

The Diary of Herbert Whisker

March 3rd, 1916

'Left England 3 March 1916 and landed at Alexandria on the 11th March 1916 after eight days sailing on the Transylvania, 3,800 were on board. When we landed, it was on a Sunday morning, we went to Mustapha '?' where we stopped a week. After we had a week there, they sent us down the Suez Canal where we joined the battalion at Geneffa Post. We stopped there about a month, and then the whole battalion moved further down to Fort Suez. I was at Fort Suez a month and I went sick with jaundice. They took me to eighteenth stationary hospital at Fort '?' where I was kept for two days. Then I went from there to Citadel hospital in Cairo where I spent another month. Then I began to get better and they sent me to Boulac convalescent about a mile out of Cairo, where, I spent another three weeks, then I got alright again, and went to Mustapha detail Garmph and stopped there four days, then I went and joined my battalion again at Gofa-dam where we stopped five weeks doing outpost duties. Then we left there and marched to Garntara with full pack nearly every man fell out. I was one that stuck it, but the next day I could hardly move a limb. We had a rest about half way at a place called Bala. After we had been a week at Garntara we set off further up the desert to a hill which they call hill seventy were

we stopped three days. Then we packed up there and got on train and went further up the line. You would be surprised if you saw how they have got rails laid right out on the desert, they are very useful. We then came in contact with the enemy and captured 5000 of them. Then the Australian Light Horse got among and drove them miles away. We also got a German machine gun section 25 of them big fine fellows, they took a lot of capturing, they put the white flag up and when our men went for them they started to fire at them. We had to shoot all the officers they were German and would not give themselves up.'