PRG 247 Series 48, and 54 containing correspondence, army records, newspaper cuttings and other items relating to Lance A. Lewis transcribed in chronological order, together with some relevant newspaper articles. Series 50 diary follows. Two relevant newspaper articles follow.

Partly transcribed by Susie van der Sluys in 2002, and completed by H. Davies who also researched the letters in 2015, both volunteers at the State Library of SA. These items are reproduced here with the permission of the copyright owner, whose permission is required for further publication.

Researcher's notes in the text are shown in italics

Transcriber's introduction

The son of Hon John and Martha Lewis, Lance Lewis was the youngest of six children. Lance grew up on the family sheep farm Kooringa near Burra in South Australia. He made several epic horse rides. Aged nine he rode solo Burra to Adelaide return, aged 12 he rode an epic 1100 miles Burra to Warmambool in Victoria return. Just before the war he rode from Adelaide to Darwin looking at pastoral conditions for the firm he worked for: Bagot, Shakes and Lewis. He was a stalwart member of Burra Football Club, and in his letters home he encouraged them to sign up for war service, no doubt valuing the strong friendships, fitness, and healthy competitive spirit inherent in the sport. More details on football players in World War 1 are available at www.redlegsmuseum.com.au

On 19 August 1914 Lance enlisted in the 3rd Light Horse Brigade, which he may have actually helped form some years before in Burra. The Burra Record of 23 October 1912 states ‘With Mr. Lance A. Lewis, as organiser, there is every prospect of Burra forming a light horse regiment, as the required number of horsemen (30) are in sight’.

Lance Lewis’s War Record lists his movements during World War One as:
24 August 2015 in Gallipoli sick in hospital then invalided from Mudros by ship to Endsleigh Hospital in England with enteritis.
12 February 1916 placed on Supernumerary List of Officers.
23 March 1916 wounded at Rafa, Middle East in the 3rd L.H. Regiment, admitted to hospital in Girga, Sohag, Abbassia and discharged on leave in Alexandria in April 1916.
9 January 1917 – 26 March 1917 wounded B.W. head and back in El Arish as part of the Anzac Mounted Division, dangerously ill, and transferred to Hopital train for Cairo.
10 May 1917 placed on the Supernumerary List of officers, transferred from Abbassia to H.S. Neuralia for Australia on A.I.F. Orders in Egypt.
12 October 1917 discharged as medically unfit by The Medical Board in Keswick South Australia, invalided to Australia per “Neuralia” from Suez for 6 months change.
He appears to have returned via Durban and Cape Town. Once home he married Gretta Laidlaw. They raised a family and actively served in their community, fundraising for war widows and returned soldier settlers.

The letter writers
As well as letters by Lance there are letters by family members, mainly from his sister Jane aka ‘Jeannie’ Melrose who was raising a family on a farm at Oolooloo near Burra in South Australia. ‘Lil’ – is Lance’s niece. ‘Nell’ - Eleanor Lewis was a kitchen work volunteer in hospitals. She became the Area Superintendent for ca 300 Regimental Canteens of Southern Command and later married George Cowan, Commissioner of the Australian Trench Comforts Fund. ‘Brook’ - Dr James Brook Lewis was a Surgeon-Captain in the AIF on the hospital ship ‘Karoola’ and also in France. ‘Gil’ or ‘Gill’ - Major Gilbert Lewis was a Boer War veteran who also served in Europe. ‘Essie’ (Mr Essington Lewis) was in Melbourne with wife Gladys, setting up the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, later to become the giant Australian company BHP.

Kath Roach in 'The Office' in Adelaide conveyed updates about Lance to his siblings on behalf of their father Hon. John Lewis. In 1898-1905 Kath Roach had excelled at Burra High School and in the University of Adelaide's Junior Commercial Examinations. In 1917 she was working in Bagots' office. Her brothers were also heavily involved in the war effort. Lieut. Eric Roach b. 1891 served in Gallipoli and was killed in action in 1918 as an anti-aircraft officer. H. Keith Roach b.1888 served in UK and returned at the end of 1918. A third brother John C. Roach (Jack) b. 1896 served as a sapper draughtsman until 1919 when he returned to Burra. After the war she accompanied Hon John Lewis on an overseas tour including America, as described in a long letter near the end of this collection.

There are also some letters from the Burra Lodge, from relatives of men in his Battalion, and a friend Mary Meimerachi who was in Cairo when he was first wounded.

Letters and other items in series 48 and series 54 are transcribed in one chronological sequence together with a selection of newspaper articles which the transcriber has researched from the National Library of Australia’s newspaper digitisation site Trove http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper

PRG 247/48 Papers relating to L.A. Lewis’ war service 1914-1917.  
Folder 1 consists of numbered letters sent to and from L.A. Lewis.  
Folder 2 consists of newspaper cuttings and photocopies of his medical records on ‘Active Service Casualty Form’ numbered 1-24, as vital information relating to the letters.

PRG 247/54 Letters written by L.A. Lewis during 1914-1917 while he was in Egypt, at Gallipoli in the desert in Palestine and convalescence in Egypt after being wounded. Includes letters written by his father and others to the beginning of 1921. These letters are on microfiche, although some were too faded for transcription. They are numbered reading from left to right, omitting duplicates. The microfiche have been scanned and are viewable as PDFs on the Library’s SA Memory website:
Part 1: 27 December 1914 - 8 May 1915 (4.2 MB)
Part 2: 8 May 1915 - 15 July 1915 (5.2 MB)
Part 3: 1 August 1915 - 27 January 1916 (5.2 MB)
Part 4: 8 February 1916 - 24 May 1916 (4.2 MB)
Part 5: 30 May 1916 - 21 January 1917 (5.2 MB)
Part 6: 25 January 1917 - 19 February 1917 (4.2 MB)
Part 7: 20 February 1917 - 13 March 1917 (4.2 MB)
Part 8: 26 March 1917 - 4 June 1918 (4.2 MB)
Part 9: 1 March 1919 - 4 January 1921 (2.1 MB)

Letters and Army Records and newspaper cuttings in series 48 and 54 in chronological order 8 November 1896 - 27 March 1946. Interfiled in these items from the archival record group are newspaper articles related to Lance Lewis which the transcriber has researched from the National Library of Australia’s newspaper digitisation site Trove [http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper](http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper) and which have links to the article on Trove.

Each item in the archival record group has a number such as PRG 247/54/1/23 indicating that this is letter 1 of 23 pages from series 54. Where the item has been digitised, it also has a file name in the form PRG247_54_20_1-2. These items were digitised from the microfiche and the number of the microfiche is also shown as in Microfiche 2 - #30, #31, #32, #33.

For example

```plaintext
PRG 247/54/1/23
PRG247_54_20_1-2
Microfiche 2 - #30, #31, #32, #33
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Note that the dates between the letters and related information in other items sometimes do not match.

**PRG 247/48 Folder 1/2**

8 November 1896

**Early letter, handwritten, from Lance aged 11 at Kooringa to his sister Jeannie**

*This letter was written twice, one rough version, the other neat*

Dear Jeannie I did not go Dalhousie after all. We have only one pup just at present. The other three are at Mr Killicoat one of the three is mine it is getting broken in. Yesterday was the first day of Polo this season. Mr McCullock had a buster yesterday. We have eighteen chickens about one hundred cats. They are going to sell cats at the Strawberry Fête @ Three pence each so we can just about supply them. Father went up to Quorn with Essie and he had to go from there to Oodnadatta by himself. Father received a letter from Mr Kelly on Friday night stating that they were 'shoeing' horses. I must say Goodbye I remain yours loving Brother

Lance WRITE. SOON.
13 August 1914
Letter, handwritten, to “Lancey” from Nell in Goona-Cant in India
Envelope dated 17 Aug 12.30 p.m. is addressed to Lance Lewis Esq Kooringa South Australia, readdressed to 3rd Regiment Light Horse, Military Camp Morphettville.

My dear Lancey Boy –
don’t you go to the war I can just imagine how keen you would be – but don’t go there’s a dear kid – Everyone here is most excited about it all – the War is off in a few days with the Lahore division – all the officers are longing to go – If they go all the women in Sudia? have to collect in one ‘big’ place in case of another mutiny – the Doc has gone & also a native doctor from the hospital – our officers are very sick about it as they want to go too – Today we are going down the railway line on a trolley shooting as we go – have dinner in Mr Wyllies private carriage at Rati & come back in it by tonight’s train at 11-30 – Mayor Goodfellow & Mr Martin are motoring down & will meet us there – we have had nearly forty inches of rain in five weeks – all my gloves & some other things are spoilt with the damp & mildew – Much love kid Yrs
Nell

19 August 1914
Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army
L.A. Lewis enlisted in the 3rd Light Horse Regiment

PRG 247/50 War diary by Lance Lewis starts from this date 19 August to 1 May 1915
Appears at end of this sequence

20 August 1914
Letter, typed, to Lance at Kooringa from Bagot Shakes & Lewis, per Guy Eaton, acknowledging his application for leave of absence until end of the War.

Dear Sir,
Your letter of the 19th instant was duly received applying for leave of absence until the end of the War, as you had been appointed an officer in the Expeditionary Forces leaving Australia, and I am directed by the Board to advise you that your application has been approved, and that the Board approve of the spirit which prompts you to offer your services.

Yours truly, For Bagot, Shakes & Lewis, Limited.
Guy Eaton, Secretary.

22 August 1914
Australian Imperial Force Army, Army Record of Lancelot Ashley Lewis
Application for a Commission in the Australian Imperial Forces 3rd Light Horse Regt.
Recommended as [4th] Lieutenant 17th September 2014.
[indicates that at the start of the war Lance was 6 feet tall, chest 38/41, weighed 14 stone 3 oz, about 90 kg] with ‘sufficient eyesight’. He had Senior Public Exam Adelaide University, previous military Service Second Lieut 23rd Light Horse O/C C Squadron, a British Subject, Religion C. E. Single with postal address Kooringa, South Australia]

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/9
1 September 1914
Letter, handwritten, to Lance from his ‘sincere friend Tom’ at The Gums [T. Pears Tooth?]
Just a short note before you leave for the front we shall miss you greatly, so will the Burra District, in fact we can all hardly spare you Com “[Commenced?] shearing on Monday as things have turned out we did the right thing in selling so many sheep in the wool. If you go to England I expect you will look up the Waddingtons, if you call in at Plymouth docks, I have a brother in the Chief Engineers Keyham Docks – and he’s a draftsman and if you have the time to spare would give you a good time. Goodbye Lance you are the stuff good ordinary men are made out of, you have all our best wishes & a safe return covered in honours
Your sincere friend
Tom

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/10
2 September 1914
Letter, handwritten, to Lance from ‘Sis’ at General Hospital Launceston
Dear Lance,
I had a letter from Dad Treloar to-day telling me you were leaving for the Front, & I want to send you my good wishes – I wish you the best of good fortune & a safe return. If it should be other-wise, may it be a good straight bullet, that will do its work thoroughly & well, not one that will leave you maimed for life. ‘Goodbye’ much love Sis Have you ‘Turned down that empty glass’ yet?

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/14
2 September 1914, at Café Rubeo, Adelaide.
Menu - Printed - for Farewell Dinner tendered to Lieutenant Lance Lewis and Trooper Allan Fotheringham on their Departure to the War by members of the Briars Cricket Club, September 2nd, 1814, at Café Rubeo, Adelaide.

GOD SAVE OUR GRACIOUS KING, LONG LIVE OUR NOBLE KING, GOD SAVE OUR KING. SEND HIM VICTORIOUS, HAPPY AND GLORIOUS, LONG TO REIGN OVER US, GOD SAVE OUR KING. TOAST LIST ‘The King’ ‘Our Guests’ Mr. A. P. Muecke
MENU
HORS D’LANCELLOT.
CONSOMME MARSEILLES.
FILET DE ALLAN FORTHY.
COTE D'AGNEAU AU TRUFFLES.
DINDE ROTIE JARDINIER.
SALADE JELlicoE.
ASPERGES SAUCE MALTAISE.
GLACE AU BUNGER.
MICKY DESSERT.
CAFÉ AU PORTIER.

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/12
7 September 1914
Letter, typed, to L.A. Lewis Esq, 3rd L. H. Regiment, Australian Imperial Force Morphettville from A. A. Davey, Clerk, Council Office, Burra Institute, Kooringa.
District Council of Burra
Dear Sir,
Your letter asking for leave of absence from Council was dealt with at last Saturdays meeting, and it was decided to grant you six months leave of absence, as you are leaving Australia with the Military Force’s, we all wish you good bye and if all goes well with us in this war we shall have you back with us once more, Yours faithfully AA Davey Clerk God Save the King.

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/11
7 September 1914
Letter, handwritten, to Lieu L.A. Lewis Military Camp Morphettville from Bro. W. G. Gregutke of “Pardlea” Mt Bryan
Dear Sir & Bro
I regret not being able to get to the Burra to bid you farewell on Friday night, also the meeting at the Lodge on the previous evening. However I could not let you leave our shores without sending you my sincerest wishes for your future welfare & safety. I congratulate you on the commission you hold & I feel sure you are worthy of the position & that you will add lustre to the name your Honourable father gave you. May the great Architect guide you in the hour of danger & protect you from your enemys sword. But if need be I know full well that you would take your gruel like a soldier & a man. I know not where you are going when you leave here, but my most earnest wish is that Godspeed & a safe return to your native land if so desired. Please extend my best wishes to all our boy[s] for a safe return Yours fraternally
Bro. W.G. Gregutke 3 cheers for the Burra boys

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/6
8 September 1914
Telegram, PMG SA, handwritten in pencil to L. Lewis at Kooringa from ‘Laidlaw’
“Sorry unable see you accept my best wishes extend to other Members,
PRG 247/48 Folder 1/13
9 September 1914
Letter, to ‘Lewis’, Lieu. Lance A. Lewis, Morphettville Encampment, Morphettville, from R. S. Wilson Hon. Sec. [his name is hard to decipher, letter typed, with CBA monogram]
Dear Lewis,
I regret that you were unable to be present at the Valedictory Social at the Boatshed on Friday last tendered by our Members in honor of yourself and other past and present clubmates who are going abroad with the Australian Expeditionary Force. However, I have pleasure in enclosing an autographed programme which no doubt will be of interest to you. Wishing you all good luck, a safe return and assuring you of a sportsmans welcome home.
I am, Yours faithfully,
R. S. Wilson [signature very hard to decipher] Hon. Sec.

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/15
9 September 1914
Letter, handwritten, to Lance from L. Truro of the Terowie Football Club, Terowie
To “Lieutenant L.A. Lewis, Military Camp, Morphettville”
Dear Sir, I have the honour on behalf of the members of Terowie Football Club, to tender to members of Burra Light Horse our best wishes for success in your venture abroad, in the interests of your country. We feel sure that the members of the Burra contingent will be a credit to their town, and ever ready to respond promptly to all the calls. that duty may require from them, and we trust to have the pleasure of assisting and in giving you all a hearty welcome on your return. Again wishing you one and all “God Speed and a safe return”
Yrs Respectfully
L. Truro

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/16
11 September 1914
Letter, handwritten, to Lance from M. L. ? Warren at Port Pirie
My Dear Lance. A line to wish you God Speed and a Safe return. It is splendidly inspiring the way you and others have rushed forward to help the Empire. And I am quite sure that the Australians though comparatively small in numbers will make their Presence felt at the front. Wish I were younger and could go with you, think I could do a little bit even now. Had meeting of March ? Lodge last night --- Claud Palmer is going with you, he is a very good lad and I wish you would keep an eye on him. I feel very much more than I can express. May He who Rules the Universe watch over you and bring you back in safety to us
Yours Fraternally.
M. L. ? Warren
PRG 247/48 Folder 1/4
14 September 1914
Telegram, PMG SA, typed, to L. Lewis at Bagot Shakes Adelaide from K. Brougham of Torrowangee NSW
“Good luck safe return thoughts will always be with my old pal goodbye
K. Brougham”

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/3
14 September 1914
Telegram, PMG SA, typed, to Lieut Lance Lewis care of Bagot Shakes Lewis Adelaide from Jack Noonan in Broken Hill
“Congratulations on your decision to join contingent good luck and safe return
Jack Noonan”

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/5
16 September 1914
Telegram, PMG SA, handwritten in pencil to Lieut Lewis and Burra Bros at Military Camp, A[delade] from Tod Sandland
“Sorry I missed seeing You Chaps so say Goodbye wishing You All good luck and a safe return Hope to Join You in Europe if required.
Tod Sandiland” Kooringa

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/17
24 September 1914
Note, handwritten to Lance from Margorie D. Kay of “Amery”, Mclaren Vale
“Good Luck and God Bless you, Lance!” Yours affectionately
Margorie D. Kay Kooringa”

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/18
9 November 1914
Notes, Operational - four handwritten pages from Lance Lewis
Envelope addressed to Mrs. Alex Melrose Ulooloo the stamp is missing but the edge of a postmark stamp is visible.
[A note has been added in a different hand on the outside of the folded letter - “Lance Emden & Sydney, Nov 11 – 1914”]
11.30. AM. 9/11/14. NC (Sydney) to SQT. Melb. Am persueing her merchant Collier – save herself from sinking Come as soon as possible
2nd Message 11-45 AM. I am beached & done for

HV de SQJ proceed and join \from/ Sydney I wish to do it

JKQ Minataur.
3rd Message, noon. QY from SQJ Sydney states that enemy has stranded herself. to avoid sinking casualties 2 killed 13 wounded
12.50 PM SQJ to N.Y.C. (Jap) very many thanks for your proffered assistance to Sydney you & I are out of luck but trust solace ourselves that we are doing our duty
G.O.C. Manganui to Melb very many congratulations for NZ. expeditionary force on result of first action of Aust Navy Manganui music room is practically empty and unused & could be altered for wounded
5th 1 PM Sydney states the stranded enemy was the Emden.
10/11/14 official from Orvietto The Sydney started for Coco’s at 7 AM at 9.30 she had sighted the evening travelling at full speed she was able to get within range in 20 minutes at the time she signalled the chase was steering north at 10-45 the Sydney was engaging the enemy briskly at 11-10 the latter had to beach herself to avoid sinking her foremast & three funnels were down but the flag was still flying. The Sydney then went after the Emden’s collier took the crew off & sank her
The Sydney returned again to the Emden who surrendered The Extent & nature of the German casualties are not yet known but they are bound to be severe The Sydney’s own casualties required Hospital treatment which was probably found in Direction Island The Emden had time to destroy wireless station & cut one of the three cables a second cable is intact & possibly a third All the instruments were destroyed except one which had been buried and is in use again The Cable operators deserve much praise for sticking to their posts. and sending out distress signals and for saving instruments
The Sydney will sail for Colombo as soon as she has succeeded in getting on board the German prisoners & wounded. The operation may take 24 hours as it presents considerable difficulties All mails from A.I.F. transports will be sent to Orvietto for censor ship open letters plain ? Post Cards & urgent telegrams will be passed by censor for immediate despatch provided all reference to ships places dates are omitted closed letters and parcels will be delayed

Newspaper article
Burra Record
8 December 1914
Wednesday 27 January 1915, p 5
‘In Egypt With the Australians’ extract from article
Under date of 8th December Lieut. Lance Lewis wrote to Mr. S M. Lane, J.P. In the course of his letter Lieut. Lewis says: —
We have arrived at Alexandria and have been waiting two days to unload and expect to do so to-morrow which will make seven weeks on the sea. It seems a very long time. None of the men have been on land since we left and only a few of the officers. On Sunday I went ashore with the colonel and captain and that was my first time on earth. Egypt: The smells at Alexandria are immense and are of 32 different colors from perfume to the unmentionable. Driving up the narrow streets is very picturesque, the different costumes and habits are so totally different to our land. There are a few decent English hotels.
We rail from here to Cairo and will be be in camp about eight mile from there. Lord has just won prizes for the best kept mess table. It was a revelation of cleanliness and you would not think that any of them had ever slept in the dirtiest tent in camp.

**PRG 247/54/1-2**
**PRG247_54_1_1, PRG247_54_1_2**
**Microfiche 1 - #1**
27 December 1914, Sunday
**Letter, handwritten, from Lance at Maade Camp in Cairo to Jane in South Australia**
Dear Jane,
Got letters from you and Nell today your letter was dated 4th Novr and Nell's the 17 Nov also got a cable from you and one from Burra residents am wiring them from the lads but this life here is too expensive to waste much on cables.
Have not had a line of any description from Dad since we left although I have written and cabled him. and all the papers from Australia we have seen is one Bulletin.
Had a Xmas card from Kath Roach and am writing her tonight. You have not given me Paddy Rooneys address. Have met some very decent English people here and they have been awfully good to the Regts more so I think to our Regt than any of the others.
There are about 2500 horses in this camp so you see that we require a bit of fodder.
There has been talk the last few days that we may be moved to Syria and other rumours that we will stay here for a few months and be shipped to Merselles. anyhow which ever they do I will not be sorry as one gets heartily sick of camp life. Nell says that the 38th are going to Merseilles but Gill has to stay behind pretty rough on him. Am sending you some photos of Jack Lawrie. Dave F and myself we had them taken with the Sphinx alongside of us.
Send one to Dad and give one to Shylie if she would like one and keep the other two Am also sending Dad a couple of papers with the declaration of Egypt as a British Protectorate There are no tourists at Cairo this year and all one sees at Shepheards is uniforms from Privates to Major Generals. Have not been made a Captain yet but am still 2nd in command and the Colonel says that he will fix things up in time. Reckon we have the best boss of the lot the other regiments wonder why we are such a happy crowd.
Lance

**PRG 247/48 Folder 1/20**
1 January 1915
**Letter, handwritten from Lance in Alexandria Harbour under letterhead of White Star Line R.M.S. “Ionic” to Jane**
Dear Old Jane.
We have just arrived in Alexandria Harbour and we hope our voyage is finished for the present. Yesterday we had a narrow squeak and for a few minute I thought we would be had but the luck was with us. I was in the middle of the boat and looking out to sea saw a thing like a big stick cutting through the water I called some of the other officers attention to it and said “My God it's a submarine” one laughed and said its only a porpoise I said “It's a strange thing to keep out of water for a hundred yards then” and low and behold they sighted it from
the bridge and gave the signals for boat stations. The submarine then had a shot at us but thank goodness missed and we changed our direction and cleared out. It was a narrow squeak and for a time we were all a bit jumpy tell Dad and the Ulooloo people but do not tell any one else. As far as work is concerned we have had a very easy time all the way out, but owing to submarines one is never feeling very happy. Stayed at Malta for two days and saw Jimmy Hayward is there doing Red Cross work had dinner with him one night. We are still in the harbour and we do not know if we are to land but hope so. If we do I will cable Dad. We have had the usual sports etc on board but otherwise there is nothing that I am able to tell. Goodbye Kid until next week a Happy New year to all at Ulooloo
Lance.

Newspaper article
Burra Record 5 January 1915 [Link to Trove yet to made]
“In addition to having in the army three sons — all captains, and one of them about to receive his majority (says the Register) — the Hon. John Lewis, M.L.C., has a daughter engaged in voluntary and gratuitous patriotic work as a cook for Our Boys in an Australian soldiers' hospital in London. And thereby hangs an interesting story. Some weeks ago her brother, Capt. Lance Lewis, was sent into the hospital suffering from the effects of strenuous warfare and also from a specific illness induced by over-exertion and exposure. Miss Lewis heard casually that a soldier bearing her own name was ill in one of the wards, and after some search she was delighted to discover he was her brother, although the reunion was naturally clouded by the captains' illness. The two were soon in animated conversation, when one of the doctors noticed the breach of the rules involved in the action of a 'cook' talking in a ward to a patient ill in bed. The medical man protested strongly, and censured the 'cook. Miss Lewis, of course, promptly explained that the patient was her brother; but the captain, who is fond of a practical joke, said with a twinkle in his eye, 'A mere fancy, doctor — a mere fancy; never saw the woman in my life.' The doctor thereupon again reprimanded the 'cook,' who went away astonished and sadly discomfited. Presented, however, the facts were disclosed, and the humorous nature of the situation impressed nobody else more than the disciplinarian doctor. According to latest advices the sick man has been forgiven.”

PRG 247/54/2
PRG247_54_2_1, PRG247_54_2_2
Microfiche 1 - #2, Pages 3, 4 can be found at PRG247_54_2_8-9.
14 January 1916 [corrected to 1915 in the letter]
Letter, handwritten and incomplete, from Lance at Maadi Camp in Cairo to Jane.
[PRG247_54_2_1-3]
Dear Jane,
Received your letter dated the 16th Dec yesterday. We notice that the Australian papers say that the officers are being messed at Mena Hotel damn fools. Mena Hotel is near the pyramids and as we are about 15 miles from there by road it would take a bit of a walk for breakfast. They are using Mena Hotel for Headquarters and also for Nurses & Hospital. The
infantry camp are about a mile from the Hotel and mess the same as we do, a la Morphettville.

By the way had a wire from Sis Mosey on the Kyarra hear she is in one of the medical units Last Saturday was on duty in Cairo met Capt Lorenzo and walking past the Grand Continental Hotel somebody from the Terrace called out Oh Mr Lewis ? turned round and a nice young lady beckoned to me: To myself I thought. I thought to myself this is alright marched up and saluted and the fair damsel said 'Don't you remember me" I apologised etc & said the usual negative answer and she sweetly said " I am Nelly Honeywell we only arrived this morning from England" of course I then remembered but as I had not seen her for ages could hardly have been respected to recognise. She is engaged to Phil Robin so asked me how to get hold of him, they had wired him to meet them. I introduced Lorenzo who is adjutant of Phil's battalion and arranged to send Phil in on duty at 9 o'clock next morning. about five minutes after leaving there we met Phil and told him where to find his lady love. Had a letter from Phil this morning asking me if I would act as best man. They have decided to get married in a few days. Think I told you that Boom won the Officers Race in Cairo the other day he paid 495 Piastres = to a little over £5 for a £1 we won a little bit.

[--- letter continues in PRG247_54_2_8-9]

PRG 247/54/2
PRG247_54_2_8-9, PRG247_54_2_1-3
Microfiche 1-#2.
14 January 1916 [corrected to 1915 in the letter]
Letter, handwritten and incomplete, from Lance at Maadi Camp in Cairo to Jane.
[PRG247_54_2_8-9]
Since writing the first two pages have just received lot of letters that have been to England they are practically all November letters I got a pretty good heap and the whole camp are busy reading their mail.

We have heard various rumours about the Von Doussa's. I hope they are not correct. I notice that Budje & Dora are married and that Bobbie Weston is engaged. I will write to her. Hard luck on Gil being left behind I bet he is pretty wild. Got a lot of papers that Old McLaren has been sending me we are devouring them. Have not yet written to the M.W., but will drop her a line sometime have written Shylie twice and got a letter from her this mail. Rita has written several times. Enclosed is a photo taken alongside the Katoomba at Albany wharf the girl in the centre is Ray De Vere a Tivoli star. Forget the other girls name. I have forgotten it. Dave Looks very happy. The Johnny who took it sent it to me from Melbourne. Do Most of our fellows have gone to a dance at Helorion ? tonight. Well Kid we are going on with our training and expect to be with the Germans in a couple of months. Let us have any news about Muecke ? or any of that sort Kind regards to all at Ulooloo With Love fr Lance

PRG247_54_2_3
January 1915
Photograph of two army men with two women standing in front of a boat. Lance mentions this photograph in PRG 247/54/2 14, dated January 1916 corrected to 1915 in the letter.

**PRG247_54_2_4**
**Newspaper article, undated**
*[The Register (Wednesday 22 December 1915, p5]*
S.A. Soldiers Fund, plus article on King & Country Our Fallen Heroes, The Australians. Biographical, the Late Pte. C.L. Schrader of the 16th Battalion.

**PRG247_54_2_5**
**Newspaper article, [The Register, Adelaide, SA Wednesday 22 Dec 1915 p6]**
21 December 1915
The Prime Minister Mr Hughes, Australia Thankful. Melbourne, December 21., concerning the Evacuation of Anzac, and tribute to the late Col. F.M. Rowell from the men of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade.

**Lance Lewis in Egypt ca December 1914 [extract referring to Lewis]**
**Newspaper article**
**Burra Record 27 January 1915 Wednesday p 5**
Re letter 8 December 1914 ‘In Egypt With the Australians” “Sergt. Major Kenyon writes an interesting letter to Mr. A. D. McLaren. In describing the voyage Sergt. Kenyon in referring to the passing of the Emden says: — Have our friends in Australia thought what havoc the Emden may have done amongst our 40 transports in the still night, had it not been for the decisive action of the gallant Sydney ? …….

It has all been very interesting to the boys, the Burra lads are doing well and getting used to the various hardships. They are good lads and are a credit to you all at Burra. Darby and Treloar have turned out the best sergeants in the regiment. Mr. Lewis is well, and doing good work, we want more like him. It is very doubtful whether we shall get any further than here, as this country must be occupied. There are at present 80,000 troops here at present, what a surprise for Germany and Turkey. We often get together ‘the boys’ and talk of Burra and wonder what you are all doing, while we make our beds in the sand, a foot deep.

**PRG247_54_2_6**
**Newspaper article, unlabelled**
*[The Register, Adelaide, Saturday 16 October 1915, p 9]*
Tennis Scheme Held Over, S.A. Parliament report re Hon J. Lewis supporting war before tennis.
Dear Jane,

Got your Xmas eve letter tonight. I expect by now that you have got several of my letters. Had a letter from Nell tonight. Well Kid we are still at camp but are shifting to another place Zeitoun or something like that one day this week. Zeitoun is about 8 miles on the North side of Cairo we are at present on South side it is also near Heliophilis one of the three largest hotels in the world and has the largest carpet in the world. They say it is a wonderful place and I believe the army people are turning it into a Hospital for the Australian Hospital brigade just arrived: we are expecting our reinforcements and the second force at the latter end of this week. Saw Sis Mosey last Sunday she came out to the camp but did not have much of a yarn as there were some very nice girls out from Cairo. Sis and all the other South Australian nurses are at Mena House. We have had a festive week. On Saturday Boom beat a New Zealand Horse named Hinemoa for a 50£ match and the loser to pay for 24 dinners at Shepheards 12 from each side. Boom won easily and the dinner was very gay from Soup to nuts. the owner of the New Zealand horse a Capt. Simpson is a good sport. Boom was favourite so we did not make too much money.

On Saturday the Colonel Capt Eric Lewis from Tasmania and I went to Mr Bentleys to dinner and played bridge until late and Monday night was the climax. All the officers of the Brigade gave a dinner and dance to the residents of Maade and a few people from Cairo. It took place at Helwan Hotel about 14 miles from here we had special trains there and back and returned about 2 o'clock it was a splendid show and we all had a good time about 150 there but towards morning I was very sleepy and this morning slept until 8 o'clock the 2nd time I have missed morning parade since 19 Aug but Major Priestley would not let my batman wake me. My word Jane I have got very fond of him he is a real brick has got his little peculiarities, but is a genuine friend and he is always doing little kindnesses in his own way. We occupy the same tent About a week ago sent a face cover that the Egyptian women use also a few cheap trinkets that the kiddies wear. If I had more cash would buy some brass and copper inlaid work it is very nice. Will also send you some photos to keep for me the names will be on them. All the South Australia doctors are at this camp but I do not expect they will move when we do. Have seen Dr Newland, Verco, Corbin, Le Messurier. Have just received a Burra Record and see that Phil McBride is married. With love to all at Ulooloo, Lance

When does the expected arrive?
Newspaper article
16 February 1915
The Register p 5

PRG 247/54/4
PRG247_54_4_1-2
Microfiche 1 - #14, 15
1 March 1915
Letter, handwritten, from Lance in Helioplois, Egypt to Jane
Dear Jane,
Just a note to tell you that I received Alecks cable and have cabled congratulations. Thought you were going to name it after me but expect that you will have to name it something else now. Had a letter from Shylie saying that she was up at Seaview and working also one from Walter Murray but have not heard from Dad. Gladys wrote and also Gil. General Birdwood in charge of the Egyptian Arms boys has a brother in India who is going to live in Gil’s bungalow at Goona. Wrote you the other day that I was sending a parcel I have sent it and hope that it reached you safely it is registered. There is nothing much to write about, it is the same old routine. hard at it, all day and lectures pretty often at nights very monotonous I wish to goodness they would give us a go at something. We will leave here sometime this month but where no one knows Am sorry to hear that Paddy Rowney is in Brussels they seem to have had a hell of a time. I notice a lot of Australian papers are talking about the fair fame of Australia being spoilt by some of the first force but mentions how well behaved the Light Horse have been. Our fellows have behaved magnificently and so have the whole lot for the matter of that and is all paper twaddle because about 1 in 1000 is a rotter there are about 30 000 Australians in Egypt at present and there is not another force in the world who have behaved better and this with Cairo close by a city without morals. Still I expect they have to print something even if it against their own kith & kin. Give my love to all around Burra also Mr & Mrs M. Lil Bess & Tav. Your Loving Bro
Lance

PRG 247/54/5
PRG247_54_5_1-2
Microfiche 1 - #22, 23, 24, 25
28 March 1915
Letter, handwritten, from Lance in Heliopolis, Egypt to “Tav” in S.A
Dear Tav
Thanks for your note got your cable alright. Pity you could not change it for a boy that will make Jane wild. Well old sausage, we are still bravely serving our King and country by riding boldly over the sandy deserts every day, in fact I am full of of camp life and wish they would give us a go somewhere even on foot. Last week we were reviewed by the High Commissioners of Europe Egypt. It is very fine to see the (?) on parade about 20,000 all told
of which 4,000 are mounted men. We just went past at a walk in column of squadrons 150 men in one line and then cantered past in column of troops. Last Tuesday we left for a four day trek and fought the 2nd Brigade on first days and camped at our old home Maadi next day we trekked to (?) and third day returned to Maadi and fourth day we fought the (?) Mounted Rifles and tomorrow we are to be reviewed again by Sir Ian Hamilton. We have been expecting and in fact told by both General Birdwood and Godlee that we would be moving this month but it does not look like as we have only three days to go.

Yos Murray & Crane Beaver were taken on the strength of the Regiment today am trying to get them into A squadron Yos has a mow [moustache ?] and looks tip top all my horses are looking well I carry a pack on my spare horse so that I can carry their rugs, they feel the cold nights with only horse rugs blankets on as they were clipped about a fortnight ago. They let the contract to niggers 10 pT or piastres = 2/. a horse. about 50 of them used to do 4 to 500 horses a day. The horses are doing much better but wish to goodness we could get some chaff & oats. Jane tells me that you still think you should be with us I reckon that your duty is to stay at home. Love to Jane & yourself and the kid and to all at Ulooloo

Lance
Dear Jane,

Thanks muchly for your letters I always look forward to one a week so do not disappoint me. I do not write you every week as I have to write so many. This is the fourth this week and you don’t know what the ell to tell em - sometimes I think of getting some carbon sheets and writing three or four at a time but my heavens we do like receiving them and papers to. Old Waddington sends the papers every week and Floss wrote and said she was sending me some papers so we see a good many Australian papers so we have enough to keep us going for a few days, but when there is a fortnight between the mails you hear the Lads selling their magazines for Jam etc. Well Jane we still hang on and exist but our officers are down to about less than half what we left Egypt the men the same. The living is a bit hard for them and they are a bit run down but expect they will be returning gradually Sid Rowell went this morning the reckons on getting back in a week or two/ he is a good plucked one and our Burra boys are good too. Think I told you in last letter that I got my captaincy from May 13th. Have written to Bid ? and will drop a note to Ruby & May. Poor old Jack I do not think his life was very happy the last few years how had he left Ruby. My word Jane could do with a bottle of lager and a feed at Uooloolo we have plenty of tucker but bully beef & biscuits are pretty tough over a long time we are getting bread every other day but we cannot get enough soft foods still we will come through alright: but by Gad if they want me to work for a week after we get anywhere that a good drink & a feed can be obtained they will need to give me special orders to keep in camp. Have not heard from Mrs Beneducci whether she has received the photo she has sent the Colonel and myself a couple of parcels of chocolate which was great Love to all at Uooloolo

Lance

Dear Jane,

Am glad that you received the photos and am leaving some more in my spare trunk at Cook & Co Cairo - have written Dad that I will arrange with them to send trunk at his or my order and will also ask him to hand over the trunk to you so that if necessary you can hand things to my pals or keep them or do anything you like with them. We will be in the thick of it pretty
soon now but you will laugh when you hear how the mighty have fallen. I always did hate walking unless it was with an interesting & pretty girl. I want you if I do not write again to send my photo and a letter to
Mrs Beneducci C/o Mr Meimerachi
Block A Khedivial Buildings
Rue el Din
Cairo
The Beneduccis & Meimerachis have been exceptionally good to us. So write and thank them. Have not got time to write to anybody else so am writing postcards. We expect to be in the thick of it very quickly now. Our infantry made a name for itself but their names will go down in history as effecting a landing that was considered impossible. Have seen a few of the wounded but the official lists are not out yet. Give my love to everyone at Ulooloo. With love Lance

PRG 247/48/9
PRG247_54_8_1
Microfiche 1 - #26, 27
8 May 1915
Letter, handwritten from Lance in Heliopolis, Egypt to Jane
Dear Jane
We leave tonight and will in it before another week. Have sent two vases to Dad to give you they are native work and if I had more cash would have bought more. The address I gave you is slightly wrong the correct is Mrs Beneducci C/o Mr Meimarachi Khedivial Buildings Block A
Rue Emad el Dine
Cairo
Send the photo & write her and thank her for her kindness to us and include thanks to her husband Major and also to the Mrs & Misses Meimarachi. We are all busy as the devil.
With Love
Lance

PRG 247/48 Folder2
9 May 1915
Form, Printed, Casualty, Army Service, Major Lieut. Capt./ Lewis, L.A.
Place Gallipoli Date 9.5.15
'Proceeded to join M.E.F.'

PRG 247/54 Microfiche 2 – #25.
15 May 1915
Field Service Post Card, postmarked 24/ V /15, from Lance to "Mrs A. J. Melrose, Ulooloo, South Australia"
(I am quite well / I have been admitted to hospital ) (Sick and am going on well / Wounded and hope to be discharged soon.) I am being sent down to the base. I have received your {letter dated ..... / telegram /parcel} Letter follows at first opportunity I have received no letter from you {lately / for a long time} Signature only. [handwritten] L. Lewis Date [possibly 15/5/15 ? ] Printed on the RH side and below: “The address only to be written on this side. If anything else is added, the post card will be destroyed. On the reverse: NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and the signature of the sender. Sentences not required will be erased. If anything else is added the card will be destroyed. Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card”, plus numbers along the base.

PRG 247/54/10
PRG247_54_8_2,3
Microfiche 2 – #25
24 May 1915
Field Service Post Card, from Lance to "Mrs A. J. Melrose, Uooloo, South Australia"
(I am quite well / I have been admitted to hospital ) (Sick and am going on well / Wounded and hope to be discharged soon.)
I am being sent down to the base. I have received your {letter dated ..... / telegram /parcel} Letter follows at first opportunity I have received no letter from you {lately / for a long time} Signature only. [handwritten] L. Lewis
Date 22/5/15

Printed on the RH side and below: “The address only to be written on this side. If anything else is added, the post card will be destroyed. On the reverse: NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and the signature of the sender. Sentences not required will be erased. If anything else is added the card will be destroyed. Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card”, plus numbers along the base.

PRG247_54_9_1-2
Microfiche 1 - #35, 36, 37, 38
13 June 1915
Letter, handwritten from Lance who is “Somewhere” to Jane
Dear Jane
Got your two letters and one from Tav giving me a good deal of news. Look before I go any further will you arrange with the Register people to send the Observer every week and also Friday & Saturday Register. The Burra people send me the Observer now but it is always a couple of weeks old when I get it, and if the mail leaves Adelaide on a Saturday I will get all the latest news. Any Critics and in fact all papers are very much treasured and are read from beginning to end. Well we have been hard at it for five weeks and our squadron has had 3 of that in the trenches it is very monotonous and as we are not allowed to describe anything I will have to wait until after the war. The only thing is that people in Australia have no
conception what war is. Dave Fulton and Eric Lewis two of our officers are we hear out of
danger from their wounded & I believe that in my last letter I told you about poor Brock
Some of the lads have got 8th May papers from S.A. with photos of some of the Killed
I expect by now that they have got a full list of wounded. Poor Phil Robin was shot first day.
collins from "Bryan" Hallett was wounded a month ago and we hear he will be back again
this week Hope that you have sent my photo to Mrs Beneducci C/o Mr Meimarachi Khedivial
buildings block A rue Emad el Din Cairo and have also written her. I have sent the large
photo of you to her to keep for me, they are also keeping our
Buil
this week
Collins from
of the lads have got 8
and tells me that I was killed about two months ago,
our fellows do the same. Every body comes along
and tells me that I was killed about two months ago, so they have heard from their people in
South Australia, so far I have been fortunate and all the fortune tellers tell me I will get
through alright If I do get killed or wounded the Colonel has promised to cable Dad. Love to
all at Ulooloo
Lance.

PRG 247/54/12
PRG247_54_10_1-3
Microfiche 1 - #39, #40, #41
20 June 1915
Letter, handwritten from Lance who is "Somewhere" to his father, Hon John Lewis in
Adelaide S.A.
[interestingly he writes ‘the’ as ‘he’, also seen in a letter written by his sister Nell]
Dear Dad
You will see our address is still the above & I expect will be for some \little/ time to come.
We got a mail about a week ago, the first for 3 weeks it was Very acceptable. Mr Waddington
sends papers from England every week they give us the latest news. Got Sonny’s letter with
description of the bore & also of Wootton’s liking for he monitor colt. The bore will be a
godsend to you if he prospers he weather keeps dry. The last papers reckoned you wanted
rain, but I hope that you got it in time to keep things going. McLaren sent me a stock journal
& I notice a mob of cattle had come down from Nappamerrie they sold well. How is Witchelini
Coronga & Quinyambi? I notice Bagots are getting back to their former shares. Expect he
Aus. People were rather astonished at the casualties for he last few weeks am afraid there
will be many more before this affair is all over Lots of letters have been received here from
Australia by different officers & men saying that I had been killed & an infantry officer who
came with reinforcements told me that all he officers at he S.A. camp had mourned my loss
before he left S.A. Have arranged with the Col. to cable you if I get killed or wounded: so do
not take any notice of rumours. Glad you told the Corporation to hand back the square
cottages they are stretching a bit or have fertile imagination when they say you promised to
spend £500 on improving them you made the remark that if things went along alright perhaps
some way would be found to do up some of the cottages Well Dad I would like to tell you a
few of the things that have occurred here but as we are put on our honour (ie he officers) not
to - our letters are accepted as censored We get mulga? wires during day but they are
known as wireless from the latrine mostly incorrect but \all/ very amusing. Some of them are
absurd but then absurdity causes amusement - After a terrible bombardment of two days on one of our flanks in which an enormous amount of shells were fired one private was heard to say to another "I say Bill I wonder what they was firing at the Hell they have been firing at the last 2 days. Bill answers "You damn fool they have seen a sniper" Another. a private in the firing trench had been told that if an enemy threw a bomb into the trench that he must at once throw an overcoat over it. At last a bomb arrived but and the coat was thrown over but thinking that he overcoat would not keep it down he sat on the overcoat. The bomb went off. he was blown into air unhurt but while in he air the enemy shot him. Hard luck. These are not latrines but yarns that go the round. Latrines always state matter ? & sonation has declared war, that all our wounded have gone to so & so one out of a hundred turn out correct he other 99 are originated by somebodys fertile mind. Some of our Aus papers contain letters stating that the food was not good in Egypt, it was not chicken & ham but it was a long way better than what I carry when I am travelling in the north or what any man up there carrys. In our mess we had the same issue as he men& it cost us 1/- a day per officer for extras such as sauce. There is one thing that disgusts us all here & that is the number of men in the city of Ade who have not volunteered. Take the football teams for instance. I don't think here are 20 first class players here out of perhaps 250: have all the others got ties. to prevent hem coming, in fact there are dozens of men young fellows in all spheres of life that we know who should volunteer.

An Indians description of he different soldiers when shrapnel is flying.
English - He go in dugout Indian - He run.
India – He run.
Australian - He turn around shake his fist & say you bloody bastard.

Another yarn which is true
One man rushes down for the Dr laughs like he died Other asks what amused him. He said "My mate & I were throwing bombs when one my mate had thrown didn't appear to burst so he blew at the fuse with his mouth saying Burn you B. burn He was saying it the 3rd time when the pig went off & wounded him in the face. My word I did laugh I guess he went to he Dr [this letter not signed off at the end and appears incomplete]

PRG 247/54/13
PRG247_54_11_1-4
Microfiche 1 - #42
24 June 1915
Letter, handwritten by Lance who is “Somewhere” to Jane
Dear Jane,
Wrote a long letter to Dad last week but as writing paper and envelopes are getting scarce I will not be writing too many more. Sorry that the silly asses spread that report about that I was killed it seems to have travelled all over South Australia by the letters received here and in other regts but do not take notice of rumours. I have arranged with the Colonel to cable Dad if any happens. This week I got from three different people the cutting referred to by/you in the paper. “Duke of Wellington” does not know what warfare is like and is for tossing
the enemy over your shoulder just get Tav to get a stick the length of the bayonet, put about 160 lbs on the end of it and see how far he can lift it. Every lad in the squadron seems to have got a cutting and all bring it up so tell them to mention someone else next time. Some of Regt casualties I expect have appeared in the papers before this. The Burra boys have been very lucky so far – only two in this Regt have been wounded although several have had narrow squeaks. Reg Sandland got hit on the ear with a bullett Dave Killcocat has had his rifle smashed in his hand. Lord was singed by a Jack Johnson - a nine inch shell and so on. Wrote Dad about the yarns that pass the rounds here, so get him to send the letter: they will interest Mr Melrose. Got letters from Mrs Melrose and Tav and will write to Mr M. next mail this will have to do you and Tav. Here are a couple of great yarns A private was busy shooting the enemy the first day when one of the enemy called out “Allah” the private goes on shooting and says “Yes and bring that B --- along too. A prisoner of the enemy was asked by a private why he called out ‘Allah’ the prisoner replied We call to our God the same as your call to your God “Bloody Bastard” Have seen very little Hal Warren & Bob Hawkes during the last week, they are alright. Expect my captaincy this coming week but do not say anything about it I -- have been disappointed so often before. Will send you a PC with signature Lance Lewis instead of usual signature if I get it. Have had charge of squadron for the last few weeks. The Major got a bullet through the hand and has not returned from Hospital yet. The life is very monotonous we have been out of the trenches for a week and do not return for another week. The sound of bullets going over your head seems quite homelike and when firing ceases sometimes for a few minutes you wonder what is up. Hope you have sent my photo to Mrs Beneduccio. Yes the Victorian girl is pretty and a strange thing is she is on the Hospital boat and only a few miles away sometimes and yet am unable to see her. Did I tell you that Leslie the batman I had for a long got badly wounded. Cowan (a relation of Glads) has been with me for the last five months – he is jolly good and everyone used to be sarcastic in Egypt and say how neat I looked as if I was not always neat. It is very funny to see the different uniforms in the regt now, some have trousers, others short pants like we used at football (I had these for a good time but my knees got cold in the trenches and now have a long pair) others have infantry trousers with puttees mounted parts with puttees, all different sorts of caps, jackets boots etc in fact you never would imagine we belonged to the same regiment all regts and battalions are the same and we would look nice parading Adelaide now, Hell we are well clothed and well fed and everyone is happy Well Kid must write to Nell & others Give my love to all at Ulooloo With Love Lance Got a letter from Floss, she thought we had gone to England have written her
Just a short note to let you know that things are alright, we have been here for six weeks now and have been out of the trenches the last week and will be out for another one, then go in for a week. We would just as soon be in the trenches for some things only the continual watch and waiting gets very monotonous. The enemy are only about 50 yds at the nearest portion of our trench, so you have to keep a pretty smart look out. The Major of our squadron got a bullet through his hand over three weeks ago and went to hospital and has not returned yet so I have had charge of the squadron. Expect you have seen that the Australian casualties were rather large, but they are not as large as one would have thought in doing the work they did. Gen. Birdwood told me the other day that the Indian authorities had got to the bottom of the trouble in India some of the inciters having turned King’s evidence. There are several of our Regt away with wounds but only a small proportion killed. The Navy have gone crazy over the Australians and to mention that you are from there entitles one to be petted and praised by the blue jackets in fact I believe even the English officers think there might be a little good in the Australians after all. It is odious to make comparisons but give me Australians. You would laugh to see the different classes of uniforms in any regt now they are all sorts some with slacks some short trousers, infantry pants, in fact every sort and all class of headgear but all are well clad and splendidly fed. Let me know if Gil leaves perhaps he may come here. Give my love to all at Agar? Your Loving Bro Lance

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
27 June 1915
Casualty Form – Active Service Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army. From 3rd L.H. Regt. 1 February 1915
To be Lieut. Proceeded to join M.E.F. Gallipoli 9 May 1915

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
27 June 1915
Form, Printed, Casualty, Army Service Major Lieut. Capt./ Lewis, L.A.
Place Monash Valley Date 1.2.15
“To be Lieut”

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
11 July 1915
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army. From 3rd L.H. Regt. 13 May 1915
Promoted to Captain to complete Establishment”

PRG 247/54/15
PRG247_54_13_1-2
Microfiche 2 - #7, #8
14 July 1915
Letter, handwritten from Lance in Gallipoli to Jane
Dear Jane
Am writing two or three letters and putting them inside this letter so will you post them on envelopes are dash scarce and are worth their weight in gold. Well Kid you can call me Capt. now my appointment dates back to 13th May about two months but it only came out the night before last. Saw a Victorian paper named the ‘Leader’ of the 22nd May in it is the photos of the review by Sir Ian Hamilton at Heliopolis In photo No 2 you can see yours truly just passing the saluting base on “Aladdin” the horse Walter Duncan gave me. Got your photos that you took at Morphettville alright also yours and a letter from Mr Melrose tell him I will write when envelopes grow again.
Had a couple of narrow squeaks yesterday but do not say anything as you know how things enlarge as they go. First a bit of splinter from a shell hit me on the head cut through my hat and just marked my head then when down at the beach in the evening a shell burst just over our head the smoke and dust blinding us for the minute but still a miss is as good as a mile.
You may have seen some photos of the Triumph sinking after being torpedoed we witnessed the whole sight in fact some of our fellows say they saw the torpedo but I only saw the various phases of her sinking and that was not a pleasing sight So far we must have inflicted terrific losses on the enemy as every time they come our machine guns play havoc with them On May 18/19 was a terrible affair for them they lost 3000 killed alone these were counted by our burial party on the day of the armistice 3 days later their wounded would total another 4000. This was the result of trying to drive our fellows into the sea. Our casualties were 500 killed & wounded so it was a good win. We are all getting a bit stale of stopping, but have to play our little part
Got a chronicle addressed in Kath Roach’s hand it was June 5 and was a week later than any other we received. Also got a letter from Dad very funny saying he had written several letters without a reply I have got three from him. The rest must have been mislaid. A good idea Jane when you write would be to put a thin envelope in, so that I can use it in writing back. Love to all at Ulooloo
Lance

PRG 247/54/16
PRG247_54_14_1-2
Microfiche 1 - #9, #10
15 July 1915
Letter, handwritten from Lance’s friend Grace Evelyn de Beneducci c/- G. Beneducci Ta'hedivial Buildings Q. Rue Emad El Dine, Cairo to Mrs Melrose
Dear Mrs Melrose,
I was so pleased to get your letter this morning, and also your brother’s photograph, it is just like him, and I am awfully pleased to have it. We were only too glad to do anything we could for him, and in fact for all the Australian Officers we knew; they were all so good to us, that it was our greatest pleasure to see them whenever they had time to come to us. We were very sorry not to have known your brother from the beginning, he is a dear boy and we are all very
fond of him – Colonel Rowell writes to me that he will soon become a Captain. M-Lewis has sent me your photo to take care of, till he can come back to Egypt to fetch it, it is a charming picture, and your baby is a darling. Your brother tells me that you and your husband are coming to Europe after the war, I hope on your way home, you will come to Egypt, and we shall have the pleasure of knowing you too. Major Fulton is now in Scotland, & as far as I know going on well, I have written to my aunt in England to ask him down to her place in the country so I hope when he gets stronger he will go, he would get plenty of motoring there & be able to see the country all round. I quite agree with you and hope this awful war will end before long; it is such a terrible waste of life, and so many noble men are ruining their whole lives, it is awful even to think of – I have two brothers over in France, so far they are well, but one dreads to receive letters now. Again with many thanks and kindest regards from my husband, nieces & myself – Yours very sincerely Grace Evelyn de Beneducci.

PRG247_54_16_1-2
1 August 1915
Letter, handwritten from Lance in Gallipoli to Nell
Dear Nell,

Got your saying that you were going to England with Jess & the Kiddies so expect you are there now. Expect Gil will be very disappointed with the fighting in France here it is just a slow monotonous game of patience but expect that ere long there will be something doing. Have got a good old touch of golly wobbles today. Had my second inoculation for Cholera yesterday so think that must have caused it. Had a letter from Dave Cowan the other day he is still at Southampton have written him today and gave your address am also writing Floss and will give her your address so most likely they will drop you a note. If I do stop one I hope they will give me a trip to England to recover. Have not Gres Harper lately but last time I saw him he was well they are about ¾ of a mile from us. He had a pretty rough time of it just after they arrived here and were all very lucky to get out of it he was one of 20 volunteers on a ticklish job I forgot whether I told you about Timbrel getting killed on my round through some trenches that morning we were talking of corp matters and I told him that they were going to put all our photos in the board room. He got shot that night it was instantaneous. Did you know a Frank Williams I believe they called him “sport” when in Adelaide he is a good plucked one got shrapneld the other day Do not know how I am going to send these letters today I will have to be borrow steal some envelopes from some one. Give my love to Jess & The Kiddies & to Gil when you write him. Your Loving Bro
Lance

[In a different handwriting] Dear Gill – Will you send this on to Gil Enquires about his pyjamas at once there is dear - as I want if possible to make them before I leave here on the 7th Sept.

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
22 August 1915
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army. From 3rd L.H. Regt. Date of Casualty 20 August 1915. Place of Casualty Gallipoli.

Sick to Hospital.

[24 August 2015
In Gallipoli sick in hospital then invalided from Mudros by ship to Endsleigh Hospital in England with enteritis.]

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
24 August 1915
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army. From M. O. 'Canada'. Date of Casualty August 24 1915. Nominal Roll B152
Invalided to England from Mudros.

PRG247_54_8_4
Newspaper item [with torn edges source unknown]
[re steeple chase, presided by Hon John Lewis]

PRG247_54_8_5
Newspaper cutting (source unknown) entitled 'The Suez Battle' Melbourne, 24 August 'Light Horse Praised' Melbourne
[The Minister for Defence (Mr Pearce) today made available the following cabled report from Sir Archibald Murray (Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian expeditionary force), dated Suez, August 21, regarding the recent operations in which the Australian troops were concerned:-
“Now that the operations are definitely closed, the following summary is forwarded: - A Turkish force of about 19,000 of all arms which approached our positions in the northern section of the Suez Canal defences during the end of July, was kept under continuous observation by the Australian and New Zealand mounted division, and was skilfully drawn on to an attack in force upon our main defensive position. A cavalry retirement on the nights of August 3 and 4 led the enemy to attempt an attack on our right rear. When his left flank was well involved we counter-attacked with all arms, with decisive results. The foe was driven back with very heavy losses, and was forced to retire, fighting rear-guard actions every day until he could finally disengage from our mounted troops. So persistent were the Australian and New Zealand mounted troops that, to save his stores at Air ? el Abd, the enemy was compelled to counter-attack in force on August 5 9, suffering very heavy losses. In round numbers the prisoner (wounded and unwounded) were 49 officers and 3,900 men; enemy killed and buried, 1,250; estimated enemy wounded, 4,000; making the enemy's estimated aggregate casualties more than 9,000. One Krupp mountain batter (complete), nine German...
machine guns and ammunition, 1,000,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, and a large quantity of stores and equipment, were captured in addition.

“During the whole of these operations the brunt of the fighting fell on the Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division, under Col. H.G. Chauvel, C.B., C.M.G. This division finely upheld the traditions of the Commonwealth and Dominion troops. It fought with great steadfastness and gallantry, and with untiring energy throughout. Its commander and all his officers and men have every right to be proud of their achievements, and have the satisfaction of knowing that for each of their own casualties they accounted for 10 of the enemy. I wish to place on record my warm appreciation of the services of the Commonwealth and Dominion troops.”

PRG247_54_8_6
Newspaper cuttings [The Register, Friday 25 August 1916, p7, ‘Mysterious Roumania’]
24 August, London.
The Budapest correspondent of “The Morning Post” says that Hungarian correspondents at the Roumanian capital are flooding the papers of the metropolis of Hungary with pessimistic articles in regard to the possibility of Roumania joining the Allies. The fact that the official censor allows such articles to appear suggests that the Hungarian authorities are preparing the public for the worst. What is actually going on in Roumania is not easily discoverable.

‘Greeks Resisting Bulgars’
23 August, London.
The Athens correspondent of The Daily Chronicle states that the heroic struggle of the Greeks in resisting the Bulgarians at Theapetra and elsewhere has stirred the country’s imagination. Col. Christodoulos, the commandant at Seres, says that the Theapetra garrison disputed every inch of ground. The fate of the men is unknown, but it is believed that the fight was kept up till the last of them fell dead. Out of the Starcista garrison only two wounded Greeks were left at the conclusion of the combat. Col. Christodoulos enthusiastically declares, “There still remain Greeks who are worthy companions of the soldiers of Leonidas in knowing how to die to save the honour of Greece. Theapetra will perhaps some day figure in history as another Thermopylae [a famous battle where the Greeks were defending their home territory]”
"Col. Christodoulos avers that he is prepared to defend Seres to the last. It is reported that 150 of the defenders of Kilkitch suffered heavily, as they faced vastly superior numbers of Bulgarians. The Greek losses at Demir Hissar are not known, but it is feared that the troops there were isolated after a glorious resistance.

PRG247_54_8_7
Newspaper cutting [The Register, Adelaide, Thursday, 31 August 1916] [torn edges, source unknown] about a speech by Sir William Robertson “WANT ALL THE MEN “ (Chief of Staff at the War Office) proposed the toast of “Australasia”
23 August
“Nobody knows better [than] the enemy the parts the dominions are playing in the war. The great mistake the enemy has made has been in underestimating the assistance of the
dominions. They hoped to break up the Empire. On the contrary, they have done more to weld the Empire than any other influence that could possibly be imagined could have accomplished.” The speaker paid a tribute to the late Gen. W. T. Bridges, who, he said, was a splendid officer. The evacuation of Gallipoli had been an incredible achievement from a military point of view. The Australians had again showed their prowess in taking the German first line at Armentieres. Among all the splendid feats in the great battle of the Somme none had surpassed the capture of Pozieres, where the Australians advanced their front a mile. There must be no slackening. “We need as many men as we can get,” Sir William Robertson went on the say. “That fine man Mr Hughes said, “Tell us what you want, and we'll try to do it.” That's the spirit to win any war. With God's help we can certainly win this war, but we must do more. We must win peace. (Cheers.) We must have a peace such as is deserved and demanded by the great sacrifices we have made. We want all the men we can get.” Lord Burnham supported the toast.

PRG247_54_8_8
Newspaper cutting [The Register, Thursday 31 August 1916 p5 Article]
29 August, 1916, London
AUSTRALIA'S TROOPS 'Praise from High Quarters'
Gen. Sir William Robertson, military head of the British War Office, in speaking at a dinner given by the Australian High Commissioner (Mr. Andrew Fisher), said that Gen. Maxwell, commanding the forces in Egypt, in a letter, had described the Australian mounted troops as the backbone of the defence of Egypt. Gen. Robertson added that there had been no more splendid feat than the capture of Pozieres by the Australians, who had not lost an inch of the ground they had gained.

PRG 247/54/18
Microfiche 2 – #2
29 August 1915
Field Service Postcard from Lance to ? [Many of the lines have faded]
"I have been admitted into hospital"
"Sick and am going on well"
"I am being sent down to the base".
"Letter follows at first opportunity".
Signed L. A. Lewis

[ Re Lance Lewis at Gallipoli away sick on September 6 ]
Newspaper Article
Burra Record 3 November 1915 p. 5
'Letters from the Front'
Extract
Private W. Pederson writes from Gallipoli under date Sept. 6th: - 'Kenyon and Frank Treloar have both been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. I had a good yarn with them and also
saw Jim Hatherly, Percy Herbert, Reg Sandland, Sport Lord and the Killicoats. Lance Lewis and Fred Harvey away sick, and Graham Dow in England, wounded. They are still giving the Turks beans and I don't think they will be long before the campaign finishes. I am still well after about 15 weeks of it here.

PRG247_54_17_1
7 September 1915
Letter, handwritten from Lance to Jane
Dear Jane,

Just fancy if a German submarine does not get us we will be in England tomorrow night. When they kicked me off Gallipoli I tried to get to Alexandria but the boat we are on went to Malta, they would not allow any of us to land as they are frightened of getting dysentery among the troops there, so had to stay on board, and they have brought the lot of us on here. Am just about right now so will be getting back pretty quickly. Forget whether I wrote and told why had to leave.

It was what the lads in the trenches call blood and jelly and I hung on until Doc told me I had to get out. The same morning the Brigadier General Chauvel our Brig. [Brigadier] came up and told me to go and to stay away until I was quite well and to take a bit a spell when I got alright. Jolly decent of him. Well I thought that I would have a couple of weeks in Egypt and return, instead of which I have been on the sea for nearly three weeks was on two different hospital boat before this one and this one is known as an am ambulance boat. Noticed Fred Harvey on it a day or two ago. We stayed at Gibraltar for a couple of days and managed to get ashore got a bit a lace at Malta and Gib but expect that Nell will get them. Will wire her as soon as we land and will cable Dad. It will mean going about 3 mos without a mail, as we did not have a mail for a month before I left and it will be another three weeks before I get back One of our mails was sunk by a Turkish shell. Give my love to all at Ulooloo. With love Lance

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
9-18 September 1915
Capt 7 Age 30 Service 6 Days under Treatment 10 Observations Endsleigh Palace.
Disease Enteritis Admitted to Hospital 9.9.15 Discharged from Hospital 18.9.15 Transferred R..E.

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
12 September 1915
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army, From D.D.M.S. London. Date of Casualty September 8 1915
Enteritis; Admitted ex “Canada” to Endsleigh Palace Hospital England.
PRG 247_48_19 Microfiche
14 September 1915
Letter, handwritten, from Lance in Endsleigh Palace Hospital, London NW to Jane
Dear Jane,
Just a note to let you know that I am alright, arrived here five days ago and they put me to bed and only let me get up now for a few hours in the evening. Feel as right as pic, and have told the Doctors and Sisters they do not know their business and that I should be getting fresh air and exercise anyhow I hope to get out in a few days and will then have a fortnights spell and return to Gallipoli (a beautiful home). Nell, Floss & Dave Fulton have been around here a few times so do not feel very lonely. Cabled Dad the day after we landed here, we landed at Plymouth about the 8\textsuperscript{th} Sept. if we had had the luck to come to Southampton I would have seen Brook but I believe he left for the Dardanelles the day after we arrived. Since arriving here have heard that our colonel Frank Powell died going to Alexandria, he was my best pal. And we used to knock about together a good deal. He was as capable man at Anzac as he was popular and that is saying a good deal. He was awfully run down and had to be ordered away. I saw by yesterday’s paper that Carew Reynell had been killed Coming over on the boat I had enough invitations from officers in Scotland, Ireland and England to last me a life time but I will not be able to make use of them the only people in the country that I am going down to see are Mr & Mrs Waddington who used to live out East,, they have sent me English papers every week since we landed in Egypt. Like to have a look at the theatres before I go back. Floss & Nell are both hard up both seem happy. Bond ? must be a damn rotter, she has not seen him since they arrived in England. One of the nurses said Nell was pretty but I said you should see my pretty sister in Australia so showed her your photo bending over the kid. Well Jane give my love to all and tell Lil if she was anything like she would have had her sewing machine to show me around London. Have not had any mail from Australia for 5 weeks Love to all at Ulooloo,
Lance

PRG 247/48_1_20
17 September 1915
Telegram, from Lance, in England for a few days c/- Agent General to Mrs Alec Melrose, Ulooloo, Hallett, S.A. Commonwealth of Australia Post Master General’s Department, South Australia 11 AUSTRALIA 15 Hallett, Sth Australia. Adelaide Post 17.10
“Lance cables in England few days. quite well Address Agent General Lewis” 11.6  11.35

PRG 247/54/21
Microfiche 2 - #21, #22
Undated 1915
Letter, handwritten, from Lance, now wounded, c/- [illegible] to Jane in S.A. This three page letter is mostly illegible
Dear Jane,
Just --- [the remainder of this page is illegible] alright jolly -----Well I thought that I would have a couple of weeks in Egypt and [illegible word] instead of what I have been on the sea for nearly three weeks was on two different hospital boats before the [illegible word] and this one is known as an ambulance boat noticed Fred Harvey on it a day or two ago. We stayed at Get [illegible] for a couple of days with and all begged to go ashore [three illegible words] but a large [two illegible words] went [illegible word] but school [three illegible words]

PRG247_54_19_1-2
PRG247_54_22_1-2
Microfiche 2 - #11, 12, 13, 14
24 October 1915
Letter, handwritten, from Lance, convalescing but wanting to return to Gallipoli, to Lil.
My Dear Lil
Thanks muchly for your letter of the 6 Sept. written at the South. Have been sent down here for a months home service (?) (?) but like a fool I told the Medical Board I was quite fit and wanted to rejoin my regt but they said I could not be fit so here I am. If I had told them that I wanted a months sick leave they would have given it to me. You do not know how hard it is to get away from here. not that I am anxious to get away to Gallipoli but while the regt is there I would like to be with them but no one will be more thankful than myself when they get a shell. Have practically regained my lost weight and am only 7 lbs lighter than when I left Egypt 14 stone 7 lbs then 14 now so you can see I am alright was under 12 stone when I left Gallipoli. Dave is up in Scotland the board would not let him go out about three weeks ago. Have seen the Angas family Keith Duncan Duncan Hughes and his nieces had dinner with them one night. Hear Tommy Cheadle is here somewhere. I think it would have been much better if these fellows had joined the Australian Army but still they know best although I would not very much like to be led by some of them Sorry you did not enjoy your trip to Lameroo but after a few years of that sort of travelling you get used to it you will have to come to Oodnadatta with me when I return only three days of that sort of travelling. Had a letter from your Dad yesterday about 12 letters altogether tell him I will write next week or before. Lil I would love to be back in Australia it has been raining for two solid days but although I have enjoyed myself here there is no place like home even if one does live with only a dog as a pal. Had a few theatres with Floss and Nell. Poor Floss has had a pretty thick time but thank God she has plenty of grit and things will come out alright some day. Well Lil now you have taken to letter writing do not stop. With love
Lance

PRG 247/54/1/23
PRG247_54_20_1-2
Microfiche 2 - #30, #31, #32, #33
24 October 1915, Sunday
Letter, handwritten, from Lance at ANZ Base Depot Weymouth, England to Jane.
Dear Jane,
Your letters come very regularly also handkerchiefs but have not received an Australian paper since I left Gallipoli. Got about 12 letters yesterday Dad is writing much more regularly now and if the war goes on for another seven years he will be quite a good correspondent. Think I told you I my last letter that Brook and I ran down to see Jessie. I also went down to Southampton and saw Darcy Cowan he intends returning to Australia in a month or so. Socks size ten boots. Had a letter from Gil he is with the Regt now but they are still waiting for a chance to use the cavalry he is trying to get over to see me before I return. Hope he does Am feeling quite fit and thought that I would be going back next week but the Medical Board thought otherwise so here I am for a months Home Service and came down last Monday but I am trying to get another board to let me get out again. Mrs Beneducci writes frequently and lets me know all the Egyptian news. I have also had a letter from her aunt inviting me to go down a stay a day or two with them. I would like to get back to Egypt for a few days before returning to the Dardanelles but do not know if I will be able to. One of my boys who is there looking after the horses wrote me that the horse Walter Duncan gave me had died... it is awfully hard luck as he was my best horse he says Dickory is looking very fit. He says “We were all sorry to hear that you had been invalided home seriously ill and trust you are on the mend now. You were unofficially reported killed here about half a dozen times in as many weeks so it was a relief even to hear that you had gone “home” although sick.” It is jolly nice of the boys they always seem to be thinking a little about me. this was from a boy named Fawcett from Kapunda. Although I am getting tired of being reported unofficially killed as long as it is not officially reported I do not mind. He says that Lieut Stevenson had arrived with reinforcement I expect it is Malcolm Stevenson Lakys younger brother. There are about 60 officers here some fit and something half and some going back to Australia and also a few thousand of our men who have recovered or otherwise from wounds and sickness. We have huts and they are much more comfortable than our dug outs at Gallipoli. Have only received two pair of socks and that was about four months ago. Will run up to London for a week end before I go out. Have written Lil by the same mail and will write M Melrose next week, Love.

Lance

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/21
17 November 1915
Letter, handwritten from Lance at Australian Base Depot Weymouth, to Jane
My Dear Jane,
I wrote you last about a fortnight ago. since then I have been up to London and see Gil. Jess & Nell. And then went down to Newmarket for a day and the next morning the people I stayed with the Rev Cunningham and his wife motored me to Cambridge and I had a look through some of the colleges and then returned down here the same day. The Cunninghams are jolly nice people Mrs is the aunt of Mrs Beneducci. And he is rector or vicar of a little church at Chippenham a village about 4 miles out of Newmarket. He gets £13 a year screw but has private means and they live very well. Motor car and chaff cutter two or three maids etc., he is not like our parsons as he & she visit all the large manor houses etc all around and are very popular they will play bridge at 1/1 hundred all night and have a whisky in the meantime. They would suit Dad Bridge playing. Gil is looking fit but a bit too beefy he talks
about transferring to an infantry Regt but I told him not to be too anxious he will get all the
fight he wants before it is all over. Brook is splendidly fit and has lost that surplus condition
he was carrying when he came to South Australia a couple of years ago. Nell does not look
too well she runs around too much I think. Dad cabled me last week. “How are You” I
answered “Well in health but ill in wealth” Was passed fit yesterday so expect to get away
with the next draft. Dave Fulton left last Sunday we intended going out together. He and I
went into Weymouth Saturday afternoon and returned for Mess and His name was down to
leave the following morning so he had to go without me. Have not received a paper since I
left Gallipoli expect somebody likes them but I may run against them when I get back. Hope
so as although I have seen a good many of other peoples there are a good many in between
We do not know whether we return straight to the trenches or go to Egypt I hope to Egypt as
there are lots of things there that I could do with. Did you look after all my s

My dear Jeannie,

10.30 a.m., and Mr Lewis has just come in from the Outer Harbor, and given me a letter to
post for Dr Brook to the West. He asked me to send you a line and say Brook’s alright, Lance
is alright, and Nell is alright, so I’ll just add a bit on my own. He says Dr Brook told him
Lance is looking splendid, and putting on weight fast. He’s awfully keen on going back to the
Front, and they may let him later on, but not just yet. I think that’s about all he told me. He
was rushing out again in a hurry. I forgot to tell you that the 3rd Light Horseman from Port
Pirie said that Lance is just as cool under fire as he is on the football field. It’s jolly nice when
the fellows speak well of their officers. Had a letter from Charlie last mail, in which he said
“Eric [Roach?] seems to be in good nick and is just the same cool philosopher. I’m fearful of
‘taking ill’, lest I come under his scornful displeasure, for his views on say-(o) many of us are
anything but complimentary”. I suppose by us he meant the officers, and I expect some of
them give in to sickness without much battling against it. I heard from a boy’s letter long
before Lance left Gallipoli that “Lance Lewis is walking about the trenches looking terribly thin
and ill”, so I suppose that’s why the fellows admire him, for sticking to it under difficulties. Eric
said in my last letter about his officer “Yes, Mardon was right when he said Lieut. S. is as
fussy as an old woman, and always seeing Turks, but all the same, he compares very
favourably with any of the others, and will do us to see this lot through in charge.” Eric had
been a solid 22 weeks in the trenches when he last wrote, 16th October. We’ve a lot to be
thankful when he last wrote, 16th October. We’ve a lot to be thankful for. He has had touches
of dysentery, but said with him it usually lasts only a couple of days. I’ve sent him several ---
[Page 2] --- me about Lance or Nell, I’ll let you know. He does sometimes. I know how you
must be longing to hear all about them, and how they are. Did he tell you about the 3rd L.H.
[Light Horse] man who came to the office to see him, with the mayor of Port Pirie? He was
saying all sorts of nice things about Lance one day at the North Adelaide Military hospital when Birdie happened to be there and she told me to tell Mr Lewis, so Mr L. asked one of the heads down there to tell the man to come in and see him one day. He’s a Port Pirie fellow. Mr Lewis told me the soldier said he would have come in before, only he thought Mr Lewis might think it presumption. He couldn’t say enough in praise of Lance. Said he was one of those who had the grit to hang on, and he used to walk along the trenches every day, cheering the fellows up, and saying to them “Come on now, you fellows, buck up, we don’t want any dead men here to-day”. Mr Lewis of course was awfully pleased to hear about him, although he wouldn’t let anyone see he was, for the world. Mr Mitchell has just got back, and the/messenger said all Mr Lewis said was to tell Mr M. he could go so I don’t know any more now. However, I have an idea he will go down. Excuse type and all these mistakes, but I’m going against time. I do hope little Yvonne is better. [handwritten] With love

Kath

PRG 247/54/25
PRG247_54_22_1-2
Microfiche 2 - #35, 36
9 December 1915
Letter, handwritten, from Lance at the Australian Base Depot, Weymouth, England to Jane
Dear Old Jane,
You will see by the above that I am still in England, we have been waiting for the last month to move off at 48 hours notice but have not received it yet. I am in charge of the Light Horse men that are returning and have three other officers with me. We are not allowed any leave except for the day and as things are pretty monotonous we are not enjoying ourselves immensely. It is raining like the devil and in consequence we have no parade this morning. I take my fellows for good long walks and we generally do about 8 miles every day. Nell came down here last Saturday and went back to London Sunday night she is looking alright again. Had a little luncheon for her on Sunday Eric Lewis a major in our Regt Charles Love a Captain from Victoria [see letter December 22] and two local girls named Hodgkinson we had a very jolly time. The Hodgkinsons have been very kind to us and last night I got a letter from them to say their father had died suddenly that morning it is very tough luck but as he was a confirmed invalid perhaps it is better. Gil is very anxious to get some fighting but after he has had a few months in the trenches it will not be so joyful. Have not heard from Brook since he left so do not know where he is now. It looks like now as if we will miss being in the trenches at Xmas that is something to be thankful for. Have not got any Australian mail for about a month I expect they think in Egypt that I have gone back to the trenches and are sending it all there. Well Kid give my love to every one at Ulooloo and I hope they have a Merry Xmas & New Year. how I wish I was there with you all.
Love Lance

PRG 247/48_2_23
12 December 1915
Form, Printed, Casualty, Army Service Major Lieut. Capt. / Lewis, L.A.
AIF Orders General Godby 13.12.15
Placed on Supernumerary List

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
12 December 1915 [wrongly typed as 12.2.15]
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army. A.I.F. Orders. 15.12 1915
Placed on supernumerary List of Officers

PRG 247/54/26
PRG247_54_23_1
Microfiche 2 - #37
22 December 1915
Letter, handwritten, from Charles Lowe to Miss Lewis [Nell or Jane?]
/Please excuse this, the blotting paper ran amock\
Dear Miss Lewis, Your nice brother has gone, and I am sorry. May God protect him in the troublous times to come. He left me some papers to send on to you, and also some photographs, when they are ready. The buttons have not seen active service. I landed on the Hospital Ship minus a coat. I am going up to Manchester on Friday for a 10 day holiday. Hope you are keeping well. Yours truly.
Charles Lowe

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
27 December 1915
Letter from Australian Imperial Force, Base Records office, A.I.E.F. Victoria Barracks, Melbourne to Hon J. Lewis, Adelaide S.A.
Dear Sir,
I now beg to advise you that your son Captain L.A. Lewis has returned to duty Egypt. 20.12.15. In the event of any further reports being received concerning the above soldier you will be immediately notified. Yours Faithfully,

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/22
5 January 1916
Letter, handwritten, from Lance in Heliopolis to Jane
Dear Jane
We arrived in Alexandria on the morning of New Year and when we arrived were told that no arrangements had been made for us as they had reported that we were all drowned. The next is only for friends. It appears that our boat sent out the S.O.S. as soon as were fired at destroyer arrived on the scene and called us up but our boat thinking they may be German
decoys would not answer so the destroyers reported that we were no more. It seems to be a happy knack of mine getting reported stiff and then turning up I hope it will always be so. Have met lots of fellows since I got back. Have seen Buckie McFarlane Roy Fotheringham Jack Shearer. Dave Steele was out yesterday and today looking for me but I was out both times. Dean Dawson is at Heliopolis Hospital went down and saw he and Professor Watson. Have also seen Bert Warren and Hal I saw at Alexandria the day we landed he had just got back from Gallipoli and had been there the whole time. Mrs Beneducci is an English girl married to a Greek. Got over 100 letters 27 parcels and Gawd knows how many papers when I got here the other day. so will have a busy time answering the. The Regt left here three days before I arrived for an unknown destination (which however I know) so at present I am with the details and will be for a few days strictly confidential If I have any luck I will get my majority before long, will let you know as soon as I do, but after the last affair I never place any hope until I get the thing. Am glad all my letters from Australia say what a good season you are having. Just fancy it is over 12 months since we first landed in Egypt time flies Love to all at Uooloo
Lance

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
11 January 1916
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army Nom. Roll “Ionic”. Date of Casualty 2 January 1916.
Disembarked from England Alexandria.

PRG 247/48 Folder 2 Copy of Army Service forms
16 January 1916
Form, Printed, Casualty, Army Service Major Lieut. Capt./ Lewis, L.A.
AIF Orders General Godby 13.12.15. Light Horse Wells. 11.1.16
Rejoined Regiment from England.

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
16 January 1916
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army From 3rd Light Horse Regt.
Rejoined Regt. from England Light Horse Wells. Date of Casualty January 11 1916.

PRG 247/54 Microfiche
PRG247_54_23_2
Eastern Extension Australasia & China Telegraph Company Ltd
Adelaide Station “Advertiser” Building, King William Street
Telegram Received via Eastern, at 4.22AM
17 January 1916
FROM CAIRO WORDS 12 DATE 12TH TIME 2-30PM EFM
MRS ALEX MELROSE BAGOTS SHAKE LTD ADELAIDE
WELL EGYPT LOVE LANCE LEWIS

PRG 247/54 Microfiche
PRG247_54_23_3
Unknown Date, appears to refer to Telegram PRG247_54_23_2
Note, handwritten, from Kath Roach, possibly to Jane

“Don’t you think this may be one way of telling you that the 3rd L.H. are to be stationed in Egypt for a bit? Some say the 1st Division will be kept there. Oy? – hope it’s true. Was dreading Mesopotamia \ They deserve a spell./,

Kath

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/23
17 January 1916
Letter, handwritten from Lance ‘On the Desert’ to Jane

Dear Jane,

Have joined the regt and am in charge of the old squadron. Dave has the regt. and says that he has written in to get my majority but until it arrives do not say anything. We are about 80 miles from Cairo and we are on a sandy spot but it will not be so dusty as our old camps around Cairo and it will give me a chance to save up some money for my next holiday. There is some likelihood of a show here but thank goodness if it comes it will not be in trenches like at Gallipoli. Very few of my original Burra boys with the regt at present they are all over the world. [word crossed out] but there are several Burra boys that have come along with the reinforcements. Old Dickory is very fit I have ridden him several times but I have a big coffin headed bay a better hack I think I told you that the horse Walter Duncan gave me died the vet has got a hind hoof in his vet box at Cairo so will get it when we get back.

Saw quite a lot of fellows I knew in Cairo Dean Dawson. Steele, Yeatmen Stokes, Prof Watson. Cis Mosey and dozens more they all seemed pleased to see me. And reckon I look very fit after my holiday weighed 14 lb [must be 14 stone?] 12 lbs before leaving Weymouth but am losing a bit of weight in this country Believe Sid Rowell is going back to Australia am not sure. Half of my squadron are on outposts and patrols tonight so am left with small lot.

Love to all at Ulooloo

Lance
Dear Old Jane,

Have been getting quite a lot of letters from you the last few and also handkerchiefs if you knock the latter down to one a month it will keep me going am also getting plenty of newspapers so am alright as we feed ourselves pretty well with ration and extras we get from Cairo. Had a letters from Mr Lil & Alex and will write them in a few days. Glad you like the vases, if they keep us out here for any length of time I will save enough money to buy some more or if I get my majority and try and send them out. Had a letter from Brook the other day they are returning to Australia and not going to England as they thought Sid Rowell is returning with them and old Pro Watson also. Sid offered to take anything back I wish but did not have anything ready He said he would go and have a look at Dad, he is a great fellow but will not be strong enough for a long time to come back here. All the girls seem to be getting engaged I thought by this time most of the fellows would have left Australia. Had a letter from Mrs Phil Robin the other day it was written about 3 weeks before she died. Tell Lil I got her socks and they are some glad she did not put the Captain in as I may be a Major before they are worn out. then she will have to treat her uncle with more respect. Would have loved to have heard the conversation between M. W. and Lil about the engagement. Yos Murray is still with the Squadron he was recommended for a commission on the peninsula and I think he will get it shortly if he was in England they would give him one. There it is too easily here it is otherwise. He is looking very fit and plays the game every time. By the time this reaches you I will have been soldiering 18 mos I would not have missed it for all the tea in China but Gad wont we be pleased when its over. Tell TAV (thought I was writing a field message) that here on a windy day is as bad as Broken Hill on a dusty day. Sorry to hear Kath Roach is engaged had a pc from her this mail. In two letters you have asked me about Mrs Beneducci naturally she is English born in South America educated in England married a Greek who was a Major in the Egyptian Army but retired when he got married. Had a splendid time with her Uncle and Aunt in England he is a parson but one of the best I have met in fact tell the Ulooloo people he is a white man I had a whisky when I wanted it and then he & his Mrs took me down for about 10/ at Auction Bridge. I wrote Shy as soon as I heard of Billies death. Well Kid give my love to all at Ulooloo am tired - goodnight

Lance
Paters trip of a few months ago down through Queensland but the first trip I would like to do when we return is to go to Port Darwin down to Newcastle up to Boorooloola back to Newcastle then across to Victoria Downs and down through the North of West Australia, still it might be some time before it is possible Stock are still bringing enormous prices  I notice all except horses. Saw Buckie Mac Farlane a couple of times before I left Cairo in fact ran against dozens of fellows I did not know were here. Well Tav no news here but that need not stop you writing. Your Old Pal
Lance
Love to all at Ulooloo

PRG 247/50 Folder 2 p6
12 Feb 1916
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army From A.I.F. Orders
Placed on Supernumerary List of Officers.

PRG 247/48_2_7
13 February 1916
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army From A.I.F. Orders. 8.2.16
To be Major vice Major Priestley invalided & struck off strength. Date of casualty 8 February 1916.

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/24
17 February 1916
Letter, handwritten, from Lance ‘On the Desert’ to Jane
My Dear Jane,
Your great I can always rely on getting a long letter from you every mail have been getting plenty of letters lately and wish for me. Shylie Kath Roach Ike Warnes M W and lots of others the last few days so am now starting a campayn answering them. Sorry to hear that Normo has not been quite fit and hope that he is alright also your kid Ashley cannot spell the other name. Re discussion mounted Infantry v Light Horse. Tell him that you never knew any infantry that could ride although they may be mounted for means of mobility where as with Light Horse work it is essential. Still don’t argue The infantry have had the most severe time this war but if there was a break then perhaps we would get the thick end of the stick. Sorry to hear Tav had the accident with the Carbolic acid it must have been jolly painful. Hope he is alright now. Wee Gun seems to be winning quite a lot of races lately he won several at Broken Hill about Xmas time. If I get my majority I am cabling Dad “Parcel arrived” and told him to send it on to you. Sorry to hear about Dad I believe I know Nurse Hay. What was the yarn that jack Noonan told you about the sand bags I wish to know fully as Davey who told him was in our Regt. And we all hope to goodness we never see him again, he is a rotter of the first water. By the way do not send more than one handkerchief a month have been
receiving enough to stock a ship the last few weeks. Well Jane so long for the present Love to all at Ulooloo
Lance

PRG 247/54/29
PRG247_54_25_3-4
Microfiche 2 - #46, 47
23 February 1916
Letter, handwritten from Lance ‘On the Desert’ to Jane

My Dear Jane

Just a short line tonight to tell you that my majority has arrived and dated 8/2/16 so in future address my letters Major Lance Lewis. there is another Major Lewis in the Regt: Eric who is from Tasmania and a great pal of mine. The morning I left Weymouth he and a couple of other fellows came into my room at 7 ocklock in the morning to say good bye and brought a bottle of fizz, just fancy at that hour. We left at 8 ocklock. Nell met him several times. You can tell anyone interested now that I have been officially notified. Well Jane we are still in the same place but expect we will move again before long. A huge dose of gift stuff from Australia arrived today tinned fruits biscuits jam tobacco etc the fellows will have quite a blow out here for a few days. Anyhow they should all be saving money as there is nowhere to spend was just square when I left Cairo to come out here so will have quite a decent cheque if we can manage to get leave for a few days. Well Jane nothing to tell Love to all at Ulooloo
Lance

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/25
19 March 1916
Letter, handwritten from Lance ‘Somewhere in Egypt’ to Jane

Dear Jane

Since last writing you we have been on the wallaby for about 4/500 miles and goodness knows how long we stop here. Am away from the Regt about 30 miles and running my own show. Had a nice letter from Dad telling me my crop went about 25 bushels not bad for a starving cocks also had quite a long and interesting letter from Paddy telling me of her stay in Brussels. She said I could call her paddy and she was going to call me lance so there you are. Have got quite a decent camp as things go in this country and quite happy have lost 15 lbs weight since I left England but am very fit no surplus frontage, had a few hours in Cairo about a week ago. See our friend Davey is addressing recruiting meeting in SA Ye Gods.

Sorry to hear that Kadlunga is to be sold, will drop Bobbie a line. When the years ’news/paper has run out and you get them to send papers for another 12 months get them to put Major. Had quite a long letter from George Melrose You ask me if I am the officer of the Regt [word crossed out] /must not put our unit./ who is supposed to be very affectionate what is the yarn Expect Nell told you about Gil running into a fragment of a bomb clumsy devil. Well Jane still have to keep our tongues tied but think a lot Love to all at Ulooloo
Lance
PRG 247/48 _2_7
24 March 1916
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army From 3rd Light Horse Regiment. Sick to Hospital. Place Girga. Date 23 March 1916. From Govt Hosp. Place Sohag. Date 23 March 1916.
Paratyphoid; Admitted.

PRG 247/48 _2_7
23 Mar 1916
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army wounded at Rafa, Middle East in the 3rd L.H. Regiment, admitted to hospital in Girga, Sohag, Abbassia and discharged on leave in Alexandria April 1916.

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
1 April 1916
Letter, copy, From Australian Imperial Force to Hon J. Lewis, Adelaide, S.A. Base Records office, A.I.E.F. Melbourne
Dear Sir,
I regret to advise you that Major L.A. Lewis, 3rd Light Horse Regiment, has been reported admitted Hospital Sohag, 23.3.16, suffering from Paratyphoid mild, and in the event of further information coming to hand, you will be promptly notified. In the absence of further reports, Egypt advises it is to be assumed that satisfactory progress is being maintained. It should be clearly understood that if no further advice is received, this Department has no later information to give. Yours faithfully,
J.M. Lean, Capt. Officer i/c Base Records

PRG 247/54/30
PRG247_54_26_1-2
Microfiche 2 - #49, #51
5 April 1916
Letter, handwritten from [Major] Lance in Government Hospital, Soshay ? to Jane
My Dear Jane,
Above has been my address for over a fortnight but I do not think I will be here for more than another week and then I expect to be sent to Alexandria for a few weeks on sick leave. Had a touch of fever the doctors here called it paratyphoid but it was more of an ague I reckon High temp and ached all over Tried to cure myself was away from the Regt., but the officers wired for the Doc and then told me just before he arrived he sent me down here had over 10 days without anything to eat my word it made me weak got up yesterday for an
hour I mean put on a dressing gown and sat in a chair so will soon be fit again. Had a
beautiful camp had the squadron away on its own and we were having a nice time just
enough to do and every one fairly happy. Have not had a letter from Paddy Rowney
[Rooney ?] for the last week or two - she wrote me quite a long letter about her stay in
Brussels she must have had quite an exciting time. Had a good crop my lot averaged about
8 bags so if the Government can hurry up and sell all the wheat at a good price should make
a fair profit. Dad sold my share in Indulkana and has put it out at 5% he got quite a good
price so I hope he goes on making money for me I may have something when I get home.
Did I tell you that I applied for infantry, if they would give me a Battalion, but have heard
nothing more since we arrived so do not say anything about it It would be very nice being Lt
Col. You seem to have a good long spell at Victor Harbour. Send Mary Hayward my love
and congratulations and see if you can get her address. Glad you like the Mathesons old
Rod was a great pal of mine but he was far too generous. Well Kid for the time au revoir
Lance
Love to all at Uooloo

PRG 247/48_2_7
10 April 1916
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service,
Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army From Govt. Hosp.
Discharged on leave to Alexandria. Place Sohag. Date of Casualty 9 April 1916.

PRG 247/54/31
PRG247_54_27_1-2-3-4
Microfiche 2 - #52, #53, #54, #55, #56
14 April 1916
Letter, handwritten from Lance at Regina Palace Hotel Alexandria Egypt on sick leave
to Jane
Dear Jane,
That address looks better doesn't it. Have been here three days taking things easy got a
fortnights sick leave with the right of a little extension so came down to the seaside. Have a
room and a nice one at that looking straight over the sea and the air is more pure than I have
breathed for the last month or two still feel fairly weak came back to 13 stone when I left
England I was 14 stone 12 lbs so now my clothes are not so tight. Will send my Hospital
Chart out to you it is an Egyptian one and I will put the equivalent of our temperatures along
side. Was ill for four days before I went to hospital but thought could doctor myself but they
wired for the Doc he arrived took my temp 104 sent me Hospital. Well Jane Alexandria is
much cooler than Cairo and although it is a very large old port town it is in some respects
much better than Cairo. Have had no mail for three weeks but expect that they have some up
at the Regt which is about 500 miles from here. Heard the Karoola was at Suez when I
arrived at Cairo but was to leave next day so it was no use wiring Brook to come up. Jane I
always forget to tell you not to send so many hankies one a month is ample have got a lot
and am always giving them away some decent tobacco now and then would be better. How
is the Kiddie I hope she is getting along alright now. If at any time anything should happen remember Mrs Beneducci has a lot of photos of mine Cook & Son Cairo have couple of trunks and suit case. National Bank Cairo may have a little money of mine. Well Kid I think that I could have got home on this fever but do not want to go until the show is over then I wish for the first boat Love to all at Ulooloo. Fred Inglis is in my squadron but I have not seen him yet.
Lance

PRG247_54_27_5
23 March 1916
Major Lewis 3rd Australian Light Horse
Temperature Chart RHD Hosp Sohag
[The chart shows his temperature ranged between 36.2° and 40.6°]
Notes, handwritten by Lance:
Temp for four days before this was 102, 102, 103, 104
Temperature taken with
French centigrade thermometer equivalent to our fahrenheit is alongside
[41°F = 106.2°C, 40°F = 104.3°C, 39°F = 102.4°C, 38°F = 100.5°C, 37°F = 98.6°C]

PRG 247/54/32
PRG247_54_28_1
Microfiche 3 - #1
24 April 1916
Letter, handwritten from John Lewis in Adelaide to his daughter Jane
Dear Jane,
Lance cabled from Alexandria on 19th inst. = Right Again Now = Dr Cudmore told me that all men after Fever. would not go into Camp again - until they had had a Change and he expected that Lance would be sent to Australia - so he may be on the way home. We are having a garden party – on the 28 inst in Ade [Aid ?] of the Burra Red Cross –Come down, with Love Your Faithfull Fath’
J. Lewis

PRG 247/54/32
PRG247_54_28_2
24 April 1916
Envelope, postmarked 22 April 1916, addressed to Miss Melrose, Kadlunga, Mintaro. Readressed to Victor Harbor, S.A.

PRG 247/48_2_7
28 April 1916
Casualty Form Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army From 3\textsuperscript{rd} L.H. Regt. Place Girga. Date: 27 April 1916
Rejoined Regt.

PRG 247/54/33
PRG247_54_29_1-2
Microfiche 3 - # 7, 8
29 April 1916
Letter, handwritten from Lance at the Regina Palace Hotel in Egypt to Jane
My Dear Jane
Wrote you a week or so ago. Got your cable but as I had cabled Dad the day before I thought he would advise you, under separate cover I am sending you my chart you will see the Egyptian writing on one side and English on the other. They take the temps with French centigrade thermometers but I have put the equivalent to our Fahrenheit thermometers alongside. Have had another couple of letters from Paddy Rooney also a snapshot she says her hair has turned gray no wonder she has gone to Ireland for a while. Got back to the squadron 3 days ago they had moved to this place about 150 miles the day before. It is not so nice as our last camp but we are fairly comfortable and are right on the banks of the Nile. We are living pretty well bacon and eggs for breakfast fish for lunch and meat for tea at night. We give 1 Piastre = 2½ D for 6 eggs and about 1 piastre for the fish they are freshwater straight from the river but are fairly good eating. I notice Jack Killicoat has been slating Dad about up to time I would like to be home. Writing in difficulty as the light is not very brilliant Dad told me last letter that he got a lot of letters from me but very little information. Hope your kiddy is alright love to all at Uooloo
Lance

PRG 247/54
PRG247_54_30_1-4
24 May 1916
Letter, handwritten from Lance in Egypt to Jane
My Dear Jane
Just fancy 12 months ago today was the day of the big armistice at Anzac the Turks buried from 3 to 5000 of their dead the result of their attacks on May 18\textsuperscript{th} & 19\textsuperscript{th} it seems like a few days time flows by quickly.
Note that you say that Dad bid for Kadlunga he had his reasons and good ones at that you can bet your life so do not worry what they say about it, although 100 to 1 you will never know why. At the price sheep are selling I do not reckon 3£ a head too much as long as all the studs were given in. The Kadlunga sheep do splendidly in dry districts although a trifle on the small side at Kadlunga. Well we have shifted some hundreds of miles once more and have been in this camp 6 days the 8\textsuperscript{th} camp since New Year. We have rejoined the regt. so are not freelances any longer. I like detached work as then you are practically your own boss. Still living well, but expect we will hit it pretty rough directly, hope not, as I like good
tucker. The weather has been great for the last week quite different to what we had for the past two months may it continue.

No Jane I am not engaged to Rita although I like the kid very much I do not expect to be engaged to her, and as for giving the girl a ring, liars I believe I did given her a bangle or something like that but forget what still have given to plenty of others besides and hope to give more yet. Have never yet asked a girl but expect I will some day but goodness knows who. Dave Fulton got a touch of rheumatism and left us yesterday I do not know how long he will be away. Get quite nice letters from Paddy she calls me Lance. I told her my Regt name was Tiny but she did not like that. Some girl pals in England tell me Nell although chirpy was looking a bit fagged she does her work and then gives out too much they did not say it but that is what happened when I was in England. Always asking someone to tea etc. Did Sammy Way have any children you say he had 6 sons. Had a letter from Brook must have just missed him in Cairo tuff luck am writing him to write to Mrs Beneducci when in Cairo she always knows where we are Well Jane nothing more this mail.

Lance

PRG 247/54/34
PRG247_54_31_1-2
Microfiche 3 - #13, 14, 15, 16
30 May 1916 Letter, handwritten from Lance in Egypt to Jane
My Dear Jane
Wrote you a few days ago but maybe I will not have another chance for a few days so am writing now We move move move about a week at one place then move to another rather like it but one cannot carry too much baggage or luxuries for feeding, feeling quite fit and well although we have been working strenuously the last week or so it is doing some of the lads that have not roughed it before a power of good. This morning a message came round that they wanted majors for the infantry to take charge of battalions with the rank of Lieut Col I have put in my name but do not say anything about it as I have only told the family and if things are changed then no one will be the wiser Am glad Daveys yarn was what it was although incorrect in some respects Sorry to hear Babs Hayward is engaged she is a nice kid and would have suited George. Very funny you being in Pernatllys our Doc lost 600£ on them but takes it quite calmly Had a letter from Shylie and one from Maudie Have got quite a lot of snaps all my officers have cameras so I get there films and get them printed for myself will try and send them out have two more letters to write which makes a doz. for today. Am afraid we are moving tomorrow so am getting all my letters finished Love to all at Utooloo
Lance

PRG 247/54/35
PRG247_54_32_1-2
30 May 1916
Letter, handwritten, from Lance in Egypt to his niece Lil
My Dear Lil
You're a cheeky little devil saying that I am just past the Boy Scouts stage. Why we have been permanent soldiers for the last 1 year and 10 months nearly. Heavens how the time flys. Have not got Typhoid germs they sent my blood to Cairo to be tested and it came back positive but told the Doctors that I had been inoculated so many times for Typhoid that it could not be anything else anyhow it satisfied them and they then agreed with me that I had Nile fever so will not have to lose the moustache. George is very slow I have written him a letter telling him so just fancy letting a boy beat him. anyhow Babs was a jolly nice kid. Glad you and Lambert? are still on the market time you announced things. the only thing is if you do get fixed up quickly or he may wish to change like his brother. Well Lill we are out on the sand but it is not such a desert as of yore. plenty of bushes and one very much like our buck saltbush in the North it tastes the same. Am thinking of starting a sheep station here after the war but think on second thought it would take too much fencing one never sees a wire fence or any other for that matter. Have seen a few sights the last few days that I would love to write you about but military authorities say no.
Love to all at Uooloo. Your uncle
Lance

PRG 247/54/36
PRG247_54_33_1-2
Microfiche 3-#17,18
6 June 1916
Letter, handwritten and faded, from Lance in Egypt to Jane
Dear Old Jane
Wrote you a week ago but got a letter from you two days ago so am going to answer it at once as I may not get the opportunity for a few days. We have been working pretty hard going night and day and never have a whole night in the blankets wont it be great to get home and when you are called to say go to h— and turn over and sleep for a few hours. The enemy dropped a few bombs into the camp the other day you will see the result by the casualty list. Had a letter from Nell she says Gil has gone back to the regt. Expecting another mail tomorrow. Hope so as news is very scarce. I left with my crowd at 1 oclock yesterday morning & returned last night at 8.30 a pretty long day 19 ½ hours of course we were not travelling the whole time but quite enough of it. Heard last night about the north sea Naval fight it was a pity our big ships did not get up in time but still we can afford to lose two ships to their one as long as they will come out and fight. Have not heard from Paddy Rooney the last few weeks she was going to Ireland is she Roman Catholic. Well Jane nothing more today. Love to all at Uooloo.
Lance

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/27
29 June 1916
Printed Pass for Suez Canal Zone, No. 61
Regiment 3rd ALHs Rgt. Major Lewis has permission to be absent from his quarter, from 30 June to 1st July for the purpose of proceeding to Port Said. JB Meredith Mor Commanding L. Cpl 1st A.L.H. BDE, A.I.F. [added in different handwriting] Suez.

PRG 247/54/37
PRG247_54_34_1-2
7 July 1916
Letter, handwritten, from Lance, Egypt, to Jane
My Dear Jane,
Two letters arrived from you yesterday. We have had an easy week but start hard again tomorrow. But I believe they will give us a spell fairly soon hope so. Still feeling as fit as a fiddle, went down and saw Brook at Suez a week ago, took 9 hours to get there arriving 2 o'clock afternoon stayed the night left 10 next morning and arrived back at 6.30. It is not far but a devil of a journey for so short a time there felt quite homesick and could have kissed all the nurses good bye when I left but was too shy to ask them. Anyhow had a couple of good feeds and iced drinks. Pretty hot here but I can stand it alright I guess am pretty hard & fit. Have not got the papers yet about the Landland? - Ashton episode but am anxiously waiting for them silly asses. Tell Lil that the Col saw Trevor Hawker at Port Said believe he has now gone to Mesopotamia. Tell Tav to stay home we have enough of our kin here, but I reckon Garfield wants a help along. Got the chocolate alright thanks. Had a letter from Gladys yesterday also the M. W. Nell wrote to say she had a good time in Scotland, a feed or two at the Trocadero would do us grand. what a loaf we will have for a week or two when we return. We get up every morning at the hour you would have to get up to catch the B.A. [Burra-Adelaide] Express in the morning so it makes a pretty long day. Love to all at Uooloo. Lance

PRG 247/48_2_23
11 July 1915
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original Copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army. AIF Orders. 8 February 1916 To be Major vice Major Priestley struck off strength

PRG 247/54/38
PRG247_54_35_1-2
3 August 2016
Letter, handwritten by Lance in Egypt to Jane
My Dear Jane,
Have not written for quite a long time, wrote Dad about a week ago to let you know not to expect a letter for some little time, but as 100 to 1 he will forget all about it so am writing to let you know myself. We are so jolly busy Jane, that every spare minute we take out in sleep as we get very little of that commodity, so you will understand and let anyone know that are expecting letters. Had a letter from Nell the other day, she had not left for France she said
Tod had left for Australia, also had a letter from Dulcie Weston she said that they were glad it was you who was going to live in their old home. Yos Murray is not back yet but I had a letter from him yesterday saying that he was at our Detail Camp and trying to get him back, straight away. I see by the papers that Dad has been to Dalhousie and that it had rained while he was up there. Jack Tennant, Ike Warnes ? Ell ? Hawker have all written lately and say that the pastoral country is badly off I hope they got that rain. Well Jane cannot tell you of our work here but will do so when it is over pretty strenuous and trying but we will managhe it alright. If you see Brook he will tell you where we are and a little more besides. Give my love to all at Ulooloo
Lance
Get my mixture of tobacco from Dick Pascoe if you send any more.

PRG 247/54/39
PRG247_54_36_1-2
15 August 1916
Letter, handwritten from Lance in Egypt to Jane
My Dear Jane
Have at last got time to do a little writing. Well Kid we have had a hard time for over three weeks when we first got in touch with the enemy but did not have any serious fighting until the 4/8/16. We were out in front and had a pretty hard time until daylight when we fell back and were reinforced. fought all day and in patches next day without much tucker but the lads were good. HQ did not seem very pleased with my work and sent for me, and practically told me so. Well on the 8th we moved out again and my lot got into a tight corner again but did not budge. that was on 9 - fighting for about 8 hours and returned here one a couple of days ago. Yesterday I was again sent for by HQ and the Brigadier informed me that he had made enquiries as to the fighting on the 4 Aug and was very well satisfied that I had done my job and that he was sorry if his remarks had hurt me. also he asked me to convey to the men under my command his high admiration and appreciation of their work on the 9th and another thing that my name had been sent forward for mention. very nice especially after the pill I had to swallow in the first instance when you know every one of your fellows have been splendid. Naturally I have lost a good many out of my little lot. Fred Inglis is missing and practically certain killed. Dulld of World’s End killed, Yos Murray wounded in the legs these are practically the only fellows you know I think three of my officers wounded and myself only a bullet graze on the arm. Could do with a spell now as we have had 3 months strenuous going. Rowse & Brown two more Burra boys got wounded. You had better tell the family not to say anything until officially announced I am writing Inglis father. Well Kid have been in a few hot corners but had an hour on the 9th that capped the lot Love to all
Lance
Several letters from Paddy [Rooney?] lately

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/26
25 August 1916
Letter, handwritten from Lance “In Egypt’
Envelope stamped ‘Field Post Office 159, Aug 19, 16 was passed by the censor, stamp signed by Capt L. Lewis, handwritten along the top ‘on active service no stamps available’, addressed to Mrs A. J. Melrose Ulooloo and readdressed to Summerlea, Victor Harbour, South Australia.

My Dear Jane,

Got a couple of letters from you tonight they should have arrived before the last mail which we had ten days ago but think they must have taken them for a trip to England. Anyhow here they are. Just fancy have had two letters from Rad [Dad?] in the last month. Well Jane we are still resting started when I wrote to you last. Have only routine and a little Patrol work to do but it is the easiest time for the last 8 months I think it will make us quite lazy. Had letters from Mrs Melrose and May & will write them tomorrow. Re photos on camels Bill Denny is centre and a Lieut Maclean a NZ fellow on the felloe. One of the boys showed me a chronicle the other day and it had the photo in and showed McLean as Capt Bennett Bill Denny and have sent it He was very anxious to get it taken. Well Jane have not had my three days leave yet feel I could do about a month but 3 days at a time is our limit. What is my Regimental name did not know I had one but expect the boys have one for me. Re Tobacco yes Two Seas & Victory is what I smoke have asked Dad to arrange with Dick Pascoe to send me ¼ a week and to pay for it. Hope he does. Did not know Sammy Way was a Father – miserable old devil. Another of my boys have died from wounds and I told you in last letters about Fred Inglis. Have written to his Father care of Mr Melrose who will know his address. Yos Murray is reported to be getting along alright. I had 1 ½ times the number of miles between Hallett and my house fellows wounded in the two scraps and a fourth the number killed. This was my little lot but nothing to what the enemy got. Well Jane Love to all at Ulooloo. I hope that I will soon be with you,

Lance

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PRG 247/48 Folder 1/28
7 September 1916
Letter, handwritten from Lance ‘In Egypt” to Tav

Appears to belong to an envelope with matching blue paper addressed to Alex J. Melrose Esq Ulooloo South Australia dated 9 Sep 1916, postmarked 1st ? Aust. L.H. Bde, Field P.O. Signed lower LH corner L.A. Lewis Major.

Dear Tav,

Thanks for your letter of July 20th I would have written last week, but fluked 3 days leave and as it was the first I have had this year I ran up to Cairo and thoroughly enjoyed it although the leave was up before I had realized that I was away from the camp. Saw a lot of my fellows that were returning to Australia that morning including Yol Murray who is still limping but while in Hospital dysentery came on again so he has been sent home for a change. He got shot through the leg on the 9 Aug like to have a regt of Yol’s sort. Give my kind regards to Bob Elliott and tell him I hope he is getting along alright also to vote conscription as Australia must keep us her reinforcements. Our fellows in France have had hellish casualties but they did the job that nobody thought could be done at Pozeries. War correspondence and English papers have been very kind to us regarding our show here and although I say it as shouldn’t they are quite right. Glad to hear they have had a good pastoral rain ewes will be dearer than
ever. Expect by the time this reaches you that you will be moving to Kadlunga You are lucky devils it is one of my favourite spots so keep a room for me when I get home. Sorry the Powers have left they were jolly nice. Sent home a lot of photos to Dad to keep for me some by Brook and some by Yol Murray if you are down town ask the Pater to let you have a look. some are very interesting. We have been having a fair rest since the 13th of last month but a change would be very acceptable & months of sand is not very pleasing and the sight of green grass would be great reckon the horses think so. Old Dickory is still going strong I do not ride him much myself generally ride one of my other horses. Thought that Dickory was gone on 9th Aug but found him in another regt about 3 days later. Feeling very fit lately, have put on quite a lot of weight in the last month. Well Tav nothing to report our prisoners now amount to over 4000 quite a good haul. Love to all at Ulooloo Your Old Pal, Lance

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/29
21 September 1916
Letter, handwritten from Lance “In Egypt” to Jane
Dear Jane,
Your tucker and the Tobacco Two Seas & Victory have arrived safely. Got a wire from Brook last night to say he would be at Port Said on Thursday was making arrangements to go down this afternoon to see him when they told me today was Thursday thought it was Wednesday. Was too late to get a pass but if one of the fellows who went down on leave finds the boat still there I will go down this afternoon. Had a letter from Paddy a couple of days ago. How old is she, she is always talking about being very old. Seems a bit down hearted [illegible words] well quickly. Had another [torn off corner] the other day but did not get too many of the enemy. Yesterday we were officially informed that the Light Horse were to stay in Egypt there had been rumours that we were to be shifted believe that G.O.C. has stated that he would not be responsible for the protection of the canal if we were moved. very nice compliment. Anyway if nothing happens by Xmas I am going to write to Dad and see if they can arrange leave for us from that end. No hope of getting leave if we apply here. Yes the M.W. ? wrote and told me that she was glad that she had saved me from that “awful woman” don’t exactly know what I was saved from but still its alright. Tell Lil she is a cheeky little devil, did she wear her bathing suit for the show in Adelaide. Just fancy Jane the last letter I got from you was written on the 9th 4th They the day we had the big scrap. Tell Lil if she brings her show here that I will guarantee crowded houses for a fortnight and a month if the mail gave a correct description. Re the Bullys yarn about the British camp no was not there but would have done the same. The crowd that left their camp are Top Hole rotters and should be serving afternoon tea at a garden party. The[y] do not love our crowd and [by] Gad the feeling is mutual. [–ell] says that we are wrong in our judgement maybe we are and maybe we are not but if a scrap is on I hope to goodness one of our Regts are on my flank & not them. Well Jane must not get too strong but when we get back if we do not tell some yarns. Nell seems to be very busy in England would not mind if I had another trip home. Glad to hear Frank Whyte ? had such good rains. All the pastoral country should be looking well now. Do you remember your trip to Caroona Love
Lance
PRG 247/48 Folder 1/31
10 October 1916
Letter, handwritten from Lance in Egypt to Jane

My dear Jane,
Expect you wonder what the devil has become of me. Well kid we came in about a month ago from the desert. Then I had three days leave at Alexandria and then 3 weeks at a Cavalry school for senior officers. A few colonels a lot of majors & a few captains. We had to work jolly hard but had a good time – never the less Got back to the regt a couple of days ago and expect to leave for the desert again very soon but how far or where we go impossible for us to say. All the lads have had a weeks holiday and are in pretty good heart. McLaren sent me a list of the Kadlunga sheep sale. The Stud sheep did not bring as much as I thought they would. Had a letter from Dulcie this mail in fact I have a deuce of a lot of letters to answer as while at the School I did not write a letter. Everybody reckons I show too much bingly [old country SA term for stomach] in the photos. Got your shirt and some tobacco. Gladys sent me a nice parcel of tucker from Melbourne. My pal Geo Bell has left the Regt and gone to a Camel Regt I miss him more than I can say and it rotten without have a good old confidential yarn still the show goes on. Officers wives have landed in Egypt from Australia so I expect they can arrange things if one goes about it. Think I will have to get my wife over but Lil says that Jambuk ? is cutting me out Dad wrote the other day first time for quite a period also Essie [Lance’s brother Essington Lewis] who says Dad is very fit. Nell writes that she is going to France sent her a few shillings not long ago and she said it came in very helpful. Jimmy Hayward Babas uncle has gone to England he is on Red X work. Had mess with Dr Clarke from Petersburg the other night – he is son of the archbishop of Melbourne they all came over on the Karoola. Well Jane will write more regularly now. Love to all at Ulooloo,
Lance

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/32
10 October 1916
Letter, handwritten from Lance in Egypt to Jane

My Dear Jane,
Got a couple of letters from you the day before yesterday. Had a letter from Paddy the other day she seemed very sore at not having had a letter from you for such a long time. We here that conscription vote has failed, but have not heard officially and as we do not believe anything until we do, we are still hoping that it has passed otherwise. Gawd only knows how we will get along Have to join some Tommy regt I suppose, not for me. Dad wrote me again last week two letters in a month. Sorry I did not see Brook this time could have done so if I had stretched a point but as I knew we would be moving in a day or so, so did not like to go away. Am writing him this mail hope it catches him before he leaves Australia. Will send a letter to Dulcie addressed to Kadlunga will you forward it on and let me know their permanent address when you write. Gladys sent me a lovely parcel of tucker from the kids. Floss and Nell also sent parcels. This will be the 3rd Xmas from home and it looks as if it will be spent
on the field. Gad, I hope the 4th Xmas will be spent at home getting rather fed up but as they say it is better to be a live Major here than dead Colonel in France. I expect we will have to stick it. Got several letters from the M.W. lately she also tells me I am engaged to Rita things are getting quite interesting never matter Guess I will marry who I want to. Dad has let Kidman have a share of Coowonga Peak jolly sorry as I have no time for that crowd. Well Jane as there is nothing to say except we are at the old game. Happy Xmas & New Year to you all at Kadelunga, Lance

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/30
14 October 1916
Letter, typed, from Bagot, Shakes & Lewis limited, Wool, Skin, Hide, and Tallow Department, 18, King William Street, Adelaide to “Our Boys at the Front”
To “Our Boys at the Front”
“As this is a circular letter, it is not addressed specially to any one of our boys, but is an intimation that the directors and staff of the old Company forwarded you last mail a Xmas parcel, which we trust will reach you safely. Thirty five in all were sent, and if the receiving of the parcel will give as much pleasure as the sending, Xmas will be a happy one for each of you. The office, during the packing operations, resembled a general store, and the enthusiasm, especially amongst the ladies (of whom we have quite a number) was very great indeed. The greatest endeavour was made to choose only those articles which we considered each would be in most need of, and which would give the greatest pleasure, and trust we have been well guided in our selection. Wishing that each of you may have as happy a Xmas as is possible, and a safe return at an early date, crowned with the laurels of victory!”

PRG 247/54/40
PRG247_54_37_1-2-3-4
9 December 1916
Letter, handwritten from Lance to Jane
My Dear Jane,
A few days ago we got a very large mail. I got 28 letters so am having a busy time answering want to get them done quickly as methinks we will have enough to occupy us elsewhere very soon. Two years today since we landed in Egypt. Hope to Gaud were home by this time next year quite willing to let some of the anti people come out and have a go. [anti-conscription ?] Got the snaps of Yvonne Wee Gin ? must be a little beauty he is very consistent. It is a pity poor old Kooringa died. Give my kind regards to Jenners have known him since I was a kid. He was a jolly good man. We are out further than have been before and for the last two months have not used any tents, pretty cold at nights but today is like all days glorious. Would like to have a good Road and a motor. I would let her rip. Dad wrote and told me of Gladys having an addition to the family. Had a letter from Aunt Nell he said she sent a letter of mine to the prime minister will have to write her and say that if she does things like that I will not write again. I hate this paper talk. Bagot sent us all a decent parcel so we are living pretty well for a few days. Had two or three letters from M.W. Expect you are having it pretty warm
now but I loved the summer evenings at Kadlunga. May I be there this time next year. Love to all of you. What is Tav doing with the Kadlunga ewes
Lance

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/33
December 1916
Christmas Card from the firm Bagot, Shakes & Lewis to Lance to L.A. Lewis
One of our Boys “doing his bit” in the Great War. From The Directors and Staff, Bagot Shakes & Lewis, Limited, Adelaide

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/48
December 1916
Christmas Card “A Joyful Christmas-Tide!” from Lance to his mother
“For Mother from Lance”

PRG 247/54/16
PRG247_54_54_1
27 December 1916
Notes, handwritten, on reverse of Sydney Kidman’s typed letter dated 19 February 1917, PRG 247/54/53, PRG247_54_53_1, Microfiche Number Four #1 – 60
From Harry Aldridge to Les Aldridge. Lance is still going strong & is a good chap. ---“ I hope he lasts alright, as he is a good leader & looks after his men doesn’t expect too much & won’t send them where he wouldn’t go himself,
Captured Brigadier ? & Gen. W [illegible word] scrap of Romance
’About Xmas’

[in different handwriting ]
/1916
Reg Sandiland is giving a graphic description of [---] with enemy at Elarish early in December says Major Lewis did splendid work & was towards the finish dealing the knockout blows with his revolver./

PRG 247/54/41
PRG247_54_38_1-2
Microfiche 3 - #38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43
28 December 1916
Letter, handwritten from Lance in Egypt to Jane
My Dear Jane
Well we had another go the other day expect you will have seen by the papers we got over 1600 prisoners a battery of guns etc We had a pretty trying time We had three nights out of four travelling all night and in the day time we were kept going. The fight lasted from daylight
until just before dusk when we took the enemy's last trench with bayonet. Just as well that I am a bit bandy otherwise would have got one in the leg but as it was it spoilt my leggings. Frank Treloar got a couple of nasty ones jolly sorry as he led his men well and it was his first open fight. He got his commission on the peninsula. Have had a letter from Paddy [Rooney?] she has lost a brother. Yes I got the tobacco from Pascoes also the Bulletins. Would have loved to hear you talk to the Mortlocks on conscription I cannot understand that class of people at all. E W Hawker wrote me a long letter and told me that Jack had said he was going to vote NO. We were on outpost the night before last and it rained the whole night awfully jolly, we are getting quite a lot of rain and by heavens it is cold but one only has to think of the poor devils in the wet in France. Have decided when I go home that I go to Oodnadatta to live all the winter. Well Jane nothing to write about. Got dozens of letters & cards & hampers for Xmas but they all arrived about 17th just a well as we ate them before we had to leave our last camp. We had bully & bread for Xmas day. Feed the turkeys I will want one a meal when I get home. Love you to you all

Lance

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
11 January 1917
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army From Anzac Mtd. Div. Place El Arish, Date of Casualty 9 January 1917
WOUNDED; to Hospital,

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
12 January 1917
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army Place El Arish, Date of Casualty 10 Jan 1917. From 24th Stat.Hosp. Place of Casualty E.E.F. 12/1.17
G.S.W. head & wrist (dangerous) Admitted
[9 January 1917 – 26 March 1917 wounded B.W. head & back in El Arish as part of the Anzac Mounted Division, dangerously ill, and transferred to Hospital train for Cairo.

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
13 January 1917
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army From 3rd L.H.F.A. Place El Arish Date of Casualty 12 Jan 1917 12 Sep 1917 From 24th Stat Hosp
B. W. head & back; Admitted. Transferred to Hosp. Train

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/34 [see also PRG 247/48 Folder 1/30 for incomplete original]
PRG247_54_39_1 [complete version]
13 January 1917

Letter, photocopy of three handwritten pages from Sgt David T. Freebairn, El Arish Desert to Hon John Lewis, M.L.C.

Dear Sir,

I am taking the liberty of writing a few lines to you, to tell you I was engaged in the same battle as your son Lance (Major Lewis) when he got badly wounded, being an old College mate of his, I felt as if I must write. At the present we are not allowed to give any details of the fight, but Sir, it was a great victory and a Splendid piece of work. Lance got hit in the face, the bullet travelling down his face into his body. I saw him in the Field Hospital at El Arish, but he was that bandaged up, could not talk. On making enquiries, they told me he has a very nasty wound, but at the same time, he was in good spirits, and was not serious. I came away from South Australia in the 9th L.H. Just after Lance, and have had a great experience, being with my Regt. all the time while on Gallipoli, and out on this front in all engagements, thanks to good luck in not being hit once. I had a letter from my brother Alex at Owen, telling me you all had an excellent season at home, which I was pleased to hear. We boys over here were very disappointed at the result of the referendum, as really Sir Australian boys are splendid fighters, and we want as many here as possible. Thanking you, Sir, for having taken this liberty, I will close. I am, yours very sincerely, No. 259, Sgt. David T. Freebairn, 9th L. H. Regimt., 3rd L. H. Brigade.

PRG 247/48 Folder 2

13 January 1917

Cable from Base Records to Hon J. Lewis, Adelaide SA

Now reported son Major Lancelot A. Lewis wounded 9th January will promptly advise if anything further received. Base Records 15.1.1917

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/36

Microfiche Letter 40

PRG247_54_39_1 [incomplete version]

13 January 1917

Letter, original but incomplete, handwritten in pencil from Sgt David T. Freebairn, El Arish Desert to Hon John Lewis, M.L.C.

Dear Sir,

I am taking the liberty of writing a few lines to you, to tell you I was engaged in the same battle as your son Lance (Major Lewis) when he got badly wounded, being an old College mate of his, I felt as if I must write. At the present we are not allowed to give any details of the fight, but Sir, it was a great victory and a Splendid piece of work. Lance got hit in the face, the bullet travelling down his face into his body. I saw him in the Field Hospital at El Arish, but he was that bandaged up, could not talk. On making enquiries, they told me he has a very nasty wound, but at the same time, he was in good spirits, and was not serious. I came away from South Australia in the 9th L.H. Just after Lance, and have had a great experience, being with my Regt. all the time while on Gallipoli, and out on this front in all engagements, thanks to good luck in not being hit once. I had a letter from my brother Alex.
at Owen, telling me you all had an excellent season at home, which I was pleased to hear. We boys over here were very disappointed at the result of the referendum, as really Sir Australian ---- letter incomplete.

PRG 247/54/41  
PRG247_54_40_1  
Microfiche 3 - #47  
14 January 1917  
Letter, handwritten from ‘Dave’ [Sgt David T Freebairn ?] in “The Desert” to Lance  
Dear Old Langy,  
[later in this letter he also addresses “Edna” ?]  
– How goes it with you? Still enjoying life, I hope. So you met Lt. Kelly, did you, and he told you I was a Sergt., did he? Well, no doubt he is right, but that is nothing to write home about. Not a bad sort, is he? Wish he were back here with us now. We have had no officer since he went, and now I am in sole command, and get plenty of abuse for that. No doubt before you receive this, you will know that L. A. Lewis was wounded. We will sadly miss him, and now I don’t care how things go much. Don’t wish to go under anyone else, but perhaps I am too particular. His sort are few and far between He has rather a bad wound, and will take considerable time to heal, I think. It is only his constitution that will pull him through. R. V. Nicholls got wounded carrying him unconscious out of it (not very badly). Good soldier, Nicholls. Carried him about 400 yards under fire, and then stopped one. We had a terrible day, and we were lucky to come out of it alive. Anyhow, Edna, it is over, thank goodness, and we had another win. Got some Turkish notes from prisoners (enclosed). The large one is worth 5 piastresb(1/–), and small 1 piaster (2½d.). Sorry I could not get any more, but had no change about my old clothes. Well, Edna, hope you are well, and also all the others. Have a lot of correspondence, so I must close. With love to all, Your affect. Brother,  
Dave  
Did they every get those Swords? D.A.K.

PRG 247/48 Folder 2  
14 January 1917  
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy. Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army. From 24th Stat. Hosp. Date of Casualty January 14, 1917]  
Removed from dangerous list.

PRG 247/48 Folder 2  
15 January 1917  
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army From 24th Stat. Hosp. Date of Casualty January 15, 1917  
Transferred to Cairo
PRG 247/48 Folder 2
15 January 1917
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army From 14th A.G.H. Place of Casualty Abbassia Date of Casualty January 15, 1917
G.S.W. Head & chest; Admtd.

PRG 247/54/43
PRG247_54_41_1
Microfiche 3 - #48
16 January 1917
Letter, copy, from Brook Lewis at the Savoy Palace Hotel, Alexandrie, Egypte to his father Hon. John Lewis, Adelaide, S.A.
Dear Father,–
I sent you a cable to-day to say that Lance was progressing favourably. I guessed they sent news out that he was very bad, and I thought a cable would allay your anxiety somewhat. He was wounded on the 8th January at El Rafa, which is S.E. of El Arish. He was pretty close to the Turks at the time, within 30 yards, and lying down. The bullet entered below his right eye, went down his neck and round the back, and was taken out on the left side. There is some amount of loss of power in the face, but there is only a small wound. His neck was very swollen. I heard about it at Port Said. I had some things to send him, and I asked one of Third men I saw to take the things out. He said ‘Major Lewis is dead’. I then got into touch with Major Irwin of the first, who told me Lance had been badly wounded, but was going on well. I went to Headquarters, Port Said, got on the telephone, and found he was at Kantara, about an hour’s run from Said. Went down there and stayed the night, and went up with him in the hospital train to the 14th Australian General Hospital, Abassieh, Cairo, where he is under the care of Colonel Saw, from Western Australia. I sent your cable last night, and got a wire this afternoon to say Lance had had a good night. He still has a joke or two left. He said the other night he had the biggest head he had ever had, but had no fun in getting it.
Your loving son,
Brook.

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
17 January 1917
Cable from Base Records to Hon J. Lewis, Adelaide, SA
Now reported son Major Lancelot A. Lewis admitted 25th Stationary Hospital Egypt 12th January was dangerously ill 13th January gunshot wound head and right wrist now pronounced out of danger will promptly advise if anything further received. Base Records 17.1.1917
17 January 1917
Letter, photocopy of typed copy from Kath Roach in Office to Jeannie aka Jane Melrose

[Small handwritten note on corner says “From Kath, in Bagots Office, re Lance’s wounding.”]

My dear Jeannie,-

Excuse a typed note just before I pack up, but I thought you might like to see in writing all that has come through about Lance. Mr Lewis went up to the Burra on Monday night, and just after he had left a wire came from Base Records, Melbourne, as follows: - “Now reported son Major Lancelot A. Lewis wounded 9th January. Will promptly advise if anything further received”. Mr Mitchell wired Mr Lewis, to catch him on the train at Gawler. Then on Tuesday Mrs Lewis rang up to say a cable had come from Cavenagh-Mainwaring (Dr), from Cairo, saying:- “Lance wounded face and hand. Doing well”. She was annoyed because Mr Mitchell hadn’t rung her up about the wire the night before, but naturally he thought he oughtn’t to let anyone know before Mr Lewis did. Mr Mitchell rang up Burra and left word there for Mr Lewis did. Mr Mitchell rang up Burra and left word there for Mr Lewis about the cable. Then when Mr Lewis got home last night, a cable must have been waiting from Brook, from Cairo, to say: - “Seen Lance Progressing favorably” Mr Lewis seems rather worried because Brook didn’t say more, but don’t you think Dr C-M may have told him that he cabled particulars, and then those at the front don’t seem to realise how one longs for every little detail out here. I was in Mr Lewis’ room this morning, when he was speaking to you on the phone, and heard him say if a cable came tomorrow after he had left, I could ring you up, so I will. I think he has cable d Dr C-M. for further particulars. I don’t know whether Mrs Lewis is going to Pt. Lincoln too, but expect so. If she isn’t, she might get the cable and wire direct to Mr Lewis. However, I’ll ask Mr Lewis tomorrow, and if they are both going I expect he will instruct the Eastern Extension to send the cable straight here, and I’ll ring you up at once. Can guess how you must be longing for news. I’d have rung you up and told you all about it yesterday, but I didn’t know whether I ought to, and Mr Mitchell is very Scotch and thinks people ought to mind their own business. I didn’t see the cable from Brook, but Mr Lewis read it out to me. Mr Mitchell says he is wild with them for not saying more. I do hope you will get good news. I think the Base Records would have said ‘serious’ or ‘severe’ if it had been so. Hope you are having a good time down there. With much love,

Kath.

Newspaper article in full
Register 18 January 1917 page 6

MAJOR LANCE LEWIS WOUNDED. The Hon. John Lewis, M.L.C., has received a cable message from the military authorities in Egypt, stating that his son, Major Lance Lewis, was wounded on January 9. Mr. Lewis was also cabled by another son, Surgeon-Major Lewis, and Surgeon-Major Cavenagh-Mainwaring, to the effect that the injured soldier was progressing favourably. Major Lance Lewis was one of Adelaide’s most popular athletes, and his skill on the polo field and football arena (where he was a leading player for Norwood), equally with his charm of manner, won for him a host of friends and admirers.
PRG 247/48 Folder 2
18 January 1917
Casualty Form Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army from A. I. F. Hqrs Place of Casualty Abbassa Date of Casualty January 18, 1917
Reported dangerously ill.

PRG 247/54
PRG247_54_42_1
Microfiche 3 - #49
18 January 1917
Letter, typed copy, from W. R. C. Mainwaring, recently returned from England or Cairo, to Mr John Lewis, Adelaide, S.A.
Dear Mr Lewis,
I am just dropping you a line to say that I went down to see Lance, after I heard of his wound. I found him as plucky as ever, and in great heart. He had a most providential escape, and, though it is a very serious wound, and, though it is a very serious wound, and his convalescence may be a long one, there should be very little chance now of anything but his ultimate recovery. I saw many of the 3rd Light Horse men when I was down there, and they all spoke in the highest terms of his bravery and leadership in both his engagements, at Maghabela and at Raffa. I am very sorry that I had left the regiment and was not here to look after him. The first report we had was very serious, and I was greatly relieved to find him still alive, and still more so when I head his brother was with him, who will have given you full accounts of his progress since I saw him. With very best regards, Yours very sincerely,
(Sgd.) W.R.C MAINWARING

PRG 247/54/42
PRG247_54_56_1
Microfiche 4 - #16-19
19 January 1917
Letter with extracts from cables from Meimerachi in Cairo 5.45 p.m. received 9.10 a.m. 21.2.17, to Hon. John Lewis in Adelaide, and copy of extracts from Lt Roy Kidman’s letter 14th A.G. Hospital 15th January 1917 to a Miss Hammond.: John Lewis Adelaide LANCE FAR BETTER JUST SAW HIM Meimerachi received by Miss Hammond from Lt Roy Kidman, of Light Horse, slightly wounded. “Mr Lance Lewis is wounded, quite badly enough. He is in this ward.” “Poor old Lance is lying close by, with his head in bandages, but he is able to talk. He is very well liked by the men in his Squadron.”

PRG 247/54/44
PRG247_54_43_1
Microfiche 3 - #50
21 January 1917
Letter, handwritten from Nurse Jessie M. Tomlins, Officers’ Ward, No. 14 A. G. Hospital, Abassia, Egypt to Hon John Lewis, Adelaide, S.A
Dear Sir,
Your son, Major L. Lewis, has asked me to write to you, being unable to write himself. He is at present in No. 14 Hospital, suffering from the effects of wounds received on January 9th at Lafa. The bullet entered just under the right eye, and came through the lower part of the back of his neck. He has lost a good deal of blood, and consequently is very weak, but he appears to be gaining strength slowly, and is looking forward to his return to Australia. The Major sends his love, and is very sorry he cannot write to you himself, and trusts you are in good health. He is a “brick”, and adored by his men. I sincerely hope you soon have the joy of having him with you again. I am, Yours sincerely,
(Nurse) JESSIE M. TOMLINS

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
21 January 1917
Cable, from Base Records to Hon J. Lewis, Adelaide, SA
Now reported son Major Lancelot A. Lewis again dangerously ill will furnish further progress report when received. Base Records 21.1.1917

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
23 January 1917
Cable, to Hon J. Lewis, Adelaide, from SA Base Records 23.1.1917
Now reported son Major Lancelot A. Lewis still dangerously ill will furnish further progress report when received.

PRG 247/54/45
PRG247_54_44_1-2-3-4
Microfiche 3 - #51
25 January 1917
Letter, handwritten from Kath Roach in S.A. to Jeannie
My Dear Jeannie,
Mr Lewis was quite willing to send that cable When I spoke to him about it, he said “Yes, anything” so I got it away at one o’clock. They told me, being addressed to a Private Person, if it wasn’t delivered the sender would be advised at once, & nothing has come so it must have reached her, & surely there will be an answer at last. I put – Mary Meimerachi, Blockade, Khedivial Buildings, Rue Emad-el-Din, ? Cairo. (I hyphened the habie ? word, name of street, and it went as one word instead of three) Lance wounded 24th Stationary Hospital Grateful any information John Lewis. I felt sure she would at once know who “Lance” was, as he evidently knows them well. Am disappointed the matron hasn’t replied. The Red Cross information Bureau told me it is really outside their work, but sometimes they will sometimes they won’t. I put Matron 24th Stationary Hospital Cairo. Most anxious about
son Major Lancelot Lewis kindly get anything necessary I will cable draft when required Grateful for any information John Lewis. I didn’t Put Reply Paid, but she had no excuse for not answering seeing that Mr Lewis told me to say that about the draft? Whether the Base records have made a mistake in the hospital I don’t know. The Stat. hospitals in code book only go up to 14th, while there is a 24th General. However, they assure me at Eastern Extension [telegraph company] that they have had 24th Stationary H. in cables before. They are most obliging there, & never seem to mind how many questions one asks. They looked at me rather suspiciously when I took the cable add. to Mary Meimerachi & I had visions of being hauled before the censors. I volunteered the information that I thought it was a Greek name. If she doesn’t answer, I think we will have to leave the cables alone, but I can’t understand people not replying, even if the news isn’t very good, as they must understand the suspense at the other end. I told you about Mr Cope’s ? brothers being dangerously ill. He has 4 or 5 brothers at the front - I think 3 have been dangerously ill or wounded & all had the luck to get back to S.A. The one who had pneumonia in Egypt was reported “dangerously ill” then twice “dangerously ill”, then a gap until “out of danger”. Mrs Lewis and Mr ? Mitchell both have a strong presentiment that Lance will Pull throu’ alright. He certainly has a fine Constitution to back him up. Mr Lewis is feeling it very much, and I hope for his sake a ring will soon come from one of them. Everyone you speak to says “no news is good news” but I can understand it isn’t so easy to be philosophical when it is one of your own. Must go to Post. With much love, Kath

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
26 January 1917
Copy of Cable, from Base Records to Hon J. Lewis, Adelaide, SA. Date of Casualty 26 March 2017
Pronounced out of danger.

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
28 January 1917
Cable, from Base Records To Hon J. Lewis, Adelaide, SA
Now reported son Major Lancelot A. Lewis still dangerously ill will furnish further progress report when received. Base Records 28.1.1917

Newspaper article in full
Burra Record 28 February 1917 p 2
‘On active service.’ In a letter from the front it is stated that Major Lance Lewis had a terrible experience when he was wounded. The letter states that after the fight it was thought that he had been killed, and for three hours he lay amongst the bodies of his dead comrades, conscious but unable to move. Then he recovered sufficiently to crawl to a dressing tent some distance away. In the same letter it was stated that the doctors saw no reason why he should not recover.
29 January 1917
Letter, typed extract from Lieutenant Roy Kidman of 14th A. G. Hospital to Unknown.
“...I’m quite alright again. My “affairs” were never serious. Lance Lewis had a bad crack, but he is through the worst now, and is on the right road again”.

[The letter below follows on…]

[12 March 1917, Monday]
Letter, typed, from Kath Roach to Jeannie

My dear Jeannie,–

Nothing further of any description to-day. Mr Lewis didn’t get any letters from Egypt this mail. The above came in a letter from Mr Kidman to Miss Lewis, just a word or two about Lance. Mr Lewis is going over to Port Lincoln tomorrow, but I don’t know how long he is staying. Think it is on business. This afternoon Mr Lewis sent the following cable to Miss Meimerachi – “Kindly advise fully Lance’s condition. How long before able get about” I think he is beginning to wonder a bit why Lance doesn’t cable himself. Anyway, those Bass Record wires are enough to make you sick, altho’ you know very well they must be old. I wish she would cable once a week, regularly, don’t you? In haste, with love,

Kath.

31 January 1917
Letter, handwritten from W.D. Haden ? at Ranaramitre to Mrs Melrose [Jane]

Dear Mrs Melrose, I am sorry to hear of your brother Lance being wounded but was pleased to see by the papers yesterday your Father had a Cable he was doing well. I had a cable from the Military saying My Son Jimmy was wounded. Gun Shot wound left should., 9th Jany – so suppose it was same time as Lance as [illegible] He was in Lance’s lot. I have since had a Cable from Jimmy saying he is doing well; We are having a grand season up here, the feed is as green as winter had 408 ? points of rain this month, in three good steady rains a week apart. With kind regards to you Alex & the Kiddie. Yours Sincerely

W. D. Haden ?

5 February 1917
Cable from Base Records to Hon J. Lewis, Adelaide, SA
Now reported son Major Lancelot A. Lewis still dangerously ill will furnish further progress report when received. Base Records 5.2.1917

PRG 247/54/47
PRG 247_54_50_1-2-3-4
Microfiche 4 - #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9
7 February 1917
Letter, handwritten, hard to read and incomplete from Nell in England to Gin

[? Jane Melrose]
My Dear Gin, ----
\Silly ass of course I said gawd bless you when I heard that the new babe was coming, but lots of the letters go astray now I often only get one from you when the mail comes in – as it does about once every 3 weeks/
Here I am with Jess & Gill!! I came down with them! Thanks so much for sending the cable about Lance – the British Consul General got me through in half a day (it usually takes 8 to 10 days to get out of Paris) & I came straight over to find Brook & Gill both there it was jolly seeing them & Brook told me all about Lance in case you don’t see B. next time he goes out I’ll tell you – he said the poor kid was hit under the eye the bullet travelled round the inside of the cheek & came out of the back of the neck – they are not quite sure but think that horribly he has swallowed his false plate [false teeth] as well Brook says the danger is the puss getting into the lungs - he Brook arranged to have cables sent to Dad & here to him/ --- & the last cable was : Stopped haemorrhage & operate tomorrow “operation for secondary haemorrhage successful. out of danger.” so that is good – Brook says that he suffered great pain – wasn’t it topping Br getting the two days off & taking him to Cairo Lance is keen to go to Australia so I hope for his sake they will send him there - but I should like to see the kid - it is bitterly cold here can hardly hold the pen – I got a letter from one of my old canteen boys this morning -- he is right up at the front & he says that it is frightful the cold – I know in the French Army they had 7000 cases of frozen feet in a week this lad writes - I hope this finds you well as it leaves me at present – By now you that I neither took tickets or looked after the lost luggage at the Gard du Nord – I hear Dad thought it was a wet canteen - I don’t believe we even had brandy for the men who were ill. Tell Dad that canteen is the hardest war works (barring some kind of munitions ? usually the hrs in England are from 4 to 5 as you know our shortest shift was 7- on Sunday night – Brook had a party at the Piccadilly – Jess Gill - Norman – Col’s Browne & me it was great – I hadn’t seen Col; B. since he left over 2 years ago – he is the dearest thing - but seems so strange to be a lady again as everything was so rough in France – now about yr things The coat for Yvonne is yr birthday present hard luck etc ? I brought it in Paris – they wear their wee coats very short there & their gaiters go half way up their thighs & long past the knees. The hat was 12/9 – the failties ? 14/6 ) each. \all that you owe me/ the jersey was 39/6 so that will be the money you sent Paid ? & Auntie Nell for me – I left everything for Brook at the Club as I only had ½ a day to do yr shopping & Pete Robinson has promised to send the failties ?but didn’t still I expect he has them by now. The lip salve & the powder puff are with my love & the wee doll for my godchild – I may get to Wales next week – it just depends on the news of Lance – one feels so helpless here I’m sure he must [two illegible words] but Mrs Forbes had written to Gen
Peel a relation in Egypt to look after him - & also to the governor of Malta who is a cousin of hers in case he is sent there - I had tea with Bob Baker at Havre he was on his way back from leave – had a splendid voyage one cabin to myself slept all night travelled in uniform it is much easier as these days in mufte ? is like being in jail - I also chummed up with a man in the train & had lunch & dinner with him one has to wait the whole day in Havre these days he was most interesting d as he had been with the French since the beginning of the war Gunn by name - Surgeon of Trinity – he returned in the summer to lecture at Trinity. It made my blood boil to hear him tell the awful things the Germans have been doing just before he left it was so cold that the bags of hot water in the beds were frozen every night – I can quite imagine it – we had icicles [illegible word] the carriage windows all the way from Paris - & the soda water & milk like indoors was all frozen hard – the poor men. Eleanor has come so I must go – A heap of love to the lot of you so I must go – A heap of love to the lot of you, W - Nell

[you only put 1d on the letters to France when you send them BEF otherwise 2 ½]
I do hope you like the jersey – that one & the one at Sebbensons, ? at £6.6.0 were [the only two blues I liked & we tried – Peter R & Marshall & S – Dickens Jones etc. [--- letter incomplete]

PRG 247/54/48
PRG247_54_47_1-2
Microfiche 3 - #58 and #5
10 February 1917
Letter, typed, from Kath Roach in Office at Adelaide to Jeannie
My Dear Jeannie,
It was so disappointing having no news for you this morning, especially as I rang up the Eastern Extension at 10.30, and they said they had sent a boy out with a cable. We waited, and he didn’t turn up, so I rang up again, and they said they were very sorry indeed, but they had made a mistake, as it wasn’t for Mr Lewis after all. I had previously rushed upstairs and told Mr Lewis one was on the way round, so you can imagine how disappointed he was. Also May Gebhardt rang up and Miss Coglin came in, and both waited for the expected cable. I hardly think anything will come before tonight, but have rung Mrs Lewis up, and she has promised to send you a wire this afternoon, should anything come. The boys aren’t sailing until late this afternoon, so we don’t go down till about 2.30. They have lovely weather for starting on their journey. I wish I could get you somehow on Sunday, but suppose we must wait till Monday, in the hope of good news. You remember the cable that came about Lance’s wounds on Wednesday. The full cable should read “Bullet wound beneath left eye through neck and back Relapse owing to haemorrhage Slight improvement to-day Address Meimerachi Cairo – Meimerachi” Mrs Lewis came in just as the cable arrived, and she said, ‘You are not going to tell Jeannie this’. I said I had promised to tell you everything that came. She said she thought it was very wrong, and for my me to go up and ask Mr Lewis if I should send it all. He thought perhaps it was better not, and told me to leave out that sentence. I can tell you I didn’t like doing it, but I had Mr Lewis’ instructions. However, I have been worrying about it ever since, and on speaking to Miss Coglin and May Gebhardt they both think you ought to and would wish to know, especially as you told me you wished
to know **everything**. Of course, the relapse had to be due to something, and we all know that wounds are liable to break out, and I shouldn't think that was as bad as if the relapse had been due to blood poisoning. The cable before was a ‘Progressing splendidly’, and then ‘slight relapse’ so it couldn’t have been dreadfully bad. Even if Miss M. is trying to send you the very brightest side, you know she wouldn’t do it unless she had every hope of recover. The cable I sent for Mr Lewis on Thursday, and to which we are now waiting a reply was ‘Is Lance conscious Has he every comfort and medical attention’. Now you know absolutely **everything** that we do, and I’ll see that you do in future, so ? you have definitely told me that you wish to. Miss Coglin came in just after Wednesday’s cable came, about the wounds, and she read it, and told May Gebhardt, and it did seem hard that others should know what you didn’t about your own brother. Mrs Lewis always tells me to let her know when a cable arrives, and I have to, because I am dependent on her for news some mornings. If Mr Lewis [word crossed out] isn’t in the office before I ring you, I always ring her up to know if they have had anything out there. With much love,

Kath

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**PRG 247/54/49**
**PRG247_54_46_1**
**Microfiche 1 - #56**
12 February 1917

**Letter, typed, from Kath Roach in Office at Adelaide to Jeannie**

*A P. & O. boat is due tomorrow, and I think you should hear from Brook. It takes barely four weeks for a mail from Cairo. Letters probably won’t be delivered till Wednesday.]*

My Dear Jeannie,

The line is working very badly today, so at lunch time I sent you a wire with the two cables from Miss M. and hope you got same. I had a look at the dates, and found that the first one had been very much delayed in transit, as it should have arrive on Friday. Mrs Lewis very kindly rang up and left a message for me at the Hostel, and it quite cheered me up to get some good news on my return from the Outer Harbor. However, we were all terribly disappointed when the other one arrived on Sunday. They are as follows:- *Cairo 8th 10 p.m. Lance conscious Every comfort and medical attention Doctor pleased with present condition Cairo 10th 9.40 p.m. Lance had another haemorrhage. Position unsatisfactory That ‘position unsatisfactory’ is a doctor’s bulletin alright. They never believe in committing themselves, one way or another. I believe if it weren’t for the haemorrhage lance would be alright. it makes one wonder whether the wounds have broken out again, or whether the bullet touched the lung. There is nothing further yet, but will ring up Eastern Extension before I call Mintaro at 5.30. suppose I’d better not leave it later than that. I am sorry you had such a wait this morning. I order for a time. Hoping for better news tomorrow. Much love, [in handwriting] Kath*

*[In her handwriting] Nothing further. Rang up Eastern Ex.*

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**PRG247/54**
**PRG247_54_48_1**
12 February 1917
Letter, copy, from the Chas. A. Edmunds, Hon Secretary, Australian Red Cross Information Bureau, Verco Buildings, North Terrace, Adelaide to Honorable John Lewis, M.L.C., c/o Messrs Bagot, Shakes & Lewis, Adelaide, S.A.
Microfiche 4 - #1. Letter 50.
Dear Sir,—Major L. Lewis, 3rd Light Horse,
In regard to your enquiry through this Bureau relative to the above soldier, we beg to advise the receipt of a cable from the Red Cross Commissioners informing us that Major Lewis, who is in the 14th Australian General Hospital, dangerously ill, suffering from gunshot wound in the chest, is improving. The cable was despatched on the 8th February. Any further information received will be immediately communicated to you.
Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.)
CHAS. A. EDMUNDS,
Honorary Secretary.

PRG 247/54/51
PRG247_54_49_1
Microfiche 4 - #2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
13 February 1917
Letter, typed, from Kath Roach in Office at Adelaide, S.A. to Jeannie
My dear Jeannie,—
I got your letter at mid-day, and quite agree with all you say. I'd feel that way myself, and you can depend on me to let you know everything I can get hold of. I always like to have a quiet survey of the cables myself, to get dates &c., as Mrs L. has a habit of leaving out or putting in a word when she quotes them on the telephone. This afternoon's cable (which I repeated to your postmistress) was dated Cairo, 7 p.m. 12th LANCES CONDITION STATIONARY — MEIMERACHI and the one which was delivered first thing this morning was dated Cairo, 2.55 p.m. 12th —MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY — LANCE LEWIS to which Mr Lewis replied — (this morning) THANKS HOW ARE YOU DOING ALL WELL — JOHN LEWIS I might mention that those few words don’t express his state of mind at getting a cable from Lance himself. He was overjoyed, but tried to hide it, of course. We were all delighted to think that Lance was well enough to know the date, and remember Mr Lewis’ birthday. Surely that is a good sign. I think it is wonderful. Mrs H. has just been in to write out a wire to send to Frank, with a bulletin re Lance, which she has asked him to hand to Pascoe!!!!! We were surprised to get the enclosed letter from the Red Cross people to-day. As far as anybody seems to know, the only enquiry made was when I rang up, when you first knew Lance was wounded, and before you thought of Miss M. However, Mr Lewis has thanked them for it, and said he would be pleased to receive any further information they get. Of course, the wound in chest is wrong, but I wonder whether he is really at that hospital, and not the 24th Stationary. That might account for you getting no replies from the Matron and Doctor, and also your cable. I sent Mr Lewis’ cable to Lance to-day addressed c/o Miss M., to make sure. The Base Records certainly said 24th Stationary, but you can imagine a mistake might have been made. To-day Mr Lewis told me to write and thank Miss Meimerachi, and he would sign it. Well, I didn’t quite know what to say, but I feel sure you will have written to her yourself, with any details. Isn’t this weather awful. Thank goodness I’ve got a fan in my
I think the cable received tonight was quite satisfactory, don’t you, seeing it is so soon after the other. May Gebhardt said they thought perhaps these hemorrhages might be caused by another bullet trying to work it’s way out. With much love,

Kath.

———

Dear Miss Meimerachi,—

I have to thank you most sincerely for your great kindness in keeping me informed as to Lance’s condition. We have been able to obtain no further information from the Military department, beyond a cable each week stating that he is still dangerously ill, and your cables have done much to relieve our anxiety. We cabled both to the Principal Medical Officer and the Matron of the Hospital (24th Stationary) and received no reply to same, and then my daughter, Mrs Melrose, remembered that Lance had received much hospitality and kindness at the hands of your family, and we thought perhaps you would be good enough to make enquiries concerning Lance. I have no doubt Mrs Melrose has written you herself. You must please excuse a type-written letter, but as the years go on, my writing is not what it used to be. Again thanking you most gratefully, and trusting soon to hear of a decided improvement in Lance’s condition. With kind regards, I am, Yours sincerely,

———

Now reported son Major Lancelot A. Lewis still dangerously ill. Base Records 15.2.1917

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My Dear Jeannie,

I sent the wire off to Miss Coglin, & expect she will be in to see me tomorrow. Have just written suggesting she comes after 11.30, in case there is anything else you want.

Expect you remember Saturday’s Cable alright – Cairo 10.30 P.M. 16th.

Lance’s condition satisfactory – Meimerachi , I can tell you everyone was pleased. Even the Eastern Extension [telegraph company] repeated it a quarter of an hour before their messenger arrived with it, a thing they’ve never done before in office hours. Expect they
remembered the last news wasn’t good. Mr Lewis told Mr Johnston he’d received the best news he’s had since Lance was wounded. I think that was really comparative with what had come before, as last Sunday’s Cable flattened him terribly. He couldn’t even open this one himself, altho’ he knew what was in it, but told me to. I can tell you I heaved a sigh of relief when I saw it in Printing. Nell Lewis came up to my room & gave me the message from the Eastern Extension & of course I immediately rushed upstairs & told Mr. Lewis. Then in the 15 minutes before the boy arrived with the cable. I worried all the time in case E. Mel L. had taken the message wrongly and it was really unsatisfactory: of course I had to go down & drive her into a Perfect fume with my doubts!! However, all’s well that ends well. I hardly thought they would have rung up if it had been bad news.

Mr John Melrose had been in to enquire before the cable arrived, so Mr Lewis sent a note to him at the South Australian. He says there are the most extraordinary rumours about Lance’s condition at the Burra. However, knowing the Burra, that’s not to be wondered at. Now, this is just to give you a solemn warning not to blame me if Brook Passes Egypt without enquiring! Of course, I didn’t air my views on the subject to Mr Lewis, but I certainly agree with him that it isn’t necessary. Anyway, I’d think it the strangest thing I’d ever heard of if he were near & didn’t enquire. He saw Lance & knew he was severely wounded, & I wouldn’t be a bit surprised if he cabled from England for a report. Guess he would if Nell had any say in the matter. If they call at Alexandria probably he could get leave & run down to Cairo, even if it meant training to Suez & rejoining the boat there. However, you do what you think is right. Wouldn’t it be great if Lance could only come out with him! But probably that is too much to expect: Egypt will be getting very hot soon, & no place for invalids. Malta is better. Yes, I quite agree that Mrs H. means well, & I hope & fully expect she criticises my funny6 little ways as much as I do hers, but when she sat on my table & explained about “Condition Stationary” & that it is really want of knowledge on the Past of ordinary folk & that Dr Scott motored her to the hospital & explained all about it &c. &c. “but I can’t make Dad believe that” I smiled a smile. Anyway, I’ve been contradicted by him myself when I know I’m right! I’m sure it would make a difference at Benacre having someone else to talk to, & she often comes into the office with Eileen Harper, so perhaps she is staying there too, & Mr Lewis likes all that family, doesn’t he. Believe she told me one day to tell you Rob’s? Eileen is coming up to see you some time.No, I’m not worrying about the “Jenny Bee”? She didn’t call at the Coast? on her last trip with the troops, but stood off & a boat went out & got the mail &c. so we’re hoping for letters next week. I think it is quite right to keep back wires & cables &c. when it’s in the interests & the safety of the troops. Hoping for continued good news from “that Italian Person” \(T’s\) latest name for her\)/ Much love,

Kath

PRG 247/54/53
PRG247_54_53_1
Microfiche Number Four #1 – 60

19 February 1917

Letter, typewritten copy from Sidney Kidman at Menzies Hotel, Melbourne to [Hon John Lewis] S.A. PRG 247/54/16 See also PRG247_54_54_1 27 December 1916 Notes, handwritten, on reverse of Sydney Kidman’s typed letter dated 19 February 1917,
Dear Mr Lewis,

I am writing you just a few lines re your son Lance. I heard Lance had been wounded. I hope and trust not bad. Lance one Australia's finest and best soldiers. I have always been proud your son Lance. A brave fine man, no better. Mr Jeffrey told me he was wounded. I have known Lance from a boy. All my wish is may God bless him and save him from harm, and he is not seriously wounded. I know what a blow it would be to many more nearer and dearer to him than I am. I am one many who admire, and I know you are proud of him. So you should be. I am proud him myself. Your sons are a great credit to you and our and their Country. With kind regards. Trusting he improving. Yours sincerely, (Sgd.)
SIDNEY KIDMAN.

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
20 February 1917
Cable, from Base Records to Hon J. Lewis, Adelaide, SA
Now reported son Major Lancelot A. Lewis still dangerously ill Base Records 20.2.1917

PRG247_54_55_1-2
20 February 1917
Microfiche Number Four #1 – 60, 17
Letter, handwritten with Crown letterhead from John Lewis to Jane.
Dear Jane,
I have just got a cable from Cairo as follows 19 Feb = Lance far better just saw him = "Miemerachi" I think this is the most satisfactory cable we have had – Essington has gone through to Port Pirie and expects to be returning to Melbourne about the End of the week or the beginning of next week – so I thought if you send Norm down he can stay at Benacre – until Essington returns – Miss Roach is sending you copy of some letters O heard from various people our Phone is going all day and half the Night. So today I sent word to the Papers that he Lance was much better – With love Your Faithfull Father
John Lewis.

PRG 247/54/54
PRG247_54_57_1-2
Microfiche 4 - #20
22 February 1917, Thursday
Letter, typed, from Kath Roach at Office in Adelaide, S.A. to Jeannie
My dear Jeannie,–
I didn’t send your cable at lunch time, because I thought I’d first tackle Mr Lewis, to see if I could get it through without any cost to you. I told him you thought it would be nice to send Lance a cable to let him know how pleased you all were to hear he was better, and he said, yes, send one, so I asked if I could sign it Jane & John Lewis, but he said there was no need for that, it was only wasting words, I could say 'all pleased', and that would do. I think he wanted it to come from him. I've added 'love from all' on my own responsibility, as it will
only cost him 1/8½d. a word, and when you are away from home and ill you appreciate anything like that, also Lance told the nurse to send his love. Mr Lewis told me what to say as far as the rest of it goes:-- Lance Lewis, c/o Meimarach, Cairo “Very pleased hear you are doing so well Trust will continue improve Love from all – John Lewis –So I didn’t send one from you at all, but if you would still like me to, let me know. I thought the love from all would include all the family. Really ‘love from all’ will cost him more than ‘Jane &’, but still, I think he just wanted to sign it himself. Am enclosing the letter from Brook, and one from the Nurse. Wasn’t it a nice letter. It has been answered. Mr Lewis told me to-day that they really thought Lance was dead when they carried him away to a sheltered spot, as they took all his papers &c. However, 3 hours after (not ¾) he regained consciousness and made his own way back to the dressing station. My word, he deserves to get better. He has his Father’s spirit and determination. I think all this must have been in young Crase’s letter. I think Nell’s photo is beautiful, but Pa Smith (with whom I open the mail) says he hates it, and it’s not nearly good enough for her. “She’s a nice looking girl, Nellie”. Well, I love it. Will take it to Wiggs tonight, and get them to send to Mr Lewis when ready. About that other little snap-shot of her, Mr Mitchell says he doesn’t remember seeing it, but the next time Mr L. is away, he’ll let me go through one of his cupboards with him (Mr Mitchell) and try and find it. I remember seeing it on his table. He showed it to me, and also a letter from Nell. I had a letter delivered here to-day in Bagot’s mail addressed to Miss Kathleen Roach, Adelaide, South Australia. Wasn’t that wonderful! Pa Smith says there’s nothing wonderful about it, seeing what a notorious character I am. Anyway, when I’m at the cable office tonight, I’m going in to the G.P.O. [General Post Office] to compliment them. It was from the officer Eric [Kath’s brother Eric Roach was killed in action in 1918] went away with 2½ years ago, and with whom he was for 6 months on Gallipoli. Then he was put in a new Machine Gun Company, while Eric stayed with the 3rd M.G.Coy. He’s won the military cross, and been mentioned in dispatches two or three times. Well, each Xmas I’ve just sent him Xmas wishes and wishing him luck, and signing myself Eric Roach’s sister, K. R. I’ve purposely just headed the paper Adelaide, so that he wouldn’t think I expected an answer, because I didn’t, but I always feel interested in all the old original 10th, and I knew from what Eric said he was a decent officer to them. Well, this Xmas he thought he’d answer my greetings, and see if by some wonderful chance the letter might find me. He’s a Victorian, but left from here. He told me (such a nice letter) that his wife is now staying at Gilberton, and gave me the address and asked me to go and see her, if I would care to, which of course I will. He speaks of Eric as ‘one of his old veterans’. Well, I must wind off. I do hope all your news will be satisfactory now. Much love, Kath.

I couldn’t hear you very well to-day.
Letter, typed, from Kath Roach in Office in Adelaide S.A. to Jeannie.

My dear Jeannie,—I was most happy to be able to be able to send you a wire this afternoon, and hope someone happened to call, and that you will get it tonight. This is the cable:—Cairo 28th 10.35 p.m. Adel. 1st 2.5 p.m. SAW LANCE YESTERDAY IMPROVING DAILY.

MEIMERACHI—Needless to say, everyone is very pleased. It’s a pity I sent that cable this morning “Is Lance still improving”, but I thought you were beginning to worry a bit, and anyway, it will let her see that you like plenty of news. Mr Lewis hardly thought it was necessary to send it, but he thought it rather extraordinary that he hadn’t heard anything further, and said I could send it. It’s nice to think Miss M. can go and see Lance, and she will tell him that she is keeping you posted with news, so he won’t worry. Brook couldn’t have gone that way. However, I should think it’s certain Lance will be sent home soon, for furlough, at any rate. I’ll ring up as usual tomorrow, unless I hear otherwise, but now that Lance is doing so well, I expect you won’t go in every day, but will give Freddie a rest at home. Mr Lewis asked me the other day who was paying for all these telephone calls. I said Bagots, so he told me to find out what the cost was and he would pay. I knew that wasn’t necessary, seeing Lance is a member of the staff, but mentioned the matter to Mr Eaton, and he said it was quite alright. I think T.’s frugal mind must have been worrying over the matter, as the same morning Mr Lewis mentioned it to me, she came in during the afternoon and said “I suppose you’re not ringing Jeannie up every day now?” If anything special comes just before mail time, and too late to send a wire, I expect I could always ring up and leave a message with your postmistress. Mr Lewis told me to send a note to Essie to let him know about Lance, also one to Mrs H., so that she can let the Burra people know, and I’ll send a line to May tonight, as I suppose it will get her before you can write. Also rang up the Sangsters, and they were delighted. Ida and I are going out to Zoe’s to tea tonight, so will be able to tell them. Wiggs sent round Nell’s photo yesterday. I took it up to Mr Lewis room, but he wasn’t there. When I went up later with some letters, I asked him if he had got Nellie’s photo, but he didn’t bite. I’d have liked to have seen what it looked like framed, but he said he’d look at it later. I think he was copying a letter I typed to the Governor. He wrote Mr Lewis such an awfully nice letter, had just heard about the dangerous illness of his gallant son Lance, &c., &c., and he and Lady Galway extended their sincerest sympathy to Mr & Mrs Lewis, &c. &c. He dictated a reply to me, but I was hoping he would write it himself. I can always read his writing, although he seems to think it is so bad. Anyway, it looks better than type for anything like that. I received the cheque this morning, including Miss Coglin’s 10/-, thanks very much. No, I wasn’t reduced to borrowing from the firm. Mr Mitchell is always a very present help in time of trouble, if I happen to need any extra. You sent 1/- too much, but I suppose that was for the wire I sent Miss Coglin. I’m not sure that it cost that much, however Mr Mitchell rang Mr Crase up yesterday, but he was out, so he came around this morning, and said he’s getting his typist to copy off two interesting letters for you, and will you please return the copies to him afterwards. Suppose he shows them to a good many, and the original letters are apt to get a bit worn out with much handling, as they’re usually
written in pencil. He’s going to send the originals around for Mr Mitchell to read tomorrow, and said I can see them too. His son has been Lance’s orderly for a long time. If a wire comes now from the Military ‘now pronounced out of danger’ I expect your cup of bliss will be full. Well, it has been a simply rotten time for you, and I sincerely hope Lance won’t have to go back again. Much love,
Kath.

PRG 247/54/56
PRG257_54_46_2
PRG 247 Series 54 Microfiche 3 - #57. Incomplete. Letter 56.
1 March, 1917, ca?
Letter, typed extract, torn with handwritten note, from Kath Roach at Office in Adelaide

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Mr Lewis said Mr Crase came to see him to-day, and brought his son’s letter, all about the battle, and that it was most interesting. He said that Lance became unconscious when wounded, and that he and three others carried him ¾ mile back, and then had to put him down and leave him behind a little sand hillock. About ¾ hour later, Lance regained consciousness and made his own way back to the dressing station. Wasn’t that wonderful. Mr Crase always has a pleasant smile for me when he comes in, and I knew him and the family when I lived with the Brummitt’s, so if I get half a chance, I’ll ask him to let me make a copy of that letter for you, or at any rate, the part about Lance. I think You will appreciate Mr Kidman’s letter. I copied it exactly as it is so characteristic of him. Mr Lewis was quite touched to get it, I think, as Mr Kidman isn’t usually so free with his praise of anyone. All the letters have been answered, also one from Mr A. Treloar of Bimbowie, but I didn’t bother to copy that. It evidently is the 14th Australian General Hospital, as the Red Cross people said, and seeing Roy Kidman headed his letter the same.
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--- not writing! much love,
Kath.”

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
5 March 1917
Cable, from Base Records to Hon J. Lewis, Adelaide, SA
Now reported son Major Lancelot A. Lewis still dangerously ill

5 March 1917
Letter, handwritten to Gin at The Empress Club, 35, Dover Street, Piccadilly W. from Nell

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What can I say to comfort you when I just feel heartbroken poor little Lancey boy he must be making a great fight for it, but it’s just two months since he was hit, it’s most
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PRG 247 Series 48, 50 and 54 Lance Lewis World War One papers
ghastly waiting here - & getting so little news altogether Mrs Taplin & I sent five cables last week & only got ‘one/a-return one yesterday, The cable had been cut – Havent you be[en] feeling that if you could only be near him to help we’ll just have to pray hard that he will win through. I had a sad note from Paddy - she poor kid had been operated on for her glands

PRG247_54_59_2

’ve no one seems to escape these days – Colin Duncan is still very ill & the Drs are all puzzled – it was guessing at first: but so many complications have followed – I stay here nearly all day waiting for news. If you haven’t sent him ? money – don’t until you hear again – as no-one is allowed to advertise now which knocks our scheme pretty well out - so unless you hear again don’t send it I did wrong to thank you

PRG247_54_59_3

so much as I bet you both were going to – this week so many rules & regulations have come out but it will be almost impossible to start anything for instance I did the shopping on Sat for our flat (there are five of us) I was only allowed ½ coffee ½ tea ½ sugar - & only if I bought other groceries & potatoes if I bought something else heaps of days we cant get sugar at all. Flemmings prices are now exactly double to when you and Tav were here. If this tea shop isn’t carried through – I’ll take

PRG247_54_59_5

’ve a paid job somewhere Munitions or something else Mr Taplin is cabling to a friend of his today to ask particulars, as all they send is Major Lewis still dangerously ill. I’m going to send him out a little hamper tomorrow. How we would fuss over him if we were nearer – do you remember the first day he was allowed meat after his bad throat in [the Burra house]

PRG247_54_59_6

May bought some fish & sausages – didn’t he just enjoy them – You’ll have all the satisfaction of looking after him & making him strong because in one cable [they?] said “will send him to Australia as soon as fit”. Look here Kid get some stuff called Panopeptin [made from prime lean beef and wheat] it is American & take it yrself 3 times a day it is marvellous stuff & will do you a world of good - Send ? a heap of love to you three from Nell.

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
8 March 1917
Cable, from Base Records to Hon J. Lewis, Adelaide, SA
Major Lancelot A. Lewis still dangerously ill. Base Records 8.3.1917

PRG 247/54/57
PRG247_54_60_1
Microfiche 4 - #34, 35, 36
9 March 1917
Letter, typed, from Kath Roach at Office in Adelaide S.A. to Jeannie
My dear Jeannie,—
Nothing whatever to-day. Hope there will be one from Miss M. tomorrow, although of course no news is good news. I think it is evident the Base Records ones are very much delayed. What a time you are having at present, with one thing and another. You must have heaved a sigh of relief when you knew the result of Yvonne’s swab. I got a throat like that last winter, and made sure the white patch was diphtheria, as we’ve had it in our family several times, but Dr Mayo took a swab and it wasn’t, only an ulcerated throat. Mother had has dip. twice. What a pity it’s going about up there, you will feel so nervous, but you are well isolated at Kadlunga, and the dose of anti-toxine ought to stop anything now. Birdie was in just now, with one of Stan’s photos for me. Mother sent me the Rag this week, with account of his farewell. It’s such a nice photo, the image of Annie (not in a sulky mood). He just looks as fat and good tempered as he can be. Yes, he is going with Frank Sangster and George Melrose and that lot this afternoon. Birdie didn’t feel like going down to the train, but wasn’t quite sure Auntie Lou would be there, but it must be hard for poor old Birdie. Sometimes when I talk to her about Eric and Keith, I think she must be thinking “oh! shutup. What do I care for others”, but perhaps everybody isn’t as nasty as I am. The other day we didn’t get any mail from either of the boys, and a youngster here heard me bewailing the fact, and came and told me about six times how many letters his sister had got from her young man that mail. I could have pushed his face in, to use a Benacre expression. We had a cable from old John on Tuesday, dated Colombo 3rd, just the one word ‘Well’. I’ve heard of crowds who got the same cable from their boys on the “Seang Bee”. I simply couldn’t understand them being allowed to cable, as they even hold letters back, and never allow cables, and now when there is double need for caution, all these come through. However, I see in this morning’s paper that a raider, with guns, torpedo tubes and seaplane was operating on the trade route between Colombo and Aden on 27th February, 4 days before our cable, so am wondering if the “Seang Bee” had any sort of a brush with her. Anyway, we’ve got the cable ‘Well’, and may be sure they’ll hand the S.B. up at Colombo if there’s any danger. Expect you remember the “Emden” met her end when Eric and Lance and all the first lot were near Colombo. We didn’t dream John would be going that way, but it’s a much more interesting trip for them, thro’ the Canal. No signs of any expeditionary mail yet, but sure to be some thro’ the morning. Am hoping perhaps Miss Meimerachi will have written to Mr Lewis. I said to Mr Lewis this morning “Don’t you ever fell inclined to go over and see Lance?” He spoke as if he had given the matter a thought, but said he didn’t want to go there and excite Lance or anything like that, but I think when you are ill, it’s some of your own that you want to see. However, let’s hope he will be well enough to start for home before the four weeks it would take Mr Lewis to get there. I don’t know about those mares, but think it’s probably our Mr Lewis. Perhaps he’s bought them for some of his stations, to breed from. I know he wired over for a catalogue of yearlings to be offered at some sale. I can just imagine May’s feelings when Mrs Beaven said that, but I expect she just said it to be a bit catty, as probably Mrs H. amuses them up there by her airs of proprietorship over Lance. I don’t know that amuses is quite the word, they all pull her to pieces, but whatever her faults may be, she isn’t catty herself, and she’s quite harmless and goodnatured, and I believe awfully kindhearted. Am enclosing a spasm I had from her, as Mr Lewis told me to write and let her know about the last good news of Lance. I think you might say she suffers from temperament. She told me she loves to compose poetry when she’s washing dishes, or turning out rooms, but Frank hates her doing it. I suppose he reckons she’s apt to make a
fool of herself. She asked Mother if she could come up one afternoon and read some of her poetry to her. I told Mother I didn’t know how she could bear it. Yes, those were splendid letters from young Crase, but disgustingly typed – not the fault of the typist, but the machine, I think. My word, you ought to be proud of Lance, all the splendid things that have been said about him. I rather smiled at the kid saying “I wished he would keep down a bit, as I had to follow wherever he went” or something to that effect. I think the Crases are both nice boys. This must be the younger one, as I think Vin is on the land somewhere. Believe Mrs Crase is a half sister of Paris Nesbit. With love to yourself and Miss Coglin, and hoping Yvonne has quite recovered.

Kath.

PRG247_54_60_1
Microfiche Number Four #1 – 60 Letter 34
9 March 1917, Friday
Letter, typed, from Kath Roach at Office in Adelaide SA to Jeannie
My Dear Jeannie,
Nothing whatever today. Hope there will be one from Miss M. tomorrow, although of course no news is good news. I think it is evident the Base Records ones are very much delayed. What a time you are having at present, with one thing and another. You must have heaved a sigh of relief when you knew the result of Yvonne’s swab. I got a throat like that last winter, and made sure the white patch was diphtheria, as we’ve had it in our family several times, but Dr Mayo took a swab and it wasn’t, only an ulcerated throat. Mother has had dip. twice. What a pity it’s going about up there, you will feel so nervous, but you are well isolated at Kadlunga, and the dose of anti-toxine ought to stop anything now.

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at Colombo if there's any danger. Expect you remember the “Emden” met her end when Eric and Lance and all the first lot were near Colombo. We didn’t dream John would be going that way, but it’s a much more interesting trip for them, thro’ the Canal. No signs of any expeditionary mail yet, but sure to be some thro’ by the morning. Am hoping perhaps Miss Meimerachi will have written to Mr Lewis. I said to Mr Lewis this morning “Don’t you ever feel inclined to go over and see Lance?” He spoke as if he had given the matter a thought, but said he didn’t want to go there and excite Lance or anything like that, but I think when you are ill, it’s some of your own that you want to see. However, let’s hope he will be well enough to start for home before the four weeks it would take Mr Lewis to get there. I don’t know about those mares, but think it’s probably our Mr Lewis. Perhaps he’s bought them for some of his stations, to breed from. I know he wired over for a catalogue of yearlings to be offered at some sale.

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Kath

12 March 1917
Letter, handwritten from Mary Meimerachi at Khedivial Blgs A. Cairo to Mrs Jane Melrose
Dear Mrs Melrose,
Your letter just reached me, and thank you for it. Yes, Lance is one of our very best friends, and the nicest dearest boy in the world. I quite imagine your anxiety, and am glad to have been able to relieve it in some little way. It is nearly two months Lance came in wounded. As I wired to your Father—he got the bullet just beneath the right eye and through the neck. The wounded was not serious in itself, but worst luck it cut an artery, and so causes these terrible hemorrhages. Immediately he picks up some strength the artery breaks open, and all he
gained in days he loses in a few seconds, and so on. When better he is in wonderful spirits, and we go to see him as often as the Doctor allows it. He never ceases talking of his dear Dad, and Mrs Melrose, we pray fervently that your brother may be spared to you, and our sympathy for you, who are so very far away, is great indeed. He has the best of medical attendance, and all that can be done is done for him. Now it is a question of endurance and (?) strength, and we hope he'll be able to bear the weakness every time a hemorrhage comes on. How I wish we could soon wire “Out of Danger” to you, God helping we might.

Written at top of page, upside down /With kindest regards Yours very sincerely /

Mary Meimarachi

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**PRG247_54_62_1**

**Microfiche 4 - #39**

**12 March 1917, Monday**

**Letter, typed, from Kath Roach to Jeannie**

My dear Jeannie,—

Nothing further of any description to-day. Mr Lewis didn’t get any letters from Egypt this mail. The above came in a letter from Mr Kidman to Miss Lewis, just a word or two about Lance. Mr Lewis is going over to Port Lincoln tomorrow, but I don’t know how long he is staying. Think it is on business. This afternoon Mr Lewis sent the following cable to Miss Meimerachi—“Kindly advise fully Lance’s condition. How long before able get about” I think he is beginning to wonder a bit why Lance doesn’t cable himself. Anyway, those Bass Record wires are enough to make you sick, altho’ you know very well they must be old. I wish she would cable once a week, regularly, don’t you? In haste, with love,

Kath.

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**PRG 247/54/59**

**PRG247_47_63_1-2**

**Microfiche 4 - # 40, 41**

**13 March 1917**

**Letter from Gilbert [Lance’s brother] to Jane**

My dear Jane

I expect you are very worried about Lance & so are we. Our last news was a cable dated 3rd inst saying he was still dangerously ill & when better would be sent to Australia. He has had a very bad time of it & lets hope by now he is well on his way to recovery. Your last letter dated 8th Jany was forwarded by Gin a few days ago the first one from you that I have seen for ages By the time this reaches you there will I suppose be another mouth to feed so I will congratulate you now. Normo seems to have had a thoroughly good time with you at Victor Harbour. Is Charlie Sangster still in the Band down there? The heavy frost & snow have disappeared now but we still have odd days of bad weather—however the Spring is at hand & things ought to continue to improve I wonder what the next few months will bring forth One thing is certain & that is that the people in England will have a poor time as regards foodstuffs etc. Mrs Bell is still in these parts & I go in to see her now & again. The “Times” says that the India Office are going to antidate our promotions & give us the full pay of our
new ranks which we have not yet received. That will mean my majority dating from 1st Sept 1915 & getting the pay of that rank from 1st Sept 1916 so there will be 6 months back pay to draw. Nell is waiting on in London to get news of Lance. She talks about taking up a paid job of some sort, but it’s no use my writing about her as she writes so often herself. Jin & the youngsters are flourishing & I hope you are all fit & well. Best love from Gilbert.

PRG 54, Letter 61
PRG247_54_64_1-2
13 March 1917
Letter, typed, from Kath Roach at Office in Adelaide S.A. to Jeannie Melrose

My dear Jeannie,—

I rang up to ask your Postmistress to tell the boy to wait for a wire, or if Alex came for the mail, to ask him to speak. I had already sent the wire, in case it was the boy. In case of any mistakes, I’ll repeat it again:—

Cairo 12th 10.20 p.m.
Adel. 13th 10.58 a.m.
Relapses owing to hemorrhages. Bullet passing through neck out artery. When Lance picks up strength blood pressure breaks open artery. Did not wire before as Lance had another relapse. At present improving but condition still serious. Mr Lewis has this morning sent the following cable (the copy is up on his table, so I may be a word out, but this is practically word for word):—Would it not be possible to operate and tie artery. Feel sure Lance is having every attention but as a Father I am anxious. Can you confer with Principal Medical Officer and tell him spare no expense. It does seem hard that Lance’s very returning strength is his undoing. I expect his physical condition improves more rapidly than the wound in that rotten climate, and he is so big and strong that he could take plenty of nourishment. I expect they will keep his diet very low now, and try to be slow and sure. I am sorry I didn’t wire the Base Records message on Saturday morning, but thought it must be old, as I quite made sure Miss Meimerachi would immediately cable and relapse. I expect she gets quite down herself at having to disappoint Mr Lewis so often with these relapses, and thought she would wait and see this time. Mr Lewis has just gone off to Port Lincoln. I think it is some business in connection with the Tapleys. If there is anything further tomorrow morning, I will ring up and ask for Alex. To speak when he comes for the mail. If there is no message with the Postmistress, you will understand there is nothing further through up till then, but after 12 noon, I’ll wire anything, up to 6 o’clock. Mind you don’t come down again, as there may be nothing. If it is anything important, after 12 o’clock, will prepay delivery. With much love, Kath.

In case of just an ordinary wire, I won’t prepay delivery, as I daresay you can manage to send a boy down before 6 o’clock. In her handwriting 5 p.m. Another Base Records just arrived, same as all the others. Mr Mitchell thought it wouldn’t be as late or any later than Miss M’s, so didn’t wire you, especially as it mightn’t have got thro’ before your office closed.
Lance Lewis wounded at Battle of Rafa
Newspaper article
Burra Record 21 March 1917 p 3
The Battle of Rafa. By a Burra Boy in Egypt.
From a Burra boy, serving with the 3rd Light Horse regiment, in Egypt:- I guess you have read about the Battle of Rafa, but you have no idea what it was really like. The other fight we had at Magdaba was nothing to this one. We tried to send a cable the next day to say Major Lewis was wounded and that the rest of us were alright, but they wouldn't allow it for some reason or other. Now I'll tell you about our poor old leader, Major Lewis. He was shot somewhere near his right eye and the bullet came out through the back of his neck and he was also hit in the arm (I think) ; he got an awful smack and it left a big hole in his neck, but we heard yesterday that he was getting along tip-top. So we all hope it is correct, but I don't think we will ever get him back with us again, worse luck. It's very hard for us as we all reckon he was the best man in the first Brigade and you can guess that's saying something. He's a 'bonzer' in my opinion, and we will never get another like him to lead us. When it comes to the real dinkum fight he's as cool as can be, and when he did anything he always knew what he was about.

Now a bit about the scrap. ........

Major Lewis was shot just before we got the order to 'retire.' Two or three lifted him on to Vernon Nichols' shoulders and he got him back about 25 yards and then was hit himself. Just fancy lying down for a couple of hours, with scores of bullets, just missing you, and big shells bursting just in front and behind. We wouldn't have lost so many men if we had gone straight up to the Turks' trenches, but that wasn't our part of the job. The 3rd Regiment had more men killed and wounded than any other regiment in the division and 'A' Squadron, more than any squadron, and No. 1 Troop more than any troop. I had a couple of close ones myself before we advanced the last time. I was taking aim and I got one flop in the wrist. I thought it was gone but when I looked the bullet had hit my watch and just grazed the skin. Needless to say I am minus a nice little wristlet watch. I think the Turks have been driven out of Egypt. The Taubes pay us a visit nearly every day but have not dropped any bombs. They are not too dangerous as they fly at a terrific height.

PRG 247/54/62
PRG247_54_65_1
26 March 1917
Letter, typed, from Kath Roach in Office, Adelaide,S.A. to Jeannie
My dear Jeannie,—
News continues to be good, doesn't it? The latest cable was dated from Cairo late on Saturday night, and phoned to Benacre on Sunday —"LANCE ALWAYS IMPROVING" It sounded rather queer at first, the wording of it, but it seems to mean that every time she enquires, he is 'improving'. I expect you are just about holding your breath nowadays, hoping not to hear of any more relapses. It will be 11 weeks tomorrow since he was wounded. Mr
Lewis had a letter from the Red Cross this morning, just to confirm their phone message of Saturday, that their Commissioners had cabled that, on enquiry, Major Lewis was reported to be still dangerously ill, but steadily improving. No date mentioned in the letter, but they told Mr Lewis on Saturday that the cable was dated 21st March. Of course, it may have been some days before that the enquiry was made, as they told me they always cable at soldiers’ rates, and sometimes they take a week to come through. No base Records wire through since about the 14th, I think. Did you notice the letter in Register to-day, taken from Burra Rag, about the battle of Rafa, and a good deal about Lance? We thought it was a very descriptive letter. Don’t know who the boy is. Was wondering whether it might be Reg Sandland. With much love,
Kath.

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/37
28 March 1917
Telegram, photocopy, handwritten, from [Kath ?] Roach, Adelaide Rly, Adelaide SA to Mrs Melrose, Kadlunga, Mintaro per Postmaster-General’s Department, S. Australia
Base records wire 27th Major Lancelot Lewis pronounced out of danger. Roach”

PRG 247 Series 54
PRG247_54_66_1
Microfiche Number Four #1 – 60 Letter 46
28 March 1917, Wednesday
Letter, typed, torn off lower part, from Kath Roach in Office at Adelaide SA to Jane
My Dear Jeannie,
At Last !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
I sent a wire this morning to let you know Lance was ‘pronounced out of danger’ in case Alex. wasn’t there at mail time, and also thought you’d like to have it in writing, so busted up 9th of yours that I had. I nearly swore when I saw that pink envelope in my mail basket this morning for Mr Lewis, from Vic. I know them so well now, and I thought it must be the same news as the wire we got yesterday morning. Showed it to Mr Mitchell, and told him he could ring up Benacre if he liked. However, he reckoned I could do it (we both thought it was bad news). Mr Lewis answered the phone himself, and told me to open and read it to him. Truly, I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw it. When yesterday’s came, I fully made up my mind Lance must have had another relapse, I don’t know why. Alex. didn’t seem to think so when I spoke to him. Evidently yesterday’s was a delayed one. You can’t help wondering if there was any different treatment after Mr Lewis’ cable asking couldn’t they tie the artery. I hope they told lance they sent this news. He would be so pleased for all your sakes. I rang Jack Hooper and asked him to tell Zoe, and also the Sangsters at Brighton. Joy was out, but someone took the message for Mrs S., the maid, I suppose. I didn’t write to May, because I know you keep her posted. Well, everyone is delighted, and I can imagine the feelings of his own family, and I hope you will have him out with you before long, for a spell, at any rate. I shall think it little short of wicked if they keep him there, after 11 weeks of dangerous illness. [Letter torn off here, words missing] wish for …..
PRG 247/54/63
PRG247_54_67_1
Microfiche 4 - #48
30 March 1917, Friday
Letter, typed, from Kath Roach at Office, Adelaide in S.A. to Jeannie

My dear Jeannie,—
Although to-day’s news wasn’t fresh, I thought I’d ring Alex., just so that you’d have every faith now in the Base Records report. Miss Mei-merachi’s cable was dated 29th — “LANCE OUT OF DANGER” so there is no room for doubt now. Not that there was before. Still, it’s nice to have it confirmed, and it is a couple of days later than Base Records. Arrived this a.m. I asked Mr Lewis if he was going to cable Miss M. and he said no. I thought he might perhaps have replied that he was pleased, and to thank her, but suppose he didn’t think it necessary. In his letter to Lance, he asked him if he could give Miss M. a present, that is, if Mr Lewis should send her something, as he had no wish for her to do it all for nothing. Of course, I suppose she is in Cairo, and Lance is at Abassia, so it meant a good many trips out, but perhaps they have a motor. However, Lance will know best what to do. Abe Shannon came in yesterday to get Lance’s address from Mr Toll, as he wanted to send him a cable. Mr Lewis has a wonderful photo from Gilbert, such a fine one of G. and about 8 or 9 Indian officers. I think G. had 9 days leave to show them round England, and they had an audience with the King &c. Believe it will be in next week’s Observer. I had to type out a bit explaining it to-day. It is the finest group photo I’ve ever seen, every face is so good. Hoping everything will now go on swimmingly. With much love,
Kath.

PRG247_54_68_1-2
1 April 1917
Letter, handwritten from Lance in Egypt to Jane

My Dear Jane,
Kid you are a brick your letters have been great. I did not know that I had so many pals until I got wounded and have got quite conceited over what people have said not only in our Bde [Brigade], but in whole division. but will tell you all about it when I get home which will be in the first Hospital boat I hope it hurrys. I need not tell you that I had a pretty thick time and was expected to join the angels at several times, but my constitution and good attention pulled me through. The bullet has left no mark on my face it went in about ¼ inch below the pupil of my right eye & came out at the top of my shoulders. Will always have a scar on my right neck but that is nothing. The doctor was Lt Col Saw and the nurses Sisters Wood Tomlins and Cobcroft. I will never forget them. This is my fourth day sitting up and I hope to be walking this week. Have got some decent Brass things together and am getting some more. Had 9 operations and my legs at present are about the size of Normas [his nephew?] or smaller but with massage, and use they will soon regain the old size. Will cable Dad as soon as I get on my feet. Well Jane we will be able to yarn for hours. Love to Tav. The Kids and yourself
Newspaper article  
**Burra Record**  
4 April 1917 p 3  
“On Active Service”.

His friends, and they are legion, will be pleased to learn that Major Lance Lewis, of the 3rd Light Horse, is out of danger. His father, the Hon. John Lewis, M.L.C., received a cable message to this effect on Wednesday morning. It was dated Base Records, March 27. Major Lewis, than whom no finer fighter left South Australia, was worshipped by his men. He was severely wounded on January 9 at the battle of Rafa, and was left on the field for dead. He struggled into the dressing station, and several times since has hovered between life and death.

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Letter, typed, from Kath Roach at Office in *Adelaide* to Jane  
4 April 1917, Wednesday  
My dear Jeannie, -

News continues to be good. This morning a Base Records wire arrived, dated Melbourne last night “Major Lancelot Lewis progressing favourably”, so that is very nice, coming on top of ‘out of danger’. This, I suppose, is a week later, so they are keeping you well posted. Expect Lance is one of their show cases, after what they have pulled him through. Mr Lewis said this morning that at the end of the week he intends cabling to Egypt, to ask a few question, as to whether Lance’s injuries are likely to be permanent, or whether he will be quite himself again. I expect he means that he’ll cable Miss Meimerachi, or perhaps it may be Colonel Saw, he didn’t say. I suppose he is leaving it for a little while, so that they will be better able to form an opinion as to the extent of his injuries, and I do hope your news will be good. That was a very nice little bit about Lance, wasn’t it? I think Mr Lewis knows someone in the Register office pretty well. He said there was going to be a piece in about Lance, so I think he just went up to the office and told them about the cable, ‘out of danger’, and they worked it up. It was a Mr Whitington that the bit about Gilbert had to go to. Am wondering whether the photo will be in the Observer tomorrow.

Yes, Eric [Roach, her brother] does write a good letter. Of course, once he saw a Gallipoli letter of his in the Rag, and wrote out and gave us struict instructions that his letters were not to be put in any paper, but really they are interesting, and people seem to like to read letters from the front, and Mary shows them to her Mr Marston, and he wants to put them in, so we thought perhaps it wouldn’t matter as long as no names were mentioned. We’ve told Eric about it, of course, but don’t suppose he’ll mind as long as there isn’t an Eric Roach tacked on to them. I never mention whose they are, but evidently you remember the style. The worst of it is, we have to leave out some of the choicest bits, being either too personal or too spicey. There was a funny bit in one of his recent letters about a gambling stunt, but we thought it would shock Burra. Besides, it might give people a wrong impression about the boys over there, but I think they play cards a lot while off duty, and goodness me, if they do
have a flutter over it, if it takes their thoughts from all the horrors of war for even a little while, I don't think anyone need blame them. He started with £6, and Keith wasn’t wanting any, so he got card fever, as he calls it, with varied fortune. Got stiff, then was chasing pennies at two up, then won a bomb throwing competition (with snowballs) in their section and got 10 francs for that, then came top out of the 3 sections in the 3rd Machine Gun Company and won another 10 francs, then lost it all, and so on, and so on. He always tells you everything.

We heard from Jack from Colombo. They had a great time. Y.M.C.A. arranged a trip up to Kandy for 2/8 and a free lunch at the Queen’s Hotel. Then he and 3 chums had a dinner at the Galle Face and afterwards a motor ride through the town, so they splashed things properly, but from what they say they were going back to Durban and round South Africa, and will probably be quite 3 months on the trip, so they are wise to have a good time in port, as it will be a tedious trip. He seems very happy. Well, when I get on to the subject of my brothers I am apt to go for ever, like the brook, so I'd better wind off. Believe it is Eleanor Emily Brook's third week of existence to-day. It seems much longer ago, somehow, I suppose because you've been so well and writing letters all the time. With much love,

Kath

Newspaper article in full
Burra Record
4 April 1917 p 3 on Trove
[Lance Lewis out of danger]

“On Active Service”. In our last issue it was stated that Pte. T. Brady, of Hallett, was wounded. It appears that this was not correct, Pte. Brady is suffering: from fever and is in hospital in England. His friends, and they are legion, will be pleased to learn that Major Lance Lewis, of the 3rd Light Horse, is out of danger. His father, the Hon. John Lewis, M.L.C., received a cable message to this effect on Wednesday morning. It was dated Base Records, March 27. Major Lewis, than whom no finer fighter left South Australia, was worshipped by his men. He was severely wounded on January 9 at the battle of Rafa, and was left on the field for dead. He struggled' into the dressing station, and several times since has hovered between life and death.

PRG247_54_70_1
5 April 1917. Thursday
Note, handwritten, from Kath Roach to Unknown [Jane ?]

Even better than “Progressing favorably” Mr Lewis just showed me a Red Cross letter dated 4th April, stating that, on enquiring on 31st March, Major Lewis was Pronounced to be out of danger & “Progressing splendidly” In haste,

K.

Newspaper article
Burra Record June 1917 p.6
Seven hundred wounded soldiers are returning from France this week on their way to the eastern states as well as some for S A. and they are to be entertained at the Cheer-up Hut for at least three days and it is pleasing to note that our local Cheer-ups have cheerfully donated £30 -2s 6d towards the food expenses. …

The many friends of Major Lance Lewis will be pleased to read the following letter -written in Egypt on April 13 by him to Mr I. J. Warnes: 'Well, old fellow I nearly left you several times to dwell in the great beyond, but am happy to say that I am at last alright and it is only weakness that keeps me in bed. Am allowed outside on a lounge every day and also to walk 20 yards. I reckon this is great after 3 months on ones back and not allowed to move to either side. The doctor says my constitution pulled me through and I am called 'the marvel,' as they consider it a marvel that I am alive, but if I had not had the best of surgeons and nurses I would have had a poor chance — they have been great. Glad to bear you are having such a wonderful season. I hope soon to be with you, am sick of Egyptian food and longing for an Australian meal. The doctors here say I should have a long furlough, but what they will say in Australia is a different matter. Will only have a scar on the right side of the neck and I think a collar will hide that. Of course you know where I was shot — the bullet entered a quarter of an inch under my right eye and after passing through my head came out at the middle of my shoulders. Passing through my head it cut some blood vessel and this caused all the trouble. Am enclosing a snapshot to show you what I looked like in bed. Kind regards to all friends.

PRG247_54_70_2
16 April 1917
Telegram from [Kath?] Roach [Handwritten] per Commonwealth of Australia, Postmaster-General’s Department, South Australia, Office Date Stamp of Mintaro, South Australia Adelaide Rail 16 9 10.29 12.30 Melrose Kadlunga Mintaro Lance cables fourteenth – Improving every day walking few yards daily Love Lewis Roach

PRG247_54_71_1-2
23 April 1917
Letter, handwritten from Gilbert to Jane
My dear Jane
Have just had a letter from Lance of 4th inst. saying he had been out on a lounge for the past few days & hoped to be soon on his pins again. It is good to hear from him direct & that he is getting on so well. Your letter of 14th Feb. has just been forwarded by Jane. Well thank heaven the weather (which is the most important thing out here) has at last changed for the good. It is changed as all it could not do otherwise as until a few days ago we have had the moist filthy weather snow – sleet, first blizzard – worse than any we had in mid-winter And living more or less in the open - it does make a difference what sort of weather one gets. Well our big show has not come off just yet. Two of our brigades had small shows of sorts
but nothing in the way of real cavalry work. My promotion to Major has been antedated to 1st Sept 1915 but unfortunately the pay only commences on 1st Sept 1916. However that means about 8 months back pay to be made up & it will be very welcome. Yesterday three of us spent a very interesting day at an aerodrome near here, with a great pal of Norman Lisdiss ?, who commands a flying squadron. They had knocked out one Hun machine that morning and were very pleased about it. Most of the men are being re- inoculated against intiries ? & it gives them a bad time for a couple of days. Love to Tav, the kiddies & your good self from
Gilbert.

PRG247_54_72_1-2
27 April 1917
Letter, handwritten and incomplete, from Lance in hospital in Abassia to Jane
Dear Old Jane,
Hope you won’t mind me not having written before but although I am quite able to write and except for my drive every evening have nothing to do all day. I feel very unsettled and walk about the hospital seeing the boys or else laze on my bed doing nothing. There is nothing to write about so if I write about myself a lot you will know I am not getting too conceited but the care & attention I have had enough to turn anyones head. Every medical man that comes along look at me with wonder and as Col Downes ? the ADMS said yesterday I was the walking miracle. Go for a good motor drive every evening generally take some of the sisters but lately they have been too busy. It costs me about 2£ every trip but reckon it does me that much good as I come home, have a good dinner and sleep well all night, different to the old days when I had morphia every 4 hours for a week. counted up the number of Hypodermic injections of morphia the other day on my chart and made it 130 but I reckon would have gone mad if they had not given them to me. Can you imagine me weighing a little over 8 stone am now 10 stone so have only 4 stone to make up. Enclosed are three snaps. Had letters from Gilbert & Keith Duncan yesterday they are both alright. Well Jane, hope a hospital boat comes along as am anxious to see you all. Love to you all
Lance.

PRG247_54_73_1-2
1 May 1917
Letter, handwritten from John Lewis (on Parliament of South Australia stationery) to Jane.
Dear Jane,
I will be cutting my blooms this week at least a great many of them – we had a good show this season – couldn’t you give the New Laddie a few more Names? I don’t suppose Lance will return to Australia until the War is over That is if he is able to go to the Front – What do you mean about tickets for the Station? Can Gill not get tickets at Mintaro Station? Much love to all
Your faithfull Father
John Lewis
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army From A.I.F. in Egypt Orders Place of Casualty Abbassa Date of Casualty April 10, 1917

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/39
11 May 1917
Letter, in purple type, from Kath Roach at Office in Adelaide to Jeannie
My dear Jeannie,
Mr Lewis got me to send a cable to Lance last Saturday "Hope you are improving", and the answer came this morning, dated 10th, 'Progressing rapidly', so that is good news. I think Mr Lewis was going to cable to Miss M. if no answer had come too-day. I sent Lance's in her care. Perhaps he was down at Luxor. Didn't somebody say he meant to go down there before he came out? I was in the office for an hour on Tuesday morning, but no answer had arrived, so I asked Mr Mitchell to let you know if one came. However, there was evidently a delay somewhere.
I had one of my tonsils out at Dr Puleine's on Tuesday morning, just with a local anesthetic. I was very large, and wasn't going to bed, and was coming in to the office the next day, &c., &c., but by the time I got out to Wroxtan and the effects of the cocaine had worn off, was mighty glad to crawl into bed and stop there for a couple of days. Was supposed to have the other one out this morning, but my throat was so jolly sore yesterday even, that I came in and got the girl in the office there to give me an appointment three weeks ahead, instead. Of course, it's much better this morning, but I don't mind a spell in between. Am always having trouble with my tonsils, and last time I had an attack they not only swelled inside, but outside as well, and I had a face and neck like a full moon. Dr Mayo told me before I ought to have them out, but it's the sort of thing you put off. However, I went to Dr P. the other day, and as he said it might lead to quinzy any day if I didn't have them out, I thought it best to make up my mind to it. I've been staying at Auntie Brummitt's for the few days, but go back to Seacliffe tomorrow. Wasn't that an awfully nice letter from Miss Meimerachi. Mr Lewis just showed it to me, and gave it to me to send back to you as I was letting you know about the cable. Talk about being bucked, especially that part about how Lance was always talking about his dear Dad. He had to blow his nose hard, and yet, when he gave me the cable to read, he 'supposed Lance would be going back to the front in a few days'!!! I remarked that I thought it almost wicked to talk

--- letter incomplete

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
15 May 1917
Proceedings of a Medical Board Confidential.
Assembled at 14th A.G.H., Abbassia. On 15.5.17. by order of O.C.. 14th Australian General Hospital for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health of (Rank
and Name) Major. L.A. Lewis. (corps) 3rd L.H., Age 32 Service 30/12 disability G.S.W. Right head and neck.

The Board having assembled pursuant to order, and having read the instructions on the back of this form, proceed to examine the above-named and find that he is suffering from G.S.W. Head and neck with effects of repeated haemorrhages for which common carotid A. and intl. gugr. vein were ligatured. He has paralysis of right facial N., Right hypoglossal N. and right Sp. Acc. N.

We recommend that he be granted change to Australia for 6 months.

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
21 May 1917
Form - Australian Imperial Force - Record of Officers' Services

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
22 May 1917
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army From 14th A.G.H. Place of Casualty Abbassa Date of Casualty May 21, 1917
Transferred to H.S. “Neuralia” for Australia.

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
28 May 1917
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army From A.I.F. Headquarters Nom. Roll.
Date of Casualty May 21, 1917. Place of Casualty Abbassa
G.S.W. Head & Neck; Invalided to Australia per H.S. “Neuralia” from Suez for 6 MONTHS CHANGE
Casualty Form, Duplicate Copy, Original copy reported lost at sea, Active Service, Army Record, Australian Imperial Force
Army Rank 2/Lieut, Lieut., Captain, Major

Telegram Commonwealth of Australia, Postmaster-General’s Department, South Australia, Office Date Stamp of Mintaro, South Australia.
[Handwritten] Adelaide Rly 17 10 Melrose Kadlunga Mintaro
Base records advise Lance on Transport no particulars allowed till boat nearing Australia
1.50
2.45
Roach

Newspaper article
Burra Record 13 June 1917, p 2
On active service
A good idea is obtained of the work done by women in the war by reading the experiences of Miss Nellie Lewis, daughter of the Hon John Lewis. For some months she was cooking at the Endsleigh Palace hospital, then she ran it in the mornings and looked after a canteen in the afternoons. After about 12 months of this work she went to France and worked in a canteen at the Gare-du-Nord. On one day here she, without any assistance, cooked for 176 people, an auxiliary afterwards being given her to help wash-up and clean the stove. She also carved, and it was hardly to be wondered at that some of the staff officers went out of their way to clap her on the back. She was cooking for English and Belgians that day, the Belgians had roast beef, potatoes in their jackets and cabbage, rice and blancmange, the English the same meat and vegetables and apple charlotte. At the canteen she often worked 18 out of 24 hours, 11 hours on Sunday, half an hour for lunch. She left France and went to Bulford Camp, England, on a fortnight’s probation learning to be a supervisor of army canteens, a position hitherto always taken by men. The hours are from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. every day. The military authorities are now taking all the men from the canteens and now no doubt Miss Lewis is in charge of one. She has been working since about Sept., 1915.

Word has been received that Major Lance Lewis is on a transport bound from Egypt to Australia

Newspaper article
Burra Record 6 June 1917, p.2
The many friends of Major Lance Lewis will be pleased to read the following letter - written in Egypt on April 13 by him to Mr I. J. Warnes:

Well, old fellow I nearly left you several times to dwell in the great beyond, but am happy to say that I am at last alright and it is only weakness that keeps me in bed. Am allowed outside on a lounge every day and also to walk 20 yards. I reckon this is great after 3 months on ones back and not allowed to move to either side. The doctor says my constitution pulled me through and I am called 'the marvel,' as they consider it a marvel that I am alive, but if I had not had the best of surgeons and nurses I would have had a poor chance — they have been great. Glad to bear you are having such a wonderful season. I hope soon to be with you, am sick of Egyptian food and longing for an Australian meal. The doctors here say I should have a long furlough, but what they will say in Australia is a different matter. Will only have a scar on the right side of the neck and I think a collar will hide that. Of course you know where I was shot — the bullet entered a quarter of an inch under my right eye and after passing through my head came out at the middle of my shoulders. Passing through my head it cut some blood vessel and this caused all the trouble. Am enclosing a snapshot to show you what I looked like in bed. Kind regards to all friends.

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/40
22 June 1917
Telegram, from John Lewis Handed in at Adelaide 22nd to C.T.O Johannesburg to LCO Major Lewis, Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg
“All well Love // John Lewis”

PRG 247_54_74_1
22 June 1917
Letter, typed, from Kath Roach in Office to Jeannie.
My dear Jeannie,

Mr Lewis got another cable from Lance this morning, as follows:
Johannesburg 21st 3.10p.m. VERY WELL LOVE ANSWER LEWIS CARLTON HOTEL JOHANNESBURG
Mr Lewis replied “All well Love”. I asked to speak to you on phone this morning, thinking you might like to know, and to send him a cable, but couldn’t get you, so I cancelled the call at about 3.30 p.m. There were no remarks from Mintaro, so suppose you hadn’t sent for the mail, or else it was the boy. Anyway, it wasn’t important. Tell Mrs Brook I’ve been meaning to return Miss Nesbitt’s letter to her for ages. Of course I don’t mind any commissions, only too pleased, but I thought she was too generous to want to repeat her presents again so soon. In great haste. Just off to get in a supply of produce to see me over the week end. With love to all,
Kath.

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/41
27 June 1917
Telegram from John Lewis, handed in at Adelaide 27th at 1:25pm to C.T.O
Johannesburg to LCO Major Lewis, National Bank, Johannesburg
“Love from Kadlunga – Melrose”

PRG247_54_75_1
23 August 1917, Thursday
Letter, typed, from Kath Roach at Office in Adelaide to Jeannie
My dear Jeannie,-
A transport arrived at Outer Harbor or Pt. Adelaide this afternoon, and such a big handsome officer has just called in to see Mr Lewis, as he just left Lance at Johannesburg. He hesitated outside my door, and I was going to dash out and see what he wanted, when John Toll raced me, but I heard about it after. He is from another state, and didn’t expect to be calling in here, or expect he would have brought a message from Lance, but he said Lance had talked so much about his Father, that he thought he would like to look in and see Mr Lewis. Mr L. had gone, but John Toll rushed down to the Beehive and found him waiting for the car, so left the officer with him. I think they only put in on a/c of strikes on other side, eastern states. Of course I pumped J. T. as much as I could, but he hadn’t asked many questions, but he found out that Lance hasn’t lost an eye (as was rumoured) and isn’t at all disfigured, except about the neck, I suppose cuts from operations, but nothing much. J. T. said to him that some one had said Lance was a bit light headed, and he said no, nothing like that, and that he is improving every day. He didn’t ask him anything about Lance’s return, but I guess Mr Lewis will, and you may be sure I’ll let you know all I can hear tomorrow, in case Mr Lewis doesn’t write you himself. Mr L. didn’t come in yesterday, but was here to-day, and his cold seems better, so I expect he’ll be in tomorrow. In haste,
With love,
K.

PRG247_54_76_1
24 August 1917, Friday
Note, typed, from Kath Roach at Office in Adelaide to Jeannie, -
P.S. Friday, 24/8/17.
After all, I forgot to post this. Have just seen Mr Lewis, and he says it was a Lieut. Waite, a Queenslander, who was in hospital with Lance in Egypt. They got down to South Africa together, and went up to Johannesburg. Then Lance, who was still at Johannesburg, heard the Karoola was coming in, so went post haste down to Durban, expecting to see Brook, but he wasn’t there, so lance went back to the base camp, and found he and this other officer had orders to proceed to Australia by the Karoola, so he then hurried back to Durban, to find the boat had just gone. The other officer, who was at the camp when their embarkation orders came thro, of course had time to catch the boat. Wasn’t it rotten luck for Lance. I think there is no doubt he will have to come on to Australia, and I suppose he’ll come by the next boat. Lieut. Waite told Mr Lewis Lance has improved wonderfully since they got to South Africa. When they left Egypt, his neck was a little stiff and on one side, and he had also lost his voice to a certain extent, but both the stiffness and the neck are much better. He has a
good many scars on his neck, I believe, but that is all. To think that he might have arrived yesterday! Never mind, it oughtn’t to be long now, but it was stiff luck missing the Karoola. Still, I shouldn’t think there was any doubt but that he’ll have to come on to Australia for a good long spell.

K.

[handwritten below]
Dear Tom’s ? regards Lets have Kath’s letters back. You can keep Nancys. The babes have been wonderfully good (rub me chin) We hoped you’d come last Sunday. Have old Herbert working here Do you remember him/ Kate got me a cook. Hope you come next Sunday.

PRG247_54_77_1-2
24 August 1917, Friday
Note, handwritten from John Lewis (on Parliament of South Australia paper) to Jane
Dear Jane,
I saw Mr John Melrose yesterday he told me that he had been to Kadlunga and the young Kiddie was quite a big lump. The tooths O.K. judging by her Photo. Auntie Lily is very unwell – I am going up tomorrow to see her. My Cold is better but I am not supposed to go out at night. Cannot say what date Lance will arrive I have not heard from Nancy since she left for Melbourne With love Your faithfull Father
John Lewis

PRG247_54_77_3
June 1917 ?
Photographs (three) of a man with bandaged neck (presumably Lance Lewis) taken in a Red Cross area.

PRG247_54_77_4
Newspaper Clippings from varied sources
a. Headed ‘Burra’ ca 1 October 1917 re a Burra public welcome for Lance Lewis.
b. Headed ‘Cheer Up Society’ re Welcome home for the 3rd Light horse Brigade
c. Headed ‘Parliament at Work, Notes from Both Houses’, re illness of Hon. John Lewis

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/38
Undated, 1917 ?
Letter, handwritten and torn, from J. G. Ryan of Water St, Kensington Park, Adelaide father of George Ryan to Major [Lance] Lewis
Sir, would like to have a interview with you at your earliest convenience as my son George Ryan has informed me that you weare mor than a Father to him. In fact Boeth my sons have been always telling me of you & your Gallintry in the Field I Welcome you home with all my heart, and at the same time, just express my sorrow at your misfortune Trusting to hear from you as soon as convenient I Remain Yours Sincerely J.G. Ryan

PRG 247 Series 48, 50 and 54 Lance Lewis World War One papers
My two Sons Jack & George ? went away with you

Newspaper article
The Advertiser 22 September 1917 p 12

MAJOR LEWIS. HOME AFTER THREE YEARS OF WAR. Major L. A. Lewis, son of the Hon. J. Lewis, returned to Adelaide on Friday with a large contingent of home-coming heroes. A reporter who had known him well in pre war days had the pleasure of a brief chat with him last evening at his father's house, Benacre, Glen Osmond. He has been sorely wounded, but is now on the high road to recovery. In his service uniform he looks tall and soldierly, but very thin, and the change that has been wrought in him speaks eloquently of what the men suffer over yonder. He has seen much fighting, and though, with characteristic modesty, he shrinks from talking about himself, anyone who knew Lance Lewis, the star Norwood footballer and hero of many an inter-State football game, will be sure he played the game in war as manfully as he did in peace time. He is the same cheery, lovable, big hearted fellow he always was, and no less buoyant in spirit, despite the hardships he has suffered. He is not the sort of man who helps an interviewer. In the first place, he has no self-consciousness, and he seems to think an interview at his home-coming need be nothing more than a chronological statement of his movements. He left Adelaide as a lieutenant in the 3rd Light Horse on October 22, 1914, and has been away just a month short of three years. He landed on Gallipoli 17 days after the memorable storming of Gaba Tepe. After five months in that land of painful memories he went on furlough to England, and returned to Egypt on the eve of the New Year, 1915. Two days after the torpedoing of the Persia the vessel he was on was attacked by a submarine almost at the same spot. The torpedo that time missed its mark, but was close enough to make the experience exciting. Since then he has been in Egypt and Palestine. He fought amid the blinding sandstorms on the western front, and then for a space commanded a lonely detachment in Upper Egypt. On May 16 he crossed the Canal to take part in the battle of Romani, when the Turk received a severe lesson. "The Turks evacuated El Arish without a fight," he said. "If the infantry could have got up then we could have "smashed them to pieces."

For months there was fighting almost continuously, until on January 9 he crossed the border into the Holy Land at Rafa, and received the wound that nearly closed his earthly career. A bullet, entering his right cheek, came out near the spine in his neck. Wonderful surgery and careful nursing pulled him through. That last fight at Rafa was the warmest he was ever in. Next to it in his memory comes the bombardment of Bir-el-Abd, when he and his men were subjected to a veritable tornado of high explosive shells. Major Lewis commanded troops that held an exposed forward position on the left flank. "The boys under my command that day were congratulated by the brigadier for their good work, " he explained. "That was the hottest bombardment on the Sinai Peninsula. The shells played fearful havoc amongst the horses "there were dying animals, and broken legs everywhere; but happily I did not lose many men."

The tribute to his men was what might have been expected of the Lance Lewis of old. Someone else will have to pay a tribute to the commander. The only time he became enthusiastic was when he was speaking about the Australians "out there." It was plain he loved and admired his men above everything else.

Dear Mr Lewis,

One word of congratulation I must send you. You have got your dear Lance back with you once more – your Beujanimo ? It must have stirred your heart to witness the warm welcome he received when he went into the Cheer Up hut yesterday. I wish I had been there to see it too not forgetting what pride & joy it would have been to his mother. Who I am sure was looking down on him approvingly. Jeanie tell me that ever since that over & over again the men were giving him the highest praise – they told her all the men love him ? “Oh he’s a grand chap” – they said one after another – they all had the same story to tell of his dogged valour and always of his care & thought of his men. Isn’t that the best Decoration a man can have. I know you are a proud man today & deservedly so. But I said I had only one word to say – for I don’t want to bother you today Remember me to Mr's Lewis & to Lance all the kindest messages of an old family friend. Yours Very Faithfully, Florence Campbell

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Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army

[According to this form Lance was discharged on grounds of permanent disability including GSW head & neck, Interference with speech, paralysis of right arm, with total incapacity for earning a full livelihood in the general labour market.]

Newspaper article

The Burra Record, 3 October 1917 p 3

“Welcome to Major Lewis.

By the midday train on Saturday last, Major Lance A. Lewis arrived in Burra after three years absence on active service with the 3rd Light Horse in Egypt, where last December in a fierce encounter with the Turks he was dangerously wounded. For a long time grave fears were entertained for his recovery, but a splendid constitution and an iron will, not forgetting the excellent medical attention he received, prevailed and we were delighted to welcome him back once more into our midst. The Major was met at the train by His Worship the Mayor of Burra, E. W. Crewes Esq., Messrs. I. J. Warnes, John McLaren, S. Cock and many other friends. Mr I. J. Warnes, whose guest he is, motored him to Kooringa. At the Rotunda the Ladies' Band were drawn up under the conductorship of Mr J. Bentley, and immediately the car came into sight struck up, 'Red, White and Blue.' As the car drew up it was immediately rushed by old friends, anxious once more to shake the gallant Major by the hand and bid him welcome home. Whilst the large crowd which had assembled were greeting the visitor, the band rendered selections. Apologies were received from Messrs. W. G. Hawkes and F. Treloar. As soon as the greetings were over God save the King was played, after which Mr Crewes, on behalf of the townspeople, assured Major Lewis how pleased and grateful he and all those who had known him were to have him back once more. He said the large crowd
which had assembled was a greater tribute than any words of his could give. Be assured the Major that the town and district had conscientiously kept the promise made to the twenty-three gallant boys who first left our town on active service, as far as men and money were concerned and it was still their unalterable resolve to do what they could for King-and-Empire.

The Rev. D. B. Bridgwood said that, although he did not know Major Lewis personally, he certainly did by repute and he was pleased to assure him that none was more grateful than he for what the Major had accomplished to bring about that peace that we all hoped and prayed for. The Allies were determined to fight to the bitter end, which phrase he stated was really a nautical one, which meant letting the cable out to the very last link. In his opinion Major Lewis typified that phrase as he personally had the appearance of having done so. He was very pleased to welcome him home. Mr Winnall said he was glad to have the opportunity of expressing his gratification at the return of Major Lewis. All were proud of the first 23 men who went from this town, including the Major, and still more proud to hear from the boys who were under him, what they thought of him as an officer. Everyone was deeply grieved when the news of his having been wounded came through and were anxious to hear of his progress during the time he was in hospital and more than delighted when it became known that he was on the road to recovery, that pleasure was consummated in welcoming him back that day. He would not speak at length, as the Major did not want a public reception which, to his mind, was 'tommy rot.'

Mr J. Drew, who represented the Cheer-up Society, said how well he remembered the farewell in the Institute just three years ago, when in reply Major (then Lieutenant) Lewis, said they were going away to do their best for King and Country. He (Mr Drew), would ask these present has he done it? (The large crowd answered with one mighty 'Yes'). Mr Drew in a few concluding remarks hoped that the Major would soon be restored to his wonted health and strength and once more take his place amongst us. Mr J. McLaren said he was personally very pleased to welcome him home once more. Long association with the Lewis family and particularly the Major had caused him ever to hold him in high esteem. Speaking for the Major he wished to pay a high tribute to the noble band of nurses on all the fighting fronts and in the many hospitals. Too much could not be said in their honour (cheers), and the Major's presence that day was entirely due to their untiring zeal and skill. The band girls then rendered 'Laddie in Khaki,' after which Mr Crewes called on the Major to respond. As Major Lewis stepped from the car he was greeted with ringing cheers. He said not being a speaker, he only could just thank them sincerely for the reception accorded him. One thing he must do and that was to congratulate Mr J. Bentley on his fine 'team.' Personally he wished that they had something of the kind in Egypt to cheer them up a bit at times. He again thanked one and all sincerely. The Major then drove off amid cheers. During his visit to the district he will be the guest of Mr T. H. Pearse and Mr and Mrs I. J. Warnes.
I intended to have gone up to Kadlunga and had breakfast with you to-day, and then gone on to the Burra, but business prevented me. I understand that Gilbert has gone to India, but am not quite sure. He cabled me that he was going. Then the day after he cabled me that he was going to India, I got another cable, as follows: “REMAINING IN ENGLAND – LEWIS” I concluded that this was from Gilbert, but it appears now that it was from Brook. I am glad you are all well at Kadlunga. With kind love, Your faithful Father,
John Lewis
P.S. Just got a letter from him stating that Gilbert had gone to India. J. L.

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/43
22 February 1919
Cairo - AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOLDIER’S MEMORIAL FOR EGYPT, SINAI, PALESTINE AND SYRIA. To the Members of the A.I.F. and N.Z.E.F. in Egypt.

At a recent committee meeting in connection with the proposed memorial to commemorate our fallen comrades, presided over by Lieut. General Sir Harry Chauvel, K.C.B. K.C.M. G. several important decisions were arrived at and I was instructed to communicate these to you.

1. The Memorial will henceforth be known as the Australian and New Zealand Soldier’s Memorial for EGYPT, SINAI, PALESTINE, and SYRIA, and whatever form the design ultimately takes it will contain panels whereon will be inscribed the names of all those who gave their lives for their country, whether through enemy action or through the ravages of disease.

2. The proposal from Australia to widen the scope of Memorial and to make it a national affair was declined by the Committee. It was felt that the history covered concerned largely the A.L.H. and N.Z.M.R.I and should be confined to those units, and the attached formations, such as Flying Corps, etc,

3. It was decided that no public subscriptions be asked for, the “COMRADE to COMRADE” idea still holding good, yet, in order to meet the expressed desire of parents and relatives of the fallen a circular letter inviting subscriptions from all such be despatched to Australia and New Zealand.

4. It was further decided that whilst the site for the Memorial . – The garden adjacent to the Casino Palace hotel, Port Said. – did not fulfil the conditions the committee would like, it was the best available, and should be adhered to, In this connection I quote Australian opinion, as expressed by the Repatriation Commission. –

“The Commission is greatly impressed with the proposal to place this Memorial on the Banks of the Suez Canal, one of the most important world highways bearing as it does the main traffic between East and West, and regards such a scheme as being a splendidly appropriate means of retaining in the memory of many Nations, the glorious deeds of all the Anzacs throughout the EASTERN CAMPAIGNS.”

5. The financial aspect of the scheme was discussed at length, and it was decided to make a final appeal to members of the A.I.F. and N.Z.E.F. in Egypt for the necessary funds to bring to a successful issue such a worthy object as that of commemorating our fallen comrades. The idea was that one day’s pay from all ranks be subscribed, this has been done by a great
many, and the result in round numbers is £3,800. There yet remain, however a great number who have not subscribed and the committee confidently appeals to Brigadiers and C.Os of units to bring the matter prominently before their Commands so that everyone may have an opportunity of being identified with the “SPLENDIDLY APPROPRIATE SCHEME”. Acquittance rolls for units of First and Second Light Horse Brigade should reach the Staff paymaster not later than 28th March 1919. A separate instruction with regard to the collection of funds from units of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force will be issued by the authorities of that Force.

H. K. Gordon, Chaplain Major.
Hon Secretary
Cairo Feb 22nd 1919.

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/45
22 February 1919
Letter, printed, from H. K. Gordon, Chaplain Major, Hon Secretary, Australian Headquarters at Cairo Egypt to Dear Sir or Madam
Dear Sir or Madam,
It is proposed to erect at Port-said on the Banks of the Suez Canal, that great highway between East & West, a memorial which will commemorate our brave comrades who have fallen in the Eastern Campaigns. This will be known as the Australian and New Zealand Soldiers’ Memorial for Egypt, Sinai, Palestine and Syria, and whatever form the design takes, it will comprise panels whereon will be inscribed the names of all those who have given their lives for their country, whether by action of the enemy or through disease. We are not appealing for public subscriptions, the idea being that the Memorial is from “COMRADE, to COMRADE,” but it has been suggested that parents and relatives of our fallen would like to subscribe – hence this letter. We have asked the following gentlemen (all old comrades) to act as our representatives in the various States of the commonwealth and New Zealand, and Subscriptions may be sent to them, at the addresses quoted hereunder.:

TASMANIA Major C. Mills C/O Bank of Australasia, Launceston, Tasmania
WESTERN AUSTRALIA Major S. Grimwood. 68 Outrim Street. Perth. W.A.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA Major L. Lewis. C/O Messrs Bagot, Shakes & Lewis, Adelaide S.A.
NEW SOUTH WALES Brigadier General C.F. Cox C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D. 26 Croyden Road. Croyden N.S.W.

We have already nearly £4,000 in hand as a result of the boys here subscribing one days pay to the fund, but we require considerably more than this and it is confidently hoped that the immediate response to this circular letter will be such as to enable us to leave behind here in Egypt a Memorial at once, worthy of our gallant dead and of the great Country from which they came. On behalf of the Committee, believe me, Yours sincerely,
H. K. Gordon, Chaplain Major.
My Dear Mabel,

- Australian mail goes out on Tuesday, so I must write and tell you some of our experiences. It’s amazing what little inclination you have for letter writing on board, and then when you get ashore, there’s so much to see and do, that the days just fly. We had a rough trip from Sydney to Honolulu, and from there to San Francisco the sea was perfectly smooth, except that you always get an ocean swell. To have the last part of the journey smooth was most unusual. It’s usually very, very rough doming into San Francisco. I’m not a good sailor, though not as bad as some. Don’t have to keep to my bunk at all, but once or twice made a rather hurried exit from the dining saloon. Once you get on deck and into the fresh air, you are pretty safe. Mr. L. is a wonderfully good sailor, and used to laugh at me, and advise a nice fat slice of ham for lunch. Quite half the passengers were seasick, including lots of the men. We had a nice lot of passengers. We sat at the Captain’s table. I was between Mr. L. and a young Captain Jones, an Australian who was in England when war broke out, and enlisted in an English regiment. He was weird, a teetotaller, Theosophist, vegetarian, and generally pretty cranky, but he had been a long time at the front, and didn’t look a bit strong, and I think all that he had gone through had made him a bit queer. Opposite us was Mr. Hudson, formerly Colonial Secretary at Fiji, and now going as Governor to Honduras. His wife joined him at Honolulu. Such a fine looking woman, and very jolly. A little way further down the table was a Frenchman, with most beautiful manners, just the essence of politeness. His family is in France. One son was still, as far as he knew, a prisoner of war in Germany. He hadn’t been home for ten years. I think he must have been a Professor at one of our Australian Universities. When we left San Francisco, he was lying dangerously ill at the Palace hotel with pleurisy, and very little hope of recovery. Isn’t it sad? He had a cold on board but I thought it was better. Well, there were lots of interesting people, but I’ll never finish if I tell you about them all. Our first port was Pago Pago (Samoa). It was a great disappointment that we weren’t allowed ashore. The harbour I think is about the most beautiful spot I’ve ever seen. They have not had influenza on the island yet, and as we came from Sydney, they were afraid of us, and all the natives who unloaded cargo wore masks. After they had finished unloading they were lined up on the wharf and had their noses and mouths syringed by American Jack Tars. Pago is an American naval depot. The native police band played to us in the afternoon, such handsome men. It was just steamingly hot there, but a lot of us were thankful for a day in calm water, and a chance of two good meals. One old native woman amused us. She was being rowed across the harbour, and as she passed our boat, she held a handkerchief tightly across her face. We knew we had no flue on board, and couldn’t help laughing. The only other port was Honolulu, and a beautiful spot it is, in the Hawaiian (or Sandwich) islands, also American. It was a great relief to know we could land. They’ve had the flue, and still had a few cases, so they didn’t mind us. Mr. Lewis...
hired a motor for three hours and we went to a lot of the beauty spots. A Mrs. Dockrell, from India, came with us. She’s on her way to England. Her husband is a Major in the Indian Army, and now on service in Mesopotamia, and she’s going to wait in England till he gets leave to join her. She told me that English women in India were very sore about Australian women being allowed to go to England while the war was on, that is, those with husbands or fiancés at the front, as they in India had to remain where they were. Took on quite a lot of passengers at Honolulu, and the ship was absolutely packed. We came in sight of the Californian coast (just very dimly) at about 4.30 p.m. on Saturday, 22nd Feb. Our trip, which should have taken 19 days, took 25, as we came across on one engine and one propeller, instead of two. The Captain would take no risks, as we could have made more pace, but up to Honolulu you hardly pass one ship, and things might have been awkward if anything had gone wrong, so he kept on the safe side. Passed through the Golden Gate (entrance to San F. harbor) at 8 p.m., and anchored in the quarantine ground. No getting ashore that night, so we had a dance on deck. It was beautiful to see the millions of lights in the town all around us. Breakfast 6 a.m. sharp next morning, then we all had to file past a doctor as our names were called, then go before an Immigration Officer with our passports (we are called “aliens” in U.S.A.), then on to wharf and have all your luggage opened by Customs. Next came up to Stewart Hotel in their motor bus, which was waiting at station. Lots of our passengers came to same hotel. They were very full, and Mrs. Dockrell and I had to share a room, a very nice one, with our own private bathroom adjoining. Our room was on the 3rd floor, Mr. L.’s on the 5th. The higher rooms are supposed to be the best, as you get more light and air. Well, San Francisco is just wonderful, and the shops are dreams. I could spend days just looking in windows. Some things are dear, but you see gorgeous coats and skirts for about 50 dollars (£10, or a little more) which would be quite 14 guineas in Adelaide. All have absolutely hobble skirts, different shape coats, with tight sleeves, and tiny little hats with them. My coat and skirt from Wheelers is absolutely out of it, but someone told me it will be more the thing in England, as America has a style of fashions all her own. The women look very smart, but I simply don’t know how they walk in such narrow skirts. The Americans never wear evening dress in public, except at the opera. Even when you are living at a hotel, you always come down to dinner and all meals in a coat and skirt and hat. Very handy for travellers, and I think a nice idea, though it can’t be good for the hair to always wear a hat. The very first thing you notice in America is the heat of the buildings. It’s just terrific. The first thing I do on getting to a hotel is to turn off the radiator in my bedroom. The whole hotel, diningroom, lounge and all is just like a hothouse, but the trains beat even the buildings. The air outside is glorious just like a crisp winter day in Australia. Why they live in this heat, I don’t know. I asked an American woman, and she said it’s not like that in their own homes, only in the city buildings. I went into lots of offices, etc., with Mr. Lewis, and always the same, never the sign of a window open, and the place artificially heated. You see lots of girls in offices, and most of them wear quite plain navy serge frocks, but so smartly made. No collars, either square or round necks, but not cut nearly as low as in Australia. The coats and skirts all have high collars. I mustn’t forget to tell you one amusing thing that happened in San Francisco. Mrs. D. and I were in our room one morning, when our phone rang, and I answered it. A lady reporter from one of the papers was speaking, and would Mrs. D. and Miss R. please allow themselves to be photographed and interviewed for the social columns of their Sunday paper!!! I nearly collapsed, and assured her that we were most unimportant
people, and begged to decline. She started asking me a few questions, until I realised that I was being pumped, and rang off. Probably there was something in the paper this morning, as they can’t find out, they make up. One of the leading papers had a most amazing yarn about the “Sonoma”. The Captain certainly did dive down to find out what was the matter with the propellor, but they improved on this a little. Printed his photograph, and a long yarn about him having a two minute fight with a shark under the water, then drawing his knife and killing it. Also that the crew and passengers were fishing for sharks while he was diving, and that the chief steward hauled up the biggest shark on record with eight rows of double teeth, and that it took 7 bullets to kill it! We were all highly amused, as it’s all a yarn. I must send you a Californian paper. I notices one day that a married woman had applied for a divorce, on the grounds that her husband raised his voice so if he ever got got angry, and it got on her nerves. The judge reckoned it would be establishing a precedent if he agreed to grant the divorce, and as lots of men raised their voices when angry, he felt he couldn’t grant it. We left San Francisco at 8 a.m. on Friday and arrived here at 11 p.m., all through beautifully green country. This is their spring. The train was just terrifically hot. Shall never get used to it. They say the hotels, &c., are worse in New York. The worst place we have struck so far was a café here the other morning, worse than the hot house at Botanic Gardens. Felt I would give anything to have breakfast by an open window. Australia for me, to live in, though all this is wonderful to pass through. Los Angeles is even larger than San Francisco. When Mr. L. was here 10 years ago, this was the best hotel, but now about the 6th fine new buildings have sprung up. The manager here, Mr. Larritt, I believe used to be with Coombs & co. in Adelaide. The hotel is really now run more like flats. We have to go across the street or to any café for meals. There’s also a multimillionaire living here, General Schirrmann, I think, also another very wealthy man who built the power house at Niagara and made millions, and he spends a lot of his money in picking out boys with brains, and educating and starting them in life. Another man who lives here has just been left 100,000 dollars (about £20,000) by a man whose life he saved years ago. I haven’t seen any of these people, but Mr. L. told me. Mr. George Chaffey, an Australian, is calling for Mr. L. at 1 o’clock and taking him out to his home for lunch. I preferred to stay here and do some writing, as Australian mail closes soon. There are banks here that open day and night. You can go in at any hour and either deposit or draw out money. Well, there are lots of wonderful things I could tell you, but will have to wait till I get back. We leave here for Chicago on Tuesday morning, 4 days and nights in the train. Then we go on to New York, where we may be staying about a month. There has just been a terrific blizzard at Chicago, so expect we shall find it pretty cold. I’m having a wonderful time, and enjoying it all. It’s so quaint to hear the Americans speak, and one of them told me that they notice the Australians have more of an accent than anyone! I suppose we sound just as queer to them. You hear on all sides that America won the war, and yet in the whole of San Francisco, I have only seen three apparently wounded soldiers, one with crutches, but no limbs off, another limping a bit, and a third with his hand tied up. I often think that if they could only walk down the streets of little Adelaide land see the number of our boys with limbs off, maimed for life, they might think that they haven’t done it all. The bulk of their army didn’t leave America. You see hundred and hundreds of young fellows in uniform, big fine looking boys and men, but never a scratch or scar. When I said I had only seen three in San Francisco, I meant in San f. and Los Angeles, the two cities (without suburbs) having a
population of over a million. There was a cable from my sister in [Egypt] when I got to San f.[San Francisco], saying she was well. Am longing for some home news. Such a place as Australia is never even mentioned in the papers here. “America for the Americans” is their motto, and Mr. L. says they are jealous of the English. Hope you girls write now and again, and tell me all the gossip. Know you will excuse a typed letter, as I can say so much more. I posted some booklets and postcards from Honolulu – at least, had to hand them to the Customs with the money, so I hope they turned up alright, one each. With love to you all, Yours sincerely, (Sgd.) Kathleen Roach.

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/44
3 March 1919
Letter, typed, from H. K. Gordon the Hon. Secy. Scy. (C.E.) in Cairo to Major Lewis
At a Committee Meeting of the Australian & New Zealand Soldiers’ Memorial for Egypt, Sinai, Palestine & Syria held recently it was decided to open the fund to parents & relatives of the fallen. In this connection it was felt that we needed a representative – for the purpose of receiving money – in each State of the Commonwealth & New Zealand and I was instructed to write and ask you to be good enough to act in that capacity. We had prepared and printed a circular letter to parents which we intended to post direct from here but unfortunately the home addresses are not available, having been sent to Australia & New Zealand. In their difficulty

PRG 247/48 Folder 1/46
2 Dec 1919
Receipt, “Received from Commonwealth Bank One Hundred Pounds being amount lodged by Major Lewis on a/c Anzac Memorial Egypt, signed Holwer, per Receiver of Public Moneys, Defence Dept. 4th Military District.”

PRG247_54_80_1-4
15 Nov 1920
Letter, from Nell (written on ‘Hotel Royal Rome’ notepaper) to Jean
My dear Jean
We reached here two days ago & have seen a marvellous lot in a short time – I’m wishing that you were here all the time won to cheer me on – I don’t seem to realize one bit that I’m to be married in three weeks time – We are either going to Algiers after or return to Italy we haven’t quite decided but for all he [the] miniatures ordered in Florence I think that I would prefer Algiers it must be a fascinating country – How are the babes I think that your babe Bluey decided George that he would like to marry me because he used to rave over her photographs & one day he said “Your children would be just as beautiful as Gins” in a thoughtful sort of way I bought some underclothes in Florence but otherwise (oh yes two jerseys & 1 skirt) I have nothing ready – we are hoping to see something in Paris – George is anxious for me to have a wedding dress otherwise I would have just travelling clothes –
Glady’s [her sister in law ?] is giving me my wedding dress I wired to Dad for some money I hope that it is in London by the time we arrive back – You remember the Vawthares ? whom B. left Suisse to go to Bavero in Italy with they are in Rome & are coming to see me tonight – I met someone else I knew here last night Much love kid & to Tav & the babies Yrs Nell

PRG247_54_79_1-2
5 January 1921
Letter, typed, from Kath Roach at Office in Adelaide SA to Jeannie
[In handwriting]
My dear Jeannie,
Don’t have a fit, but enclosed is what they want to charge you in custom duty. I said of course I shouldn’t pay it, but would have to refer the matter to you. The sender had valued the parcel at £11/13/-, on outside. They opened it in front of me, and inside was a letter from the Mission, not in envelope, which the man read, stating you might be surprised at the charge for embroidering, but there was such a lot of work in it, &c. They have to make the customs charge on the invoice, which they presume to be £11/13/- . They charge 55% on made up goods, the dresses, and 30% on other, and he said he made the proportion on dresses as low as possible. The work looks simply exquisite, but what a price! The man was very nice. I said is the material had been sent from here, and he said if custom was paid on it going out to India, they ought to have a record there, which apparently they haven’t. Do you remember whether you had to pay anything on it? Anyway, he said they charge on the invoice, and the work is valued at £11/13/- . The only way you can get out of it is by stating a lower amount that you are paying for the work, so I don’t know I’m sure what you can do. He seem[ed ?] inclined to compromise, if possible, and said for me to write and get you to write me, explaining away some of the value, if you can. Were the dresses made up before they were sent over? If so, they should only be charged as embroidery, at 30% He said they get lots of this mission work through from India, and before he opened the parcel, said he was afraid the duty would be pretty stiff. It was beautifully done up, in lots of wrappers. He said they would be sure and take great care of the parcel, and nothing would be lost. Let me know what to do about it. They will charge demurrage of 2d. a day if parcel is there after 8th. Glad you enjoyed the jujubes. I had previously received a Xmas box of £5 from Mr L. before I bought them, and also Lance gave me £5, so I did very well. In a way didn’t like taking money from lance, but he said I needn’t if I didn’t want to, all the better for him, so I took it. [In handwriting] In haste with love,
Kath.

[handwritten note below]

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PRG247_54_81_1
PRG 247 Series 54
Microfiche Five #1 – 27 Letter 19.

4 January 1921

Letter, typed, from John Lewis at 18 King William Street, Adelaide to Jane
[refers to Victor Harbor place, Laybourne Smith, Normo’s report.]

Dear Jane,
I have your letter of the 21st ult., and wish you and yours a Happy New Year. I will send Normo’s report along. [grandson] I am waiting now upon Laybourne Smith, to tell him about the place at Victor Harbor. Don’t you think it would be well for you to get your man Shepherd to take those goods out of the dining room and living room, and put them upstairs neatly, so as to be out of the road – that is, the beds and mattresses? With love to all, Your faithful Father,
John Lewis
[handwritten note below]
I spoke to Laybourne Smith this morning about the various things at the House at Victor Harbour – He promised to attend to same – I did not put your 10/- in his gun?

PRG 247/54/67
PRG247_54_28_2-6
April 1921
Wedding Invitation, from Mr and Mrs T. G. Laidlaw” to Mr & Mrs A. J. Melrose at the marriage of their daughter Gretta to Lancelot Ashley Lewis at Scots Church Collins St [Melbourne]

Newspaper article
The Advertiser 16 March 1938 p 15
DISTRESS FUND APPEAL  Steady Effort Until Anzac Day  DISTRESS AMONG FAMILIES OF SERVICE MEN
As widespread a need existed at present for assistance to many returned soldiers, their dependents, widows, and orphans as at any time since the war, said the chairman of the Soldiers and Sailors’ Distress Fund (Major Lance Lewis) yesterday.
[ Article continues online ]

PRG 247/48 Folder 2
13 June 1938
Army Record, Australian Imperial Force Army for Lance Lewis

Newspaper article
The Advertiser Thursday 16 June 1938 p 14 Obituary
FUNERAL OF MAJOR LANCE LEWIS
About 150 Cars Follow Hearse From Home. It was estimated that nearly 1,000 people attended the funeral of Major Lancelot Ashley Lewis yesterday afternoon. More than 150 members of the South Australian staff of Goldsbrough, JMort & Co., Ltd., were present, and also a number of Major Lewis’s business friends and friends who had been associated with him during his boyhood and early business career. The hearse, followed by about 190 cars, left his home. "Benacre." at Glen Osmond, for the West terrace Crematorium, where the service was conducted by the headmaster of St. Peter’s College (the Rev. Guy Pentreath), Ex-members of the 3rd Light Horse Regiment, in which Major Lewis served during the Great War, formed a guard of honor for the hearse at the Crematorium. More than 400 wreaths and other floral tributes were received, and these will be sent to Burra this afternoon with the ashes, which will be interred in the family vault there. Included among those at the funeral were two brothers, Dr. J. Brook Lewis and Mr. Essington Lewis, Mr. A. J. Melrose, MP, a brother-in-law. Mr. Hal Laidlaw (Mrs. Lewis’s brother), the Chief Secretary (Sir George Ritchie), and the Commissioner of Public Works (Mr. McIntosh). A brother, Major Gilbert Lewis, of Kojoonup, Western Australia, was unable to attend. The chairman of directors of Goldsbrough, Mort & Co., Ltd., in South Australia (Mr. Duncan, ULC.) was also present, and other directors were the President of the Legislative Council (Sir David Gordon), the chairman of the Bank of Adelaide (Sir Howard W. Lloyd), Mr. Harold Hughes, and Mr. A. E. Hamilton. Others included the secretary of Goldsbrough, Mart and Co., Ltd. (Mr. L. W. Williams), Mr. Young. M.L.C, Sir John Melrose. Sir Wallace Bruce. Messrs. J Elliot Murray, T. E. Barr-Smith, sen.. T. E. Barr-Smith, jun., George Jeffrey, who was joint managing director of Bagot, Shakes & Lewis, Ltd., with Major Lewis, C. F. Bax, H. C. Trew, and John M’Laren.

Newspaper article
The Burra Record 21 June 1938 Tuesday p 1 Obituary
Obituary - Lance A. Lewis. The death of Major Lance Lewis which occurred at midnight on Monday last [16 June] at his residence, Ben acre, Glen Osmond, after a brief illness caused a wave of sorrow to pass over Burra and its surrounding districts. The youngest son of the late Hon. John and Mrs Lewis, he was born at Kooringa in the September of 1885. He spent his early boyhood here, attended the Burra Public School and finished his education at St. Peters College. Many Burra folk can recall the boy Lance and his superb horsemanship as a small lad and it is now history how he between the age of twelve and thirteen years rode to Victoria on his pony and brought stock back for his father. On another occasion at the age of sixteen years he took a mob of sheep through to Queensland. He was of a most intrepid disposition without arrogance and certainly knew how to get the best out of life. A fair portion of his early manhood was also spent here and when in the firm’s office at Burra, he was exceedingly popular with the clientele and his courtesy, advice and geniality is still remembered by many. He was a great footballer and played for the Kooringa club when without disparagement of our present team, the team then captained by Major Lewis was one to be contended with and the opponent who had the temerity to ‘bump’ either the captain and many of his team were usually cot-cases for a short time. As a player he was one of the best and even when he afterwards became a prominent member of the Norwood Football Club he would return on special occasions and play for the local team of which he still
retained his membership. As a polo player it is needless to say he excelled. A rider from
infancy he and his well trained ponies always appeared to be in perfect unison. The Great
War broke out in August of 1914 and the late Mr Lewis was amongst the first Light Horseman
to enlist. He served with the 3rd Light Horse Regiment and landed at Gallipoli 17 days after
the storming of Gaba Tepe. It was during severe fighting near Rafa in Palestine where he
received a serious wound; a bullet entered his right cheek and came out in his neck, near the
spine. How he recovered was a miracle, but here again that wonderful endurance of his
prevailed. As an officer he was loved by his troop and there was scarcely an absentee of the
once 3rd Light Horse Regiment now resident in Burra and district, who was not present at the
interment at Burra. His business ability was recognised all over the State. President of the
Stockowners' Association of S.A., chairman of the Sailors and Soldiers' Distress Fund he
also occupied many other prominent positions including that of manager and director of
Messrs Goldsbrough Mort & Company Limited. His death has created gaps which will be
hard to fill. When the cortege left his home on Wednesday last for the Crematorium, West
Terrace, the procession comprised over 136 cars and the attendance estimated at over
1,000. A man of fine physique and personality he was esteemed above the ordinary and the
greatest sympathy is felt for the bereaved family and relatives. At the Kooringa cemetery on
Thursday afternoon, the last sad rites were reverently carried out when the casket containing
his ashes were placed in the family burial ground. There was a large gathering at the
cemetery to pay their last tribute to the memory of one so greatly loved. Although it is now
some years since the deceased gentleman left Burra, neither the late Major Lewis nor his
brothers and sisters have lost touch with the town in which they were born. Mr Lance
particularly so. Burra looked upon him as its own and it seemed quite fitting that his remains
should be brought here and laid beside those of his honoured parents. In the beautiful
sunshine a solemn hush fell on the crowd assembled, as the mourners, preceded by a large
body of returned soldiers, walking four abreast came down the avenue. The latter took up
their position four deep on the western side and the mourners on the eastern side at the foot
of the grave. This sacred spot and the immediate surroundings was a scene of exquisite
floral beauty never previously seen in Burra. By the midday train that day well over 400 floral
tributes arrived and these, under the supervision of Mr K. M. Drew, local manager of Messrs
Goldsbrough, Mort & Co. Limited, with Mr S. Clifford, and other members of the staff, had
been carefully and taste fully laid out making an unforgettable scene. One wreath stood out
amongst the many wonderful tributes, this from members of his old 3rd Light Horse Regiment
was comprised of pure white blooms and black berries with the Regimental colours, black
and white, attached. The Rector of St. Mary's Burra, the Rev. D. L. Redding, read the
beautiful service and after the casket had been placed in its last resting place the widow
dropped a lovely sheaf of white lilies on the casket. Memories of the boy Lance were revived
when his young son, so like his late father, added his tribute to be followed by his daughter's.
An atmosphere of intense sorrow pervaded this vast concourse of people at the loss of such
a fine stamp of man cut off so suddenly in the prime of life. At the conclusion of the service
and even after the family and other relatives of the late gentleman had left the graveside it
was some minutes before there was a movement amongst this large concourse of people.
Besides the widow, her elder son, and young daughter, there were present Dr Brook Lewis
and son, who flew from the West, and Mr Essington Lewis (brothers), Mrs A. J. Melrose
(sister), and Mr A. J. Melrose also Mr Laidlaw, brother of Mrs Lewis, with other relatives.
There was also a large number of representatives from the Adelaide office of Messrs Goldsbrough, Mort & Co. Ltd., and their country branches, as well as pastoralists and graziers from all parts of the North and Mid-north.

PRG247_54_81_3
27 March 1946
Extract from a letter, typed, from C.M. Hambridge [to one of the Lewis family ?]
[Extracts from Letter from the President dated 27th March 1946 re the Royal Geographic Society awards]

PRG247_54_81_2
Undated document, typed, from Royal Geographical Society to [Lewis family ?]
[Donor agreement re John Lewis’s portrait left to the Royal Geographic Society re John Lewis Gold Medals for Exploration or Geographical Research or Literary Work in Geography]

PRG247_54_81_4
Undated document [from a Royal Geographic Society newsletter ?]
John Lewis Gold Medal
The John Lewis Committee wishes to make recommendations to Council for the award of the John Lewis Gold Medal. This is awarded to an Australian (or, failing an Australian, any person) who has made an outstanding contribution to geography, either as an explorer, author , or research worker. If any member of the Society wishes to put forward a name, will he please write to me, giving details of the career and claims of his candidate? You all know, of course, that this is the Society’s highest award, and is not made lightly.
PRG 247/50 Diary kept by Lance Lewis while on active service 1914-15

This Woods Australian diary for 1915 diary is handwritten in pencil. The first entries 1 January to 1 May are for 1915. Pages are blank. The entries from 19 October to 31 December are for 1914—the writer has crossed out 1915 and written 1914 for these entries. For the purpose of this transcript the entries transcribed below have been put in chronological order from 1914 to 1915.

October 19 Tuesday 1914
War declared August 3rd. 1914 From 19th Aug to date [Wednesday 21 October] in camp at Morphettville.

21 20-Wednesday
Packed camp in morning – & left via the Beach for Outer harbour after lunch. The horse Aladdin nearly kicked Mrs Bagot as she handed me a flag. Major F & self fell out and had afternoon tea with Mrs Shylie Rymill¹. Camped about two miles Largs side of Outer Harbour. In evening Mr F. Tolley came down with friends and entertained us at a fizz supper- everyone joyful at the prospects of starting at last

22 21 Thursday
Shipped all horses before lunch and left at 4.30 pm. Gladys Jane & Shylie came out to the anchorage. Dad, Fred Porter, Walter Duncan, Max Rita and many others. Hundreds on the wharfs. 338 horses 366 men and officers shipped without mishap

23 22 Friday
Uneventful as far as boat concerned but things very unpleasant for myself. Feeding fish. Skippers say very smoove

24 23 Saturday
Lost Horse, weather fine

25-24 Sunday
Lost Horse, weather fine

26 25 Monday
Arrived King G George’s Sound at 6 AM – strongly eastly wind. Very fine sight about 18 large transports were already anchored; our Flagship Orvieto arrived shortly after we did and about
three other transports during the day. Cruiser passed out from Albany at dusk - think Melbourne

27 26 Tuesday
Taken into deep water jetty at Albany to coal and water. The Katoomba was on the other side of wharf – went over her, saw nurse that was with Gladys. Met Ray Debere and a pretty girl name unknown. The General inspected the boat was very pleased, Exercised Horses. Pulled off about 300 yard from wharf.

28 27 Wednesday
Steamed out to the sound. Splendid sight about 10 NZ Transports arrived with four cruisers one being Japanese they arrived about 10 AM.

29 28 Thursday
Still in King George Sound. Jack Lawrie & Macindoe came over from Auldana today for a few hours beautiful 3rd horse dead pneumonia. Temperature in all decks varies from 60° to 80°

30 29 Friday
Capt Whitham & Major Burt on board for lunch they are on the Geelong

31 30 Saturday
Officer of the day No 4 Horse died during the night, very fine. Major F. Doc Moody Viney Brock & self went to Geelong for dinner and attend concert by C Squadron 3rd LH. Things merry & bright.

1 [November] 31 [October] Sunday
Guard presented arms to HMS Minator and Melbourne as they passed as us going out at 6 A.M. flagship Orvieto moved off, followed in succession by 26 Aust. transports and 10 NZ. It was very wonderful sight to see this huge fleet move. The boats moved out of the sound singly but after getting of the sound they formed squadron column as on side margin

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Minator

2 1 November Monday
Two more horses died, 6 all told. Pretty fresh with North West wind have been sailing about 5° \to 10°/ west of magnetic North. Slowed down to 9 knots presumably as the southern
cannot do enough to keep up when 10 knots is set. Exercised horses Wauchope got shivers. Have managed to keep from feeding the fishes. [seasick]

3 2 November Tuesday
Smooth

4 3 November Wednesday
Medic and Ascanius joined the fleet from Fremantle

5 4 November Thursday
Warming up. Mail boat Osterley passed making for Colombo

6 5 November Friday
Horse died No 7 south east wind pretty stuffy between decks

7 6 November Saturday
Washing day.

8 7 November Monday
Minatour left at 7.A.M.

9 8 November Monday
The Sydney left 7.15 A.M. Got news before lunch. That both boats had made for the Cocos Islands it appears from wireless received that Cocos Island wired this on Sunday morning – that a strange war vessel was approaching the islands. At Midday the news came that the Sydney had sunk the German cruiser Emden and that the Minatour had been beached. We are not sure whether through fighting or navigation. The Sydney have two killed and thirteen wounded they also captured the two merchant colliers that were supply the the Emnaden with coal. We were about 50 or 60 miles E.N.E. The messages appeared during the morning. Horse died No. 8.

10 9 November Tuesday
Horse died No 9

11 10 November Wednesday
Officer of the day

11 November Thursday [date uncorrected]
Nothing

12 November Friday [date uncorrected]
13 of transports went a head to get coal at Colombo. Crossed the line.

13 November Saturday [date uncorrected]
Had sports in afternoon greasy pole etc
14 November Sunday [date uncorrected]
Arrived at Colombo about 12 noon.

16 15 November Monday
Colombo no one allowed ashore

17 16 November Tuesday
Left Colombo 11 AM accompanied by the cruiser Hampshire

18 17 November Wednesday
Nothing doing

19 18 November Thursday
[no entry]

20 19 November Friday
On duty. No 10 horse died remainder of fleet caught up.

21 20 November Saturday
At 5 AM Ascanius rammed Shropshire who reported that two men were over board. Hampshire had flash light on but could not find them. The Shropshire reported afterwards that no men had gone over they had made a mistake Ascanius bow on Port side knocked in a bit.

22 21 November Sunday
No 11 Horse died.

23-22 November Monday
No 12 Horse died.

24 23 November Tuesday
No 13 Horse died.

25 24 November Wednesday [date uncorrected]
Arrived Aden about 4 PM

26 25 November Thursday
Passed Periam at 3 PM left Aden 6 AM Passed singly several transports presume returning to India

27 26 November Friday
Red Sea pretty hot on shelter deck.

28 27 November Saturday [date uncorrected]
Red Sea

29 28 November Sunday
Wireless that we were to go to Cairo for the winter Orderly Officer

30 29 November Monday
Gulf of Suez Lost no 14 horse

1 [December] 30 [November] Tuesday
Arrived at Suez 12-30 noon, 54 loaded troop ships at Suez this day – 16 being Indians.

2 4 December Wednesday
Left Suez 3 PM. Canal guarded by posts of Indian and English soldiers

3 [overwrites 2] December Thursday
Arrived at Port Said at 6 AM Saw hydroplane go up French hosts of transports English & French cruisers.

4 3 December Friday
Coaled at Port Said
Went out to anchorage

5 4 December Saturday [date uncorrected]
Left in evening for Alexandria

6 5 December Sunday [date uncorrected]
Arrived at Alexandria and went ashore with Col R & Capt Hutchinson of the boat went to Safrano Casino and walked about the streets smells terrible had drink Windsor hotel

7 6 December Monday
Alexandria Scores of Crim ? boats

8 7 December Tuesday
Went to anchorage in aft Went alongside wharf in the afternoon was officer of the day

9 8 December Wednesday
Commenced disembarking before breakfast got 1st train off with 220 horses and about 200 men at 11-30 AM with lot of fodder etc. 2nd train left at 4 oclock PM. with remainder unloaded 325 horses 55 tons chaff 30 tons bran oats lucerne hay besides wagons etc I went by 2nd train right through to Maadi and commenced unloading. Horses were unloaded at Cairo and marched to Maadi – then very tired

10 9 December Thursday
We arrived at Maadi about 2 oclock AM. commenced unloading wag train. Went to camp at 4 AM 2nd lot of horses just arrived and helped put them down. Spent balance of day in supervising loading of stores etc at station very tired in evening.

11 10 December Friday
At Railway Station

12 11 December Saturday
Went to Cairo with Major F went to Shepheards hotel for dinner returned to camp early

13 12 December Sunday
Church Service

14 13 December Monday [date uncorrected]
With led horses

15 14 December Tuesday [date uncorrected]
With led horses

16 15 December Wednesday [date uncorrected]
Major F. JL & self 3 of SICs went to Cairo did shopping went out to Mena about 8 miles out and saw Infantry camp had dinner with the 10th. Then went to the Pyramids. Saw the Sphinx & went into the Pyramid with the Kings & Queens chambers very smelly went back to Cairo for dinner went to the Casino de Paris and met Col R & several others & we had a look round town. Col R Mills Brooks & self slept at Shepheards

17 16 December Thursday
Went Turf Club made Honorary member returned to camp for lunch and paid squadron in afternoon.

18 17 December Friday
Routine

19 18 December Saturday
Routine

20 19 December Sunday
Routine

21 20 December Monday
Routine

22 21 December Tuesday
Went to Cairo Museum with the SIC’s and stayed in Cairo all day
23 December Wednesday
About 300 of the Regt Paraded with the Brigade in Cairo I was fortunate enough to draw a bye & stay home.

24 December Thursday
Xmas eve usual route

25 December Friday
Xmas day no fatigues

26 December Saturday
Usual route

27 December Sunday
On duty as Sub. of trans?

28-29 December Monday
Routine musketry

29 December Tuesday
Routine Musketry

30 December Wednesday
Routine

31 December Thursday
Routine

1 January 1915
Held Regl. Sports. Brigade Paraded w-before Sir Geo Revd

2 January 1915
Went to Races. Boom won Officers Race very easily ridden by Mr Bennett

3 January 1915
Routine. Meet Generals Birdwood & Godlee the former met Gilbert in India and played polo with him. Lent Papps £1.

4 January 1915
Routine

5 January 1915
Routine. General Birdwood came out while I working the squadron and complimented me on the working
6-8 January 1915
Routine.

9 January 1915
Cairo

10 January 1915
Went for a ride on Jack Johnson.

11-13 January 1915

January 1915
Orderly officer

15 January 1915
Routine

16 January 1915
[Saturday] Went to Cairo in evening

17 January 1915
[Sunday] Phil Robin got married to Nellie Honeywell I accompanied bride & Mrs Honeywell to Mena & then to luncheon at Continental Hotel

18-19 January 1915
Routine

20-21 January 1915
Rifle Range.

22 January 1915
Regimental Drill.

23 January 1915
[Saturday] Orderly. Went to dinner at Shepheards

24 January 1915
[Sunday] Went to Dinner at Mrs Bentleys

25 January 1915
[Monday] Went to Brigade Dance at Helwan dinner first

26 January 1915
[Tuesday] Musketry. Mail arrived
27-28 January 1915
Routine

29 January 1915
Did Regimental Advance

30 January 1915
[Saturday] Moved to Heliopolis

31 January 1915
[Sunday] Routine

1-3 February 1915
[Monday] routine

4 February 1915
[Thursday] routine orderly officers

5 February 1915
routine

6 February 1915
[Saturday] routine

7 February 1915
[Sunday] Went to Mena Took Sis to Dinner

8 February 1915
[Monday] Brigade out dug trenches returned 2.30 in the morning

9 February 1915
Inspected trenches

10 February 1915
Divisional route march

11 February 1915
Did Regimental work 1st advancing against enemy 2nd Surprise on flank 3rd surprise from cavalry

12 February 1915
Divisional work advancing under artillery fire

13 February 1915
[Saturday] Routine
14 February 1915
[Sunday] Routine

15 February 1915
[Monday] To Abbassia after remounts

16-19 February 1915
Looking after remounts 311.

20 February 1915
Delivered to Regts

21 February 1915
Routine

22 February 1915
[Monday] Rifle Rang Orderly officer

23 February 1915
Range

24 February 1915
Brigade Training

25 February 1915
Range

26 February 1915
Divisional Training

27 February 1915
[Saturday] Pow wow

28 February 1915
Routine

1 March 1915
[Monday] Routine. [No more diary entries for March]

1 April 1915
[Monday] Routine. [No more diary entries until April 21].

21 April 1915
[Wednesday] To Maadi
22 April 1915
[Thursday] To Helvaan

23 April 1915
Regimental scheme

25 April 1915 [24 ?]
[Saturday] Led horses

25 April 1915
[Sunday] To Sakkara

26 April 1915
To Heliopolis

28 April 1915
Squadron Parade

29-30 April 1915
Squadron Parades

1 May 1915
[Saturday] To Mena with Beneducci’s [last entry in until Tuesday 19 October]

[Next page]
[In back of book are pages for accounts with the month printed and columns for debit and credit. These have been used to record other information.]

February

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<td>11 Ascanius</td>
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<td>Militiades 28</td>
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Orvieto was Flagship
When crossing the Indian ocean the Minatour was in ban Melbourne left flank Sydney rear and Jap boat on right flank
New Zealand Transports

No
3  Manganui (Flagship)  10  Arawa
6  Orari  11  Athenie
8  Star of India  9  Hawkes Bay
7  Limerick  5  Ruapehu
4  Tahiti  12  Waimana

March

We embarked 7843 horses
  Lost  224 horses
  Percently 2.86%
Average length of voyages 52 days

December
[Last page]

[List of letters sent]

27/12/14  Jane, K. Roach  sent photos of J> DF & self at Pyramids
7/1/15  TJW  Sis.  Waller.  George  The Table  Jack Tennant
11/1/15  Lil & Rita
12/1/15  Dad
14/1/15  Jane  Bid  Phil Robin
10/1/15  Gladys
19/1/15  sent face cover to Jane
20/1/15  Papers to Dad  Gil & Dulcie
22/1/15  Mum  Harcus
26/1/15  Jane
28/1/15  Nell
29/1/15  McLaren Crewes  Amy Harris  Mrs McNeil
14/2/15  Dad  Tom Howell  J. Waddington
22/2/15  Jane & Gil
28/2/15  D. Cowan  Nell  Vivian  Shylie  & Parcel for Jane
1/3/15  Jane & Mrs Neil
2/3/15  Baker & Treloar
3/3/15  Gladys & Gloss
4/3/15  Rita & Scholefield
7/3/15  Dad & Shearer
22/3/15  Dad and Mr Melrose
8/4/15  Jane  Mrs Hatherly
14/4/15  Mrs Melrose  Ike Wames & Rita
Further information

More information on Lance, Brook and Gilbert Lewis is available at www.burrahistory.info through their Index of Men and Women from Burra and District involved in World War 1 (1914-1918) and The Boer War (1899-1902), based principally upon references in the Burra Record and District Honour Rolls and Monuments by Eric Fuss & Meredith Satchell Copyright 1st Edition November 2003.

Burra Boys in Cairo circa December 1914
Newspaper article
Burra Record 27 January 1915 p 5
Re letter 'In Egypt With the Australians' 13 December 1914
Extracts from letters of Pte F. Wheatley:— Mena.
8 December 1914

“We went inside the Sphinx carrying a candle. It is awfully hot. We went to the chamber where some king was buried and also, the Queen's chamber. It is a bit dangerous in places, the best way is to take your boots off when you are not likely to slip so much. I have not climbed the Pyramids yet and I don't think I shall. I tried but had to come down again. Might have another try but it is about 500 feet high with a flat top on which over 200 people can be placed at once. One poor wretch fell off yesterday—he is to be buried shortly, he was knocked about pretty badly. I'll bet those Pyramids have never had so many people on them at one time since they were built. On the top you can get a coffee for half a piastre (1 1/4d). We are camped in the desert and have had a rough time up to date. No room to sleep in tents, we have one small one to 25 of us, just room enough to keep our rifles and equipment in. We landed here about 3 a.m. and no tents. The next night no tents and it rained but we ducked under the blankets and went to sleep and got wet through. The dew is very heavy, nearly as bad as the rain. Sometimes nothing to eat, what we do get is very scarce, just a drop of soup and two biscuits, sometimes a little meat. We hope to have a great improvement shortly. Next Monday (25th) we pull down the Turkish flag and put up the flag of old England. We expect a bit of fun. We are to be armed and carry 200 rounds of ammunition. We have been told by the Turkish Government to clear out within 20 days but we are still here and mean to stay until Turkey kicks us out, which is impossible. However, they might have a try.

This is a very large camp, about 30,000 men in camp. Talk about a canvas city, this is really one. The Egyptians are having the time of their lives. They charge us what they like and cheat us in the change of money. People who were poor before we came are now able live in a pretty fair way. They all sell cigarettes and oranges. We are camped on a battlefield where Napoleon fought the English and knocked the nose off the sphinx. The weather is nice and cool. I have not seen any of the Light Horse fellows yet, they are encamped only a few miles out of Cairo, perhaps I may never see them. Am going to Cairo to-morrow to see the sights. December 20th. — I have had several trips into Cairo which is about ten miles away. We (the Australians) are considered very wealthy by the Arabs and Egyptians and all those we do business with. Consequently they charge us pretty stiff for what we buy and take us down whenever they can. They say "English- man no money, New Zealand man, no money, Australia man plenty money," and they are after us like bees after honey wherever we go.

PRG 247 Series 48, 50 and 54 Lance Lewis World War One papers
They are really more nuisance than the flies in Australia. Cairo is a very strange city and I think morally it must be the worst on the globe. There are some curious customs. The milk sellers don't bring the milk round in cans but bring the cow. Later. — I have just come back from the Pyramids. Had another good look round and managed to get a little higher this time. They are a big waste of labor and sadly out of repair, and are not things of beauty but are interesting. Having a fairly rough time in camp, not much to eat and plenty of work and roughing it. However, we shall pull through alright. Apart from ourselves all you can see here are niggers yelling and running about. Remember me to all old Pals. Awfully uncomfortable writing this, letter on the sand so forgive all faults. Yours, etc. — FRED.

Further information on Burra Boys in Egypt, Suez, Port Said ca January 1915
Newspaper article
The Register 16 February 1915 p 5
OUR BOYS, 'The Camp in the Desert' [From our Own Correspondent.] MENA CAMP, near Cairo, Egypt. Jan. 1. It is about three weeks since the 10th Battalion disembarked at Alexandria. We are now settled down, and hard at work completing our training. Not a minute is wasted, and for five hours a day our battalion is going its hardest three miles away from the camp; and the training ground is by no means easy to work on. Any one who has drilled on a hard ground will understand what it means to march and maneuvre over sand, loose and deep, for hours at a stretch. On the morning of November 25 we reached Aden. There we took on coal, and naval ratings from the Orvieto, and Hampshire came on board, the Ascanius to repair the damage done in the collision with the Shropshire. Early on the morning following we steamed toward Suez. At Aden an enquiry into the cause of the collision was held, and our fourth officer, who held the bridge at the time, was exonerated from all blame. The trouble, it appeared, was caused by the Argyllshire, next ahead in line to the Shropshire. She slowed down and warned the Shropshire, which also slackened speed, but the officer of the watch omitted to signal to the Ascanius. The night was intensely dark, and the 'fourth' of the Ascanius could not see the Shropshire until the collision had occurred. At Aden, the full story of the fight between the Sydney and the Emden written by Capt. Bean, the Australian press representative on board the Orvieto, was read to the troops, and was cheered heartily. Capt. von Mueller, the German commander, and his staff, who were taken on board the Orvieto, although prisoners of war, received splendid and courteous treatment at the hands of our officers.
Through the Gates of Hell
At 8.30 a.m. on November 26 Aden had been left far behind, and we were steaming at 13 knots for Perim, the Gates of Hell. About 2 p.m. we passed them, and were well into the Red Sea. On both sides of us we could see land, and on the Island of Perim a few people waved flags and cloths. Soon, on either hand, rose great cliffs of red sandstone. For two days we travelled along in heat like an oven. Even in the night there was no breeze. The following day the third since we had left Aden, the weather changed, and the nights were very cold. On the evening of November 29 news, by wireless, was received, as the result of which all boats steamed with lights out. The information was that two Turkish, destroyers, officered by Germans, were dodging about in the Red Sea, looking for us. They did not see the fleet, anyway or, perhaps, sheered off on account of the strength of our escort. Just before night
fell a mail steamer from Australia passed us on the way to England, and not long afterwards the news was circulated that we were to disembark at Alexandria, and go on to Cairo. The troops were generally disappointed, until it was stated there was a possibility of a ‘scrap’ with the Turks. All sorts of rumours in reference to the progress of the war were circulated, but there was no authentic information as to what had occurred during the time we had been on the water. In the Red Sea the sunset effects were beyond description. As we neared Suez great hills, rising from near the water’s edge, appeared on the Egyptian coast. In single file we proceeded to Suez, which was reached on December 1. After waiting outside the canal for 12 hours, orders came that as each vessel went through the canal an armed, guard, with ball ammunition, was to be mounted until we reached Port Said. We were the 22nd vessel on the list, the New Zealanders having gone on ahead, to be followed by the first lines of the Australian division. It was nearly 9 p.m. when we passed the entrance to the canal. From the houses on the bank came lusty cheers. The occupants were mostly French, to judge by the shouts of ‘Vive l’Australien.’ Before daybreak every one on board was astir, and dotted here and there on the banks could be seen patrols of soldiers, mostly Indians. We were informed that the Indians were a Regiment of Punjabis with a battery of artillery. There were also battalions of the English territorials on the banks. A mile from the canal, and visible from the boat was a section of the Camel Corps, mounted on white camels, and a troop of Indian light cavalry. The main encampment was “Gare du Kantara” (Kantara Station) which consists of about a dozen buildings of European architecture, and about a couple of hundred native huts. Although no attack was made on us during the night the hours did not pass without some thing of note. The Ascanius hit the left bank of the canal at 2 a.m., and carried away one of the buoys, which denote the channel. During the morning we passed a great number of outlying pickets, and at intervals of a mile or so, were well-made trenches, prepared, probably, by the Punjabis.

At Port Said
Nearing Port Said, as we passed on to our anchorage we received a cheer from the New Zealanders, who had berthed, and the officers and crews of three French men-of-war in port. One of them, of the pre-Dreadnought type, looked battered about, and marks on her hull suggested that she had been in action not very long before. The Ascanius anchored about a quarter of a mile from the Mediterranean and exactly opposite the statue of De Lesseps, the French engineer who constructed the waterway. Several of the New Zealand vessels proceeded to Alexandria to disembark. Owing to limited wharf accommodation, the process of disembarking there extended over 10 days. On the morning following our arrival at Port Said we put out to sea, and were instructed to remain outside until ordered to Alexandria. On December 4, three days after we anchored, the Ascanius moved off towards that port, which was reached on the following morning. Its harbour is a wonderful place. Splendid and big break waters have been built, and others are in course of construction. For several days we had to remain in the outer circle of breakwaters, with other transports. The harbour was full of shipping. Far as the eye could see were 300 or 400 steamers and windjammers. Many of the former were captured German traders, and at least two showed evidence of having been shelled.

Another Incident
On the last night of our eventful voyage the Ascanius kept up her reputation for sensationalism. In the early morning a French warship demanded the name and nationality
of the vessel. Evidently the request was misunderstood, for instead of answering the officer of the watch called for full speed, and tried to get away. The Frenchman rapidly overhauled us, and commanded us to heave-to. At the moment the steering gear broke. The Ascanius, carried on by the speed it had attained, turned and went straight for the man-o'-war. The latter, by skilful maneuvering, avoided the involuntary rush, and after explanations, we proceeded on our way, the hand-steering gear having been brought into operation. Not far from the Ascanius were half a dozen German ships, two of which had big plates riveted on each side, near the bow, covering, holes caused by shells from a British cruiser. From a native water policeman who came aboard, I understood that one of the vessels, proceeding past the port, failed to obey the order to heave to, even after a shot had been sent across her bows. The next shell smashed several plates. The German then went into Alexandria Harbour, to remain until after the war. When on the evening of December 6 the transport conveying the South Australian and Western Australian troops pulled alongside the wharf, there were there a great body of Egyptians, negroes, and a few white people. Just before the Western Australians moved off a quarrel arose on the wharf, knives were drawn, and an Egyptian got some inches of steel embedded in his body. This must be a common occurrence, for no notice was taken by the people or police, who appeared more interested in the proceedings on board ship.

Australians at Work.

At Suez we had been amazed to see women coaling ships. They worked hard and rapidly, and soon had the vessels loaded. At Alexandria, however, the men who did the stevedoring were so slow, and kicked up such a row doing little that our chaps became annoyed. Without waiting for an order, a body of soldiers descended upon the natives, made them quit, and began to unload. This move appealed to the officers, and reliefs were arranged for every two hours. Within 24 hours the whole cargo, stores, carts, and spares, teas, unloaded and put on the trains.

Off to Cairo:

By 9 a.m. on December 7 the L. H. battalion of the 10th pulled away from the wharf, alongside which 'runs' the tramline and by 1.30 p.m. the 140 miles to Cairo was covered, and we got on the electric trams for Mena.

Everything on the route had looked prosperous, excepting the native villages about which more anon. The township is dirty looking, and the houses were slight against the line. Unless one has seen the native villages it is hard to realize their squalor. The houses are built so closely together that a person in one can shake hands with his neighbour on the opposite side of the street. All are constructed of wattle and daub, and in the window openings (there is no glass) strong iron bars are placed. The odour which assailed our nostrils, even though we passed through at a rapid rate, was sufficient to indicate that conditions were not quite so sanitary as one might wish. Wherever we stopped on the way there was always a crowd of Egyptian men - there were seldom any women about - to examine our dress and equipment. Half-way to Mena the cars pulled up at one of the great swing bridges over the Nile. This had been opened to allow sailing vessels to pass, and we were held up for an hour. We were soon surrounded by urchins, who called for 'indulgence' otherwise money. Our fellows, not understanding the request, used lurid language to shake the youngsters off, but to no avail.

By 5 o'clock we reached (Ghizeh), when we could see the Pyramids. A quarter of an hour later we started on a march of about 10 minutes to the camping ground. By 8 p.m. every one
had secured his blankets, and had settled down for the night, with the sky for a roof, and the three great Pyramids for guardians. About 2 o'clock the following morning and up to 5 a.m. the remainder of the battalion came in.

A Desolate Scene

When reveille sounded and we were aroused a desolate scene met the eye. We were on the edge of the Great Sahara Desert, and there was nothing in view but sand and sandhills, and the Pyramids. The 1st and 2nd Infantry Brigades had secured tents. We could not get any, and for three nights slept in the open. It was icy cold, and there were heavy dews in the mornings; but we all had a good supply of blankets, and kept warm. Training was not resumed for a week or so. By this time a number of tents had been secured, and 22 men were allotted to a tent. It was far from comfortable, but the sand made a fairly easy bed, and in the day there was no need for tentage. Once settled down, work started in real earnest, and if we don't give a good account of ourselves it won't be for lack of training.

Mena and Its Environs.

Our camp is at Mena, 10 miles from Cairo, on the edge of the Great Sphinx. A mile or so to the east rise the Pyramids of Ghizeh, the biggest being that which was the tomb of Cheops and his consort. Just behind these are the world-famous Sphinx and the rams of the Temple of Heliopolis. The stones of which the Pyramids are built are so large that when one considers there are none of similar size or nature within 500 miles, it is a cause for amazement that they managed to get them to their present station, and place them in position. Still more wonderful is the interior of this large tomb. The walls of the King's Chamber which is 50 x 30 ft., are composed of single slabs of rock, that is four rocks in all, about 100 ft. high. The Queen's Chamber is smaller, but just as remarkable, as that which was the last resting place of the Pharaoh Cheops. The passages, which are about 500 to 750 ft. in length, slope at exceedingly acute angles, and are not more than 3 ft. high by 2 ft. wide. The floor is as smooth as glass. The ancient builders might easily have slid the heavy marble coffins down the first entrance way, but it is hard to understand how they lifted them up the second, at an angle of 60 deg. to the King's Chamber. Underneath this 'roadway' runs a level passage leading to the Queen's Chamber thus leaving a hole of about 10 ft. in height over which the sarcophagus had to be raised. There are only two narrow stone ledges, about a foot wide, just enough for one to walk up. That the sarcophagus was got there there can be no doubt, for it is there now, too heavy to be moved. It is composed of a solid block of marble, hollowed out, 9 ft. by 3 ft., and 5 ft. high. The famous Sphinx at first sight looks nothing wonderful, but when viewed closely it is seen to be constructed of one single rock, with another of huge dimension for the body part. Then the real wonder of this monument is realized.

In Cairo.

Although the City of Cairo is but 10 miles from the camp, and there is a regular tram service, our troops are not allowed in too often—once in right days is about the usual run. This is just as well, for Cairo not the best kind of place for soldiers especially men like the Australians, who have plenty to spend. Some of our chaps have not behaved there so well as they might have done. The newspapers here considerately ignore their wildness, and are full of praise for the physique of the men from the antipodes.
Christmas and new year passed quietly. The training was carried on as usual and the only break made was on Christmas Day. There were no special rations issued: and what puddings were obtained were purchased by the men themselves. The Commanding Officer 10th Battalion cabled to the Chairman of the War Fund in Adelaide asking whether he would send a small amount from the fund wherewith to purchase extra comforts for the men. The reply received by Col. Weir was that the committee considered it outside the province of the collectors of the fund to send money to get extra comforts for the representatives of South Australia. That was not the wording of the cable—the cost of which probably came out of the fund—but that is what it meant. The Queenslanders, New South Wales men, Victorians, and New Zealanders received large sums from the States they represent.

Reorganization
After training our troops in single company formation for four months, and giving strict instructions that in no circumstances were they to be trained otherwise, those in authority, without waiting issued an order on December 26 that from January 1 double company or platoon drill was to be taken into use. On January 1 the reorganization began, and now instead of eight companies each battalion is composed of four companies, brought about by the amalgamation of the whole battalion. The new organization, so far as the 10th is concerned, resulted in A and F Companies becoming A Company, C and B becoming B Company, B and H becoming C Company, and D and G being transferred into D Company. The new company commanders are:—Mjr. Beevor (A), Capt. R. E. Oldham (B), Capt. R. B. Jacob (C); and Capt. Herbert (D). The strength of the battalion has not altered. The sudden change has caused a deal of confusion which, perhaps, will soon be cleared up. The 2nd Contingent is expected to arrive during this month, and when it does we will probably move out. May their transports travel quickly.