

Wed July 5 } Lots of Palmyra palms around here. Very pretty.

Thurs July 6 } 'Goola' comes from them. Moon nearly full.

Friday July 7 }

Sat July 8

Cool breezy day.

Sunday July 9

Services at 11a.m. & 7.15p.m.

Monday July 10

Dull breezy day. Nothing of interest. Visited Cunningham as usual.

Tues July 11

Dull sticky day. Some rain.

Wed July 12

Thurs July 13

Dull cool days. Slight rain. Took evening prayers. C sick. Reading 'Precious Bane'.

Friday July 14

Heavy rain this a.m. Evening prayers.

Sat July 15

Cool dull a.m.

Sunday July 16

Services at 11a.m. & 7.15p.m. Heavy rain at night.

Mon July 17

Dull & cool.

Tues July 18 }
Wed July 19 } Quiet Period. Cool sunny weather.
Thurs July 20 } Spent a lot of time with Cunningham.
Fri July 21 }
Sat July 22 }

Sunday July 23

Dull, cool, blowy day. Pleasant. Services at 11a.m. & 7.15.

Mon July 24 }

Tues July 25 }

Wed July 26 } Quiet period. Cool stormy weather.

Thurs July 27 } Feeling quite fit. Took evening prayers

Fri July 28 } each evening at 8.45p.m.

Sat July 29 }

Sunday July 30

Service at 11a.m. C's service washed out by rain.

Mon July 31

Quiet cool day.

Tues Aug 1 }

Wed Aug 2 } Quiet period.

Thurs Aug 3 }

Fri Aug 4

Moved to a new hut. Very hot.

Sat Aug 5

A very hot spell. I am not too well.

Sunday Aug 6

Services at 11a.m. & 7p.m. We have a church hut now. Poor night. Very sticky.

Mon Aug 7

Hot a.m. Quiet. Not too fit. Evening prayers this week.

Tues Aug 8

Hot & a heavy storm at night.

Wed Aug 9

Cool pleasant a.m. Read Jude the Obscure.

Thurs Aug 10 } Stricken with fever. Very heavy rains. On quinine. Blood slide says

Fri Aug 11 } B.T. Malaria & M & B .693.

Sat Aug 12

Feeling rotten. Heavy rain.

Sunday Aug 13

Very sick. The M & B have caused terrific sickness. No service. Bad weather. Heavy rain.

Mon Aug 14 }

Tues Aug 15 } Rather better but weather is atrocious. Reminiscent of last year.

Incessant rain. Read Woodlands.

Wed Aug 16

Quiet uninteresting wet day. Reading How green was my valley.

Thurs Aug 17

Depressing day. Rain all the day.

Fri Aug 18

Better weather. Very depressed. Nothing of note.

Sat Aug 19

Sun Aug 20

Recognition service of 12 new members at 11. Service at 7p.m.

Mon Aug 21 }

Tues Aug 22 } On evening prayers this week.

Wed Aug 23 } Showery weather. Moved to new place in the hut.

Thurs Aug 24 } Am sleeping nest to Capt Holroyd 122 R.A.

Fri Aug 25 }

Sat Aug 26

Heavy storm at night.

Sunday Aug 27

Communion at 11. Service at 7. Grand service. 300 odd at communion.

Mon Aug 28

Quiet pleasant day.

Tues Aug 29

Quiet day. Nothing to note.

Wed Aug 30

Quiet day. Padre C down with malaria. Took prayers.

Thurs Aug 31

Quiet day. Took prayers again.

Friday Sept 1

Rain during night. Took Communion service at 10a.m. for Dutch. All coloured men present.

Sat Sept 2

Quiet day.

Sun Sept 3

Grand service at 11a.m. Knocked down with fever again. No quinine in the camp.

Mon Sept 4

Free from fever today. Nocturnal noises!

Tues Sept 5

The worst malaria attack I've ever had. Terrible.

Wed Sept 6

Rather better but its knocking the stuffing out me (sic). Read ' Life of Richard Jeffries'. Reginald Akill (*Possibly incorrect – words indistinct*).

Thurs Sept 7

Raid now – *illegible word* – many POW casualties 100 about.

Friday Sept 8

Padre C went today. Bad show! I'll have all the work now. A bit depressed.

Sat Sept 9

Quiet day. Now I've got a rotten cold. Sore throat.

Sun Sept 10

Services at 11a.m. & 7p.m. A.m. service interrupted by the guard.

Mon Sept 11

Terrific storm at night. Very hot quiet day. Evening prayers at 8.30p.m.

Tues Sept 12

Buried a Dutch Sgt. Not quiet day. Better.

Wed Sept 13

Rain in night. Two Dutch to bury today. Si-Kr Tinkelenberg. Sld. Willem S.M.

Thurs Sept 14

Quiet day. Rain at night.

Fri Sept 15

Quiet day. Buried a Dutchman (Struyk). Very hot.

Sat Sept 16

Wet day. Real monsoon weather. Miserable.

Sun Sept 17

Two good services in hut 33. 12 is under watch.

Mon Sept 18

Quiet day. Evening prayers.

Tues Sept 19

Tested today for malaria & cholera by the Japanese. Light showers.

**Wed Sept 20 }
Thurs Sept 21 }**

Quiet hot days. The monsoon appears to be nearing its end.

Fri Sept 22

Quiet hot day. We are now confined to Dysentery area.

Sat Sept 23

Very hot sunny day. Quiet. Fit again these days.

Sun Sept 24

Services at 11a.m. & 7p.m. Moved to new place in the hut. Terrific storm at night.

Mon Sept 25

Cool day. Cholera inoculation.

Tues Sept 26

Cool sunny day. Not too fit owing to inoculation.

Wed Sept 27

Storm at night. The 'Pie' dogs howled all night. Cool a.m. Very heavy storm in the afternoon.

Thurs Sept 28

Hot quiet day. Terrific storm at bed time.

Fri Sept 29

Cool breezy a.m. Paid today 20 dollars. Storm at night. Malaria about me again.

Sat Sept 30

Cool pleasant a.m. Quiet day.

Sunday Oct 1

Services at 11a.m. & 4.45p.m. Good congregations. Chatted with Lance & Nelson – *illegible word* –

Monday Oct 2

Cool sunny a.m. Torrential rain at 6p.m. Full moon.

Tues Oct 3

Cool a.m. after the rain. Quiet day. Evening prayers.

Wed Oct 4

Lovely cool a.m. Warm & pleasant. Quiet storm (sic).

Thurs Oct 5

Cool a.m. Good night. Storm at night. Quiet day.

Fri Oct 6

Dull rainy day. Quiet & browned off.

Sat Oct 7

Cool sunny a.m. Storm at night.

Sunday Oct 8

Services at 11 a.m. & 5.45 p.m. Choir sang well.

Mon Oct 9

Cool sunny a.m. Quiet warm day.

Tues Oct 10

Cool a.m. Became very hot. Quiet. Glorious sunset.

Wed Oct 11

Cool lovely a.m. Quiet day. Heavy storm at night.

Thurs Oct 12

Pouring wet a.m. then quiet cool muddy day. (Made S.C.F. today). Heavy rain at night.

Fri Oct 13

Sunny day then stormy. Quiet. Poured at night.

Sat Oct 14

Overcast & rainy. Very sticky. Not too well. Bad weather for feeling fit.

Sunday Oct 15

Services at 11 a.m. & 5.45 p.m. Storm at night.

Mon Oct 16

Warm sunny day. Quiet.

Tues Oct 17

Warm sunny day. Quiet. Fit these days, but weary of goal!

Wed Oct 18

Sultry & dull. Looks like rain tonight. Quiet uninteresting day as usual.

Thurs Oct 19

Hot quiet uninteresting day as usual.

Fri Oct 20

Hot day. The same as the rest. Very boring. Officer named Hay died in the night F.N.S.V.F.

Sat Oct 21

Hot day. Had a look at the cotton field this a.m.

Sun Oct 22

Services at 11 & 4.45. Pouring wet a.m. torrential.

Mon Oct 23

Quiet humid day. Saw our solitary palm tree full of vultures, 12 or 15. Their ugliness fascinates me.

Tues Oct 24 }

Wed Oct 25 } Quiet days. The rain seems to have gone now – we hope.

Thurs Oct 26

Quiet pleasant day.

Fri Oct 27 }

Sat Oct 28 } Quiet days of preparation. Warm & sunny. Nocturnal noises!

Sun Oct 29

Services at 11 a.m. & 5.45. Warm & sunny.

Mon Oct 30

Hot quiet days. Dysentery area now isolated.

Tues Oct 31

Received letters today 17, grand.

Wed Nov 1

Hot day. Service tonight, Life after death – *illegible word* – Grand congregation.

Thurs Nov 2

Very hot. Visited Wynne, leg amputated – *illegible word* – victim.

Fri Nov 3

Quiet hot day. Bible class at night. Nocturnal noises.

Sat Nov 4

Slight rain in a.m. Then a lot. Nocturnal noises.

Sunday Nov 5

Two communions in Dys. Sec. (50). 150 in camp service at 4.45. Grand services. Hot day.

Mon Nov 6

Dull hot day. A terrific storm in late afternoon. The camp is under water.

Tues Nov 7

Terrific storm in the early hours. Hot quiet day.

Wed Nov 8

Service at 8. Life after death – *illegible word* – .

Thurs Nov 9

Quiet days. Warm with showers.

Fri Nov 10

Warm uninteresting day. Visited the two black water fever cases.

Sat Nov 11

Quiet & warm. 1000 days in captivity.

Sun Nov 12

Dutch confirmation & Baptism. Services at 11a.m. & 4.45. Heavy storm at 4p.m.
Good congregations as usual.

Mon Nov 13

Dull, overcast cool day. Quiet & browned off.

Tues Nov 14

Warm Quiet day. Very bored.

Wed Nov 15

Quiet day. Service at 8p.m. Life after death – *illegible word* - .

Thurs Nov 16

Warm uninteresting day.

Friday Nov 17

Cloudy a.m. Quiet day. Bible class at 8p.m.

Sat Nov 18

Hot & quiet. Not too well.

Sun Nov 19

Dutch communion at 10a.m. Own services at 11a.m. & 4.45. Hot day. Very unfit fever & Dyoreah.

Mon Nov 20

Hot quiet day. Feeling very off colour.

Tues Nov 21

Cool cloudy a.m. The cold spell seems to have begun.

Wed Nov 22

Cool night & cool day.

Thurs Nov 23

Moved to hut No1 N.P. Group. Davison & I in the – *illegible word* - .

Fri Nov 24

Hot day. Service at 8p.m. Life after death.

Sat Nov 25

Cold good night. Hot in the day again. Quiet.

Sun Nov 26

No a.m. services now. 8p.m. very good.

Mon Nov 27

Very hot quiet day. Cool night. Raid in day.

Tues Nov 28

Good night. Cool sunny a.m. Then warm & lovely.

Wed Nov 29

Moon nearly full. Cool night. Hot sunny day. Quiet.

Thurs Nov 30

Quiet & hot day. Nothing of interest.

Fri Dec 1

Services at 11 a.m. & 8p.m. Hot quiet day. Birthday party at night. Letter from Doreen.

Sat Dec 2

Raid in night.

Sun Dec 3

Cool a.m. Service at 8p.m. (Spoiled by wind). Marvellous flight of birds.

Mon Dec 4

Cool a.m. Emetine course today. Bed down for Emetine course.

Tues Dec 5

Cold a.m. Lovely climate. Very quiet dull day.

Wed Dec 6

Cold a.m. Sunny. Off colour with the treatment.

Thurs Dec 7

Good night. Cool a.m. Quiet day.

Fri Dec 8

Cold night. Dull a.m. Services at 11a.m. & 8p.m. Cold day.

Sat Dec 9

Rest from Emetine these two days. Very cold.

Sun Dec 10

Service at 8p.m. Sunny quiet day. But cold wind all the day.

Mon Dec 11

Emetine again. 'Coldish' dull & windy. Bed down again for 5 days.

Tues Dec 12

Emetine again. Cold night but warmer sunny day. Saw a lovely golden oriol. Bright yellow & black.

Wed Dec 13

Emetine again. Cool & very cloudy day. Quiet. Rain!! Also a raid.

Thurs Dec 14

Emetine again. Warmer a.m. Good night. Heavy raid Bangkok way.

Fri Dec 15

Emetine again. Warm & cloudy. Services at 11a.m. & 8p.m.

Sat Dec 16

Starting Yatemine today. 3 pills. Dull cloudy a.m. Quiet day.

Sun Dec 17

6 pills Yatemine. Cool sunny day. Service at 8p.m.

Mon Dec 18

Cold & sunny. Col Yarangita took over today. 9 Yatemine.

Tues Dec 19

12 Yatemine. Very cold & sunny a.m. Quiet day.

Wed Dec 20

Very cold night & day. 15 Yatemine pills.

Thurs Dec 21

Very cold day & night. Quiet.

Fri Dec 22

Cold night but warmer day. Services at 11a.m. & 8p.m.

Sat Dec 23

Warmer day. Moved to new spot in hut. Quiet.

Sun Dec 24

Service at 8p.m. Quiet day.

Mon Dec 25

Grand service at 11a.m. followed by a large communion 250. Evening service at 8p.m. A good Xmas day.

Tues Dec 26

Not too fit. Quiet day. Welsh service at 8p.m.

Wed Dec 27

Dull cloudy a.m. Not very fit. Men from – *illegible word* – in today. *Another illegible word*.

Thurs Dec 28

Lovely day. Climate perfect. Quiet.

Fri Dec 29

Quiet day. Services at 11 & 8. Lovely climate now.

Sat Dec 30

Full moon. Quiet Day.

Sunday Dec 31

Service at 8p.m. Quiet hot day.

JAN 1ST 1945 MONDAY

Warm a.m. Communion at 11. Service at 8. Very good numbers. Rain in night.

Jan 2 Tues

On check parade at 7.30a.m. till 11.45a.m. Rain in a.m.

Wed Jan 3

Quiet hot day. Very fed up. Bible class 8p.m.

Thurs Jan 4

Warm sunny a.m. Quiet day.

Friday Jan 5

Services at 11a.m. & 8p.m. Series of talks on 'Prayer'.

Sat Jan 6

Very hot day. Quiet as usual.

Sun Jan 7

Rain this a.m. Service tonight 8p.m. Hot & sticky.

Mon Jan 8

Malaria knocked me out again. Temp 105. Rigor.

Tues Jan 9

Rather better. Cool a.m. Then very hot. Miserable with Malaria.

Wed Jan 10

Slightly better. It is not quite so hot. Many parties leaving.

Thurs Jan 11

Cool a.m. Feeling weak. Very hot. Quiet.

Fri Jan 12

Cool a.m. No services. Hut out of bounds. Played Marjong.

Sat Jan 13

Hot quiet day. Played Marjong this afternoon. Better today.

Sun Jan 14

Cool a.m. Service outside at 6.30p.m. On parade in aft.

Mon Jan 15

Cool a.m. Quiet day. Played Marjong in afternoon.

Tues Jan 16

Very cool cloudy day. Rather like another cold spell.

Wed Jan 17

Quiet cool day. High wind. Played Marjong.

Thurs Jan 18

Quiet cool day. High wind. Played Marjong.

Fri Jan 19

Very cold night. Quiet cool day. Marjong in afternoon.

Sat Jan 20

Not quite so cold. Sunny pleasant day.

Sun Jan 21

Warmer night & a.m. Service at 6.30p.m.

Mon Jan 22

Quiet day. Hot.

Tues Jan 23

Pop & NP officers moved today.

Wed Jan 24

Very misty a.m. Then quiet & warm day.

Thurs Jan 25

Quiet warm day. Marjong in the afternoon.

Fri Jan 26

Hot quiet day. Played cricked in afternoon. Moon nearly full.

Sat Jan 27

Cool a.m. Then very hot. Buried Lt. Murdock. Evening prayers.

Sun Jan 28

Service at 6.30. Very hot. Moon full.

Mon Jan 29

Very hot quiet day. Evening prayers.

Tues Jan 30

Very hot. Quiet day. Not too well.

Wed Jan 31

Very hot. Played Marjong with Aussies. Quiet.

Thurs Feb 1st

Very hot & sticky. Quiet day. Played Marjong.

Fri Feb 2

Very hot & sticky. Quiet. No services.

Sat Feb 3

Hot quiet day. Communion at 8p.m. Good number.

Sun Feb 4

Very hot & sticky. Service at 8p.m.

Mon Feb 5

Hot. Buried Jenkins (East Surry)

Tues Feb 6

Hot & quiet. Took a bible class at 8p.m.

Wed Feb 7

Beautiful dawn. Hot. Received cards. 6.

Thurs Feb 8

Very hot. Received letters & a photo! Grand day & night.

Fri Feb 9

Pleasant a.m. Then hot. Tho there is a strong breeze – *illegible word*.

Sat Feb 10

Communion at 8p.m. Hot quiet day. Tho 'blowey'.

Sun Feb 11

Service at 8p.m. Quiet warm day. Breezy.

Mon Feb 12

Hot, breezy & quiet. My New Testament class at 8p.m.

Tues Feb 13

Cool a.m. Then very hot & blowey. Prayers at 8p.m.

Wed Feb 14

Cool night. Slept well. Then very hot. Quiet.

Thurs Feb 15

Cool night. Slept well. Very rough. Moved to tent 16. (1095)

Fri Feb 16

Hot blowy day. Football match in aft. Quiet. Brownd off.

Sat Feb 17

Communion at 8p.m. Quiet cloudy day.

Sun Feb 18

Service at 8p.m. Storm around in a.m. Rain.

Mon Feb 19

Quiet day. Football in morning. N T class at 8p.m.

Tues Feb 20

Dull cool a.m. Heavy rain began at noon. Prayers 8p.m. (1100)

Wed Feb 21

Dull & very humid. Funeral at 4.30. Rodder A.I.F.

Thurs Feb 22

Dull a.m. Then better. Less humid & more breeze. Quiet.

Fri Feb 23

Cool a.m. Then breezy & sunny. Quiet. Played cricket.

Sat Feb 24

Communion at 8p.m. Very blowy & warm. 1 Group move began.

Sun Feb 25

Service at 8p.m. Very hot, quiet day. More Group 1 moved.

Mon Feb 26

Quiet & hot. Bible class at 8p.m. Full moon tonight.

Tues Feb 27

N & N. Bad sleep. Stormy looking a.m. Rain heavy – *illegible word*.

Wed Feb 28

Good night. Cool a.m. Warm later. Tai Red Cross issue. Tobacco, soap, biscuits.
1108 days captivity

March 1st Thurs

NN. Quiet hot day. Very bored.

Fri March 2

Good night. Cool a.m. Then very hot. Watched football 4p.m.

Sat March 3

N.N. Slept well. Cool a.m. Then very hot & quiet.

Sun March 4

Services temp forbidden by I.T.A – *or possibly* – I.J.A. Allowed later on football pitch at 8p.m. all of us.

Mon March 5

N.N. Cool a.m. Quiet hot day. Not too well. Food bad.

Tues March 6

All officers move to 34 hut except Padres & doctors hut. Letters!

Wed March 7

Cool a.m. Dull cool day. Plenty of mangoes on the trees very – *illegible word*.

Thurs March 8

Cool dull a.m. Read Testament of – *rest of sentence illegible*.

Fri March 9

Coldish & a.m. Quiet hot day. Nothing to note.

Sat March 10

Very hot & very quiet. Very tired of imprisonment.

Sun March 11

Communion service 8.10p.m. Hot quiet.

Mon March 12

Very hot. Quiet. Holiday in afternoon.

Tues March 13

Hot & quiet. Tho nights & a.m. are cool. Sleep well.

Wed March 14

Hot & quiet. Nothing to note. Dust storm coming.

Thurs March 15

Terrific wind & rain at night. Overcast quiet day.

Fri March 16

Breezy, dull & warm. Played cricket.

Sat March 17

Cool a.m. then hot & quiet.

Sun March 18

Communion 8.10. Service 8p.m. 1126 days.

Mon 19

Quiet & very hot.

Tues 20

Quiet & very hot. Very bored. Reading 'The Kings' Grace Buchan.

Wed 21

Cool a.m. Then very hot. Not too well. A cold.

Thurs 22

N.N. at reveille. Cool a.m. Then very hot. N.N. at 7.45.

Fri 23

Cool a.m. Cricket, football & concert this aft. Went to play ball. Good a.m.

Sat 24

Cool a.m. Then Very hot. Quiet.

Sun 25

Communion at 8.10. Service at 8. Good services. Very large evening congregation.

Mon 26

Hot & quiet. Very bored. Gordon Nelson departed.

Tues 27

Hot. Raid in afternoon. Very thundery – *illegible word* – rain.

Wed 28

Very hot. Quiet. Played Marjong. N.N. twice in night.

Thurs 29

Cool a.m. Quiet & hot.

Fri 30

Services 9.30a.m. & 8p.m. Good services. Holiday.

Sat 31

Very hot. Quiet.

Sun Easter Day. April 1

Services 9.30a.m. & 8p.m. Very large congregations. Comm with Dutch.

Mon 2

Very miserable with a flu cold. Hot.

Tues 3

Still full of cold. All officers moving tonight! (Kamburi).

Wed 4

Down with B.T. Malaria. Very sick. Very, Very hot day.

Thurs 5

Very miserable with fever & quinine. Awfully hot again.

Fri 6

Very hot. A little better in health.

Sat 7

Very hot. Improving. The camp is very dull without officers.

Sun 8

Services 8.10 & 8p.m. 101 heat. Birthday party with Don Thomas.

Mon 9

Very hot day & a very thrilling sight! Col Lawson gives me the odd mangoe! Lovely fruit.

Tues 10

Very hot & quiet boring day.

Wed 11

Dull & cloudy. Thunder about. Quiet.

Thurs 12

Dull & cloudy. Very sultry. 4 Group moving.

Fri 13

Dull warm. Thunder around. Very quiet camp.

Sat 14

Heavy storm in night. Dull a.m. The boys here again!!

Sun 15

Holy Comm 8a.m. Service 8p.m. Storm in afternoon.

Mon 16

Rain in night. Hot humid day. Quiet. Not too fit again.

Tues 17

Very hot & quiet. Played Marjong in afternoon.

Wed 18

Very hot & quiet. Played Marjong in afternoon.

Thurs 19

Hot quiet day. Nothing to note. (1159 days).

Fri 20

Hot a.m. A terrific wind dust & rain storm in afternoon.

Sat 21

Hot & stormy. Very browned off.

Sun 22

Communion 8a.m. Service 8p.m. Heavy rain in a.m.

Mon 23

Rain in night. Very cloudy. Buried Petty Officer Clark (Perth).

Tues 24

Two cases of plague in the village! A blitz is being waged on rats which carry the plague by fleas.

Wed 25

Cool a.m. Then very hot & quiet.

Thurs 26

Hot stormy & quiet. Col Larson fell & cut his head this aft.

Fri 27

Quiet & stormy. Aft holiday. Paid 15 dollars.

Sat 28

Very hot & quiet. Football tonight. Plague inoculation.

Sun 29

Communion 0810. Service 8.10. Cholera inoculation.

Mon 30

Sick again with fever from the inoculations.

Tues May 1

Feeling miserable. Swellings all over my body like bug bites. After effects of inoculations. (1171).

Wed May 2

Sick with Malaria & quinine.

Thurs 3

Cool a.m. Feeling better. Then hot & stormy.

Fri 4

Cool & cloudy. Daveys' birthday. Had a good feed.

Sat 5

Hot stormy & quiet. Heavy rain in early evening.

Sun 6

Communion 0810. Service 8p.m. Cool & quiet day. Terrific storm at night.

Mon 7

Quiet day with a storm as usual.

Tues 8

Quiet hot day. Very bored. Nothing of interest.

Wed 9

Cool a.m. Quiet hot day. Usual visiting.

Thurs 10

Ascension day. Comm at 0810. Service 8p.m. – *two illegible words* – 1180.

Fri 11

Quiet. Holiday in afternoon. Football & concert.

Sat 12

Stormy, slight rain. There is a colony of weaver birds near the hut building nests. Marvellous like loofas!!

Sun 13

Communion 0810. Australian Mothers Day service 8.10p.m. Very – *illegible word* - long in the evening.

Mon 14

Quiet & very hot day. Really terrific storm at night. 1184 days captivity.

Tues 15

Cool a.m. after rain. Spent evening with Australians.

Wed 16

Cool cloudy a.m. Heavy storm in afternoon.

Thurs 17

Fresh cool a.m. Then very hot. Played Marjong. (1188).

Fri 18

Cool a.m. No holiday. Hot. Played Marjong.

Sat 19

Good night, cool a.m. Played Marjong. Heavy storm at 6p.m.

Sun 20 Whit Sunday

Comm 8a.m. Service 0810. Bad throat & ear ache. Desmond – *illegible word*, possibly **Tanner** – took service. (1191)

Mon 21

Not too well. Still full of cold. Rain in early evening.

Tues 22

A little better. Cool a.m. Then hot. Paid 15 dollars.

Wed 23

Cool a.m. Quiet & hot. Played Marjong. Rain at night.

Thurs 24

Cool a.m. Bullfrogs a nuisance in the night. Very hot, Quiet, storms.

Fri 25

Cool dull a.m. Then quiet hot day. Played Marjong.

Sat 26

Whole days holiday. Quiet & hot. Not very fit. Full moon.

Sun 27

H.C. 0810. Service 8p.m. Very hot. Hottest part of year.

Mon 28

Quiet & intensely hot. Terrific storm in evening.

Tues 29

Quiet & hot. Played volleyball. Terrific storm at night. 1200

Wed 30

Cool a.m. after rain. Then quiet & hot.

Thurs 31

Cool a.m. Whole day holiday. Very hot. Concert at night.

Friday June 1

Cool a.m. Then very hot. Played Marjong. Rain in the evening.

Sat 2

Cool a.m. Then very hot. N.N. in night.

Sun 3

H.C. 0810. Service 6.45. Rotten cold. Storm in evening.

Mon 4

Bed down with awful cold. Throat, chest miserable. Storm.

Tues 5

Rain in night. Cool a.m. Little better. Rain in afternoon. N.N. in afternoon.

Wed 6

Quiet dull day. Buried Tate R.N.F. Played volley ball.

Thurs 7

Quiet hot day. Heavy rain in early evening.

Fri 8

Quiet hot day. Heavy rain in early evening. Holiday in aft. Played volley ball. Not very fit these days. 1210

Sat 9

Dull humid day. Slight rain. Feeling weak & unfit. Saw Flying Fox in the dusk.

Sun 10

H.C. at 0810. Service 6.45. H.C. in mental ward at 3p.m. Dull & humid. Storm in evening.

Mon 11

Hot, dull & humid. Col Coates has ordered me bed down 14 days!!

Tues 12

Hot dull & humid. A little better today I think.

Wed 13

Hot dull a.m. Then sunny. Heavy rain in evening. New moon.

Thurs 14

Dull then warm & sunny. Heavy storm in evening.

Fri 15

1217. Full day holiday. Korean – *illegible word*.

Sat 16

Cloudy quiet day. Played Marjong. No rain.

Sun 17

H.C. 0810 (22). Service 6.45. Quiet hot day. No rain.

Mon 18

Slight rain in a.m. Dull & quiet. Marjong in afternoon. (1220).

Tues 19

Quiet, cool day. Slight rain in evening.

Wed 20

Sunny, cool a.m. Warm sunny day. Usual Marjong.

Thurs 21

Sunny hot & quiet. Paid 15 dollars. N.N

Fri 22

Warm & quiet. Half day. Concert in aft. Heavy storm – *illegible words*.

Sat 23

Whole day holiday. Cool sunny a.m. Heavy storm at night. N.N.

Sun 24

H.C. 0810 (43). Service 6.45. Cool & cloudy. Raid in aft. Saw lots of Flying Foxes at dusk. Heavy storm at night.

Mon 25

Cool dull a.m. Quiet. Full moon & total eclipse. N.N.

Tues 26

Cool a.m. Storm in aft. Played Marjong & volley ball. N.N.

Wed 27

Cool a.m. Raid in aft. – *illegible word* – at night. Dull day. N.N.

Thurs 28

Dull & warm. Rain in aft & throughout night. N.N.

Fri 29

Dull a.m. Slight rain for hours. Half day holiday. Volley ball.

Sat 30

Dull cool a.m. Quiet warm. Played volley ball. 1232.

Sunday July 1

H.C. 0810 (46). Service 6.45. No rain.

Mon July 2

Cool a.m. Then hot. Played volley ball. Storm.

Tues July 3

Rain in night. Cool a.m. Quiet. Storm at night. N.N.

Wed July 4

Cool a.m. Quiet day. Leaflets dropped. Storm.

Thurs July 5

Cool a.m. Rain in afternoon. Played volley ball.

Fri July 6

Cool a.m. Half day holiday. Played volley ball.

Sat July 7

Cool a.m. Funeral Watts – RASC. Played volley ball.

Sun July 8

H.C. 0810 (45). Service 6.45. Good services. Mental ward 2.30. 1240.

Mon July 9

Cool dull a.m. & whole day dull & quiet. Volley ball.

Tues July 10

Cool dull a.m. Birds in aft. Quiet day.

Wed July 11

Cool sunny a.m. Day became very hot. Quiet & dull. Moon new.

Thurs July 12

Cool a.m. Then very hot & stormy with light storm.

Fri July 13

Rain in night. Sticky dull a.m. Half day holiday.

Sat July 14

Half day holiday. Very hot. Leaflets. Quiet otherwise.

Sun July 15

H.C. 0810(34). Service 6.45. & Dutch Communion. Good services.

Mon July 16

Cool a.m. Then very hot. Quiet. Storm in evening.

Tues July 17

Lots of rain in night. Dull a.m. Humid. Heavy rain.

Wed July 18

Cool after terrific rain. Very humid & sultry. Rain storm again.

Thurs July 19

Cool a.m. Then warm & quiet. Rain in evening. 1251.

Fri July 20

Cool a.m. Then very hot. Half day holiday. Rain in afternoon.

Sat July 21

Sticky dull a.m. Quiet humid day.

Sun July 22

H.C 8a.m. Service 6.45. Mental ward 2.30. 1254.

Mon July 23

Cool & dull. Then very hot. Heavy storm in evening.

Tues July 24

Cool & dull. Then hot. Very heavy rain till late.

Wed July 25

Bright a.m. after rain. Then hot. Storm in the evening.

Thurs July 26

Quiet hot day. Nothing of interest. Doing P.T.

Fri July 27

Cool sunny a.m. Then extremely hot. Holiday.

*Here, in the diary, there is a badly damaged page. Both sides of this page are reproduced by computer scanning, on the next two pages of this transcription. The damaged page takes the diary from **Saturday July 28th**, to **Friday September 21st** .*

Unfortunately this appears to be the very page on which it is likely that the Reverend has chronicled his release from captivity, see the entry beginning:-

Sat 15...Departed...

*The final page of the diary begins on the following page with the entry dated **Sat 22** (September).*

Sat 22

Embarked on M/V – *illegible name* – In the river for the day.

Sun 23

Sailed away 4a.m. Took services on board. H.C. 6a.m. Services 10.30 & 7.30.

Mon 24)

Tues 25) At sea. A very pleasant voyage. Very comfortable ship. Good food.

Wed 26

Lovely a.m. Ceylon sighted this afternoon.

Thurs 27

Pulled into Colombo 7a.m. Lots of shipping in. Shore leave for a few hours. Given a grand reception. Sailed at 6p.m.

Friday 28

Well away to sea again. Cool & breezy.

Sat 29

Cool & breezy. Quiet. Just sitting around.

Sunday 30

H.C. 7a.m. Services 10.30a.m. 7.30p.m. Another quiet day. Lovely breezy weather. Lots & lots of flying fish.

October 1st Monday

Beautiful sunny, breezy a.m. Quite cool. They are having some gun practice this a.m. Sea travel is getting very boring.

Oct 2 Tues

Cool breezy a.m. Reached the Gulf of Aden about 3p.m. Saw the tip of East Africa

Cape Guadafin. A very barren, sandy, uninhabited part of Africa. Sea is like a mill pond.

Oct 3 Wed

Very hot again now. I hate it. Passed the – *illegible word* – to the city of Aden at 1.45p.m.

Oct 4 Thurs

Entered Red Sea sometime in night. Its terrifyingly hot. Blazing. So it continued all day. I hate it.

Oct 5 Fri

Cooler, more breezy. Nothing of interest. Just sailing on & on. But the weather is very much more pleasant.

Oct 6 Sat

Fairly cool & very breezy.

Oct 7 Sunday

Communion at 7a.m. Ashore at Port Tupick. Re-equipped at Ordnance Depot. Very hot.

Oct 8 Mon

Dept 7a.m. & sailed thro the Suez canal to Port Said. Arrived 6.30p.m.

Oct 9

Dep. Port Said 7.30a.m. Much cooler now.

Oct 10 Wed

Very cool. Sailing on with nothing of interest. Gunfire at night.

Thurs 11

Cool & on a calm sea. Quiet day.

Fri 12th

Lovely sunrise & a.m. cool but very calm sea. Passed Malta in the night. Saw the coast of Sicily about 9a.m. & the island of Portalino.

Sat 13

Stricken with an attack of B.T. Malaria & sent to hospital.

Sunday 14

Feeling sick & miserable with the Quinine. We reached Gibraltar about 8a.m.(*sic*) tonight. I was disappointed – no letters from Doreen. But also pleased to hear from Father Exell!

Monday 15

Feeling much better. We're out into the Atlantic now & on the last stage of the journey. The seas are heavier. The roll of the boat woke me during the night. Today its really beginning to feel like home. Cool and dull, overcast skies.

Tues Oct 16

Very heavy seas in the night. And a big roll this a.m. Stormy skies. We must be in or near the Bay of Biscay. Am feeling o.k. again. Quinine course finished. Out of hospital.

Wed Oct 17

Rough seas. Very cold. Not feeling too fit. A headache. Effects of malaria treatment I suppose. A grand thrill at 6.15p.m. Saw the light of the Lizard lighthouse! So we're in the old country again! Its impossible to express ones feelings.

Here the diary ends.

One final page is in the back of the diary. I do not know its chronological place in the diary and it is reproduced by computer scan as the final two pages of this transcription.

Elephants, Asiatic differs from his African brother
he has shorter, thicker legs, his ears much smaller.
his body is more massive, also has a quite square
head in place of the African's sloping one. The
biggest African elephant stands about 11ft at the
shoulder; the biggest Asiatic, 10ft. 10ft however is
very exceptional, eight being quite a good
weight for a trucker.

Wally K. Schneck Petty Officer, Houston.

905 Riverside Drive, Waterloo, Iowa, U.S.A.

U.S.N. 321-03-57.

Mr F. G. H. Klevant,

Midan.

Sumatra Oostkust D.E.I.

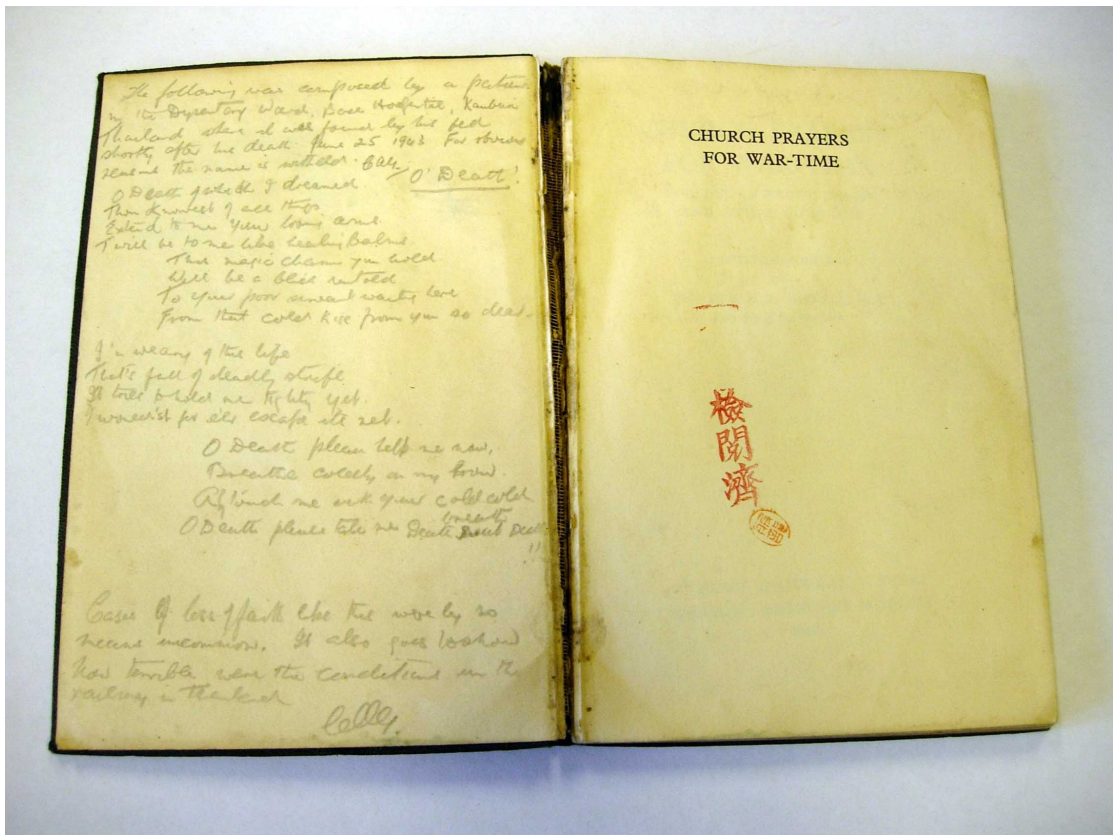
P. H. Thienc. Welirang Street 28, Malang Java.

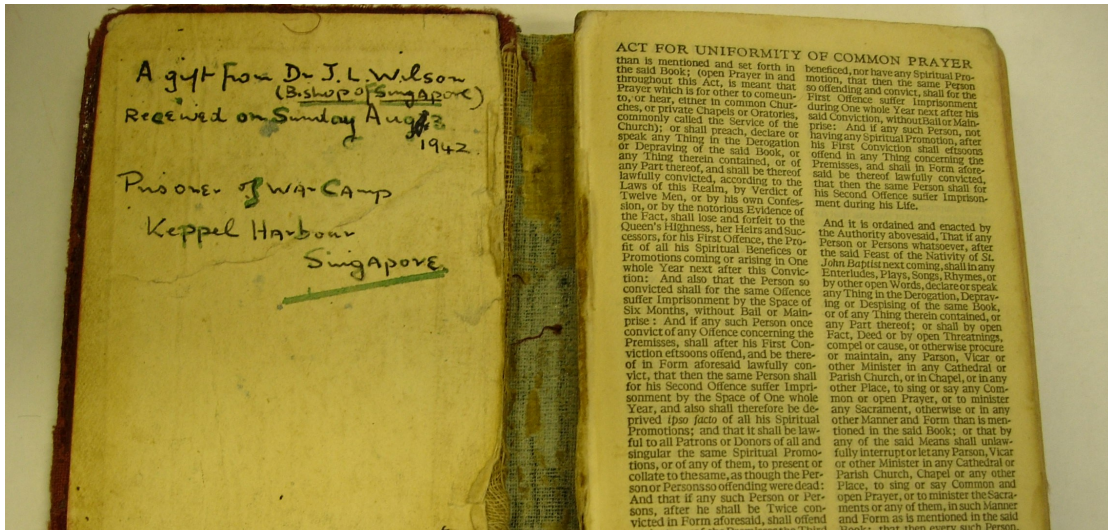
Medical Officers & Staff Capt A.M.C.

Col Coates A.I.F. Capt Lee R.A.M.C.
Col Dunlop A.I.F. Capt Ross R.A.M.C.
Col Malcolm R.A.M.C.
Col Larson, Dutch M.C.
Maj Cranse A.I.F.
Capt Markovitch R.A.M.C.
Capt Meldrum R.A.M.C.
Capt Donaldson R.A.M.C.
Capt Shuck R.A.M.C.
Capt Benson R.A.M.C.
Maj Hazelton A.I.F.
Maj Fisher A.I.F.
Capt Vaadie R.A.M.C.
Padre Davison R.A.Ch. Dept.
Padre Nestling R.A.Ch. Dept.
Capt Hamilton G.I.S. R.A.M.C.
Capt McConachie R.A.M.C.
Capt Hewitt R.A.M.C.
Col Macfarlane R.A.M.C.
Capt Wight R.A.M.C.
Capt Moreau Dutch.
Capt Brouwer "
Capt Berlin "
Capt Van den Eijden "
Lt. Chambry "
Capt. Groenendaal.
Capt Pordon.
Capt. Allaart.
~~Capt Benson.~~
Padre Neyens, Dutch R.C.
Duncan Black } Same sick
Capt Geof Davis }
Maj Marquay }.

The following images show Robert's military medals, altar cloth and communion cup and pages from his prayer book as well as an article many years later from the Methodist Recorder.







VJ Day (Victory over Japan) signalled the end of the recall those momentous times in this

Bittersweet: a prisoner's story

"Hard boring work carrying baskets of earth to fill holes on the railway line." November 25, 1942.

"Worked on the line. Service 4 pm. Funerals 5 pm." March 26, 1943.

THOSE are entries in the diary of a prisoner of war who was also a Methodist minister. The Rev Robert Pridmore was an army chaplain who was captured by the Japanese on February 16, 1942, and held prisoner for three-and-a-half years. He managed to keep a diary, with all the risks involved, throughout that time: it is now in safe keeping.

The diary gives an insight into both Mr Pridmore's own life and work and the harsh world of the prison camps.

Malcolm Prescott remembers the life of Methodist minister the Rev Robert Pridmore as a captive of the Japanese ...

We see him used as a dock labourer in Singapore unloading bricks made in Castle Cary in the daytime and forming a choir for informal "church" services in the evenings.

On November 7, 1942, he is with 200 soldiers loaded on cattle trucks for an appalling journey the length of Malaya to Siam (now Thailand) to begin work on a railway.

In this task muscle power will replace machinery and there will be no thought of human cost. The line will be

driven through 258 miles of difficult terrain to link Siam with what was then Burma.

The diary records the conditions in the camps and on the railway: 18-hour days worked by starving men, their injuries and illnesses, the diseases and cruelties they suffered. There are notes of temperatures of 100 degrees in the shade in March and of rain - "the men on the railway can never get dry".

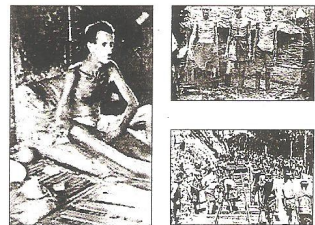
There was an average casualty rate of 20 per cent. A total of 6,318 British prisoners

died in building the railway. Total deaths of all nationalities and races were estimated at 85,000.

Against this background the diary is also a record of duties performed, of services taken and the terrible tally of funerals. There are some brief notes of sermons which are clearly a drive to keep hope alive: "Men get into a terrible mood of depression and just give up, May 30, 1943." He speaks of the fellowship of suffering, of a God present in all sharing and friendship and of "those experiences which make some memories sacred beyond words". We see him clearing trees to make a space for his services and felling a tree for a cross and roofing over a cookhouse against the rain.

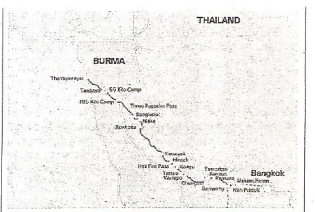
"We are very weak when it

Construction work taking place on the notorious Burma-Siam railway (right) and prisoners of war showing the malnutrition suffered in captivity (left, top right). Photographs: Australian War Memorial.



Their story is typical of so many thousands from all walks of life and of many nationalities who endured separation, lived through terrible times but remembered a lifesaving comradeship. The experience marked Bob Pridmore to the end of his days but there was also about him a certain serenity, a sense of glory and a quiet joy.

The Rev Malcolm Prescott is a supernumerary minister in the Ipswich circuit.



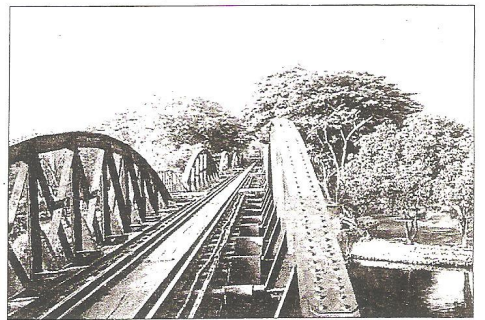
Map showing the route of the Burma-Siam railway.



Two Commonwealth soldiers at the graveside of a comrade. Photograph: IWM.

colonies to hard work. We see him sharing out rations, visiting the sick and staying with the dying. During a cholera epidemic he moved into the separated camp and stayed with the victims.

The railway was completed in 18 months but the captivity continued and conditions did not improve. The Japanese forces were under pressure on all fronts, not least in Burma from the 14th "Forgotten" Army. If their captives were forced to withdraw, the prisoners expected to be mas-



The Bridge over the River Kwai as it is today.

Sharing out rations, visiting the sick, staying with the dying ...

Robert was repatriated to the UK and undertook a number of posts between 1945 and 1953 before once again being posted to Malaya. On 24 July 1953 his wife Mary "Doreen" sailed to Singapore with daughter Jane from Southampton aboard the Dunera to join him. Robert served in the Far East for a further three years before returning to the UK and retiring from the army in 1959.

He took up a ministerial position at Southwell in Nottinghamshire, residing at Wesley Manse.