

*Sat*  
 28.9.78. / At office in the morning, C.O. said "someone must go into Murree today with ammunition". I volunteered. By 10.30 I was off with a guard of drivers, and ammunition, on Battery Mules. Everything settled at Sunny Bank. Went to 'Charleville' to Tiffin. To Torrington afterwards, to go to Tiffin next day at the latter. Back to camp expecting married people. Don't turn up; so go round by Kooldannak. Ride up to Mall with Miss Ross. Just past club overtaken by my hostess of Charleville, to which place we ride and the day ends with a very pleasant dinner, disproving the old adage "Two company three none." Go back early to camp to find it raining, and the married people just arrived; also my baggage. After settling the ladies comfortably, turn in. Raining.

*Sun*  
 29.9.78. / Battery comes in sight whilst I am having <sup>①</sup> chotha hasari at 17th mess at Kooldannak; so I get into camp and show C.O. camping spot; after morning work get to tiffin at Torrington; passing kirk at the wrong hour, and being waylaid by Mrs. Moriarty. After tiffin go to Charlesville, and *trio* for a prowl round by Sunny Bank. Back to dinner at Charleville. Best of evenings and my last probably for a fabulous time of civilised life. Get back to camp to find gharries and everything ready for the march. Proud possessor of a charm additional since morning. Fine.

*Mon*  
 30.9.78. / Early start. Get to Tret at about 11.30. Muster after getting in. Beginning of troubles with mules, an awful lot of sores; looks like fulfilling P.V.S's predictions. Turn into Dak Bungalow for meals. Mildmay of R. Bde rides down afternoon en route to <sup>join</sup> ~~rejoin~~. Campbell R.E. dines with us, <sup>oursat</sup> ~~discusses~~ length on revolvers. O this wife doleful over prospects of war and separation. Fine.

*Tue*  
 1.10.78. / Tret to Barraca. Arrive about 10 a.m. Hot weather feel about the sun. Same arrangements as usual, tents pitched for sleep but feed in the bungalow. Go out shooting in the evening after quail, don't get very many, and it is beastly hot. I get a shot at a hare but miss. I don't believe shikaris meant us to get any game. Fine.

① - Breakfast.

- 2.10.78. Into Rawal ~~Pindi~~<sup>in</sup>, 13 miles start at 5.30 a.m. get in about 11. Met by  
Wed. Col. Lindsay, who tells us we are to march tomorrow. Encamp on race-  
course, where 12th B.C. already in camp. C.O. rebels against starting  
so soon, so gets a reprieve till Saturday. Busy times for the rest of  
the day. Go to dine as guest at R.A. Mess, in the evening. Men  
confined to camp, don't stick to it. Rank mutiny. 4 or 5 absentees  
at Roll call as a consequence. Fine, but precious hot all day long.
- 3.10.78. Bustle all day long. 12th B.C. off early. Casting committee on some  
Thurs. ~~mules~~<sup>mules</sup>, obliging now, cast anything. Only allowed 80 lbs. of baggage.  
Telegram from Charleville "Polly alright." Broadpool<sup>T</sup> joins as Captain,  
to teach us our M.B. work, and not before he was wanted. Dinner in  
camp. Fine.
- 4.10.78. 29 mule joined my division. I got rid of my heavy baggage and super-  
Frid. fluous servants; former to ~~Yamasjee~~<sup>J</sup> to store, latter to the right  
~~5?~~ about. Doubled up into Dick's tent. Rather hard on Owen, who had to  
take in Dummy Walker. We had a taste of service delights the same  
evening. Dinner was served up with as much dust as anything else; and  
the rain came in storms accompanied by thunder and lightening during the  
night, luckily not enough to prevent our marching next morning.  
Day fine and hot. Night showery and stormy.
- 5.10.78. Reveille went at 4.30, but the men were so fuddled from the effects  
Sat. of parting from their friends, that everything was upside down, and we  
did not get off till 6.30., found coffee shop at  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles, where the  
Kohat road branches off from the G.T.R. Arrived at Nowg<sup>j</sup>ujia at 11.15.  
Buston R.E. and Sappers, and one squadron 10th Hussars march with us;  
as does also Col. Lindsay R.A.; Sapper<sup>lt</sup> makes me Staff Officer till his  
Adjutant turns up. Stables on arrival. Breakfast. After, Dick  
and I strolled down the maidan to a pond. One ~~Teal~~<sup>T</sup> seal on the pond, but  
we did not get it. With 10th Hussars Balkeley, Fisher, Durham, Jeffer<sup>coat</sup>  
Dr., with us. Major Dyce, Capt. Broadpool<sup>T</sup>, Self, Dick Dacres and ~~erat~~  
Dummy Walker, Owen Dr.. Dinner at 6. Cloudy all day.
- 6.10.78. Reveille at 4.30. Started at 6. Men in much better trim and we got  
Sunday into ~~Futtenjung~~<sup>FUTTENJUNG</sup> a large village at 11.20 a.m. 5th Ghoorkhas from  
~~Abbottabad~~<sup>Abbottabad</sup> in camp; Officers feeding in Dak Bungalow. We altered  
our system of stables; watering at once, rubbing down, and feeding in  
about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour; leaving stables proper till 4.30. Dinner at 6.

6.10.78. Turned in soon after, thinking to enjoy a good night's rest. Vain  
 Cont'd. Hope! At 1.30 a.m. D. awoke me with a shout of "a dust storm coming,  
 tumble out" Out we tumbled. I propped up a tent post; and he bulged  
 out the weather side with the largest surface of his back, and then,  
 down came the storm. What glorious confusion and Rows(?) Volleys of  
 curses from O.C.'s palace; and Broadfoot piteously wailing for someone  
 to come; as his was a light tent, and the guy rope had smashed, he  
 could not leave the pole, and as no-one would come, he had the horror  
 of seeing the water streaming on to his bed, where the waterproof  
 sheet under his bedding caught it and held it; also his trunk commenced  
 gradually to float. Mild blasphemies echoed through Owen's tent,  
 answered by the calm snoring of the Dummy. The mess tent, which was  
 sheltering the servants was blown down, and ~~became~~ became transformed  
 into a theatrical sea, as they tried to struggle from underneath.  
 Luckily the storm was short but not many got very comfortable for the  
 remainder of that night.

7.10.78. The ~~Ghoukas~~ <sup>Ghoorkas - (OR GHURKAS)</sup> had been ordered to half here as it was thought better not  
 Monday. to have too large a force in one camp. Of course rain stopped everyone  
 going on. Reveille at 5.30. Stables at 8.30 and the morning occupied  
 in drying things. Luckily a very fine day. Mule 157 joined Rt. Dn.  
 in the afternoon. Showery, all night.

8.10.78. Start at 6.10 a.m. in spite of slight showers during the night. At  
 Tuesday 9.45 a.m. arrive at Gagan 9 miles. pretty cool today. Just the same  
 sort of marching as it has been since we left G.T.R. Cutcha Road,  
 every now and then crossed by a mullah. Small hills good for *onial?*  
 on both sides. Ponds covered with <sup>D</sup>weeds about the place, <sup>T</sup>seems with  
 wild fowl, but as we were last arrivals we got none. In the evening  
 went out shooting with Major Dyce, down mullah beyond village, any  
 amount of 'Seesee' about, *shot one* but the coolie let it into a bush, and  
 it was lost. Back disgusted to dinner, with one of great family of  
 Kuch nais. Broadfoot is nicknamed <sup>Gammer + Songs</sup> (Gammer and Tongs), as he does give  
US what for after dinner as a rule. I have a sneaking idea we deserve  
 it too.

"Gammer + Songs" ?  
~~Handwritten Tongs~~

- 9.10.78. Start 5.50. Distance 11½ miles arrive at (Kancilpore) 10.5 a.m. Camp Wednesday. some distance off the road. It is getting hotter every day as we get down towards the bed of the Indus. As I was travelling round the mules owing to my conscience being stricken by <sup>Gammer's</sup> ~~Gammer's~~ eloquence on the previous night, I put my foot into a hole, it being still very dark, and twisted my ankle, so vowed I would not go messing round, when it was dark, again. I nursed my foot, instead of going to stables in the evening, and kept precious quiet for the rest of my travels. Fine day. Hot and cloudless.
- 10.10.78. Start 5.55 a.m. Hotter than before, at 9.45 a.m. arrive at <sup>71ND</sup> ~~Puit~~ Thursday. Sool <sup>TE</sup> ~~sance~~ 9½ miles. Major <sup>Dye</sup> ~~D.~~ seedy. Mules sore, and everyone more or less angry. I was on duty, and had charge of the baggage mules, so had a little march to myself. Camp some way off the road.
- 11.10.78. Start 5.45 a.m. arrive 10 a.m. at <sup>SHAND</sup> ~~Shand~~ 10½ miles. A very undulating Friday. camp and sandy. Sand grouse about. <sup>Wheel?</sup> ~~Wheel~~ supposed to be 4 miles off; no one went out. Corp. Pittaway doubled up by a mule kicking his stomach. Moonlight at night.
- 12.10.78. Start at 5.30. arrive Khushalghur <sup>SHAND</sup> ~~Shand~~ 9 a.m. 9 miles a sandy road up Saturday. to the ravine running down to the bridge of boats. River strong and deep here, precipitous rocks both sides, not more than 100 yards wide, I should think. 32 ~~boats~~ boats, only 830 feet above level of sea. Camping ground in a basin just over the bridge. Small so the Goorkhas were halted behind at <sup>Shand</sup> ~~Shand~~. A different routine now, double sentries being the order of the day, and carbines loaded, no one allowed to wander. The head swells of the place, a big fine lot of men physically - the less said about their morals the better, if rumours are true - 40 chowkeydars posted round the camp at night, awful ruffians armed to the teeth with matchlocks, knives and pistols. The hottest day yet. Sketch executed here <sup>V</sup> ~~vide~~ squad book. We stuck to our tents, but Col. Lindsay and Xth Hussars went into the Dak Bungalow. Fine and <sup>tries</sup> sunny.
- 13.10.78. On duty, so go with the baggage. Start 4.30 a.m. arrive Goombut 14 Sunday. miles 9.30 a.m. cool march, through defiles for about 9 miles till at last after a sort of pass the Kohat valley opens in view. ~~Kohat~~ Kohat seen <sup>away</sup> in the distance amongst some trees. Lots of ruffians stalking about, all armed with <sup>Jezails (Haa?) etc.</sup>

- 13.10.78. I rode a good part of the way with Jeffcoat who narrates "Posting a Cont'd. vedette". The inhabitants of Goombut tell us game abounds near the hills, but no one was such a born fool as to go and look for it. Chowkeydars as before, same family, same equipments as at Khuss/hulghur. Fine.
- 14.10.78. Reveille at 3, start at 4.30, no officer with baggage. Arrive Kohat 15 Monday. miles at 1015 a.m. Pass police chowkey en route and wag. Gr. T. on seeing a gentleman in bed. "Come now, I say old man, time to turn out" We swing into the station in style, escorted by Lewis, a very pretty station. Our camp is in a beautiful stony spot, the mules have some very pretty sores, and everybody is cross; added to which General says we are not to go on, but to wait here for the 72nd. Everyone has got an exaggerated notion of our bad enough sores. The Xth R. Hussars are encamped alongside, but we have lost sight of Peter Buten and his sappers. A lot of letters turned up <sup>for</sup> battery. One ~~done~~ for me. *Shines* turned up in camp. His battery was ordered to Peshawar. They went there 40 miles in one march (7 p.m. till 2 p.m.), and he had come back to take over sick men and mules. I went to see the racquets after stables, saw Morgan R.A. and then went over to see *Shures* in his ~~place~~ palace; had my first *peg* since I left ~~Bag~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~Bag~~, all asked to dinner but knew there was a press at table, so all dined in camp. Major J going to have parade at 6. Looked very stormy, so I settled the tent before I went to bed. D. dined at mess.
- 15.10.78. Parade 6 a.m. Gun Drill, no storm after all, last night. Gen. Roberts Tuesday. came down to inspect the mules ~~xxxxxx~~ whilst we were in stables "Ugly Adams and the bucket". Breakfast in camp make up our minds not to crowd the mess. *Tub* at *Shures*. He leaves for Peshawar about 11, but leaves his house to us. Go to mess after, and read the papers. Prowl with Owen; Slept till Tiffin. Stables, Ride. Find a home letter at P.O. Johnny my pony quite *beany*. Saw Mrs. R. not to speak to. Left cards for O.C. and self at mess, and had a peg. Rest of the evening same like before.

- 16.10.78. Gun drill again. Broke a sponge limbering up. Moral never limber up  
Wed. beer  
with a sponge. C.O's ~~xxxx~~ ckkha turned up, and he handed over 4 bottles  
to the mess. Visited in the evening by the Kotwal a strapping tall  
young fellow, who seems to have lots of news and bucks away fairly.
- 17.10.78. No Thursday holidays on service so we had a battery exercise. ~~I~~ <sup>J.D.'s</sup> Dr.  
Thursday  
bump of ~~xxxxxxx~~ locality landed us in a native nobleman's back premises,  
out of which we scuffled somehow, as each particular driver, and mule  
thought best. At last we got to the riverside, and there after  
complicated manoeuvres by I.D., and a driver catching it fair in the  
face from the same, we came into action and slated a hill opposite in  
imagination. We returned to camp after this feat in triumph thro' the  
city. 10 to 12 saddle fitting. Rt. Dn. 12 to 1. Range finding with  
prismatic compass and sextant. Far Hill 5000 yards. Visit in the  
evening from 'Star a masha' as we have christened the big Kotwal.  
Fine.
- 18.10.78. I.D. comes out early with the news that we are to go to Peshawar on  
Friday.  
relief by Kelso's Battery. Gun drill again. Had tiffin at mess: saw  
the great Spratt: had 2 games of billiards with Jeffcoat. Back to  
camp 3.45 p.m. for stables; afterwards out for a ride, and d-d  
near tumbled off over a small jump. Fine always now.
- 19.10.78. Saddle fitting for the battery; write to Napier about the tents;  
Saturday  
information noted as useful 24 wooden pegs, 4 iron pegs. Wt of tents  
37 seers, Poles and pegs 17 seers = 54 seers. Kersmashed Bubbun  
own thumb as he had watered the milk. Evident row amongst the Kids,  
as D's had sneaked: send my sword to be sharpened, and have my bed  
repaired. In the evening Reader 17th and Pollock 1st Sikhs pay us a  
visit. The former is going to be Col. Cobbe's galloper. Fine.
- 20.10.78. Walker on duty; so D & I, instead of going to church had a belati  
Sunday.  
morning; find I can't stop in bed beyond 7. Sword comes back sharp  
as a razor. Field day with mess accounts after tiffin. D & I had a  
roade round the fort. Upper defences pentagonal <sup>9 prs</sup> ~~aprs~~ 2: 5½" mortars.  
1 : 8" mortars 1.  
Lower defences 18 prs. 3  
Ditch caponnisier 2. Fine  
*caponnisier?*

- 21.10.78. Rt. Half By. parades and walks round for inspection, with loads on,  
Monday. a device of a long <sup>u</sup> ~~pipe~~ <sup>biz</sup> especially with stables afterwards. A Bell tent comes for us, as we thought we would wear out (Good) tent instead of Dick's. We pitched it, it looked drunk, and was very hot, and was <sup>Govt.?</sup> so we agreed to let it go till we left Kohat. What fools we were to have any thing to do with it, after such a warning. In the afternoon ride out with Owen and Jeffcoat, returning meet Maisey and <sup>H</sup>Hardy of 8th Kings. Inspected with ~~how to~~ <sup>Inspected</sup> ever since we have been in Kohat. Fine. <sup>helmets</sup>
- 22.10.78. Gun Drill. Rt. <sup>Dr.</sup> and 3. Left Half By. walk round; as I was on duty,  
Tuesday not much chance of anything but ordinary routine. Fine.
- 23.10.78. Gun Drill; mule casting committee <sup>treats</sup> us very kindly, casting lots  
Wed. that ought to have been cast before. Evening, Harness Inspection. Ride with D. out into the country. Fine.
- 24.10.78. Get orders to march for Peshawar on relief by the other Mountain Battery.  
Thursday No parade as it is Thursday. I.D. got over his red hot soldier <sup>ys.</sup> Only stables. Tub at SHIRAZES. To mess to tiffin. 8th Kings marched in at 6 a.m. Played 2 games of billiards with Jeffcoat. Went to cricket before afternoon stables. A lot of the 8th <sup>Kings</sup> there, all in stubbly stage of beard. After stables ride to river again with Osborne and Walker. Then <sup>to</sup> P.O. Met Miss M. and strolled.
- 25.10.78. Marching order parade. Recorded as an astounding fact, that not a mule  
Friday. was rubbed. On duty, so nothing more startling occurs to me. Here we are to start for <sup>esh</sup> Peshawar on Tuesday.
- 26.10.78. Gun drill; stables; Tiffin at mess. After out shooting towards Bannu with  
Saturday Owen and Jeffcoat. Got to the river, saw one <sup>T</sup> seal, don't get a shot; killed a snippet out of spite; shabby action; tried a bed in the Bell Tent.
- 27.10.78. As the rangefinders came in yesterday, amused ourselves with the new toy.  
Sunday. Hill to survey mark 3100 yards. A butcher polished off in a village yesterday evening. Can't go where you like. Swinley's Battery marched in this morning. Went over to see them. Smith and Montanaro with them. They have a bigger lot of mules than we have. Rumour says the <sup>K</sup> Kharber is to be attacked on the 10.11.78, so we shall be well in for it. <sup>At 11.30</sup> go to swimming bath with 2 Smiths and Montanaro. Not at all a bad Tub. I wish I had known of it before. Fine.

28.10.78.  
Monday.

Battery exercise in the morning, go out towards the pass. I have to return early, as I am on a S.C.M. on a drive. On duty. The day spent in preparing for the start. Kelso's battery in. Shirres comes to see us, and says 'good-bye'. Get a parcel from M. to take to Major Ross. On duty, so can't get out for a farewell. Fine.

29.10.78.  
Tuesday

Reveille at 3. Everyone out of trim for camp packing, so we don't get off till 5.30 a.m. Just getting light, as we pass thro' the station along past the camps of 21st N.I. and 8th Kings to the bottom of the pass; a winding road up to the Kotal; a fort, the end of our territory down below. The Kotal. A police Chowki at the top. Here we halt to change mules. Take a farewell view of Kohat and the valley on that side; and then descend into the narrow defile called the Kohat pass. A valley about 300 yards wide <sup>tr</sup> sketches into the hills on the left. Directly we get down a partridge starts off from a road-side boundary, and away go our escort the 1st after it and actually run it down, and catch it; ~~xxx~~ can't make out why it did not fly. A long winding stony defile opening out into a valley studded with villages here and there, mostly along the dry bed of a river; between ranges of hills from 1500 to 2000 ft. high, swarming with chikor, which I heard, and game of all sorts, rumour says. All the inhabitants, even boys with guns, a good many with Enfield Rifles. Halt at a huge tank, supposed to be half way at 12 noon. Have breakfast. Crafty Q.M.S. lets off a Jezail unintentionally; <sup>near</sup> ~~no one?~~ wants compensation for expenditure of ammunition, so crafty one moves on. At 2 we all make a start again. About 3 we emerge from the pass; halt at ~~Emind?~~ <sup>chaboche?</sup> a police chowki with an enormously deep well. Then away again along the Peshawar valley to ~~Malawi~~ <sup>ni</sup> ~~Matansi~~, where we pitch camp. Arrive 4.30 p.m. a distance of 22 miles. Turn into stables at 5. Mules don't appear so bad as expected; only cursory inspection may have something to do with it. As it is late and there is a dak bungalow, only Major and Walker on duty in camp. O.B.D. & I dine and sleep in dak bungalow - Climax of the wasp pestilence. Bubun had only provided 2 <sup>chikor</sup> ~~ovike~~ for dinner so we decide to ~~smash~~ <sup>hank</sup> him and him.



- 30.10.78. Don't recollect when I have slept so well. Up again at 3 a.m. Halt  
Wed. half way at Buda Bhair for coffee shop. Get into Peshawar about 10.  
Pitch our camp in the middle of the R.A. lines. Go up to the Mess for  
breakfast. All invited to dinner. Mules in a lamentable state. D & I  
have a tête-a-tête instead of going to mess to dinner.
- 31.10.78. A holiday. Muster and signing accounts D & I make a prowling round the  
Thursday station and *Sudden?* In the evening Gregory Buller visited us.
- 1.11.78. Stuck for Regl. duty. I/A 17th R. Bde. & we inspected by Gen. Ross.  
Friday. March past and home. D.O. and I to call on Gen. Only see Mrs. & Miss.  
Ross. Call on Col. Williams R.A. Out. Tiffin at mess. After to call  
on the Fletchers. In eve. went for a stroll to the river with B.  
Dinner in camp. After to mess, as all are early birds in camp, and I  
could not go round guards too soon. Found pool going on. Played lost 1/-  
Game at billiards with Churchward won. Guards & bed. D sleeping peace-  
fully.
- 2.11.78. *Amunition?* Ann. inspection. At breakfast telegram handed in *From* Fr. Adj - R.A. Kohat  
Saturday To O.C. 11/9 R.A. "M. B. ordered to Bombay to embark for Batoum" We  
came to the conclusion it was a hoax. However Q.M.S. gets hold of it,  
believes it, and it is all over Peshawar, as the crafty one divulges the  
secret at the cricket ground, during a match as "Ordered to Bombay via  
Batoum." I.D. *†* tells me his hoax alright, with the aid of the gumpot  
and Br. Hardy. Went for a stroll towards racecourse with B, who knew  
Peshawar very well, but he could not find the racecourse, so we went  
back, seems he did not turn at the right spot.
- 3.11.78. Parade at 8.30 for church. Watches quite different, so we get in rather  
Sunday. a muddle, and the other battery does not turn up. Went to mess for  
breakfast; saw Fletcher; got out "Joan" and 'Madcap Violet' to read from  
mess Library. We determine always to feed in camp. Mess don't quite like  
it. Went for a gallop with D round the race course: lost my charm,  
alas! Fletcher came to visit us in the evening.
- 4.11.78. Inspection by Col. Williams R.H.A.  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour too early with our watches.  
Monday Rank past, and *foot* over some gun drill. After breakfast start with  
13 for *Jamrood*. *Tai* cast a show beyond Hurri *Singh* Ke Boorj, so  
had to come back, called at Moriarty's en route, and had a peg. D & I  
went to visit Polly Jones in the evening, but find the bird had flown

- 4.11.78. <sup>in</sup> to ~~Pardi~~, so we prowled aimlessly; and then retired on the mess to read  
Cont'd. papers.
- 5.11.78. A short march with all the saddles on, still alterations wanted. Rode  
Tuesday in the afternoon, with Dummy and Churchbelly, and passed everyone 2 or  
3 times; in the latter's nightly amusement of doing the Mall.
- 6.11.78. On both duties. Regl & By - Another parade with all the saddles. I  
Wednesday had to give myself leave as I was on C.M. at 8. B took the By. as far  
as New Cut: To mess to raise books; "How to manage it", "Gordian  
Knot". Tiffin in camp and dinner. After dinner to mess to keep  
myself awake. Col. says we are to move to the front next week.  
Play pool, win 2 ~~4~~ A 4 game at billiards. Biddy and I v. Col and  
Walsh. Ker-mash'em. Guards 12 midnight. Then bed.
- 7.11.78. Discover on turning out that mules have come from ~~Cont~~ <sup>?</sup> to replace  
Thursday cast ones; get 9 for my division 102. 108. 106. 101. 109. 64. 110. 21.  
Had promised to play cricket, but won't trust my ankle, so go and tell  
them I have sent a substitute. Then to Biddy's to leave my report.  
Take mess on my way back, and meet the male cousin "Hepburn" Ada peg  
with him. Off to F's for a chat with Mrs. F. and to leave books borrowed  
at Charleville. "Some Folks". "Other Peoples Children". Back to camp  
for tiffin. Out for a ride at 4.30. Saw everyone at cricket so I  
bolted along the Mall. Johnny, getting larky, took me nilly willy into  
~~Monasty's~~ <sup>Mariarty's</sup> compound. They were out; I met them during my ride and  
strolled as far as <sup>J</sup> ~~I~~ changeers, and round, via ~~bazar~~ to Mall. When I  
got back J.D. asked me to go and see the Fs to ask him some questions.  
I ask 'em, and he asks me to dinner. B and I both dine and get back  
about 10.
- 8.11.78. Off to same place as Wed. with range finders. From canal to tower 800  
Friday yds. Went to call on long John. Tiffin with him at 7th N.I. Then  
back to camp. Went to see polo with Walker.
- 9.11.78. Gen. Sir S. Browne, turned up at 2.30 and had a salute from 40 prs. I  
Saturday dined with long J. at 7th N.I. Met ~~Gore Terryan~~ <sup>M</sup> with plenty of side on.
- 10.11.78. D & I went to Jamrood. Only Wace in camp of <sup>N</sup> N.B. Guides cav. and ~~inf~~ <sup>7</sup>.  
Sunday on left. 1st Sikhs on ~~st~~ <sup>st</sup> strolled round his camp, had a gase at the  
forbidden camp of the Khooka Kheyls. Gased thro' ~~Dr~~ <sup>Dr</sup> Lantour's glass  
at Rhotas peak and saw the enemy's picquets on the <sup>h</sup> hills quite plainly.  
~~cavalry?~~ <sup>infantry?</sup>

- 10.11.78. Tiffin, and got a wrinkle from the lamps. After tiffin went to Fort  
Cont'd. Jamrood; saw Talbot R.E., and Corpse Newton, attached to 22nd N.I. started  
back at 4.30., and met De Lantour <sup>Dr.</sup> en route; cordial and hoped we had  
been well ~~xxxxx~~ treated in camp. Home about 6, if tent can be called  
'home'
- 11.11.78. Went out with the Ordnance Mules for By. Exercise, across the Rifle  
Monday. ranges, in spite of the red flag flying, across country to the Michni  
road, some fun with a couple of ditches, jumping the mules across. At  
Tiffin C.O. gets official to hold himself in readiness to march immediately.  
14 young mules arrive from <sup>in</sup> Pardi, select 6, and send the others to Court 3  
for my <sup>Dr.</sup> 8.83.91. Dick ~~xxxxx~~ seedy too bad for dinner. moonlight night.
- 12.11.78. Out for a By. exercise under ~~xxxx~~ B. On duty to have to see the victim  
Tuesday. of a S.C.M. - held in Kohat - tied up to a tree and flogged; 24 lashes.  
Hear of the fascinating Sundar's conquest and naughty conduct. O. out  
of mess. Leaves camp as Mrs. O. has turned up in Peshawar. Fine.
- 13.11.78. Out with ord. mules to Bhoduee; across bridge, and into Khet on right.  
Wednesday Range of ruined fort, 580 yds. Wace of de la T's M.B. in to  
tiffin. Out with D. to Jehangirs to get some mess stores. moon.
- 14.11.78. Out with the baggage mules for a change. Down to the racecourse with  
Thursday Dummy.
- 15.11.78. Out with Ord mules over the hillocks in front of parade ground under  
Friday C.O. Gen. Appleyard turns up in camp to get some gaiters. Tells us we  
<sup>5?</sup> are to be ordered out at once.
- 16.11.78. Get orders to march tomorrow for Harri <sup>in</sup> ~~S~~igh leave P.P.C. on F. Find  
Saturday Mrs. & Miss. gone to Altock for change of air. Meet Gay Campbell, Sir S.  
Browne's A. D.C. & he asks me to dine <sup>a</sup> 4 at Cavagnaris. Mend on  
that, and dine him at R.A. Mess. Won  $\frac{5}{8}$  at pool; and a game at billiards  
with Col. Williams.
- 17.11.78. Marched out with By. at 6 a.m. Camp off the road, so formed to the  
Sunday left at the <sup>Boori</sup> ~~Boori~~ 9.8.94 galled. 111 smashes forge saddle. Gh. Kasul  
Khan - his own driver - seedy, so mule will not work for anyone else.  
Wrong camp marked out by crafty one, so we have to go across country to  
the right one. Returned to Peshawar in the evening for soda, brought it  
out. Syce and Wright's Pathan having a quarrel on the road. Ride out  
with a guide Sowar who posts me with news. 2 or 3, 17th over to see us

- 17.11.78. Scarcity of wood rather against our getting food cooked. Dick very  
Cont'd. seedy. Fine moon.
- 18.11.78. Ammunition inspection in the morning, and digging gun pits, arrange  
Monday. reserve amm, so that we may get what we want easily. Poor D. very bad.  
B & I went to see 17th. *Hear* we are to march to Jamrood at 7 a.m.  
tomorrow. Go back to camp and hear order bugle sound. Find the  
news is true. Fine and moon.
- 19.11.78. 17th March at 7. We march at 7.45. D is carried off in a dhoolie.  
Tuesday 111 smashes another saddle, get to Jamrood about 9 a.m. A stream to  
be crossed just before getting into camp. T.A. instead of walking thro'  
and getting wet half way up his shins, must try and jump it. Result  
with most. Into the middle, and wet to the *fork*. Find no camp  
ready, we are to go into Guides Cav. camp. and they have not moved  
off yet. They to go to <sup>t</sup>Multra Thana. Breakfast at Guides. D gets *COURTS*  
a shake - down in 17th Webbe's tent, till our *MARTIAL* camp is up. C.M. on  
17th <sup>N</sup>mail at 11 a.m. See *smokes* *smokes* coming into camp thro' door of tent.
- A Along C.M. Col. McE *P. log. (loquacious?)*  
"Always an open court, except when its closed". This to Dr. Gallway,  
asking to come in - C.M. being held in a hospital tent. Find camp  
pitched and new range finders arrived. Get D. into Bell tent. Of  
course *try* our new toys, stables. Dinner, D. very low. Fine.
- 20.11.78. Get an order about 1 p.m. to march at 4 p.m. *J.D.* in a deuce of a  
Wednesday bustle, counter order arrives almost immediately only 1st and 2nd  
Brigades to go and *D lat's* ~~D.L.~~ M.B. They tell us we are in luck as we  
shall have all the fighting. We are detached from 2nd Bde. and  
transferred to the 3rd under Gen. Appleyard, consisting of 81st Regt.  
14th Sikhs, and 27th N.I. Poor D. sent off to base hospital Peshawar.  
See him off in his dhoolie, pack his things off. Soon after Duthy -  
our new skipper - turns up. He is first out from home, and has every  
luxury, takes D's place in the Bell tent, and temporary charge of  
Centre Dn. Our orders are to take no baggage but fall in in rear  
of 1/C adv. Guard next morning at 7 a.m.
- 21.11.78. How skip did snore last night. We are routed out at 3 a.m. by our  
Thursday fidgety C.O. and pack up everything. All ready and a start is made at  
6.30 a.m. for the road. We form up behind I/C and wait for the start.

21.11.78.  
Cont'd.

Off pretty punctually at 7 and with a few halts here and there to allow the sappers to clear the bad parts of the road, we advance thro' the fakir's garden, past supposed friendly villages on the left, down an incline, from the top of which we get a last view of the fort of Jamrood, for God knows how long; over the dry bed of a nullah, from which we could see right into the pass. A long white <sup>STA</sup> ~~sheak~~, looking like a fallen tree across a chasm (afterwards identified as the coping along the edge of Mackeson's road). Above this ranges of low hills, one on the right having a knoll crowded with the enemy, and above this again the precipitous heights of Rhotasrange. From the river bed we could see a signalling party scaling Sarkai, the mt. on our left. Soon after we passed thro' the gorge, formed by the heights of Sarkai and Rhotas, and at last we were in the Khyber pass. About 200 yds. further on, A Staff Officer came back from the front, with a note to C.O. "Take 50 men of the 1st European Regt. (which was 81st) and 50 of 14th Sikhs, and advance up this nullah, keeping on as high ground as possible, so as to see the Shergai heights". As no nullah is in sight, C.O. very naturally asks "Which nullah" <sup>Staff Officer</sup> S.O. teeming with orders for people in rear, and in a deuce of a hurry to be off, says "left side", meaning his own left (as we afterwards find out). C.O. takes it to mean his left, and on we go, very soon coming to a place, where the road leaves the bed of the stream, and winds up to the ~~left~~ left. C.O. thinks the nullah to the right looks like his <sup>road</sup> ~~wad~~, but as it goes to the right, instead of the left, keeps on up the road. Not finding a nullah to the left, we halt, and C.O. goes back to meet S.O. again; finds we ought to have gone up the nullah, so away we go down the road again (hearing the first shots of the day from skirmishers in the advance). The 14th Sikhs go in front skirmishing along the hills in front, we go along the bed of the nullah, as it would be impossible to carry out the order to keep on high ground at all, the 81st bring up the rear. Just before taking to the nullah a 2nd note came "Some of the enemy on your right, about 1000 yards from Mackeson's bridge, take care they don't annoy you". After travelling some distance the 14th Sikhs began to get pamped. C.O.

21.11.78.  
Cont'd.

sent me back to ask V.C. 50 of 81st ~~to~~ send some men to relieve 14th. I found Major Jackson in command, who sent off Lt. Barrow and 20 men. They had not been at their work very long when the nullah came to an end. so we struck up our left front. Here we heard a couple of big guns fired in our front. We halted and changed mules, waiting for orders. After a little rest as we saw our own troops on a ridge ~~to~~ the right front, my <sup>is this a gun?</sup> dn. Rt. limbered up and advanced to a ridge in front. Halted under the brow. From the crest I 1st saw Ali Musjid Fort, like a splash of mud on the top of a rock. We there get orders to rejoin the main body; so we got on to the road, and advanced till we came to where the road passed between two undulating ridges. The limbers of I/C and 81st Regt. were lying perdu behind the ridge on the right. We went gaily along the road, between the ridges and came on to an open part. On the rt. I/C were in action. To the left front the staff were reconnoitering. Col. Chichester told us we had <sup>to</sup> get behind the ridge again, as a shell had just pitched where we were emerging, so the mules were taken behind the ridge on the left. In this position we all waited for the 40 prs. to come up. I/C firing a shell every now and then at Ali Musjid. The <sup>staff</sup> were obliged to evacuate their spot as a shell came unpleasantly close. Some time after the 40 prs appeared. Elephants were taken out and bullocks brought the guns into position, and about 12.30 bang went their 1st gun and a short time after the puff of the explosion showed about half way down the rock. The next shot hit the left corner of the fort, and having got the range, the 3 pounded away till dusk. Under cover of their fire E/3, ourselves and ~~an~~ escort advanced. On the edge of a nullah in front E.3 halted. We advanced down the hillside into the nullah and up the opposite face of the nullah, thro' a gorge into a basin with a ridge in front, and a steep ravine running up to the crest of Rhotas on the Rt. Here the <sup>Battery</sup> By. formed line, intending to advance up the brow of the ridge and open fire on Ali Musjid. The manoeuvre was being beautifully executed, when some unpleasant cracks were heard on our rt. front, apparently coming from the high cliffs, face, forming part of Rhotas. Simultaneously a shower of bullets rather choked us off our manoeuvres, and we retired under cover. Luckily not a man nor mule hit. The 14th Sikhs, under ~~cook~~, were sent up the ridge to the right to try and drive these fellows away. The left dn. was taken up cautiously under

Duthy (LH)

21.11.78.  
Cont'd.

cover, brought into action, and the mules sent back. The 2 guns opened fire on Ali Musjid. Very soon our 1st wounded man came down, Allen with a flesh wound thro' his arm below the elbow. The centre ~~dn~~ was then sent up to the same place under Duthy; and the right-mine - was sent up the steep nullah to try the effect of shell to dislodge the riflemen of the enemy. It was a bad bit of ground so I got up some *time* before the guns, and asked some of the Sikhs the range. "1000 yards" was the prompt reply. I fired 11 rounds and found the range under 500 yds. This fetched the places where the puffs of smoke came from. I never saw a single human being, their cover being remarkably good. One man of mine, Day, hit in the back of the head. Sergt. Blackwell of No. 2 wounded in the finger, but not put hors de combat. Meanwhile the other ~~Dns~~ <sup>Dns</sup> DIVISIONS had Gr. Sutton, arm smashed above elbow and Akers, a bit of shell in forehead. Soon after 5 the order came to retire by half batteries, and support the attack by the 27th M.I., and 14th Sikhs on a knoll on the right of Ali Musjid, to our left front. We retired round a ridge, under cover from the riflemen of the enemy and opened fire with Common shell and percussion fuses. The shooting was good, but the knoll was not taken at nightfall. The 51st doubled up to the right and fired volleys at the sungars from which we had been peppered, and with better effect than the Sikhs, as their fire was soon silenced. Being ordered to bivouac where we were, the mules and guns were ranged for the night, and as no fires could be lighted, we sat down to a cold dinner, and were able to help out less fortunate individuals of 14th, 27th, 51st and 81st with dinner and brandy and water. We had only 2 bottles of liquor handy and the infernal cook dropped one and smashed it, one of the catastrophies of the day. Our last orders at night were "to open fire at sunrise on the knoll we had been firing at over night". subsequently changed to the following "to retire to the river, and cross to the left side to support the attack on the knoll from there. No water for the mules, and only a little for the ~~XXXX~~ men and ourselves. A bitterly cold night, and wind so everyone shifted for himself

21.11.78.  
Cont'd.

to try and get out of it, I got down among some rocks and by the aid of my cloak and cape, and 2 blankets, which I had brought on my charger, managed to make myself fairly comfortable, quite as much so as I expected to be for my 1st bivouac. Not much sleep, as I was unfortunately near a path and 6th N.I. kept going to and fro after their coats. Moon late.

22.11.78.  
Friday.

Quiet last night. Lucky no one did fire, as we were in a very exposed position, especially to a fire from the sungars where the enemy had been in such numbers during the preceding afternoon. We started off just before dawn, and got to the river. After watering the mules, we proceeded to carry out orders. Along the road, round a sudden bend in the river, and into full view of Ali Musjid. It was decidedly trying marching, at a walk, across the river, knowing that the Afghan gunners had got the range to a T, and looking out for the puff of the 1st gun. However, on we went and not a shot was fired. Then a string of natives came across, who began gesticulating and talking about <sup>S</sup>where Ali, saying all had gone. We formed up behind a ridge where were also 81st and 27th and 14th and heard of death of <sup>Bird</sup>~~Brick~~ and Fitzgerald. After dawdling about sometime with no orders saw our own troops taking possession of the knolls and Ali Musjid, without opposition. We had breakfast with some of the 81st. After a long time got orders to move on to Ali Musjid, which we did, and there took up our position on a flat piece of ground between 14th Sikhs and 27th N.I. on right, I/C on the left, 81st in front, River in rear. The morning was taken up in bringing in and burying the dead. Maclaine of the 14th Sikhs was wounded in the attack on the knoll. Amir's (Anin's) mules stampede down. Fine animals. A lot of the sick men were lying all over the camp, dying of fever. The dead, I saw that day, were the 1st corpses I had ever seen. In the afternoon a lot of prisoners were brought in. I went up to the fort and bored a pricker as a memento; ghastly sights about. 4 sick men had stopped. They told us there had been 6 Regts. <sup>inf.</sup> 4 BTYs ART. . 1 troop cav. defecding. All bolted at night 24 guns were taken. The <sup>Afridis</sup>Apidis occupied the morning in looking



- 22.11.78. Rifles and Ammunition, a great error to let them do it, and one for  
Cont'd. which we had to pay afterwards. The whole camp was startled soon  
after retiring by a loose horse galloping thro' camp. I bivouacked  
by my nag. Mules not unsaddled again. Have not been unsaddled now  
since we left Jamrood.
- \*  
23.11.78. Had saddles off and some grooming. Found mules not much the worse  
Saturday for wear after all. 28 has evidently had a bullet between his cheek  
strap, and cheek, only a graze. The baggage turned up alright, not  
unloaded however as we are to go on. 2 more lots of prisoners brought  
in. The whole morning the 1st and 2nd Bde. camels pass up thro' the  
gorge, towards the front. Guides Cav. I/C and 10th Hus. Also go  
on in the morning. About 3 p.m. we start off up the pass, preceded  
by 81st followed by 27th N.I. The gorge being still blocked with  
baggage animals, we go over at the back of the fort past the camp  
of Amir's mt. ~~xxx~~ thoroughly looted, past the camps of  
1st and 2nd Brigades. See dead Afghan horses, which had been slated  
by the Guides inf. at Kata Khoosh. Encamped for the night near our  
old brigade <sup>4</sup> ~~17th~~ <sup>Lia?</sup>. Go over to see them and find Whistler Smith R.E.  
with them.
- 24.11.78. On about 300 yds, and then halt <sup>2nd</sup> as 1st and Bdes have to get their  
Sunday baggage on. Find it is no use trying to get on that day so bivouac.  
Hear in the evening of the loot of the baggage up at the end of the  
pass: sleep in a dhoolie for a change. A deuce of a wind, but I  
sleep very well.
- 25.11.78. On again at 6. Go thro' Sala Beg valley swarming with villages, but  
Monday. no inhabitants. Arrive about 10 at an old ruined enclosure, a  
large graveyard near. Here we halt; as the 1st and 2nd Bde. baggage  
blocks the way; and have a meal. All loads off, and water the  
mules at a pond close by. After halting for about 4 hours, get  
orders to halt at <sup>LANDI JOK.</sup> ~~Saudi~~ Kotal to keep pass open, so we load, and  
with 81st and 27th N.I. and <sup>HO</sup> ~~hd~~ <sup>gks.</sup> go to a position selected for  
camp across the <sup>road.</sup> ~~wd~~, on the site of an old <sup>Buddhist</sup> ~~Buddhist~~ Fort. A  
<sup>bamiah?</sup> ~~bamiah~~ from the villages brings us some fowls. Have the baggage  
built into a redoubt and spend pleasantest night I have had yet,  
bivouacking. Beastly cold ~~xxx~~ though up here.

- 26.11.78. Tuesday *NK?* Halt. Pitch Offrs. Tents. Water some way off. 8 miles lost, got mixed up with 1st and 2nd Bde. *NK. (NAIK)* Baggage and went on *(NK)* Mr. Soorj Balli, and 5 mules turn up with Cooks. Mr. Davie turns up, but without his mules. Hill men had looted them at Landi Khana.
- 27.11.78. Wednesday Pitched tents, had a court of enquiry on missing mules. Davie taken ill, so compelled to adjourn the court.
- 28.11.78. Thursday Skip and Walker sketch the *road* ~~way~~ between here and Landi Khana for Q.M.G.'s benefit. When I return from watering the mules O.C. tells me about orders to return to Ali Musjid, as tribes are giving trouble, firing into camp.
- 29.11.78. Friday Start at 6 with Gen. Appleyard and staff and 81st for Ali Musjid. Get to Ali Musjid about 11: find it is at Shergai that the trouble is. A deuce of a wind blowing at Ali Musjid. Start off for Shergai. Hill fellows attack our baggage and kill 81st Sergeant, and *steal \** bone camels. Arrive about 12. Skirmishing going on then, 9 and 40 prs. firing away. Nos. of the scoundrels to be seen. Get orders for *RIGHT* ~~RT.~~ Half By. to parade at 2 p.m. Just as we are starting counter orders come. Walker with 2 guns goes up to the serai. *RIGHT* ~~RT.~~ Duthy on the left with his 2. *RIGHT* ~~RT.~~ in front O.C. entrenches himself. Walker has 2 shots in the evening, as they come to the opposite ridge and fire at him, no one seen however. No firing at night. Bivouac by mess boxes.
- 30.11.78. Saturday Muster Parade, after  $\frac{1}{2}$  By. out for a frolic with 81st after the enemy, down to Mackeson's bridge and then off to the right, great nonsense as far as catching the enemy went, *for* a few shots at long ranges; don't suppose we touched a soul. But kept them away from the convoy. Back to camp. Afraid I had lost Johnny, *\** as he had been left at Mackeson's bridge. 11th B.L. have a running fight of it coming back.
- 1.12.78. Sunday Duthy off to burn a village for a little Sunday amusement. Walker with 2 guns to cover a working party at the fort. W. gets *lots* of shooting, and makes some good practice. He comes back in the afternoon and takes up Duthys Dn. position on left. I in position by serai, sleep in gun *Sungar.*
- 2.12.78. Monday Duthy turns up in the afternoon with his tent and baggage. Dick also turns up alright, so he and I go back to our old life doubling up in the bell tent. I have to sleep up by my guns.

*\* his horse.*

*\* to steal on pinch, take.*

- 3.12.78. Tuesday. Drainage operations, and get the tents pitched as well as we can, an awful camp it is.
- 4.12.78. Wed. Elephant By. and captured guns to Jamrood, shooting heard on Rhotas, amongst the grazing camels. The scoundrels crept up close and shot 3 of ours dead, wound a 4th thro' the lungs. 81st and 11th B.L. send out parties, no one killed XI B.L. capture a man and a boy. They turn out to be 2 peaceful villagers wood cutting; saw them myself, as I was coming from watering order, with their mokes and an axe.
- 5.12.78. Thursday. 81st turn into Elephant By. ground. Pitch Dick's syce's tent up by my Dn. Bed smashes.
- 6.12.78. Friday. Had a Tub, not before it was needed. O. very seedy. 45th Sikhs come in, in the eve, and camp on our left. Change position of my tent, take it inside the serai. Bed smashes.
- 7.12.78. Saturday. The old idea (saddle fitting) Dhobie and Mr. Jukes, a padre, turn up on a loafing expedition round Ali Musjid and places of interest on the battle field. In the evening get some beer, such a treat. Hear of the crisis from Balbus (O.C. is called from the fact of his having fortified his tent after the manner of the ancient Latin hero). No crisis turned up.  
Crisis 30,000 Afghans 2 *hundred* coming over the hills to ker-smash us.
- 8.12.78. Sunday. Church (a conversation between Gen. Appleyard and his Bde. Major, no other sinners respond; no crisis: Fd. day with mess accts. Ride round the picquet hills with D. Then down to meet the convoy to see if our store camels are coming. Find they are, carry back the news. Arrival of camels. Dinner. General rejoicing.
- 9.12.78. Monday. By. Exercise. Get my 2 guns to front instead of serai on coming back. D. goes to the serai, and I get into the Bell tent again. Wind very annoying rattles a bell tent about like bells.
- 10.12.78. Tuesday } Loafing kind of days, no excitement, nothing doing. B. seedy.  
11.12.78. Wednesday }
- 12.12.78. Thursday. More stores arrive, we simply live like fighting cocks now. Hear from Aunt Kate. Croskie dines. B. in bed.

FIELD  
HOSPITAL.

- 13.12.78. Owen <sup>So</sup> is seedy that he is packed off to Ali Musjid to F.H./Ryan  
Friday takes his place, letters from home. Blew - like mad in the night  
B. in bed. O.C. seedy now.
- 14.12.78. Owen is sent off to Peshawar, 45th Sikhs to Dhakka XI B.L. to  
Saturday Harri <sup>in?</sup> ~~Smig~~ 2nd Ghoorkhas take up 45th ground. Blowing all day hard.
- 15.12.78. 14th Sikhs in sick. Go fishing with Rainsford. He catches one, I  
Sunday don't even get a bite. Fish evidently don't start after <sup>at</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>alla</sup> ~~at~~.  
Hills fired by someone. A signal fire lighted on Rhotas, a warning  
to the Zakkhas I expect.
- 16.12.78. 14th Sikhs go on with Peshawar. Send Rs 3/11 for cricket into Col.  
Monday Shipley. Fish with cheese, atta, and meat still the fish won't bite.  
Shaves flying about pretty thick. XI B.L. back again.
- 17.12.78. Hear a Basar expedition is to start tomorrow evening: E3 to go on to  
Tuesday Dhakka. Then hear it is changed again. B. D. & W. all seedy. Two  
latter quite hors-de-combat.
- 18.12.78. B. comes off the sick list and assumes command. E.3 starts for  
Wednesday Dhakka about 8. At 9 a.m. orders come for 2 guns to go to Landi  
Kotal. Rt. Dn. immediately told off. To take 3 days rations.  
Delay in getting off, as camels out grazing. Hethcole gives me a note  
to Major Boyle in comd. of XI. B.L. <sup>SC</sup> ~~extorting~~ E.3. and gives me no  
escort. 12 noon a start was made. I sticking 3 men over camels, as  
temporary arrangement till I catch up E.3, which I expect to do in  
Ali Musjid gorge. Col. Macgregor gives me note for Col. Hughes  
<sup>Commanding?</sup> Comg. 27th N.I. at Ali Musjid, and says I am to have a rest at  
night for men and mules. Don't catch up XI B.L. till I reach Landi  
Kotal. Find Col. Hughes wandering about to try and make 2 of Hasel-  
rigg's guns go on to Dhakka to-night. Mine arrive in time to  
release all from despair. Silly old man, in spite of protestations,  
determines to send me on. Go up to camp at <sup>LANDI KOTAL.</sup> ~~S.K.~~ find Cook and most  
of 27th N.I. just ready to start, they won't listen to me, as Cook  
only returned from Dhakka today, and had settled to meet Gen. Tyler  
at a rendezvous at 4 a.m. We get down to <sup>LANDI</sup> ~~Saudi~~ Khana at dark, and  
bivouac by the water. Indignant sentry wants to shoot us. Dine  
with 27th N.I. then turn in 10 p.m. Down come camels and men. I  
get out blankets for the men, and leave everything else with

LANDI

18.12.78.  
Cont'd.

Br. Bailey with orders to go to ~~Saudi~~ Kotal next morning. Cook sent on a Co. with the letter from McG. to Gen. Tyler. As no answer comes by 11 p.m. we start for rendezvous. Had to send on some one to warn the 'Catch enc Alisec Oh' picquet at Haff Chah, that we were coming, or they would have fired on us. At the mouth of the pass, we halted in the hopes of having some answer from Gen. Tytler.

19.12.78.  
Thursday

Halt from 2 to 3. Bitterly cold. Sergt. Black-well lost his *Tangent* sights at L. Kh. and reports it now. Try to sleep, but very much too cold to sleep. As our hour of rendezvous is 4 a.m. and no answer has turned up by 3, away we go, striking sharp off to the left after leaving the pass. A darkish night, and there is some difficulty in keeping the touch. We reach the rendezvous at 4 a.m. of course there is no one there. After staying some half hour find we have lost the rear guard, Lutus the doctor and Williams. As moon is getting up Cook sends off sepoy to look for them. A n ~~xxx~~ uncomfortable halt till 6 a.m. dawn. No one turns up, so we start off for Dhakka. Meet Lutus en route, coming to look for us, no one of course had started for the rendezvous. Rear guard and Williams in Dhakka. Lutus and sepoy had a little word skirmish the night before, both prepared to do or die. Into Dhakka about 8. Go to see Gen. Tytler. He starts at 12 noon. He tells me to come on at 2 a.m. and gives me a guide, and 100, 27th N.I. under Thruston. Getting rations and staff all day - Breakfast with some P.O. man at 10. Tiffin at 45th Sikhs. Dine at *(do)*. Sit up till 11, entertained by Woodruffe.

20.12.78.  
Friday

At 12 midnight I go to rouse out the camp. Everyone sleeping peacefully, feel very inclined to do the same thing. Rouse up everyone. Find I have lost my 2 baggage mules, mule man has let them both go, so I have to route out Needham, Transport Officer, and get 2 more. Wigram ~~13~~ *DATTYE* gives me 2 guides, with the other guides to act as interpreters, and sees me off at 2 a.m. A ~~wrx~~ weary night march, as I had had no sleep for 2 nights. About dawn 'Action front' for supposed enemy, who turn out to be rearguard of our own advanced force. At Chinari turn sharp to the left, leaving village on the right, and catch up the main body as they are reconnoitring the Sifsoki villages. ~~ng~~one there, to get hold of headmen who give in, stop there for 2 hours

- 20.12.78. and breakfast. I change socks. Khan of Salpura out with us, the mokes  
Cont'd. have the pleasure of cheyving him and his ragtag and bobtail 5 sowars up  
the zig zag to the top of the <sup>SITSOXI</sup> Sikoti pass, from which we get a beautiful  
view of the <sup>Bazar</sup> Ba zar valley. Descent and go thro' the valley taking up our  
quarters for the night at a village under a hill, a monstrous cave  
village in the banks of a river. A quiet night no firing, sleep in a  
dhoolie, and don't I sleep just! loot bhoosa and straw.
- 21.12.78. Up about 6, Stables. Pond for watering mules frozen over. Communications  
Saturday opened up with other column. Burn the village and blow down the towers.  
Start about 11 a.m. Burn another village, lately evacuated, find old  
woman, lame donkey, 1 sheep and some fowls. Eatables taken, woman and  
donkey left. Donkey has a bullet in him. Turn up a defile to the right  
a very woody one, and a capital place for robbers of which I hear there  
are any amount. One man of the 17th rearguard brought in wounded thro'  
the thigh, and dressed in our camp, slept in a dhoolie; for a wonder, a  
quiet night, and no shooting.
- 22.12.78. Next morning to start at 8. Lots of ruffian all round. They begin to  
Sunday pepper pretty soon. Gen. offers me a shot but could not elevate the gun  
enough, so Martini Henry disperses them. 45th crown heights on Right.  
27th on left. I am ordered with company of 17th and baggage to bolt  
for an open space, outside the pass, no sooner get over the pass than they  
begin at the baggage. 1 sapper shot, 1.27 N.I. Nk., and the 17th man,  
wounded before shot again in the liver. We halt under a hill in some  
khet. 17th man dies under the trees. Whole force after some 5 hours  
hard fighting comes up, and we move off again, past 5 villages supposed to  
be friendly. A beautiful stream of water close by. Guides not much  
idea of distance, as we tramp on, and do not get into Dhakka till long  
after dark. Khan of <sup>poora?</sup> Salpovia left early, when the fighting began. Two  
sheep caught on the road home. I rout out Rowband for rations. Get rum  
from E.3. Corbett gets up and gives me dinner. Pitch camp intending  
to stay, over Xmas day.
- 23.12.78. Bde. Major Gordon is pleased to make nasty remarks about shirking  
Monday because I ask leave to stay for a bit. Take meats with E. B., dine  
with Sappers.

- 24.12.78. Get materials for an Xmas dinner for the men, am told I must go back  
Tuesday. tomorrow with Corbett and Gundry, who are to take E.3. horses back to Peshawar.
- 25.12.78. Xmas day - spend it till 12 noon on the march to <sup>LANDI</sup> ~~Saudi~~ Kotal. Tiffin  
Wednesday with the 27th N.I. Have dinner and ~~supper~~ skin with them. A very lively evening round a log fire, songs, and grog unlimited.
- 26.12.78. To Ali Musjid. Find the other part of the battery just marching into  
Thursday the new encamping ground, a beastly ~~stony~~ stoney place, and with a devil of a wind day and night. Gundry and Corbett dine.
- 27.12.78. On duty, deuce of a wind. All day employed trying to get camp to  
Friday rights. Hear of the Afghan corpses in the sungars from which we were slated at Ali Musjid.  
Martini Henry carbines issued. Duthy returned from Peshawar where he had been for Xmas dinner.
- 28.12.78. Blew hard last night, weather fine. *Commensarial Bobbery* about wood.  
Saturday A box of stores turned up. Dyce., B. Duthy and self to see ~~sungars~~ <sup>sungars</sup> and corpses 4. ~~afghan~~ <sup>afghan</sup> corporal. 2 buried under stones, 1 <sup>AFR</sup> ~~Apidi~~ left where he fell. Duthy and Dyce tried a bad descent. Luke to dinner. First appearance of table cloth. Wind lulled towards evening. Bazar hills fired.
- 29.12.78. Divine service at 9, still calm - and fine. A tub. Self and  
Sunday Robinson to tiffin, take them on a morbid expedition to the ~~sungars~~ <sup>sungars</sup>. B. and Duthy off to see 2nd Ghoorkhas and fish. Find out that the post closes at 1 a.m. overland mail 1 a.m., Tuesday. Warned for an attack. No picquets on the opposite hill, so a bad lookout if they fire into camp.
- 30.12.78. Not attacked of course, slight wind, fine. Gen. Maude expected at  
Monday 11 a.m. to see camps here. Turned up punctually and wonderfully polite, wants to get us into Peshawar. Gen. Appleyard objects to part with us, but declines to place picquets for our safety, saying he is responsible if we are slated, comforting if any one is shot. Corbett and Gundry back again with their horses. Got my watch with a glass in, thank goodness, went to see papers at 81st Jackson tells me about Afghan Traders and Co. own. Go to see 6th to give Boilcan his spurs. They  
<sup>LANDI</sup> to go to ~~Saudi~~ Kotal, we to stay, and Mhairwarras to take place of 6th.

- 31.12.78. Tuesday Blowing a little, fine. Pass closed. Takkhas out, fired on the convoy. Build ~~Sagar~~ along the edge of the ridge for the protection of the tents. Slade and Leach come to see Dutty. <sup>?</sup> own shot dead. Col Macintyre and Becha of the Ghoorkhas call. New years eve, punch and songs. Such an unearthly row that Balbas comes to remonstrate. Effect nil, as we are all happy.
- 1.1.79. Wednesday Broadfoot off on leave to Jellahabad. Duthy and I to fish, caught a very fair dish. Shooting heard out Shergaiwards. Turned in at 10, but had to turn out again very soon, as the brutes were plugging into camp, from the opposite hill, where there should have been a picquet. Fired 2 shrapnel at them. One 6th man shot dead, one wounded. A bullet thro' our mess tent. Mule 3 from Pindi back as sore as ever.
- 2.1.79. Thursday Firing again at Shergai 6th off to <sup>LANDI</sup> Saudi Kotal. 51st come up and take their place, put out picquets now day and night. Take a lot of prisoners who swear they are travellers, and are let off accordingly. 2 ~~AMIR'S~~ mules handed over to us.
- 3.1.79. Friday Gun drill, slightly cloudy and windy again, get orders to go back to Jamrood, told off mules. Col. Mac. of Ghoorkhas to see us in the evening, send down book to Crosbie, get a heliogram not to march.
- 4.1.79. Saturday A Tub, Sala China burnt because grass cuts clothes and telegraph wire was found in it. Bal. with SHAROFF and 315/8/8. Wheler and Johnson dine drink *fisi?*. Lloyd in afterwards.
- 5.1.79. Sunday Divine Service under Dick: Wrote to mother; & N.R.S. about Bill. Wheler sends me up 20 Tkichis. Leach up; Sawyer, Salterthwaite, Crosbie General. Gen. coming up to our camp, tells us 4 guns are going in. Left Dn. to stop out under me, till relieved by Walker. Sawyer and Leach to dinner. *fizz*, Turkey and Ham.
- 6.1.79. Monday 4 guns Dick and Major start at 9 a.m. Go and see Campbell about barrows, see Farwell and Staff camp cleaning, write to Campbell J.C.L. for spades, 3 of the 51st come in at tiffin time. Dinner. Tete a Tete with Duthy.
- 7.1.79. Tuesday Potter about the lines. Post came in at 9.30. Get a letter from Mum, enclosing one from Lottie and cards from all. Skip undertaking stupendous public works. Gen's camp turns up about 11.30. Finish diary to Mum, to where silly old man sends me off from <sup>LANDI</sup> ~~Saudi~~ Kotal. Find Annies letter. Rainsford comes in, with D.A. gun carriage, ask him to dinner. Send a message to C.O. no answer. Luke up to call skip. Rainsford and I, 2 mags of fine dinner.