

# Military Diary of Francis Powell Williams, E.E. R.E.

## Page 1

Left England March 16<sup>th</sup> (1900) on transport Tagus. About 300 officers and 1200 men aboard. Arrived St Vincent 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

## Page 1 - reverse

Left England	March 16 <sup>th</sup>	
Arrive Table Bay	April 4 <sup>th</sup>	
Landed Capetown	" 6 <sup>th</sup>	
Left Cape Town	" 16 <sup>th</sup>	Monday
Arrived Bethalie	" 20 <sup>th</sup>	Friday
Left Bethalie	May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sat
Arrived Bloemfontein	" 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sun
Left Blmfon.	July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday
Arrived Pretoria	July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday
Left Pretoria	Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday
Arrived Blm	Oct 27 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday
Left Blm	Nov 11 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday
Left Capetown	Nov 18 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday(?)
Arrived Southampton	Dec 7 <sup>th</sup> 1900	

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### Diary May Bloemfontein

Thursday 22<sup>rd</sup> Was taken ill with spasms. Dr. Openshaw of London Hospital happened to be present & gave me brandy and ordered me to hospital but Capt Leaf had me put in his tent (thank goodness).

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Much better but ordered by doctor to live on slops.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Queen's birthday. Much better went out for a little while. Two men Wallis & Roberts returned from hospital. Bicker-Caarten & Ruse still detained former S.C. fever latter enteric. This is without doubt worst place for disease I was ever in. 5000 patients in hospitals.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Got up and dressed in officers uniform for first time. Felt very strange. Did a little work sorting stores etc.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Got up 7 o'clock. Got No. 3 engine ready for leaving. Spasms returned about midday from eating too much breakfast went to bed at 7 o'clock.

## Page 2 - reverse

	£	s	d
Paid Mess June 11st	4	3	6
Cheque	<u>RE</u>		
	005860		
Drew for Self	5	0	0
Cheque	<u>RE</u>		
	005865		
 Paid Mess July	 2	 2	 10
 Drew for Self	 5	 0	 0

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Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Stopped in bed all morning. a little better but stomach still rather uncomfortable. O'Shaughnessy much better. Leaf & Stubbs gone for long walk taken lunch.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Much better got up about nine did work for Leaf. Feel much better in fact verily well. ? about pay. Went this morning about 11 o'clock to see Orange Free State annexed. Went 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hours and then heard nothing except cheering. General Priestman? Unfurled royal standard. Roberts & Lilly went to hospital with bad ? ? broken shoulder.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> Got up about 10. Didn't do anything all morning. Went to Central Bureau for Leaf in afternoon got letters together for men at Railhead. Arranged stores for men to take up with them. ? Dalton etc. left for Railhead.

## Page 3 - reverse

	Due to me from ? Lloyd		
April	1	17	1
May Colonial	4	8	4
June Colonial	4	5	6
Field Allowance June	3	15	0
May	3	17	6
& April	<u>1</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>
	19	15	11
 Servants Allowance			
Due to me for Pay list	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>
	4	0	2
	<hr/>		
	26	0	10
 July & Ball?	<del>6</del>	<del>6</del>	<del>0</del>
	9	6	0
Servants allow	2	6	6

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Wednesday May 30<sup>th</sup> got up about 10 quite well now. Had a good lunch for first time. Saw that engine no 1 was put in working order. Then? had afternoon off. Watched men 3<sup>rd</sup> Hussars trying to catch horse, they failed to do so. Report that Johannesburg is captured. O'Shaughnessy left to find last truck. Many telegrams arrived, nothing important.

Thursday May 31<sup>st</sup> got up about ten o'clock had a few odd jobs done on engine. Everything very quiet. Played Leaf? a game of billiards in the evening. Bicker-Caarten returned from hospital.

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June got up for breakfast. Started out with Stubbs in a Springbock shooting expedition. Walked about 16 miles but did not get within 500 yards of bock, had two or three shots at that distance. Saw all sort of weird birds some as large as turkeys. No good trying to shoot them with rifles. Met possy of yeomen returning from home? grabbing expedition. ? ? with Wilkinson in evening one game billiards. O'Shaughnessy returned with last wagon.

#### Page 4 - reverse

July 31<sup>st</sup> Sent £21 6 2 to Messrs Box & Co  
Received all allowances up to end June  
Received £10 10 0 allowances for July sent cheque for same to Box

#### Page 5 (no further reverse pages)

Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> Very stiff this morning did not get up until 10 o'clock. Rather bad diarhoea today O'Shaughnessy down with fever. No room in hospital will probably go there tomorrow. Did nothing except got to post office this afternoon. Claxton left with van for Railhead.

Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> got up for breakfast rather bad diarhoea. Went to see matron of no 9 hospital, O'Shaughnessy going there this afternoon. Went for a short ride on O'Shaughnessy horse which was very fresh. Capt Rideout want officer & 6 men to go with him. Shall do my best to go.

Monday June 4<sup>th</sup> go up 6-30. Measured up and looked after taking off of fore carriage no 1 engine. ? if it would fit no 2 found it would wired to Major Crompton to say so got Maria off truck. Went this afternoon for a ten mile ride with Stubbs enjoyed it very much rather tired though. Stubbs & 6 men going with Rideout rather disappointed they did not choose me.

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Tuesday June 5<sup>th</sup> got up 6-30. ? to box of engine being put in place. Engine front wheel fell & crushed my hand rather badly. Probably not allowed to use it for 10 days most inconvenient. Arundel went into hospital. Roberts entered Pretoria.

Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup> got up for breakfast. Bad diarrhoea felt very bad hardly any sleep. 4 men left with Rideout Stubbs stopped to look after horses. Went to see Ruse and Brander this morning, smell of hospital nearly made me sick. Bowery returned from hospital.

Thursday June 7<sup>th</sup> went to hospital after breakfast hand a little better. Did nothing much rest of day. Payne went into hospital Devonshire returned.

Friday June 8<sup>th</sup> Hand much better Went about with Leaf most of day. Stubbs and Hodgson left for Kroonstadt with 5 horses & probably dog.

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Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup> 30 ? came to clear camp. Got wagon ? off truck put its back of stores.

Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup> Holdaway died this morning of enteric fever.

Monday June 11<sup>th</sup> Holdaway was buried Moved camp kitchen ? Lempler arrived from Capetown.

Tuesday June 12<sup>th</sup> Went a short ride this morning horse still very lame. Went to club in evening heard very good news about Roodzal.

Payne developed enteric

O'Shaughnessy went to Kroonstadt in evening & took Wright

Wednesday June 13<sup>th</sup> Had fingers dressed Much better.

Wyndham

Thursday June 14<sup>th</sup> Black horse went to hospital Nothing to ride. Imperial guides came & stopped all day. Lieut Evans came to tea. Did dumbbell exercises did me a lot of good.

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Friday June 15<sup>th</sup> Went this morning to see town lighting station & then to Roodzal to see how Payne was. Black horse went to veterinary department with fever.

Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup> Had fingers dressed for last time shall have dressings off in three days

Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup> Went a walk with Leaf in afternoon. Return of stomach complaint in evening very bad.

Monday June 18<sup>th</sup> Much better this morning after good dose of castor oil Rained hard

Tuesday June 19<sup>th</sup> A little better this morning no fever head still had feel rather weak Bad thunderstorm all night.

Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup> Telegram received from C.O. about moving second section to Pretoria.

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Thursday June 21<sup>st</sup> Make & mend for men in afternoon went to club. Gale blowing. Collected gear polished? for moving to Pretoria.

Friday June 22<sup>nd</sup> Went for a ride this afternoon made hand very bad again.

Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup> Met Capt Tennant R.A. husband of Maud Millet who lives in Sackville St. Made sun dial

Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> Went for walk with Leaf and took ranges with range finder. Slept all afternoon.

Monday June 25<sup>th</sup> Very bad again this morning with stomach complaint eat nothing all day had good dose of castor oil. Leaf left by 6 40 train for Pretoria with Devonshire. Short died in Kroonstad hospital on enteric fever.

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Tuesday June 26<sup>th</sup> Still rather bad had nothing to eat but little bit of dry toast could not keep it down. Ruse came out of hospital nearly well.

Wednesday June 27<sup>th</sup> A little better though had nothing but eggs & toast all day. Telegram arrived from O.C. Pretoria. Went to see Major Twiss who would not allow me to proceed wired to O.C. Pretoria. Paris went into hospital.

Thursday June 28<sup>th</sup> Stopped in bed all day not at all well. Telegram came from O.C. Started charging store battery for Krugers railway coach

Friday June 29<sup>th</sup> Much better this morning got up & had a bath. Charge of battery still going on. X ray specialist turned up with battery of 24 accumulators for me to charge put acid in and started.

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Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup> All right again Today telegram arrived from O.C. Pretoria. Letter from Stubbs for Leaf. Battery not fully charged put it in circuit again tonight. Went up to club to see papers.

Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup> Did nothing all day but read and eat. Battery still charging.

Monday July 2<sup>nd</sup> Rained hard all night got washed out of tent in evening had to sleep in store.

Tuesday July 3<sup>rd</sup> Received telegram to proceed to Pretoria got pass and everything ready. Rained a good deal.

Wednesday July 4<sup>th</sup> got everything aboard the train ready for starting at 9.20 did not leave until 3 am

Thursday July 5<sup>th</sup> Arrived Vet River 6-30am Had breakfast with Wilkinson left Vet River 11-0

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Arrived Zand (*now Sand?*) River 1 o'clock GG died on truck. 9 trucks of train ran off line on trestle bridge through bulging of line two men jumped off into river bed & broke their legs. Left Zand River 10 o'clock

Friday July 6<sup>th</sup> Arrived Kroonstad 3am. Nine officers of guards in van Capt White Earl of Grassard? Lt(s) Brooke Vivian Raymand Left Kroonstad 12 arrived Roodeval? about 2 saw all the papers etc of train that was cut up. Arrived Vredefort effort 10.30 smashed? none against dog truck?. ~~Arrived~~

Saturday July 7<sup>th</sup> Arrived Alberton? 2.30 train divided left there at 10 a.m. Arrived Pretoria at 11pm

Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup> Took all stores out of truck went and found camp. Slept most of day.

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Monday July 9<sup>th</sup> got up at 6am Met Crompton and made cleats for wire entanglement Lloyd went to Johannesburg. Examined Boer searchlight lamp with Leaf.

Tuesday July 10<sup>th</sup> got up 6-30 Had breakfast and went to Railway stores to obtain belting. Then went to R.A. barracks to see dynamo put on cart and went all round the town with Leaf.

Wednesday July 11<sup>th</sup> Up at 6-30. Measured up different things for racecourse hospital. Started to walk to Klapperkop in afternoon with Leaf but met Lloyd so came back.

Thursday July 12<sup>th</sup> Engine got into hole. Lloyd Leaf & 8 men with engine went to get it out Slept all afternoon

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Friday July 13<sup>rd</sup> Lloyd and Leaf returned having slept on veldt all night. Getting telephone wire wound on drums.

Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup> Did next to nothing all day. Make & mend for men in afternoon.

Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup> Went out to Yeomanry camp with Crompton about 2 miles beastly smell of dead horses. Went with Crompton in afternoon to Pretoria Waterworks.

Monday July 16<sup>th</sup> Traced maps most of morning, rotten work

Tuesday July 17<sup>th</sup> Went all over Pretoria looking up dynamos & engines & then out to n<sup>o</sup> 2 general hospital to see how many lights were wanted.

Wednesday July 18<sup>th</sup> Went to R.A. barracks to see dynamo & engine.

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Thursday July 19<sup>th</sup> Bigge came from hospital Johannesburg Went to c/o & general hospital with Leaf in morning & to heal? camp with Lloyd in afternoon.

Friday July 20<sup>th</sup> Went to Klapperkop Fort to put engine in working order in morning & to racecourse in afternoon.

Saturday July 21<sup>st</sup> Went to Klapperkop in morning with Bigge to look at oil engine and again in afternoon to mend exhaust pipe

Sunday July 22<sup>nd</sup> Leaf & Lloyd went to a picnic with Crompton in morning. Stopped in camp with Bigge.

Monday July 23<sup>rd</sup> At racecourse all day diamanthing? installation

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Tuesday July 24<sup>th</sup> Went to racecourse in the morning to look after taking down poles etc Saw Karlsen about broken main

Wednesday July 25<sup>th</sup> Went to racecourse in morning and went out with Bigge in afternoon surveying two soruits? on road to Quagga?. Rained heavily most of afternoon & right? tent? fell down at 3am

Thursday July 26<sup>th</sup> Went to Quagga fort to see traction engine.

Friday July 27<sup>th</sup> Stopped in camp all day as everybody else was out. Looked after men building store & mens? room

Saturday July 28<sup>th</sup> Looked after men wiring bakery. Make & mend in afternoon.

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Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup> Calculated sections of spirits?. Went to Klapperkop in afternoon with Bigge & put light right

Monday July 30<sup>th</sup> Went to next camp to look after demolition of installation

Tuesday July 31<sup>st</sup> Went with Leaf to East Hill Redoubt to take level of read made for traction engine & gun to go up

## August

Wednesday Aug 1<sup>st</sup> Stopped in camp to look after building shed. Went in morning to East Hill Redoubt to see 6 gun taken up hill took from 10 to 12-15

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Thursday August 2<sup>nd</sup> Stopped in camp all day to look after building of shed. Crompton & Lloyd went to see fighting 20 west of Pretoria

Friday August 3<sup>rd</sup> Stopped in camp all day. Took wheel & gearing off "Ursula"

Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup> Stopped in camp all day. Stoves finished and all stores neatly arranged. July 6<sup>th</sup> letters arrived.

Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup> Went for 4 mile ride with Crompton Capt Robinson A.O.D. along Runtenberg Road to see if we could see any Boers  
Lloyd went to Johannesburg

Monday August 6<sup>th</sup> Went to Becketts house hospital ? and to Rest camp with Q.M.S. RA

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Tuesday August 7<sup>th</sup> Went with n<sup>o</sup> 3 sapper to fetch portable engine & dynamo from Rest camp. Went with Crompton to Beckett Hospital and put engine and dynamo in position.

Wednesday August 8<sup>th</sup> Went to Beckett hospital and masked out ground for house. Went to Shantskop in afternoon could not get engine to run.

Thursday August 9<sup>th</sup> Lloyd returned Went first to N<sup>o</sup> 11 model hospital then to Becketts house Twice to Pieterburg station twice to Artillery barracks to see Lt Mauser?

Friday August 10<sup>th</sup> Leaf returned from Bloemfontein. Out at Becketts house all day.

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Saturday August 11<sup>th</sup> Went to Becketts house in morning. Slept all afternoon.

Sunday August 12<sup>th</sup> Stopped in camp all day. Devonshire arrived with train from Bloemfontein

Monday August 13<sup>th</sup> Went to Becketts house was there all morning. ? afternoon unloaded truck at Pietersburg station, started to field? tent

Tuesday August 14<sup>th</sup> Went to Becketts house Bigge finished tent Moved us and my thing in an afternoon.



Wednesday August 15<sup>th</sup> Was at Becketts house all day. Ran engine & lights for first time. Very successful.

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Thursday August 16<sup>th</sup> Leaf returned from Johannesburg at Becketts house

Friday August 17<sup>th</sup> Went to N<sup>o</sup> 11 hospital and to Becketts. Leaf returned to Johannesburg

Saturday August 18<sup>th</sup> Went with Lloyd to N<sup>o</sup> 11 general. Had orders to ? train with two engines to take out supplies to general Ackman? and Major Chats? Wanted all day.

Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup> got up sharp? in morning but had orders not to proceed to Commandonek until 4am Monday

Monday August 20<sup>th</sup> Started 4am to go to Commandonek. Filled up tanks at first drift and went along with numerous stoppages as sacks kept falling off. We arrived Commandonek at

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3-30 Unloaded trucks and started back 4-30 with 66 bootless? men. Stopped the night at Reitfontein had dinner with Colonel Barter ??

Tuesday August 21<sup>st</sup> Left Rietfontein with 66 men and six sick men arrived Pretoria after many accidents at 6p.m. Engines left again at 8 p.m.

Wednesday August 22<sup>nd</sup> Did nothing most of day very stiff and tired Walked with Bigge to N<sup>o</sup> 11 general hospital in afternoon

Thursday August 23<sup>rd</sup> rode out to N<sup>o</sup> 11 general hospital in morning

Friday August 24<sup>th</sup> Worked all day on wagons

Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup> Stopped in camp all day two? big engines arrived with Capt Gardner

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from Kroomstad  
Leaf returned.

Sunday August 26<sup>th</sup> Lloyd & Gardner went to Commandenek with large traction engine

Monday August 27<sup>th</sup> Spent most of day at N<sup>o</sup> 11 general

Tuesday August 28<sup>th</sup> Out all day at N<sup>o</sup> 11 general

Wednesday August 29<sup>th</sup> Insect bit me over eye in night Lloyd & Leaf went to Johannesburg.

Thursday August 30<sup>th</sup> Eye much better went & saw Major Kilkelly GG and also went to N<sup>o</sup> 11 general hospital Dumaresque arrived with 11 men. Lloyd & Bigge went off with six men with searchlight to Brugspruit from Johannesburg

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Friday August 31<sup>st</sup> Went to N<sup>o</sup> 11 general. Did nothing else all day.

Saturday September 1<sup>st</sup> Went with Leaf to Pietersburg Pretoria railway station to start pipes for Quagga

Sunday September 2<sup>nd</sup> Leaf & Crompton went to Commandenek.

Monday September 3<sup>rd</sup> Pieterburg station to send pipes to Quagga

Tuesday September 4<sup>th</sup> Leaf left with 6 men for Belfast to put up arc lamps at supply depot. Lloyd returned from Brugspruit

Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup> Went with big engine to rest camp to fetch 14 poles took them to N<sup>o</sup> 11 general. Lloyd went Johannesburg

Thursday September 6<sup>th</sup> Stopped in camp all morning

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Friday September 7<sup>th</sup> Did a lot of work on truck all morning Lloyd returned from Johannesburg about midday Went N<sup>o</sup> 11 general & switched on light for first time after a lot of work & a good deal of swearing got everything in order.

Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup> Did nothing all morning. Went to cricket match in afternoon. Very bad headache this evening

Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup> Nothing to do all day

Monday September 10<sup>th</sup> Worked on bicycles all day a very good days work as bicycles were badly in want of repair

Tuesday September 11<sup>st</sup> Did work about camp all day

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Wednesday September 12<sup>th</sup> Went out to N<sup>o</sup> 11 general to make careful calculations as to the best way of lighting howitzer hill by electricity Slept all afternoon.

Thursday September 13<sup>th</sup> Worked in camp all morning. Rode 16 miles to West Fort pumping station in afternoon.

Friday September 14<sup>th</sup> Crompton & Gardner left for Machadodorp

Saturday September 15<sup>th</sup> Dressed Hodgson's hand in morning. Did nothing else all day Lloyd out to lunch & dinner.

Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup> Went for short walk in morning. Lloyd out to lunch & dinner

Monday September 17<sup>th</sup> Left at 11:30 a m for Pietfontein with 40 (42?) tons of supplies. 4? trucks behind. Davis engine & 4 behind Ursula  
Arrived there 6-30 off loaded trucks & had dinner with Capt Harrison A.S.C. slept in box wagon

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Tuesday September 18<sup>th</sup> Left Rietfontein at 7 a m arrived Pretoria 12-30 went to bed 10pm as I have to be up at 4 00 tomorrow to catch train to Waterval

Wednesday September 19<sup>th</sup> got up at 4a.m. to go to Waterval arrived there about 6 examined plant and started back with Segt Phillips about 8-30 had back puncture in tyre took 1 hour to mend it. General Paget arrived with brigade at the same time as we arrived at Waterval

Thursday September 20<sup>th</sup> got up at 4p.m. went well Ursula & Simpsons engine to Rietfontein arrived there at 12-30 started back at 1-30 arrived Pretoria 6p.m. Went to bed at 10.

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Friday September 21<sup>st</sup> Left camp with Davies engine at 5am arrived Rietfontein 10-45 Engine got stuck on river bed tried to get her out but failed telegraphed for engine gear.

Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup> Two other big engines arrived at ? having travelled all night just to work? & in 3 hours had engine out gave engine drivers a rest as Phillips had been on the footplate for 25 hours

Sunday September 23<sup>rd</sup> Left Rietf at 6am arrive Pretoria 1-30

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Monday September 24<sup>th</sup> Left at 6am for Rietfontein with two big engines 10 tons supplies behind Davies 16 behind Simpson. Arrived 1-30 coal very bad

Tuesday September 25<sup>th</sup> Left Riet. At 6am with 120 Y.L.I. working party to mend drift 4 Boer & 5 native prisoners arrived camp 12 ?.

Wednesday September 26<sup>th</sup> Left for Rietfontein at 8am 1 engine arrived (Simpson) at 2pm second (Davies) at 3pm stopped there all night

Thursday September 27<sup>th</sup> Left Riet at 7am arrived Pretoria 12 noon coal very bad.

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Friday September 28<sup>th</sup> Left Pretoria for Rietfontein 8 a.m. arrived at drift 11-30 where road was in such a terrible condition that I wasted 3 hours getting engine & truck through. One truck turned over and had to be off loaded.

Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup> Left Rietfontein 7a.m. arrived Pretoria 12.

Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup> Stopped in camp am rested all day.

Monday October 1<sup>st</sup> Left Pretoria 8 a.m. arrived Rietfontein 1-30 Drift now passable succeeded in getting one engine (Davies) up with trucks had to assist other

Tuesday October 2<sup>nd</sup> Left Rietfontein 7 a.m., arrived Pretoria 11-30. Came along at a good pace all the way as the coal was very good.

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Wednesday October 3<sup>rd</sup> Left for Rietfontein at 8 a.m. arrived 1-30 drift now repaired and quite passable. Terrible gale blowing all night slept with drivers in box wagon.

Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup> Left Rietfontein at 7-a m arrived Pretoria 12 noon. Brought in Lt Hoysted R.E. and 18 sappers.

Friday October 5<sup>th</sup> Left Pretoria 8 a.m. for Rietfontein arrived there 2-30 load of about 40 tons behind two big engines.

Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup> Left Rietfontein 7 a.m with 4 Boer prisoners and about 20 men arrived Pretoria 11-30. Had to speak to Davies about racing

### Page 32

Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup> Mended electric light in tent Had tent completely turned out and floor tarpaulin turned.

Monday October 8<sup>th</sup> Left Pretoria for Rietfontein with two engines 8 am arrived 2-20pm. With 40 tones of supplies.

Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup> Engines left without me at 7-15. Stopped with O.C. Supplies rode all over the country with Rawstone and visited many dutch houses

Wednesday October 10<sup>th</sup> Visited more dutch houses. Two engines arrived at 2-20 with supplies and 40 tons and two more wagons. Fighting been going on for last two days within 4 miles of Rietfontein could see shells bursting.

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Thursday October 11<sup>th</sup> Left Riet. at 7am. Steerer of Simpson's engine taken ill with sunstroke brought engine in from drift arrived camp 12 noon. 5 inch gun moved out from Rietfontein as we left this morning. Wrote to home & Uncle

Friday October 12<sup>th</sup> Left Camp for Rietfontein 8-15 arri. 3p.m, with three engines and 60 tons of supplies 12 trucks.

Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup> Left Riet at 7-15 with 53 Boer prisoners 150 men volunteer W.Yorks 3 officers, 1 field comd escort & details 40 sick about 300 passengers in all.

Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup> Stopped in camp all day did various jobs making up train in afternoon

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Monday October 15<sup>th</sup> Left camp 8 oclock with three engines for Rietfontein arrived there 2-30

Tuesday October 16<sup>th</sup> Left Rietfontein 7 a.m. with few passengers arrived Pretoria 12-15.

Wednesday October 17<sup>th</sup> left camp for Rietfontein at 8 am arrived at 3-00. A good deal of time wasted through two trucks breaking down.

Thursday October 18<sup>th</sup> Left Rietfontein at 7 a.m. with 4 details arrived Pretoria 12-30. Got up at 5 am as could not sleep as company having arrived in the night.

Friday October 19<sup>th</sup> Left camp for Rietfontein with 2 engines and 60 tons supplies arrived 2-30 Might have been attacked as Boers were about 100 I.Y. and company of infantry sent out by Colonel Pain to protect my left flank.

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Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup> Left Rietfontein 7 am arrived Pretoria 11-30 record journey. 30 I.Y. sent out at 6am to protect my right flank as far as ?. Did not see any Boer. This is my last journey to Rietfontein.

Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup> Stopped in camp all day & rested

Monday October 22<sup>nd</sup> Very bad headache and stomach ache Had no dinner

Tuesday October 23<sup>rd</sup> Head still very bad stopped in bed most of day

Wednesday October 24<sup>th</sup> Better today but still very unwell

Thursday October 25<sup>th</sup> Left for Blm (*Bloomfontein*) at 12-30. Bad pain in arm. Stopped the night at Viljoens Drift. Worse thunderstorm I have every seen

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Friday October 26<sup>th</sup> Left at 5 am arrived Kroonstad 9 o'clock left 12 arrived Smaldeel at 4pm stopped the night.

Saturday October 27<sup>th</sup> Left Smaldeel at 4-30 a.m. arrived Blm at 9 a.m. Had breakfast in town and fixed up camp Terrible gale and thunderstorm started blew down tent and wet everything bed simply a puddle. Got things in order and eventually had to sleep in wet blankets.

Sunday October 28<sup>th</sup> Dull in morning but sun came out worked hard all day getting tent etc in order went for short walk in afternoon

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Monday October 29<sup>th</sup> Did very little all day Ruse etc preparing to hand over stores.

Tuesday October 30<sup>th</sup> Nothing going on still at work getting stores together.

Wednesday October 31<sup>st</sup> Checked a few stores in morning. Played cricket in afternoon for N<sup>o</sup> 2 section against N<sup>o</sup> 1 made 18 but we got beaten

Thursday November 1<sup>st</sup> Had a little cricket practice in morning handing over of stores still going on. Played for officers & NCO against rest made 0? ~~and~~ we won scores 120-50

Friday November 2<sup>nd</sup> Started laying field telephone outside ?

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Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> All men employed on field telephones Unloaded timber & projector from truck and packed timbers with mirrors etc Played for EEs against 30 company made 1 we lost by 20 runs

Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup> Stopped in camp all day. Nothing going on Played N<sup>o</sup> 1 v N<sup>o</sup> 2 won by 50 runs made 1 & 6

Monday November 5<sup>th</sup> Telegraph job still going on. Finished handing over stores

Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup> Went out on telegraph job in morning nothing doing in the afternoon

Wednesday November 7<sup>th</sup> Lloyd left for Norvals Pont. Saw Dumaresque oil engine & projector Dont think much of plant

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Thursday November 8<sup>th</sup> Stopped in camp all day. Lloyd returned from Norvals Pont

Friday November 9<sup>th</sup> Didn't do anything all day

Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup> Loaded up stores all afternoon.

Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup> Left Blm at 10am for Capetown arrived Norvals Pont about 7? Had dinner there couldn't get anything to eat. Left 7-30 arrived Naava Pont? At 11-30 Shunted off mail train left next morning.

Monday November 12<sup>th</sup> Left Naava Pont? at 3-30 arrived at ? 8-30 Left at 3-30  
Dined at Victoria West 8-30

Tuesday November 13<sup>th</sup> Had breakfast at 7 am Prince Alberts Road

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Wednesday November 14<sup>th</sup> Arrived Stellenbosch 4 30 am Remained in carriage  
messed at Rest camp

Thursday November 15<sup>th</sup> Moved up to to rest camp. 3? Officers in 1 tent & 4 men.

Friday November 16<sup>th</sup> Did nothing much all day

Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup> Left Stellenbosch 7-30 a m arrive Capetown docks 11-30  
got stores aboard left at 5 pm by Norham Castle

Sunday November 18<sup>th</sup> Lat 30° 56 & Long 13° 16 & / Miles run 239

Monday November 19<sup>th</sup> Lat 26° 25 & Long 11° 25 Miles 338

Tuesday November 20<sup>th</sup> Lat 22° 03 & Long 7° 38 Miles 334 (*these last 3 mileages are very clear figures and, unless they drifted 4 miles backwards for a day, this last one makes no sense particularly given the longitude*)

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Wednesday November 21st Lat 17° 35 & Long 4° 4 Miles 38?5

**Diary Ends Here – No indication of why, only about a third of pages filled, the rest blank, some torn off pages at the end**