
**DIARY OF SGT. DONALD SUTHERLAND
79th HIGHLANDERS, 1801 - 1807**

*THE DIARY DESCRIBES OPERATIONS
AGAINST THE FRENCH IN EGYPT,
IN WHICH THE 79th PARTICIPATED*

1800

We embarked in the Dilligen on the 12th August. Sailed on the 16th for Bristole where we arrived on the 22nd. March for Bath on the 24th where we arrived that same day. Here we remained seven days, after which we marched to Warminster, from it to Salisbury and from there to Romsey, from there to Hilsea Barracks.

Here we was put in Barracks and Done Duty with the other Cases Stationed there till the 10th of October; then embarked on Board of the Lamodest, frigate (then a troop Ship). Sailed on the 16th for Plymouth where we arrived on the 20th. Here we lay at anchor for five weeks after which we sailed on the 25th October for Gibralter - three frigates in Company - Lamodest, Reasource and Dido. Here we had a very Pleasant Passage till we arrived at the Bay of Biskey, where a tremendous storm arose which lasted three Days and Nights, During which time we could not get a bit of anything out of the Hold or either Cook what we had out. But the Storm abating on the third Day we Came in sight of Cape St Vincent about 10 o'clock in the Day.

Cape St Vincent

This place has the appearance of a very fine place (from the Sea). With a town and well fortified By the Sea Side. There is here a large old nunnery Situated on the Extremity of a white rock washed by the Sea. This Place appears to have a Grand Prospect, as also a very Eloquent and Extensive Building all of the ancient Construction; it is counted the largest Nunnery in all Portugal and of a certainty it is one of the Oldest.

We arrived at Gibralter on the 23th Nov, lay in the Bay till the 28th on which Day we sailed for Malta - after many Calms and Squals arrived at Malta on the 16th December. I know not whither it was occasioned by Excess of fruit or Change of air, but I was taken with a violent fever on the 19th for which reason I and twelve more taken with the same Disease was sent ashore and conveyed to the General Hospital, where I continued till the Second of February.

1801

Malta

This Day [second of February] being Discharged from hospital I was sent to the Convalescent Barracks which Contained a part of every Regiment on the Expedition (namely recovered Sick). Here we was under the immediate inspection of our own officers, who Dreeled us at all opportunity in order that we might be made acquainted with the Mode of Dreel at the Regiment; - Which we all found to be none of the Most pleasant Business before we hade a half a years trial of it.

On the 25th February - which Day we Embarked on board of the Rumless Frigate under the Command of Lt George Sutherland in Expectation of joining the Expedition at Mormurrass [Marmorice] Bay. On the 28th we was in Sight of the ansiant island of Candia - it is well fortified and Capable of Great Diffence, it is said to have Three hundred fortified Cities when in its former Grandiose - in Length three hundred miles, and the Bredth is equal to half of the Length. We passed this island having made very little observations on it, and arrived at the island of Rhodes on the 29th. Here we lay in the Bay and sent our Cuttor a Shore to get intelligence of the Fleet. But being informed that they hade saild that Day, Eight Days we immediately put to Sea and arrived at Aboukir Bay on the 1st of March.

Aboukir Bay

The weather being rough and the Sea shallow, we did not land till the Morning of Sunday the 6th of March. The following are the regiments that Landed in the first Division (under the Command of Generals Moore and Coot), Second and third Guards, 42nd Regiment, 4 Companies of the 40th Regt, the 28th Regiment with a few Detached men from other Regiments.

Those Regiments that made good our landing suffered Sore for it as the Castle of Aboukir was within a half a mile of our right flank, which sorly Galled our Troops in Landing with round Shot, Shell and Grape. Also the enemies foot, horse and artillery were concealed behind some bushes at the Extremity of the Sand-hill (or Beach) which artillery comenced on us before we came within a half a mile of the Shore. The fourth Shell from the Castle Lighted in a launch loaded with Seventy of the Guards which was immediately Sunk and all the Soldiers Drownd except one man that was found sweeming with an oar keeping him afloat. But after taking him into the Boat they found that he lost the left legg. Thus I learnd from himself in the hospital at Aboukir.

This is nothing to what we suffered before we could get onshore. The Grape and Canister was coming in Showers about our Ears in so much that there was very few boats without three or four killed or wounded. This was a vexation indeed being our Comrades loosing their lives and limbs at our Side, the Blood and Brains of some of them Dashing in our faces, the Cries of the Dying and wounded would have demanded pity from the hardest heart. But on our arrival on the Shore the Enemies Cavalry and Infantry appears and made a sudden charge on the Guards who, according to order they were comming out of the Boats, most Certainly could not have withstood the Shock if they had not been supported by the 42nd and 23rd who came in due time to their relief, so as that they Drove the Enemies Cavalry to the Back of the Sandhills.

During this time the 28th and flank Companies of the 40th Engaged their infantry. The Highland watch Came to the relief of these also and Drove them three full Miles from the Beach. So the Boats went back for the remaining part of the army which was mostly all Landed this Night. The 9th and 10th we spent getting the Stores a Shore, with a few pieces of artillery.

Alexandria

Here we remained from the Eighth till the twelfth [of March], on which day we advanced towards Alexandria after Driving in their Piquets by our Riffild Men, and a few rounds of round and Grape shot. In the Evening we was in Sight of their Main Body - when both of us Commensed Cannonading for a considerable time after which the Riffild Men and a part of the 12th Regt. was sent in order to drive their Fadates, where they continued till near Dusk after which we retired about half a mile and Encamped for that night in order to Give them Batle the next Day by Day light. It was here we experienced the first instance of Sore Eyes or rather Blindness among us for some of our men that went for water could not find the way Back till led to the Camp.

As the watering place was rather inconvenient, we Dugg pitts in the Ground about thirteen foot Deep where we got a kind of Water, Coloured like whey, and quite sweet, but after being settled seemd to be good Clear water. Here we lay all night in our usual Tents which was nothing but Cabbage Tree Branches sett up between us and the wind, This seemd to be but a feeble Defence from the Heavy night air - though we was Contented with it as we could not get a better at the Present time.

The only loss we sustained this Day in Driving the Enemy upwards of Two Leagues was two of the Second or queens who were killed by a round Shott after we halted.

13 March

This Morning we was calld to arms before Daylight and after being Cautioned by Copr Cameron to keep our ranks, as he was affraid of us being to Eager at the Charge, as he Expected that our behaviour on this ocation Might maintain the former Good Carector which the Regiment had gained on many former Ocations, and that no individual on any ocation Should be found in the rear on pretence of helping the wounded or any other Excuse, that after the action he was Determined to Make a Target of them in front of the regiment.

Before this speech was Ended Lord Cavan's aidicamp arrived with orders for us to join the Brigade. After loading, we marched off in open Colum right in front. There the action Began from the Enemies Side with round shot whistling round our Ears, while we Continued our march in open colum. As before, a few minuts to our forming Line (our Gen) Lord Cavan rode along in front of our lines telling us not to be affraid of them, that they were but few in number, and mostly all horsemen ; for us to levell well for the men and not the horse.

As our General was Delivering this Speech we Seen the 90th Closely Engaged with the Enemies Riffild men and a Large colum of Cavalry ; who taking the nintieth for Dismounted Cavalry Charged them to the very points of their Bayonets with the Expectation of Breaking through them. But finding their error they fled on all sides in Confusion Leaving about 160 killed and wounded behind them, in less than ten minutes time.

On our Entering the line the Contest began with Great vigor on Both Sides and instead of round the Enemy was pleased to serve us with Showers of Grape and Canister from the heights which they hade well fortified with plenty of field pieces and heavy artillery. This served them so Efficiently that they hade no ocation to hazard any of their Infantry Excepting Riffildmen, till we hade gained near the summit of the hill - on which the enemies front line of infantry appeard, and fire of small arms Commenced on Both Sides. But finding an army approach close to them, they thought proper to retreat, which they did in Great Haste, leaving behind them a few heavy pieces of Artillery which our army turned on themselves, which made a Great Distraction on the Enemy in their retreat.

Thus we Continued Driving till we was within three miles of Alexandria, and Drove them into their fortifications; therefore it was thought proper to return to take up position on the hill of Cleopatria where we Encamped, but did not cease firing till the Darkness of the night parted us.

The strong position that the enemy had taken here Ocationed a Great Loss of men in our army before we could drive them from the Hights, as we have nothing but our small arms to Depend on, our Great Guns being in our rear, and only firing a few Shots over our heads, which were but of very little Service to us. However though we lost the most men we had the pleasure to see ourselves the masters of the field.

This hill on which we pitched our Camp was called after the Daughter of Pharoah whose name was Cleopatria. She was Shutt up in the Castle of Aboukir by her father, because She had Refused an unnatural proposal which he had made to her. She was stolen out of this castle by a Scottish Nobleman who took her home with him to Scotland and kept her there Till informed of her father's death, after which She returned to Egypt and Continued there all the remaining part of her Lifetime. She caused a Marble Statue to be erected in her own memory called Cleopatria Needle. This was one of her last transactions before She Died. She also chose her own Death which was to Die by the Sting of an Asp.

18th March

This night our Piquets was Engaged and through the Rashness of Col Archdale of the 12th Lt Dragoons there was several of our Dragoons taken prisoners. This commander, finding the Desperation that his men were in, thought of making his Escape but in place of retreating towards our lines, he drove his horse right into the enemy lines where he persisted and would not yield to the Enemy till Several Swords and Balls had pierced his Body after which he fell. After he was laying on the ground he called the Soldier whom he thought had given him his Death wound and gave him his purse watch and Airpoluts, Saying here is your prize, you have Done your Duty like a good Soldier.

Here we remained Building Batteries, and Getting Provisions, Stores, Ammunition & Artillery from the Shipping in order to fortify ourselves in the Position we had taken on the hill of Cleopatria; and also to prevent the Enemy from Surprising us unawares, as we Expected them to make a Sally out on us, and as the Enemy Continued Getting Reinforcements from Rosetta, Damietta, Gaza and Cairo, they left us no room to doubt of their intentions.

21st March

However we was not wrong in this respect for this morning they Salley'd from their works, between the hour of three & four in the morning to the number of 16,000 not including the Artillery and Dismounted guides. After Driving in our Piquets the false attack commenced on the left with a Regiment of Dromedaries, a Demi Brigade of Infantry, some Riffild men and a few pieces of heavy artillery which commenced very briefly on our left wing. But in a few minutes the React attack begun on our right in such a manner that we could see to take up a pin on the sand. By the light of the Cannon and Musquetry the shells were also coming in Dozens at once, leaving behind them a tract of fire in the air, something resembling a Sky Rocket or a Commet falling to the Ground; But Much more dreadful to the Beholders.

Here we was at a Great loss for the want of Cannon as the one half of our Pieces were not mounted. And perceiving our Cannon rather slack as they were so few in number, and finding an opening between them, the 28th and 42nd Regiments chased through with a Great Body of Cavalry, so as that the 42nd was between both lines. By this time the enemy had powerd in a Great Body of Infantry, so as that the Batle was in Doubt.

As the the ranks of the front lines were Entirely broke, and both the French and British Mixed in the Throng, here a fresh body of French cavalry charged up to our Battries expecting to take possession of them. But here they met with a well directed fire from the infantry (that lined the Battrie) which made amends for the want of Cannon. This made them retreat in confusion, and at the same time the 42nd marched up to the relief of the 28th which they effected with great alacrity, and also took 300 Prisoners near the old ruins of Pharoahs Castles with a few officers of Distinction among them.

Our Commander in Chief, seeing the Conflict so very eagerly carried on by both sides and observing that a small Error might turn the Scale on either side, came in himself to the very Midst of the Bloody frey, not minding the advice of his Generals, nor yet the hazard he ran of being either killed or taken Prisoner. Here he thundered through the Lines exacting his men to brave all Dangers, when on a suddent he was taken Prisoner by a Body of the Enemies Cavalry. He was now left along with two horse-men to Guard him whilst the rest of the Body returned to the Charge.

He was not long here Before the was observed by a Highlander, who was so fired at seeing his Commander in Chief prisoner that he resolved to set him at liberty or Die in the attempt. But he hade not a round of amunition Except one blank Cartridge; with this he loaded and left the ramrod in the Piece, advanced within thirty yards of them on which he fired and killd one of them. The other, thinking a safe retreat better than a bad Battle, abandoned his Prize and made the Best of his way to gain the Colum he belonged to. Here the Highlander came up to his Commander in Chief, took his horse by the Bridle reigns and told him he hade no business there.

Here he gave the Highlander his pocket handkerchief to keep it till the action was over. But unfortunately for him and us, our Chief was Mortally wounded this Day; but as he seen the Ground so obstinately maintained by both Parties, he conceald his wound till the Blood was seen running over his Boots, the loss of which rendered him faintish, and could no longer ride his horse. After which he was conveyed on Board of the admirals ship where he died, leaving behind him a lively representation of a Good Cristian, a loyal subject and valiant Soldier, admired by his friends and feard by his enemies. His Death was lamented by all. Even the Enemy aplauded his Manly and heroelike achievements. His last work was writing Directions for General Hutchinson, relative to the Managment of the army.

This Conflict lasted for the Space of six hours after which we drove them back to their works, the place from which they came. But not without making them pay well for their visit, for this morning the Enemy lost 3 General officers and about 3200 Infantry with upwards of 700 Cavalry. Besides 507 horses killd and Dead in the field, there was also a Great number of Camels and Dromedaries lying Dead, which served the infantry as breastworks to fire over. Thus ended the Conflict. The Enemy that salleyd out of their works with 16600 men was glad to get 12000 into their Battries.

Our losses, killd, wounded and missing was 1500 men - thus we paid their rashness with their own Destruction, but did not serve them as they intended to serve us, as appears by a General written order given by General Menou the night previous to the Action - the Contents of which was neither to give or take Prisoners if the Batle went in their favour; but to Drive us into the Lake Maida [Maadie], a Deep Lake on our left. This order was found in a General's Pocket that was killd in the action.

24 March

On the 24th March the army was Divided, the one half sent to Grand Cairo under the command of the General in Chief. And that which remained in front of Alexandria under the command of General Coote. The Grand Cairo Division consisted of the following Regiments viz - 11th and 12th dragoons, 1st or Scotch Royals, 8th or Kings, 13th Regt, 18th Regt, 26th Lt Dragoons, 28th, 30th, 4 Companies of the 40th, 42nd, 50th, 58th, 79th, 89th, 90th and 92nd Regiments.

Left at Alexandria or on the Hill of Cleopatria - the 22nd Lt Dragoons, 2nd and 3rd foot Guards, 20th Regt, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 27th, 44th, 54th ansiant Irish, - De Roll's, - Stewarts, - Dillons, - Corsican, - Rangers, - Hompesch;s Cavalry, - a Battalion of artillery and Enginerrrs.

28th and 29th was spent in bombarding Rosetta, which place surrenderd on the Thirtieth.

The 2nd Battalion of the 27th Regt was taken from the front of Alexandria to do the Towns Duty. On the 2nd of April the army March for Grand Cairo. The 30th and 89th Regiments crossed the Nile a little above Rosetta, in order to Drive in some of the Enemies Cavalry which seemed to defend that side of the river, who after a Small resistance retired to the town of Romarne [Rahmaniya] where they had not been long before they were Dislodged, through the Great Effects that our field Pieces had on the Town. Here they appeared in front of the Town after which there was a kind of Skirmishing Commenced. But the Enemy finding themselves inferior, thought of Making their retreat in order to Effect this with Safety, set fire to several fields of wheat which lay between us and them.

BATTLE OF 21ST MARCH 1801

This morning as usual we was all under arms at 3 o'clock in the morning, all quiet 'till half past three when the report of a musquet was heard at the left, instantly afterwards a Cannon fired, Scattered Musquetry Succeeded & then two more gunns. Here we listened with the Greatest attention, but it was quite visible that the firing was too feeble for us to believe that to be the Serious point of Attack.

On a Suddent Loud shouts were heard in front to the right, A roar of Musquetry followed. And the action Became general. Covered by the unequal Surface of the Ground the Enemy had advanced imperceived as far as the Videttes, and continued to press on to the main Position with Great Heart. One column Directed its march to the ruins where the 58th were posted, the front of it was more Extensive than the Regiment. The Colonel Commanding fearing to fire upon our own piquets, Suffered them to approach so close that their glazed hatts were clearly distinguished. Here he ordered the Granadeers to fire which was followed by the whole regiment. After firing several rounds the Enemy retired to a hollow Some Distance in our front, from whence they wheeled to the right and Strove to force round a redoubt in front of their left, With another column directing its March on the Battrie. The 28th Regt. stationd there opened a heavy fire on those that were attempting to storm the redoubt in front.

But the Main body of two Columns now joining a third forced in behind the redoubt and while some remaind in rear, the rest got into the ruins; Here they met with heavy fire from the 58th who, after firing a few rounds, advanced on the Enemy with the Batonet. Here the 23rd and 42nd appeard advancing on the exterior side of the ruins to cover the opening on the left of the redoubt. Cut of the troops which had entered and, after a seveal loss obliged them to surrender, here the 28th as well as the 58th suffered in an extraordinary manner and continued a contest befor unexampled.

The advance of the 42nd relievd the 28th from this unequal attack, but as they had approachd the redoubt the first line of the enemies cavalry had passed by the left, charged en masse and overwhelmed the 42nd - yet though broken, individually resisted in a gallant manner.

Colonel Spencer who was stationed in the internals of the ruins was afraid of firing lest by so doing he would utterly Destroy the 42nd who was then intermixed with the enemy. But the cavalry passing on, he was obliged to command the fire as they were Directing their Coars against the internals. But the fire from this place proved so effectual as to stop their Progress, yet they would have been overpowered if Genl. Stewart with his foreign Brigade had not advanced from the Second Line to their assistance. This Brigade powerd in such a heavy and well directed fire that the enemy be either to fly or perish.

It was in this Charge of the Cavalry that the Gallant Genl. Sir Ralph Abercromby received his fatal wound. He was nearly taken Prisoner by the same Column. He was thrown off his horse, and an officer of theirs attempted to cut him down but he seized the Sword and wrested it from his antagonist when a soldier of the 42nd came up and bayonetd him on the spot.

Though these were driven back, they charged a second time by the Cavalry of the reserve against the Foreign Brigade, but as these faild their infantry dost no longer dispute the field. Our amunition being entirely exhausted, the regiments of the reserve were obliged to remain without firing a Shot and for a short time there was not a Cartridge for the Gunns in the Batries. As Day dawnd a Column of Grenadiers advanced supported by a heavy line of infantry. The Guards posted there threw out their flankers to oppose them. But as these were Drove Back, Genl. Lidlow ordered the Brigade to fire. On seeing the Echelons formation they proceeded to turn the left flank of the Guards, but these wheeling back Checked their Movement and the advance of Genl. Coote competed them to retreat. They then dispersed as Sharp Shooters keeping up a Distructive fire both from Cannon and Musquetry.

During the want of amunition amongst the British, the right of the Enemy attempted to close into the redoubt, but some of them having also exhausted their own means absolutely, Pelted stones at the 28th from the Ditch, who returned those unusual though not harmless instruments of violence. But when they seen the Grenadier Companies of the 40th advancing, they run away in confusion.

Genl. Menou, perceiving the loss he had sustained, and a great likelihood if he any longer Disputed the field that it would be a Total Destruction of his army, Determined to retreat. And the want of amunition on our part prevented us not to pursue our advantage as would have been expected. He marched his men away in very good order in to their works. However our Cannon on the left did much Execution as also the Kings Crittors on the right acted a very active part.

After the action was over there was found about 1700 French killd or wounded, 1040 of whom was buried in the course of two days in the field of Battle. The loss of the Enemy appears to have been very considerable indeed. The number including the prisoners at the fairest estimation amounted to 4000 men, with the most of their principal officers either killed or wounded. There was about 400 horses belonging to them lying on the field; the most of them lying on the left of the old ruins. In this action the French invincible Standard was taken by a Sgt. of the 42nd Regiment and a private of the Minorca Regiment.

Our loss consisted of ten officers, nine Sgts and 224 Rank and File killed; wounded 60 officers, 48 Sergeants and 1082 Rank and File - 3 officers and 29 Rank and File missing. Our tents were torn to pieces by the Shot and thousands of the Brass Cannon Shot were glittering in the Sands around the Camp for a month after.

According to Genl. Menou own account the French were 9070 Strong including 1500 Cavalry with forty six pieces of Cannon. The British reduced by their loss in the action of the 8th and 13th, by the men taken away for the care of the Sick and wounded, by the absence of the 92nd and Marines - as also the 26th Light Dragoons at Aboukir - did not leave them 10000 effective Strength including 300 Cavalry. The half of that number resisted and frustrated the attack of the French army.

25 March

On the 25th March the Capt. Pacha [Paget] with six thousand men arrived at the Bay of Aboukir accompanied by three or four Sail of the Line. On the 26th he landed and encamped at a little distance from the Beach.

On the 29th Sir Sidney Smith accompanied with Major Montresor and Ibrahimc Bey, a man of Superior talents, went with a flag of Truce on the part of the Capt. Pacha [Paget], Lord Keith and Sir Ralph Abercromby. But on their being refused admittance to the Town they were obliged to send in their Dispatches to which no answer was made.

1 April

On the 1st of April Colonel Spencer was ordered for Rosetta with Eight pieces of Cannon assisted by 4000 Turks under the Command of Ibrahim Bey for the Reduction of it, and the Batries on the Lower part of the Nile. On the Second we was visited by the Capt. Pacha [Paget] accompanied by Lord Keith, when the line was turned out to Receive them. This day we got intelligence that the Enemy had detachd Succurs to Rosetta on which the 2nd or Queens was ordered to the support of Col. Spencer.

On the 7th he proceeded as far as Edko, keeping his right on the Lake to avoid the Melancholy Sight of Dead Bodies thrown over board from the hospital Ships which were lying in heaps on the surface of the water. On the morning of the 8th they arrived before Rosetta after a tedious and fatiguing March across the deserts, wherein they were almost blinded with the hot winds.

ROSETTA

On Col. Spencers approach the most of the enemy crossed the Nile in Germs which they had ready for that purpose, and the rest of them retreated towards El Hamed. The Castle of Julian to which the French had retreated from Rosetta was Defended by 15 pieces of Cannon, with four armd Germs anchored under its walls. At this place we continued reconnoitering the Enemy till the 16th on which day our Batries were opened assisted by the Turkish Gunn Boats who Directed a British Cannonade at the fort. But as our amunition was but scarce, the siege proceeded but Slowly. However they Surrendered on the 19th on which day the Garison marched out and laid down their arms on the Glacis. The Prisoners were about 268 and 40 killed and wounded. Several black Ladies, and a young French woman were found in the fort.

On the 26th Genl. Hutchinson arrived at Rosetta leaving Genl. Coote to Command the army in front of Alexandria. Agreeable to the request of the Capt. Pacha [Paget], Genl. Montresor was appointed to the Command of Rosetta. The effective Strength of the army now assembled at El Hamed was near five thousand, but the want of horses to drag the Cannon, and Camels to carry amunition and water, presented serious Disadvantages.

4 May

On the 4th May, the 89th Regiment and part of the 12th Light dragoons, accompanied by 12 or 1300 adriassants crossed the Nile under the command of Col. Stewart and conform to the moements of the main army. On the third of May the army marched in two columns, one passing along The Nile, the other by the shore of Lake Edko.

The advance guard consisted of the 11th Light Dragoons, Corsican Rangers, 40th Flank Companies, Queen's and 58th regiments under the command of Col. Spence. General Craddock's Brigade were the 8th, 18th, 79th, and 90th Regiments, a detachment of the 12th, & 26th Light Dragoons; General Doyle the 30th, 52nd and 92nd Regiments.

The Turks under the command of Ibrahim Bey were about 4,000; with this we hade 7 British field pieces and 8 Turkish. The army halted in the rear of the Canal of Deroute. Here we arrived at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and encamped in two lines at 2 o'clock in the morning of the fifth, but we had to advance as it was thought the Turks in the front line were not sufficiently supported.

Col. Stewart advanced in in front of the Montubis. On the morning of the 7th a patrole of the Turks along the Nile observing that the enemy had quitted El Alt which place we immediately entered in the evening. Colonel Stewart also moved towards Desang, an engagement soon ensued, but the Gunboats maintained a brisk Cannonade. Though at first the wind seemed unfavourable, the action lasted all day , but in the morning a white flag was seen on the Fort, as also an officer carrying another in a boat coming down The Nile. After his arrival he offered to surrender the fort at discretion which was agreed upon.

By the bold movement of the preceeding day The French Germs about 70 in number had been passed into the harbour though particular orders had been given that no man should enter the town on account of the Plague. The Turks had creeped up close to it entered without resistance and ransacked and plundered the very hospitals. Here they found plenty of bisquit and flour. There were 80 Germs in the harbour, but they hade sunk all the gunboats, destroyed all the ammuniton over let the artillery off the batteries into the river and did all the mischief in their power.

At the taking of Pahamanick our loss was but small. It consisted of 4 officers, 1 sergeant, 2 drums and 4 rank and file but the loss of the Turks were more considerable. The garrison marched out to the number of 110 under the command of the chief of Brigade after the loss of 100 men killed or wounded in the garrison.

The force of the enemy after being augmented by troops from Alexandria amounted to 4000 men infantry, 800 cavalry, with 33 field pieces. Though we should include the Delta, ours did not exceed 4,000 and a number of them which not fit for duty and the Turks under the command of Colonel Stewart. Though 3,000 men for their want of discipline could not be rated equal to more than 15 or 1600 British.

11 May

The army advanced through a fine corn country which was quite ripe. Here we found great convenience from the Germs, as they conveyed our knapsacks and stores by water while we proceeded by land. Before we had to carry everything ourselves. Not even our officers had any more luggage than they carried on their own backs which could not be but very small on account of the excessive heat of the climate. A shirt washed in the Nile and dried in the sun would be thought a great luxury.

The army halted at Rahmaniya on the Banks of the Nile. The hot wind that which raged all this day reached us almost to suffocation. It was here the Mamelukes were first defeated by the French.

The next day we marched to Kiffa Hardicy the wind continued so that the Germs and Gumboats could not keep up with us. From here Major Wilson was sent with dispatches to the Grand Vizer, who returned on the 16th to our camp at Algam . We also learned that the French had advanced beyond El Hanka. Tahir Sahim was sent with a considerable body of cavalry to keep them in check, and another corps was sent into the desert to attack them if they attempted to pass by that way.

On the march the army fell in with a valuable convoy coming from Cairo along the canal of Menauf, they had missed the retreating army of General Lagranges and were ignorant of the capture of Rahmaniya. Several of them had been killed or wounded by the Arabs and Turks before we came up. This convoy was very valuable as it contained all kinds of necessities, some canon intended for the defence of Alexandria and about £5,000 in specie.

Agreeable to General Doyle's own request he went in pursuit of the convoy which had encamped in the Deserts. Taking his own Brigade, the 12th Dragoons and 2 field pieces, General Craddock's Brigade marched along the banks of the Nile. After a march of 7 miles they came up with the convoy, and after a small contest took them prisoners of war. The number of this convoy amounted to 560 men of the troops of their army. By this affair one four pounder and 550 carriers with their loads became our property.

It was here that we got intelligence that the Grand Vizer had defeated the French and that the Garrison of Fort Leslie, near Daniella escaped to Bourdos evacuating the Fort. The number of French engaged in this affair was 4,600 infantry, 900 cavalry and 400 pieces of cannon. The loss of the French was about 300 killed and wounded and that of the Turks about 200. After this affair Colonel Stewart was directed to place himself under the orders of the Grand Vizer who was approaching towards our army and at the same time patrols were sent out to reconnoitre the country towards Cairo.

21 May

Colonel Stewart had advanced to Menauf on the 18th where the armats quitted him. They were replaced by 50 of the 11th Dragoons on the 21st. Colonel Stewart came as far as Beauchamp. This day General Hutchinson accompanied by Captain went up the canal of Menauf in his barge to hold a conference with the Grand Vizir in order to get some plan of future operations. On his landing next day he was received with General Hale and every token of respect was paid to him by the Vizir.

The Grand Vizir's army consisted of a part of all nations and such disorderly behaviour was never before seen between soldiery of any nations - and grounds for asserting that about 10,000 Arabs after the Battle of Hanka joined in troops of partaking of the pillage of Grand Cairo. The Mamulukes were not above 600 in number but they were men in every respect. Clean and able soldiers, their dress was rich their manners accomplished and their general appearance corresponding with the character they bore.

It was here General Hutchinson received intelligence that the French had evacuated Fort Lasbet and Bourlais. They were captured in the vessels in which they embarked. We found a great many germs in Dammietta and in the forts a great quantity of artillery and ammunition. On the 27th General Hutchinson quitted the Grand Vizir accompanied by Captain Pacha [Paget].

3 June

On the 3rd of June the army advanced to Mishlie where the Commander-in-Chief was visited by leader of the chiefs from Upper Egypt, namely Osman Bey. The force which he brought was about 1200 men. These were the best cavalry that I have seen in Egypt with the exception of our own and one regiment of French Hussars, a part of whom were taken in the desert.

On the 4th June we took up position in front and rear of Sochasass. The same day Colonel Stewart crossed from Birehamps and halted on the Banks of the Nile. The next day our army advanced about and Colonel Stewart moved to Shubra Shaabi to cooperate with the Grand Vizir's. The sick of our army were considerable after landing. Rosetta Hospital was obliged to establish a hospital at the point of the Delta. On the 7th we moved again and and camped beyond Elgatta. On the 16th the army moved opposite Shubra.

17 June

The Capt. Pacha [Paget] and Genl. Hutchinson went as far as Dohecuto to reconnoiter. This evening there was a Sergt. Major of the French Huzars deserted to us, who proved to be a very useful and intelligent man. On the 22nd June, early in the morning, a French officer from Gaza arrived with a flag of truce from Genl. Belliard. As the matter seemed to be of the greatest importance Genl. Hope was appointed for the conference required by Genl. Belliard, a French Colonel of Engineers near Gaza, with whom he stayed a considerable time.

CAIRO

The 23rd was spent in the same employment between our General officers and that of the french. After many strong argument, the Capitulation of Cairo was agreed upon. This crowned the many fatigues and hungers and thirst we had suffered as the conquest of this place secured Egypt.

As no person was permitted to enter Cairo, the pyramids only distant about 4 miles became the chief occupation of the soldiers of Duty. On their arrival there they thought they had got a full recompence for all the fatigues they had suffered in Egypt. These are situated on the borders of the Desert which elevates itself like a cliff above the cultivated country.

The hight of the Large Pyramid is ascertained to be six hundred feet, the length of its base 700. The quantity of solid stone is estimated to be sufficient to build a wall of 450 miles in extent, Three feet high, and 9 inches thick.

The ascent to the top is very difficult and requires great resolution as every stone (or step) is at least four feet high. The Desert is more difficult but we always went up and down without any accident happening to any of us.

About 60 yards to the right of the Great Pyramid from the east front facing Cairo is the celebrated Sphynx. This enormous figure is carved out of stone. The expression of the face is feminin and nubian but all her features have been multigated . The feet are not visible. She has no breasts and she has been cut out something like the back of a lion. The head is twelve feet in circumference. The height is about twenty six feet. The length is not properly ascertained, but from what can be seen may be about sixty feet. There has been so many strange conjectures about the Sphynx that it is almost impossible for any one to find out the proper reason (or opinion).

10 August

On the night of the tenth the French evacuated Cairo, but not without sending a timely notice to us; we took immediate possession of the forts and Citadel but the Capt. Pacha [Paget] finding us in possession of the town was extremely angry; and if we had not put the English flag below the Turkish, we would have a Great chance of encountering the displeasure of the turks as well as the French.

The City of Cairo is very much shattered at the entrance. The streets are not above two yards wide. The houses are very high and built with Dingey Brick. We understand that the French did intend to open the Streets of Cairo and form a magnificent road from the Citadel to Giza. But the rumour of our landing put a stop to this new invented plan.

This City of Cairo, partially estimated as one of the largest Cities in the world, though the suburbs of Boulac should be included, is no more than six miles. In the Citadel is that celebrated well, called Josephs Well, supposed to have been Dug (or ordered to be Dug) by Joseph when he had charge of Pharhoa's Granaries and Stores in Egypt. It is Two hundred and Eighty feet Deep and forty two in circumference, with a winding Stair leading down to the Bottom. Some way down oxen are employed in turning the wheels to raise the water, which is very Brackish.

15 August

On the 15th at Day break the French totally evacuated Giza and with the allied army commenced their march for Rossetta. The Nile was entirely covered with Germs, as the French took 300 of their sick and baggage. The variety of Colours Displayed on this occasion rendered the Scene quite Picturesque, which was one of the Handsomest Sights I ever beheld in Egypt or any other nation.

We always remained ignorant of the real Strength of the Garrison of Cairo till the Embarkation took place at Rossetta, where our principle officers could scarcely credit their own eyes when they seen an army of above 10 thousand Men with 50 Pieces of Cannon, Exclusive of the force on Board of the Germs. This Embarkation continued nine days. The total number of them were 13000 Exclusive of women and children. Their Conduct on their passage was so riotous that if Lord Keith had not threatened to fire on them it might have come to a worse consequence.

On account of General Hutchinsons bad state of health he was obliged to go on board of Lord Keiths ship where he remained till the Cairo party joined that of General Coote's in front of Alexandria.

In the beginning of July General Coote had been joined by the following regiments from England, viz 28th Dragoons, a detachment of Guards, two Battalions of the 20th Regiment, 24th, 25th, 26th, the Ancient Irish, Draughts for Several other Regiments of the line and the Regiments of Watteville and Chasseur Britannique. These two foreign Regiments muster about 1000 men, Effective and fit for Duty.

General Doyle's Brigade arrived in the Camp in front of Alexandria on the 9th August, General Hopes on the 11th and on the 13th General Moore with the Reserve. On the 17th we commenced the Seige against Alexandria, but on General Menou seeing the State of himself and his army, ordered Eleven Large Ships to be sunk across the harbour in order to prevent us from cutting out any of them that lay in the harbour.

On the 24th General Hutchinson received a letter from General Menou, thanking him for the kindness shown to his wounded officers and soldiers during the Campaign. After various letters between both Generals, the Capitulation took place on the 2nd Sept. On General Hope's going into Alexandria he was received very kindly by General Menou and invited to Dinner which was only Horse flesh.

ALEXANDRIA

3 September

The Granadiers of the army marched up in 3 Columns to take possession of their position with Colours flying and Drums beating. This Town of Alexandria was Defended by 312 pieces of Cannon, besides 77 found in the Shipping. The Return of the Garrison yielded a tottal of 10,974 excluding their women and children. The circumference of the old wall of Alexandria may be Estimated at 4 Miles. There are large pillars in this wall of Granite which are supposed to have belonged to the old Town founded by Alexander the Great.

Cleopatrias needle stands about thirty yards in rear of the French Entrenchments, By which another is lying horizontaly. The form of these obilisks is Gracefull. Considering each one solid piece of granite, their magnitude is amazing. There Height is Sixty feet, and Base 7 feet Square. Pompeys Pillar stands at a Small Distance on the South West Side of Alexandria, it looks a noble sight at a Distance. But on approaching nigh it is Beautifull beyond expression. It is of the Corinthian order, And Eighty Eight feet six inches in hight. The Shaft is formed of a Single Block of Granite, and Retaining the most Beautifull Polish, is Sixty four feet in hight And Eight feet four inches in Diameter.

TO ENGLAND

On the evacuation of Alexandria the British Sick and wounded were collected from the Different Hospitals To the number of 380 Besides about 40 widows.

10 September

We embarked on the 10th and Sailed from Abukeer Bay on the 11th in the Gorgon, 44 now in the Hospital Ship. The weather was very favourable till we arrived at Malta on the 30th, in which place we lay on Currant untill the Eighth of October. In such a condition was our sick that 40 men besides a few women and Children were thrown over Board in 9 Days in the Harbour of Malta - not to include 16 that died between Aboukir and this Harbour.

MALTA

Malta formerly Called Melita is situated within Sixty miles of Cape Passora in Sicily. It is mostly of a soft white rock covered by a foot of Good vegetable Earth. It produces a Great quantity of Cotton, indigo, oranges, lemmons, olives, figgs and with plenty of Pease, Beans, Roots, Herbs and other Garden Stuff. But they have very little corn or wine with which they are Chiefly supplied from Sicily, nor have they any wood Excepting the old fruit trees that grows on the Island. Valette the Chief Town of Malta is magnificently built, with an excelent harbour.

This Harbour was erected by Charles the 5th, who caused Strong Batries to be raised round the City and Harbour Both. Afterwards it was given over by the Emperor of Germany to the Knights of St John of Jerusalem. They were always at war with the Turks and Moors and hade got some shipping of warr to sail round their own Coasts. This Island was invaded by the Turks and Selem their Sultan at their Head. But after a siege of Eight months were oblidged to retire with the loss of Twenty thousand men before their walls.

This City of La Valette is I believe one of the best fortified Cities of the world, for the Batries cutt out of the Solid Rock and about the whole of the batries there is Strong ramparts to contain the property of the people in time of siege. Around the harbour there is nothing to be seen but strong batries on each side, some three and others four

tier of gunns mounted , - these batries are impregnable as they are hewn out of solid rock. This place if garrisoned and stored with provisions, is capable of withstanding the greatest assault in so much that it is a mere impossibility for the art of man to storm it. It was here St. Paul was shipwrecked when he was prisoner and going to Jerusalem where he remained a considerable time, until at last he embarked on board a small vessel for Alexandria in Egypt.

8 October

On the 8th of October we sailed with a fleet of merchantmen under convoy for England. We was three days along with the fleet and made a favourable wind, but on the 11th, a great headwind rose in the evening and one of the transports with invalids sprung a leak. We was ordered by signal from the commander to take her in tow and return to Malta in order to put the invalids aboard another ship if that one could not be repaired immediately. Though with great reluctance we parted with the fleet, we now obliged to put about and tow her into Malta at which place we arrived about daybreak next morning. It happened very lucky for us and the people on board for she had not been a half an hour in the harbour before she sunk.

After taking some of the invalids on board and leaving the remainder on board a merchantman in the harbour, we put to sea in the dusk of the evening, but the wind being foul it drove us on the coast of Sicily in the night time and then to our great surprise, we saw a large flame of fire arise from a great light in shore. This we was told by the Marines was the burning Mount Etna and the fire we seen was coming from the volcano at the top of the mountain.

CORSICA

After passing Sicily we came in sight of Corsica. This island is a very rocky, mountainous place. The mountains are inhabited by Hottentots, a kind of savage, naked people who live, both winter and summer in holes and caves in the rocks covered by the skins of the animals by which they live in the daytime. Their habitations are something like that of foxes in England. It is about 100 miles in length and 50 in breadth.

19 October

On the morning of 19th there was a great storm which toss us almost off our course, but on the 21st the sun appeared in the evening, after which we understood that we were about 30 leagues from Minorca. This was very well calculated for we was safe in harbour about 9 o'clock.

MINORCA

Next morning here we lay, taking on board fresh provisions and water, with some fruit for the sick and wounded till the 28th on which day we sailed to Giberalter. The number that died on board our ship from the time we left Malta till the time we left Minorca was 35 men, 3 women and one child (in 30 days).

This Minorca is a very fruitful island. Georgestown lies close to the harbour very elegantly situated and seems to be a very healthy place. Mahoreis the chief town on the island, it is about 3 miles further up than Georgetown. The island is about 30 miles in length and 16 in breadth. There is some very strong batteries here which made but a feeble defence when the troops landed and took the place in the year 1799. But ever since our army took possession of it, their pains has been indefatigable in forming batteries and bullwarks which at this period are well calculated for the defence of the town and harbour. There is one of the most secure harbours in Europe here excepting that of Malta. Though the mouth of it is close to the gulph of lions, the greatest storm that bloes will not hurt any of the vessells there.

28th October 1801 - This morning we weighed anchor about 9 o'clock and continued our course down the Meditteranean with a good stiff and fair wind.

2 November

On the 30th we was beating up with wind all day but on the 2nd Nov. we was becalmed and lay like a log of wood on the water from that till the evening of the 5th. That evening the Spanish gun boats came out about 25 in number and boarded some of our Merchantmen. Which vexed us most was to be in sight of them and could not give them any resistance. They hade boarded 6 of them and was towing them in shore when, suddenly, we seen a fine breeze comming.

Here we hauled all the cloth we could and in company with two other frigates gave them chase and drove them in under a large battery. After re-taking our vessels we lay off the town till about two in the morning throwing in bombshells and heavy shot all night till the aforesaid period.

AFRICAN COAST

After this we directed our course to the African coast, where we continued 3 days on account of the wind being contrary. From hence we proceeded as far as Cape Sagate and between calms and contrary winds we was detained a fortnight much against our will, as by this time sickness had increased on board our ship in a most desperate and alarming manner. There was about 60 thrown overboard in 20 days or less and the smell between decks became so strong that it was enough to sicken the most hardened constitution.

24 November

On the morning of the 24th we fell in with and gave chase to 2 Spanish gunboats and after half an hours sailing, came within reach of the hindmost. We had only fired two guns from the forecastle when her mast was cut off by the deck, leaving her behind. We pursued the other who continued her flight in a very active manner towards shore. Our Captain was so enraged that he fired broadsides at her but in not answering he determined to run her down, for which purpose he ordered the steerman to run the bow of our ship against which was hardly sooner said than done. The boat sunk that instant but we picked up most of the hands, except the Captain who was drowned.

GIBRALTAR

The wind was lessened to favour us as it did for we reached Giberalter on the 23rd November. We lay here until the 1st December on which day we sailed with a fleet of merchantmen, consisting of 57 sail. We was also accompanied by 3 forty gun ships, 3 cutter brigs and small armed carvels and we cleared the butt about 8 o'clock with a good breeze which blew for the first two days. But early on the third, the wind lifted west which was the very point to which we wished to steer and now continued beating till the 27th. This day on examining the recconing found that we was close on the Banks of Newfoundland and in the evening the wind changed to the East and drove us to another bank near Spithead on the 8th January 1802.

1802

GOSPORT

January

The wind changed to the East and drove us to another bank near Spithead on the 8th January 1802. Here we remained in quarantine till the 25th on which day we (the wounded) was put ashore at Gosport and carried on carts to a new military hospital a short distance from our landing place. On our arrival we was all shipped off our regiments, put into a warm bath and flannel and caps given to us belonging to the hospital. Here we remained for about a month getting the best care ever a patient, if not even a patient but a parent could give no better. This soon ended as we was discharged from the hospital on the 14th February 1802.

February

I marched to Pitsea Barracks where our usage was far from what it had been at Fortune Hospital which it was now called. But I had nearly forgot to mention that on the 14th on crossing from Gosport towards Pitsea my trunk with upwards of 6 guineas worth of clothes and 33 shillings of cash which was all I was possessed of was stolen at the ferry, and never seen another sight of. It left me as I stood, not having another shirt to put on my back, neither shoe or stocking which made me lie in bed till my shirt was washed for about a fortnight. I then bought a shirt of one of the men for which I paid 2/6. But this was not all for I was threatened to be brought to a Court Marshall for buying his and loosing my own, which were a very serious crime if it had been brought forward.

March

On the 10th of March we marched from here for the Isle of Wight where we remained till the 18th Day of June.

18 June

This Day I received my Discharge and Recommendation to the Board of Chelsea Hospital, with ten days pay to carry me to London. But as my Comrade was lame like myself we engaged with a Chaise to carry us about fifteen miles for a Shilling each, which he did. On our way we was joined by another passenger, who it seems had plenty of money. He dropped a Half Guinea in coming out of the Couch which my Comrade was very glad to get hold of, as it served to carry us to London on the Top of the mail.

LONDON

We arrived at Charing Cross about three o'clock in the evening of the 19th [June]. Thus we completed a march of 78 miles from the Isle of Wight to London in 2 Days with our crutches under our arm, through the friendly disposition of our fellow traveler's Half Guinea.

As we was strangers we thought it best to lodge where the coach had halted at Golden Cross (Charing Cross), but as the price was so very exorbitant, we made it our business to enquire for a private lodging - as we was paying 14/- a week for our room at Golden Cross. But as I had about a years back pay and clothing to receive I made it my business to call on Col. Cameron at No. 28 Great Gloster Street, to be informed how I was to receive this money before I was discharged, or rather before I passed the Board. The Col. gave me an Order on the Agent (Ross & Ogilvie) for ten Guineas in part till the accounts would come to his hands from the paymaster of the Regiment.

I now bought a Good Deal of coloured clothing and linnen - all of them I mostly bought in second hand shops. As my comrade and myself had now got some money we began to get more free with our pocket, going from one place to another buying everything we thought we should want afterwards. On one of these wise expeditions I nearly had paid for my folly. My comrade and I went in to one of these Brokers shops to buy a handkerchief for each of us; the woman was pretty free, and as my companion was not bashful or shy in his addresses it was agreed that as we had laid out about £2 it should not be a dry bargain. Therefore Richard, my companion, whilst I was trying on a pair of britches in a small place adjoining the shop, had sent for a pint of rum, which we drank in a small back parlour.

After this we came in conversation with the Mrs concerning lodging, which she very frankly offered for 5/- a week, which room in my opinion was far superior to that we had at Golden Cross for 14/-. It being pretty late in the evening I proposed our staying there all night. My comrade going out in a great hurry, promised to return in a few minutes, which he did. But after I was in bed, I know not what passed between Richard and our landlady. But I cannot think it was anything good. He went out afterwards and did not return that night.

I had fallen asleep very soon that night, but I was wakened by a great noise and rapping at the door about 12 o'clock. I now began to listen with great attention to whatever was passing below. This was the landlord who had returned of one of his night expeditions. I forgot to mention that there was a child about three years of age in the house who it seems had seen the amours of Richard and her mother. On seeing her father she immediately exclaimed Daddy, Daddy, the man that beat Mama in the bed is now in the bed upstairs.

The father now began to ask more questions of the child which convinced me that he had been jealous of her before. So I thought it high time to rise, lock the door, and put on my clothes, which I soon accomplished, whilst this vagabond continued blaspheming and beating the wife (if such I may call her) in the most cruel manner. He then flew to some fire arms that he hade in the house, and exclaimed that he would end her and her admirers at once. He then called to his companions to follow him that he might have the pleasure of putting her admirer to death first; all the words, persuasion, or tears she shed could not convince him but I was guilty.

He now came up calling out that he would have beef once more for supper, after which we rapped at the door but got no answer. Afterwards his good companions called out to reak open the door. I now opened the Shuts and lifted up the window and I'll leave you to guess my consternation when I found that the room I was in, was three storeys high. I now found the door was a breaking and almost open, upon which I sprung out of the window and lighted on the hard pavement without sustaining the smallest injury.

This vagabond the landlord, after finding that I hade made my escape by the window, ran to the window by which I made my escape and called loudly to stop thief. I now was like a hare before a parcel of hounds, by the watchmen of the City pursued from one street to another. At last in coming up near Golden Cross, Charing Cross I was collared by two old men belonging to the City Watch upon which I knocked one of them down and freed myself from the hold of the other. Then making my escape in amongst the coaches in the coachyard at Golden Cross, from which place I got creeping upstairs to my own room, on which I secured the door immediately, stripped and went to bed, once more in safety.

I had not been too long here before I fell fast asleep in which I continued till awakened by Richard who told me he had been at the house from which I made my escape, but as he found the doors shut he resolved to come and sleep awhile and call on me at Breakfast time. But he could not think what had induced me to leave the house after going to bed. I listened to him very attentively for some time, never as much as a single syllable passing my lips. At last being heartily tired of his harangues, I reproached him with his infidelity in leaving me in a place full of murderers, to be made a sacrifice on his account. I then recounted to him the whole thing as aforesaid, after which he in return made me acquainted with the cause of his being out all night, which was as follows.

He had gone to aslies Riding School where he remained till about 11 o'clock. On his way home he fell in with a young lady belonging to St. Jails Street, who gave him a very civil invitation home with her, where he went and after having some rum toddy to drink they retired to bed. It seems they had not been long there before Richard fell asleep and his faithfull partner, watching the opportunity, thought this was the only time to try if he had any money in his pocket. This she effected with the greatest ease, taking all he had amounting to £3 - 7/6.

After this she left him to waken when he had time, without a farthing in his pocket. But as fortune would have it he awakened about daylight, then to his great surprise his mistress had decamped. He next proceeded to examine his pockets. But you may guess his astonishment when he found that she had taken all his money along with her. He now dressed himself and began searching through the house going from one bedroom to another, at last he entered a room where two of these ladies lay asleep. On looking them in the face he found that one of them resembled his late mistress. He then looked for their pockets and found them both. Under the pillow he found his own pocket book with every farthing of his money in it. He also got another little Red Book with £8 - 3/-, which he very carefully put into his own and came away.

This was Richard's account of his night's ramble, which though it seemed that fortune frowned on him at first, he gained her favour before he left the House and left the Whore to bite her nails till a better chance came in the way.

29 June

The next day we got billets in Chelsea where we remained till the 29th June. This day we passed the Board and received our pension on the 30th, after which we began to look out for a vessell going to the north of Scotland, but could not get any to answer my purpose. At last I fell in with a vessell from the Island of Orkney and the master promised to land me in Caithness for two Guineas. But this fellow put me off from time to time, promising to sail every tide. At last one of his men told me he would take another week or more. This made me engage with the master of a Dundee packet, and paid him one pound one shilling for my passage which took but four days.

DUNDEE

On our arrival I found that my knapsack had been searched and as all my money and several of my articles had been stolen out of it. I complained to the Captain of the vessell of my misfortune, who afforded me the greatest pleasure and assistance in saying he was sorry for me.

July

I landed about Dusk in the Evening at Dundee with only eighteen pence in my pocket to carry me about 200 miles. Thus being Saturday I marched about 7 in the morning of the next day to Dunkeld with a heavy knapsack. As the distance of this stage was about 30 miles you may think I was both tired and hungry before I reached it. Here I got quarters in an old widow woman's house. This good creature upon hearing my story gave me a good dinner and supper and afterwards showed me into a good clean bedroom where I rested in it well that night.

DUNKELD

About 7 in the morning my landlady came and wakened me, gave me a good tea breakfast and a shilling to help me on my way. After returning her many thanks for her goodness I proceeded on my journey to Blair of Atholl, at which place I arrived about 4 in the Evening. Here I was charged a shilling for a kind of a warm dinner and 2 pence for a bed. But as fortune would have it the servant maid of the house took a great notion of a silk handkerchief that I hade. Thus I sold her it for 5/6, though it cost myself 9/- in London about a fortnight before. But though I thought this house Deer, my next nights lodgings cost me still more.

BLAIR OF ATHOLL

It was in the house of a Walter McCullough from Sutherlandshire. He was out hunting when I came to the house and it was about 11 at night before he and three wild neighbours arrived who I thought would have turned the house upside down - fighting and drinking until near one in the morning after which two of these drunken fellows tumbled into bed on my top. Although I was tired as may be expected after my journey, I was forced to leave the bed to these drunkards and dress myself. Here I was invited to sit down with the landlord and some Highland shepherds who were drinking at the fireside.

After having a glass along with the company and finishing what remained in the bottles, there was another called. This being ended I wished to pay my share of what we had taken but they eagerly insisted on paying the reckoning themselves and called for another bottle. This lasted until daylight came upon which the honest shepherds went off one by one till at last there was none to pay the whisky but me which amounted to 5/-. Thus I was compelled to paythrough the roguery of the landlord and the Badenoch Shepherds.

After a breakfast of (ugly wet spongy) potatoes which may freely venture to say I never seen the like offered to a christian, myself and another man commenced our march to Dalchanie at which place we arrived about one o'clock. As we found ourselves dry we called for a choppin of ale which was not quite so good as some souans swats you seen in other parts of Scotland. For this good ale we paid, so we all called for a dinner which was made ready in great haste. This dinner was all served on one dish (or grael) composed of what we call hore red potatoes - called by them English potatoes. This good dish when ready was capsized into a dirty grael in which soon separated the water from the watery substance made ready in it.

After this good meat and drink we proceeded on our journey to Pitmain where we lodged that night in an old barn where we lodged the night among some rubbish of straw and two old blankets. But the blankets was best for they did not let us go without company the next day. Our next was Dalmachgarie which (except for the bed) was very little better. After breakfast we proceeded for Inverness at which place we arrived about two o'clock in a very wet and dirty condition.

INVERNESS

On our arrival, after changing and getting a good warm dinner, we resolved to go and see if there was any Caithness or Sutherland men at the quay among whom we expected to find some acquaintances, especially as there was some friends of mine that traded from Caithness to Inverness.

According to my conjectures so it happened I had hardly entered on the quay when a friend of mine from Caithness took me by the hand and most hastily welcomed my return from war. After spending the evening together and hearing a recital of my past adventures he very eagerly pressed me to accept of some money to help me on my journey. But this good friend made me take far too much for such a small distance as I then had to travel. It was late at night before we parted and as the fatigue of the former day and the overcharge of liqueur did not agree. It was nine in the morning, before I opened my eyes. After breakfast, and bidding farewell to my fellow traveller, I left Inverness about 10o'clock.

After crossing the ferry (Kessock) I fell in with a horse jockey from Tain who, on seeing me rather lame and fatigued offered me one of his own horses and, provided I paid the ferry for the horse I rode should get leave to ride him to Tain. This I readily agreed to and I arrived there about 9 o'clock at night.

On our arrival in town it happened to be at the Highland Hotel kept by Mr. Munro who was a publican but no sinner. Here we was heartily welcomed by our fat landlord who showed us into a little parlour where we was well served with meat and drink. Our eating did not last long but our thirst went on until one o'clock in the morning.

DORNOCH

11 August

I left about 11 o'clock for Dornoch at which place we arrived about 2 o'clock in the afternoon on the 11th August and I remained at home for a considerable time without doing anything worth mentioning except going from one place to another to see some of my old acquaintances in the neighbourhood. But this I soon grew heartily tired of so I resolved to try if I could learn to become a taylor, for which reason I agreed to make a trial of it with the taylor to the Caithness Highlanders, and provided I found it agreed with me, to serve an apprenticeship of three years. If not I need not remain any longer with him.

Thus I commenced trial of it and I had not been with two months with him till my wound began to break out. It swelled and softened so fast that long one thought I would have lost the leg. I then had to apply to Doctor Ross who attended me daily for the space of 6 weeks during which time I felt the most excruciating pains both night and day. This was not to be wondered at as the inflammation had spread to such a degree as to infect any part of my body that the humour touched.

After the above space of time had elapsed I began to feel easier every day so as to be able to sit one hour in the day at the door or the fireside. To end this useless memoir I was about 4 months before I could go a hundred yards from our own house no not so far as the churchyard which is not half that distance.

1803-1804

1803

After my recovery McKay wanted me back but this I would not do as I found his trade did not agree with me. I then commenced keeping a school in the town, by which means with that of my pension, I might have lived in a decent Highland manner. But youth are too apt to be misled, especially by women, by which means I lost my influence with those that were my best friends. This put a number of strange schemes in my head. At first I thought of leaving the country by night unknown to my nearest relations.

1804

Then I heard of my old Colonel raising a regiment so I resolved to write to him, which I did. After receiving his answer I enlisted with Captain Duncan Cameron for the 2nd battallion of the 79th Regiment on the 12th November 1804.

November

When going to Inverness to be passed, we had a very curious adventure with a farmer near Invergordon as my companion and I past ourselves for excisemen from Dornoch and Golspie.

About the 14th I received another letter from Duncan Cameron requesting me to join the party at Tain. This put me in a in a very hard trial as I had not told my mother about my re-enlistment and as I had not every thing in readiness at that time. After letting my mother know that I have engaged a second time, I then made her acquainted with the substance of the letter I had received that morning to begin preparing for next days journey.

After getting everything ready I left Dornoch next day about 11 o'clock, arrived in Tain about three in the afternoon where we remained that night. I left Tain with about 20 recruits about 10 o'clock in the forenoon and arrived at Munlochry about dusk. Arrived at Inverness next day. Here we remained two days and, proceeded on our journey for Stirling.

Our first stop was Dalmucharry. The snow was so deep that we could make but short stages the rest of our journey. On Monday we arrived at Stirling, leaving the party behind at Creiff where they remained two nights. But Dempster the officer in charge of the Captains thought it best to be there a day or two before them. On our arrival we drew billets in which we remained till the party came. On their arrival we was posted to Companys, but as there was no Company for me, being Corporal, I was posted to 3 Company, Private. But the behaviour of my companions I did not agree with. And to describe their conditions would not be excusable in me.

1805

STIRLING

May

On the 1st May we received our new clothing, depositing the old with the recruits. This was a good step to prevent them from discharge. But I cannot see the propriety at selling these old clothing, and not giving the money to the owners of them.

On the 3rd we was impeded and reviewed by Brigadier General McDonald. This day the Colonel caused two bullocks to be roasted, while on a great fire on the inside of the Castle gate, which was divided amongst the Battalion after returning from the fields. About this time there was a great many deserting from us, which custom they continued to do for a long time after our arrival in Dundee.

DUNDEE

On the 14th May we marched from Stirling and arrived at Dundee on the 15th May 1805. Was appointed Corporal in the 8th Company and on the 25th July transferred from the 8th to the 6th, in room of Corporal McFarlane from the 6th to the 8th Company. On the third August we was detached to the great gunns and marched on the 5th to Leith Camp where we remained till the 13th September.

August

On the 4th August the Regiment marched from Dundee to Dunbar at which place they arrived on the 18th. In this place we was drilled in a very extraordinary manner about three and sometimes 4 times a day on account of the drill of the Battallion. Being so close we hardly could get an hour a day. We was kept at drill till the darkness of the night kept us from being the bugleman.

In consequence of a complaint lodged against some of the Battallion on 24th August for breaking into the garden of General Forbes the rolls was ordered to be called at retreat, from which time no man was to leave the Barracks till reveille beating in the morning.

September

On the 11th of September the Barracks were visited by the Brigadier General The Earl of Dalhousie, when the Lieutenant Colonel got great praise for the cleanly appearance and steady conduct of the regiment on parade, which could not have been without the the unremitting attention of our commanding officer. On the 23rd September I was appointed sergeant and posted to the 7th company.

October

On the 25th October the regiment was inspected by Major General Wymess. He promised to make a special report of our clean appearance and good discipline to his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief.

November

On the 13th November the Battallion marched from Dunbar and embarked at Port Seaton on the evening of the same day about 2 o'clock. Arrived at Gravesend on the 24th, disembarked on the 25th, arrived at Faversham on the 27th where our barracks and treatment was far from being the comfort of the soldier.

The square was in such a dirty state that many of the men were up to their shoe mouths on the private powder. The effects of this and the King's Park were severely felt by the Regiment after its arrival at Colchester.

COLCHESTER

December

On the 10th December the Regiment was inspected by General Hope in the aforesaid park. As the Battallion was very strict in regard to dress the Battallion orders of the 24th allowed 6 men of the guard (at a time) to be absent for the space of half an hour because the old guard must be as clean coming off as the new one is mounting.

1806

On the 4th July 1806 was transferred to 4th company and marched from Faversham on the 15th and 16th July in two divisions for Colchester.

On the 29th July was inspected by Major General Milner in the upper barrack square at guard mounting. On the 1st of July we was served out with gloves from stores for which we paid 1/6 per man.

On the 11th April there was a company parade day ordered to fire ball at the back of the Rear Guard till farther orders. Marched from Colchester to Weeley on the 29th May about 6 O'Clock in the morning.

Horse Guards 4 June 1806

It is His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief's Command that in all discharges of non-Commissioned Officers, the length of time during which the person discharged had served in that capacity shall be minutely ascertained, for which purpose the respective dates of his appointment as Corporal or Sergeant must be specified at the bottom of his discharge.

The pay of non-commissioned Officers and privates augmented 25th June 1806.

Married on the 9th August 1806.

Marched to Little Holland Camp on the 14th August at which place we remained till the 8th October following - this day we marched to Weeley.

18th October - We received a General Order granting leave of absence to 20 men from each of the Highland Regiments, composing our Brigade at weeley for two months.

31 December - Sergeant John Sinclair from the 1st Battalion appointed Segt Major in the 2nd; McLellan promoted in the 23rd Regiment of Foot.

1807

DORNOCH
HERITAGE SOCIETY
SCOTLAND

15 March

Commenced firing Ball at Great Clacton Beach.

6 April

Peter Henery and Robert MacMillan sent to the Isle of Wight for theft.

17 April

This Day there was a Detachment of our 1st Battalion drowned at Harwich consisting of upwards of 160 souls.

30 April

We received notification that the Battalion was to be inspected by Deputy Inspector Webb.

1 May

This day we received an order from the War Office for completing the 1st Battalion from our rank and file. This order was put in execution on the morning parade of the 4th, leaving us a poor skeleton of a Staff not exceeding three files for Company besides the sick.

31 May

Though this week our Discipline was still carried on with great rigour, we turned out at half past 7 o'clock without arms and drilled till ten, then from 2 to four with arms, exclusive of morning and evening parade.

15 June

There was ten different recruiting parties ordered to proceed from the Regiment to different stations in Scotland and Ireland. I was ordered to Tain in Ross shire under the command of Lieut M Barnet of the 1st Battalion. I remained here till the 22nd November and had my winter's stock of provisions and faire laid in with great trouble and expense.

TAIN

But in the midst of this supposed happenings there was an order arrived from the Regiment requesting me and all Recruits of the party to Tain immediately. This order arrived on the 20th and on the 22nd about 3 o'clock in the afternoon I left Tain with 1 private and 4 recruits and embarked on the same evening about 9 o'clock on board the George (Smack) at Cromarty.

We was scarcely 2 hours on board before we sailed and about daylight on the 23rd found ourselves at Aberdeen. About sun rising the breeze began to stiffen and before 11 it began a compleat hurricane. And as the wind turned a Head we found it impossible to continue our voyage. So dreadful was our situation that all the hatches had to be tarpolined and nailed down, and those that were on Deck were obliged to be tied to parts of the rigging to prevent them from being swept overboard. The rafts and barrels that were on deck soon became the prey of the raging seas, and the men could not at last hardly keep her to the wind. So after a short consultation we ran her into Burnt Island to wait until the fury of the elements and waves abated.

24 June

Early next day the wind and weather was turned quite favourable, but our Captain, in place of putting to sea with the other vessels that were bound for London, went in shore in his boat and did not come on board till near Dusk in the Evening and then in a shameful state of drunkenness. He then ordered to weigh anchor and put to sea, but he was so over-powered with drink that he quitted his watch and gave the helm to one of his younger prentices; and in about three hours of leaving Burnt Island we was run on a sand bank near Gullane Ness about 15 miles below Leith.

LEITH

Here we continued firing Signal Guns of Distress for about 2 hours, and so drunk was our brave Captain that our state could not awaken him to a sense of danger of the Ship and Crew. But up calculation we found it to be about High Water when we struck so as that we expected to wade ashore at low water. Accordingly so it happened and we all quitted her at low water about two in the morning, taking up our habitation with the keepers of the Rabbit Burrows on Gullan Links.

Lieut Chisholm of the 42nd was on Board and landed at the same time with about 40 recruits belonging to the 1st Battalion of the above Regiment. We proceeded to Leith next day and after reporting to the District we was billeted in Leith till we knew what was further to be done. The vessel lay 3 days on the sand bank and then was got off without either anchor or rudder and towed back to Burnt Island where he had her repaired and fitted for sea again. He then sailed sending us word that he was ready, but never sent his boat to take us across.

3 July

Remained billeted in Leith till the 3rd July on which day we embarked on board one of the Leith Smacks and sailed for London where we arrived on the 10th. And after reporting ourselves to Col Cameron, and the reason of our delay, we marched next day for Weeley Barracks it being the headquarters of the Regiment at which place we arrived on the 13th.

NB At the Seige of Cuidad Rodrigo in January 1812 there was 74978 lbs of gun powder consumed in thirty hours and a half. And at the storming of Badajoz 228830lbs in 104 hours - all expended by the great guns. At the 1st and 2nd sieges of St Sebastian 502110lbs; and at the siege of Saragosa the French exploded 45000lbs in the mines and threw 16000 shells into the town during the bombardment.
