



South Australians at war – transcript – PRG 247/54

Correspondence of Major Lancelot Ashley Lewis

Letters written by Lance Lewis, Lewis family members, and friends, between March 1915 and March 1917, describing Lance Lewis's service in Egypt and Gallipoli, and his convalescence in England

Transcribed by Susie van der Sluys, November 2002

Heliopolis

1 March 1915

Dear Jane

Just a note to tell you that I received Alecks cable and have cabled congratulations.

Thought you were going to name it after me but expect that you will have to name it something else now.

Had a letter from Kylie saying that she was up at Sea view and working also one from Walter Murray but have not heard from Dad.

Gladys wrote and also Gil. General Birdwood in charge of the Egyptian Arms boys has a brother in India who is going to live in Gils bungalow at Goona.

Wrote you the other day that I was sending a parcel I have sent it and hope that it reached you safely it is registered.

There is nothing much to write about, it is the same old routine. hard at it, all day and lecture pretty often at nights very monotonous I wish to goodness they would give us a go at something.

We will leave here sometime this month but where no one knows

Am sorry to hear that Paddy Rourney is in Brussels they seem to have had a hell of a time. I notice a lot of Australian papers are talking about the fair fame of Australia being spoilt by a some of the first force but mentions how well behaved the Light Horse have been. Our fellows have behaved magnificently and so have the whole lot for the matter of that and it all paper twaddle because about 1 in 1000 is a rotter there are about 30 000 Australians in Egypt at present and there is not another force in the world who have behaved better and this with Cairo close by a city without morals.

Still I expect they have to print something even if it against their own kith & kin.

Give my love to all around Burra also Mr & Mrs M. Lil Bess & Tav.



Your Loving Bro

Lance

Heliopolis

28/3/15

Dear Tav

Thanks for your note got your cable alright. Pity you could not change it for a boy that will make Jane wild. Well old sausage, we are still bravely serving our King and country by riding boldly over the sandy deserts every day, in fact I am full of

of camp life and wish they would give us a go somewhere even on foot. Last week we were reviewed by the High Commissioners of ~~Europe~~ Egypt. It is very fine to see the (?) on parade about 20,000 all told of which 4,000 are mounted men. We just went past at a walk in column of squadrons 150 men in one line and then cantered past in column of troops. Last Tuesday we left for a four day trek and fought the 2nd Brigade on first days and camped at our old home Maadi next day we trekked to (?) and third day returned to Maadi and fourth day we fought the (?) Mounted Rifles and tomorrow we are to be reviewed again by Sir Ian Hamilton. We have been expecting and in fact told by both General Birdwood and Godlee that we would be moving this month but it does not look like as we have only three days to go.

Yos Murray & brave Beaver were taken on the strength of the Regiment today am trying to get them into A squadron Yos has a mow and looks tip top all my horses are looking well I carry a pack on my spare horse so that I can carry their rugs. they feel the cold nights with only horse ~~rugs~~ blankets on as they were clipped about a fortnight ago.

They let the contract to niggers 10 pT or piastres = 2/. a horse. about 50 of them used to do 4 to 500 horses a day. The horses are doing much better but wish to goodness we could get some chaff & oats.

Jane tells me that you still think you should be with us I reckon that your duty is to stay at home.

Love to Jane & yourself and the kid and to all at Ulooloo

Lance

Shepherd's Hotel

Cairo



6 April 1915

Dear Jane,

No I am not staying here but have to come here every day to report to Army Corps Headquarters. Have been on Railway Transport work for the last few days and have been kept very busy would like to write a lot but the censor would take it all out

The Light Horse are staying a few more weeks in this rotten country just fancy we have been here four weeks now and are all heartily sick and tired of the place.

At my present job it means all night and half the day but it is a change from riding and running over the sand all day.

One of the Army HQ staff told me last night that he considered the Light Horse would have some heavy fighting in the next 6 weeks so we have some thing to look forward to.

Last Saturday I had arranged to take my Lady Love to afternoon tea and dinner here and the Kursaal afterwards but the Lord thought otherwise and we only had afternoon tea and dinner and then I had to get to work. The Kursaal does not open until 9-30 and goes on until about 12-30 It is a Tivoli show and the best here which is not saying much as it is not so good as our Tivoli. You would love my girl if you ever met she is from Melbourne and talks sense just like Lil straight (?) and no rot. All the same I do not expect that you will have her for a sister in law.

Had a bath just now 8 piastres = 1/8 but it was worth it they give you a towel like a little sheet about three times the size of ordinary bath towels

Intended to write to Kylie this week but will do so next week also Kath Roach

Hope by the time this reaches you that you are well into winter rains.

Are you going to go on living at the Burra or what expect I will be back at Xmas perhaps. Would like to see a bit of the world before I return so ask Dad if he could lend advance give or otherwise bestow 500£ to me after the war to have a look at England and continent.

Well kid there is nothing I can send there is plenty of interesting news but the censor

Love to family and all at Ulooloo

Lance

Heliopolis

Egypt

6/5/15



Dear Jane,

Am glad that you received the photos and am leaving some more in my spare trunk at Cook & Co Cairo have written Dad that I will arrange with them to send trunk at his or my order and will also ask him to hand over the trunk to you so that if necessary you can hand things to my pals or keep them or do anything you like with them. We will be in the thick of it pretty soon now but you will laugh when you hear how the mighty have fallen.

I always did hate walking unless it was with an interesting & pretty girl. I want you if I do not write again to send my photo and a letter to

Mrs Beneducci

C/o Mr Meimerachi

Block A Khedivial Buildings

Rue el Din

Cairo

The Beneduccis & Meimerachis have been exceptionally good to us so write and thank them Have not got time to write to anybody else so am writing postcards

We expect to be in the thick of it very quickly now. Our infantry made a name for itself but their names will go down in history as affecting a landing that was consider impossible.

Have seen a few of the wounded but the official lists are not out yet.

Give my love to every one at Uloloo

With love

Lance

Heliopolis

Egypt

8/5/15

Dear Jane

We leave tonight and will in it before another week.

Have sent two vases to Dad to give you they are native work and if I had more cash would have bought more.



The address I gave you is slightly wrong the correct is

Mrs Beneducci

C/o Mr Meimarachi

Khedivial Buildings

Block A

Rue Emad el Dine

Cairo

Send the photo & write her and thank her for her kindness to us and include thanks to her husband Major and also to the Mrs & Misses Meimarachi.

We are all busy as the devil.

With Love

Lance

Gallipoli

14/7/15

Dear Jane

Am writing two or three letters and putting them inside this letter so will you post them on envelopes are dash scarce and are worth their weight in gold. Well Kid you can call me Capt. now my appointment dates back to 13th May about two months but it only came out the night before last.

Saw a Victorian paper named the 'Leader' of the 22nd May in it is the photos of the review by Sir Ian Hamilton at Heliopolis In photo No 2 you can see yours truly just passing the saluting base on "Aladdin" the horse Walter Duncan gave me. Got your photos that you took at Morphettville alright also yours and a letter from Mr Melrose tell him I will write when envelopes grow again.

Had a couple of narrow squeaks yesterday but do not say anything as you know how things enlarge as they go. First a bit of splinter from a shell hit me on the head cut through my hat and just marked my head then when down at the beach in the evening a shell burst just over our head the smoke and dust blinding us for the minute but still a miss is as good as a (?).



You may have seen some photos of the Triumph sinking after being torpedoed we witnessed the whole sight in fact some of our fellows say they saw the torpedo but I only saw the various phases of her sinking and that was not a pleasing sight So far we must have inflicted terrific losses ~~of~~ on the enemy as every time they come our machine guns play havoc with them On May 18/19 was a terrible affair for them they lost 3000 killed alone they were counted by our burial party on the day of the armistice 3 days later their wounded would total another 4000. This was the result of trying to drive our fellows into the sea. Our casualties were 500 killed & wounded. So it was a good win. We are all getting a bit stale of stopping, but have to play our little part

Got a chronicle addressed in Kath Roachs hand it was June 5 and was a week later than any other we received. Also got a letter from Dad very funny saying he had written several letters without a reply I have got three from him. The rest must have been mislaidd. A good idea for when you write would be to put a thin envelope in so that I can use it in writing back.

Love to all at Uloloo

Lance

24/10/15

My Dear Lil

Thanks muchly for your letter of the 6 Sept. written at the South.

Have been sent down here for a months home service (?) (?) but like a fool I told the Medical Board I was quite fit and wanted to rejoin my regt but they said I could not be fit so here I am. If I had told them that I wanted a months sick leave they would have given it to me.

You do not know how hard it is to get away from here. not that I am anxious to get away to Gallipoli but while the regt is there I would like to be with them but no one will be more thankful than myself when they get a shell. Have practically regained my lost weight and am only 7 lbs lighter than when I left Egypt 14 stone 7 lbs then 14 now so you can see I am alright was under 12 stone when I left Gallipoli.

Dave is up in Scotland the board would not let him go out about three weeks ago. Have seen the Angas family Keith Duncan Duncan Hughes and his nieces had dinner with them one night.

Hear Tommy Cheadle is here somewhere. I think it would have been much better if these fellows had joined the Australian Army but still they know best although I would not very much like to be led by some of them Sorry you did not enjoy your trip to Lameroo but after a few years of that sort of travelling you get used to it you will have to come to Oodnadatta with me when I return only three days of that sort of travelling. Had a letter from your Dad yesterday about 12 letters altogether tell him I will write next week or before. Lil I would



love to be back in Australia it has been raining for two solid days but although I have enjoyed myself here there is no place like home even if one does live with only a dog as a pal. Had a few theatres with Floss and Nell. Poor Floss has had a pretty thick time but thank God she has plenty of grit and things will come out alright some day. Well Lil now you have taken to letter writing do not stop.

With love

Lance

Australian Base Depot

Weymouth

9 Dec 1915.

Dear Old Jane,

You will see by the above that I am still in England. we have been waiting for the last month to move off at 48 hours notice but have not received it yet. I am in charge of the Light Horse men that are returning and have three other officers with me. We are not allowed any leave except for the day and as things are pretty mundane we are not enjoying ourselves immensely.

It is raining like the devil and in consequence we have no parade this morning.

I take my fellows for good long walks and we generally do about 8 miles every day.

Nell came down here last Saturday and went back to London Sunday night she is looking alright again.

Had a little luncheon for her on Sunday Eric Lewis a major in our Regt Charles Love a Captain from Victoria and two local girls named Hodgkinson we had a very jolly time.

The Hodgkinsons have been very kind to us and last night I got a letter from them to say their father had died suddenly that morning it is very tough luck but as he was a confirmed invalid perhaps it is better.

Gil is very anxious to get some fighting but after he has had a few months in the trenches it will not be so joyful. Have not heard from Brook since he left so do not know where he is now.

It looks like now as if we will miss being in the trenches at Xmas that is something to be thankful for

Have not got any Australian mail for about a month I expect they think in Egypt that I have gone back to the trenches and are sending it all there.



Well Kid give my love to every one at Ulooloo and I hope they have a Merry Xmas & New Year. how I wish I was there with you all.

Love Lance

22 December 1915.

Please excuse this, the blotting paper ran amock

Dear Miss Lewis,

Your nice brother has gone, and I am sorry. May God protect him in the (?) times to come. He left me some papers to send on to you, and also some photographs, when they are ready. The buttons have not seen active service. I landed on the Hospital Ship minus a coat. I am going up to Manchester on Friday for a 10 day holiday. Hope you are keeping well.

Yours truly. Charles Love

On the Desert

27/1/16

Dear Old Jane,

Have been getting quite a lot of letters from you the last few and also handkerchiefs if you knock the latter down to one a month it will keep me going am also getting plenty of newspapers so am alright as we feed ourselves pretty well with ration and extras we get from Cairo. Had a letters from Mr Lil & Alex and will write them in a few days.

Glad you like the vases, if they keep us out here for any length of time I will save enough money to buy some more or if I get my majority and try and send them out.

Had a letter from Brook the other day they are returning to Australia and not going to England as they thought Sid Rowell is returning with them and old Pro Watson also.

Sid offered to take anything back I wish but did not have anything ready

He said he would go and have a look at Dad, he is a great fellow but will not be strong enough for a long time to come back here.

All the girls seem to be getting engaged I thought by this time most of the fellows would have left Australia.



Had a letter from Mrs Phil Robin the other day it was written about 3 weeks before she died. Tell Lil I got her socks and they are some glad she did not put the Captain in as I may be a Major before they are worn out. then she will have to treat her uncle with more respect.

Would have loved to have heard the conversation between MW. and Lil about the engagement.

Yos Murray is still with the Squadron he was recommended for a commission on the peninsula and I think he will get it shortly if he was in England they would give him one. There it is too easily here it is otherwise. He is looking very fit and plays the game every time.

By the time this reaches you I will have been soldiering 18 mos I would not have missed it for all the tea in China but Gad wont we be pleased when its over. Tell TAV (thought I was writing a field message) that here on a windy day is as bad as Broken Hill on a dusty day. Sorry to hear Kath Roach is engaged had a pc from her this mail.

In two letters you have asked me about Mrs Beneducci naturally she is English born in South America educated in England married a Greek who was a Major in the Egyptian Army but retired when he got married.

Had a splendid time with her Uncle and Aunt in England he is a parson but one of the best I have met in fact tell the Ulooloo people he is a white man

I had a whisky when I wanted it and then he & his Mrs took me down for about 10/. at Auction Bridge.

I wrote Shy as soon as I heard of Billies death.

Well Kid give my love to all at Ulooloo am tired goodnight

Lance

In Egypt

29/4/16

My Dear Jane

Wrote you a week or so ago. Got your cable but as I had cabled Dad the day before I thought he would advise you, under separate cover I am sending you my chart you will see the Egyptian writing on one side and English on the other They take the temps with French centigrade thermometers but I have put the equivalent to our Fahrenheit thermometers alongside.



Have had another couple of letters from Paddy Rooney also a snapshot she says her hair has turned gray no wonder she has gone to Ireland for a while. Got back to the squadron 3 days ago they had moved to this place about 150 miles the day before. It is not so nice as our last camp but we are fairly comfortable and are right on the banks of the Nile. We are living pretty well bacon and eggs for breakfast fish for lunch and meat for tea at night.

We give 1 Piastre = 2_ D for 6 eggs and about 1 piastre for the fish they are freshwater straight from the river but are fairly good eating.

I notice Jack (?) has been slating Dad about up to time I would like to be home.

Writing in difficulty as the light is not very brilliant

Dad told me last letter that he got a lot of letters from me but very little information.

Hope your kiddy is alright

love to all at Ulooloo

Lance

In Egypt

30/5/16

My Dear Jane

Wrote you a few days ago but maybe I will not have another chance for a few days so am writing now

We move move move about a week at one place then move to another rather like it but one cannot carry too much baggage or luxuries for feeding, feeling quite fit and well although we have been working strenuously the last week or so it is doing some of the lads that have not roughed it before a power of good.

This morning a message came round that they wanted majors for the infantry to take charge of battalions with the rank of Lieut Col I have put in my name but do not say anything about it as I have only told the family and if things are changed then no one will be the wiser am glad Doveys yarn was what it was although incorrect in some respects

Sorry to hear Babs Hayward is engaged she is a nice kid and would have suited George.

Very funny you being in Pernallys our Doc lost 600£ on them but takes it quite calmly

Had a letter from Kylie and one from Maudie



Have got quite a lot of snaps all my officers have cameras so I get there films and get them printed for myself will try and send them out have two more letters to write which makes a doz. for today.

Am afraid we are moving tomorrow so am getting all my letters finished

Love to all at Uloloo

Lance

In Egypt

30-5-16

My Dear Lil

Youre a cheeky little devil saying that I am just past the Boys Scouts stage

Why we have been permanent soldiers for the last 1 year and 10 months nearly Heavens how the time flies. Have not got Typhoid germs they sent my blood to Cairo to be tested and it came back positive but told the Doctors that I had been inoculated so many times for Typhoid that it could not be anything else. Anyhow it satisfied them and they then agreed with me that I had nile fever so will not have to lose the moustache

George is very slow I have written him a letter telling him so just fancy letting a boy beat him anyhow Babs was a jolly nice kid

Glad you and (?) are still on the market time you announced things the only thing is if you do get fixed up quickly or he may wish to change like his brother. Well Lill we are out on the sand but it is not such a desert as of yore plenty of bushes and one very much like our back saltbush in the north it lashes the same. Am thinking of starting a sheep station here after the war but think on second thought it would take too much fencing one never sees wire fence or any other for that matter

Have seen a few sights the last few days that I would love to write you about but military authorities say no

Love to all at Uloloo

Your uncle

Lance

In Egypt



6/6/16

Dear Old Jane

Wrote you a week ago but got a letter from you two days ago so am going to answer it at once as I may not get the opportunity for a few days. We have been working pretty hard going night and day and never have a whole night in the blankets wont it be great to get home and when you are called to say go to h- and turn over and sleep for a few hours

The enemy dropped a few bombs into the camp the other day you will see the result by the casualty list. Had a letter from Nell she says Gil has gone back to the regt. Expecting another mail tomorrow.

Hope so as news is very scarce.

I left with my crowd at 1 oclock yesterday morning & returned last night at 8.30 a pretty long day 19 _ hours of course we were not travelling the whole time but quite enough of it. Heard last night about the north sea naval fight it was a pity our big ships did not get up in time but still we can afford to lose two ships to their one as long as they will come out and fight

Have not heard from Paddy Rooney the last few weeks she was going to Ireland is she Roman Catholic

Well Jane nothing more today

Love to all at Ulooloo

Lance

28/12/16

My Dear Jane

Well we had another go the other day expect you will have seen by the papers we got over 1600 prisoners a battery of guns etc We had a pretty trying time We had three nights out of four travelling all night and in the day time we were kept going. The fight lasted from daylight until just before dusk when we took the enemys last trench with bayonet

Just as well that I am a bit bandy otherwise would have got one in the leg but as it was it spoilt my leggings. Frank Treloar got a couple of nasty ones jolly sorry as he led his men well and it was his first open fight. He got his commission on the peninsula

Have had a letter from Paddy she has lost a brother. Yes I got the tobacco from Pascoes also the Bulletin.



Would have loved to hear you talk to the Mortlocks on conscription I cannot understand that class of people at all.

E W Hawker wrote me a long letter and told me that Jack had said he was going to vote NO.

We were on outpost the night before last and it rained the whole night awfully jolly, we are getting quite a lot of rain and by heavens it is cold but one only has to think of the poor devils in the wet in France. Have decided when I go home that I go to Oodnadatta to live all the winter.

Well Jane nothing to write about.

Got dozens of letters & cards & hampers for Xmas but they all arrived about 17th just a well as we ate them before we had to leave our last camp.

We had bully & bread for Xmas day. Feed the turkeys I will want one a meal when I get home.

Love you to you all

Lance

Officers' Ward,

No. 14 A. G. Hospital,

Abassia,

EGYPT, 21/1/17.

Hon. John Lewis.

Dear Sir,

Your son, Major L. Lewis, has asked me to write to you, being unable to write himself. He is at present in No. 14 Hospital, suffering from the effects of wounds received on January 9th at Lafa.

The bullet entered just under the right eye, and came through the lower part of the back of his neck. He has lost a good deal of blood, and consequently is very weak, but he appears to be gaining strength slowly, and is looking forward to his return to Australia.

The Major sends his love, and is very sorry he cannot write to you himself, and trusts you are in good health. He is a "brick", and adored by his men.

I sincerely hope you soon have the joy of having him with you again.



I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Nurse) JESSIE M. TOMLINS

Office,

Thursday, 22/2/17.

My dear Jeannie,—

I didn't send your cable at lunch time, because I thought I'd first tackle Mr Lewis, to see if I could get it ~~the~~ through without any cost to you. I told him you thought it would be nice to send Lance a cable to let him know how pleased you all were to hear he was better, and he said, yes, send one, so I asked if I could sign it Jane & John Lewis, but he said there was no need for that, it was only wasting words, I could say 'all pleased', and that would do. I think he wanted it to come from him. I've added 'love from all' on my own responsibility, as it will only cost him 1/8_d. a word, and when you are away from home and ill you appreciate anything like that, also Lance told the nurse to send his love. Mr Lewis told me what to say as far as the rest of it goes:—

Lance Lewis, c/o Meimarach, Cairo

"Very pleased hear you are doing so well Trust will continue improve Love from all

— John Lewis —

So I didn't send one from you at all, but if you would still like me to, let me know. I thought the love from all would include all the family. Really 'love from all' will cost him more than 'Jane &', but still, I think he just wanted to sign it himself.

Am enclosing the letter from Brook, and one from the Nurse. Wasn't it a nice letter. It has been answered.

Mr Lewis told me to-day that they really thought Lance was dead when they carried him away to a sheltered spot, as they took all his papers &c. However, 3 hours after (not _) he regained consciousness and made his own way back to the dressing station. My word, he deserves to get better. He has his Father's grit and determination. I think all this must have been in young Crase's letter.

I think Nell's photo is beautiful, but Pa Smith (with whom I open the mail) says he hates it, and it's not nearly good enough for her. "She's a nice looking girl, Nellie". Well, I love it. Will take it to Wiggs tonight, and get them to send to Mr Lewis when ready. About that other little snap-shot of her, Mr Mitchell says he doesn't remember seeing it, but the next time Mr L. is away, he'll let me go through one of his cupboards with him (Mr Mitchell)



and try and find it. I remember seeing it on his table. He showed it to me, and also a letter from Nell.

I had a letter delivered here to-day in Bagot's mail addressed to Miss Kathleen Roach, Adelaide, South Australia. Wasn't that wonderful! Pa Smith says there's nothing wonderful about it, seeing what a notorious character I am. Anyway, when I'm at the cable office tonight, I'm going in to the G.P.O. to compliment them. It was from the officer Eric went away with 2_ years ago, and with whom he was for 6 months on Gallipoli. Then he was put in a new Machine Gun Company, while Eric stayed with the 3rd M.G.Coy. He's won the military cross, and been mentioned in dispatches two or three times. Well, each Xmas I've just sent him Xmas wishes and wishing him luck, and signing myself Eric Roach's sister, K.R. I've purposely just headed the paper Adelaide, so that he wouldn't think I expected an answer, because I didn't, but I always feel interested in all the old original 10th, and I knew from what Eric said he was a decent officer to them. Well, this Xmas he thought he'd answer my greetings, and see if by some wonderful chance the letter might find me. He's a Victorian, but left from here. He told me (such a nice letter) that his wife is now staying at Gilberton, and gave me the address and asked me to go and see her, if I would care to, which of course I will. He speaks of Eric as 'one of his old veterans'.

Well, I must wind off. I do hope all your news will be satisfactory now.

Much love,

Kath

I couldn't hear you very well to-day.

Khedivial Blgs H.

Cairo.

March 12th 1917.

Dear Mrs Melrose,

Your letter just reached me, and thank you for it. Yes, Lance is one of our very best friends, and the nicest dearest boy in the world. I quite imagine your anxiety, and am glad to have been able to relieve it in some little way. It is nearly two months Lance came in wounded. As I wired to your Father—he got the bullet just beneath the right eye and through the neck. The wound was not serious in itself, but worst luck it cut an artery, and so causes these terrible hemorrhages. Immediately he picks up some strength the artery breaks open, and all he gained in days he loses in a few seconds, and so on. When better he is in wonderful spirits, and we go to see him as often as the Doctor allows it. He never ceases talking of his dear dad, and Mrs Melrose, we pray fervently that your brother may be spared to you, and our sympathy for you, who are so very far away, is great indeed. He has the best of medical attendance, and all that can be done is done for him. Now it is a question of endurance and



(?) strength, and we hope he'll be able to bear the weakness every time a hemorrhage comes on. How I wish we could soon wire "Out of danger" to you, God helping we might.

With kindest regards

Yours very sincerely

Mary Meimarachi

Office,

Friday, 30/3/17.

My dear Jeannie,—

Although to-day's news wasn't fresh, I thought I'd ring Alex., just so that you'd have every faith now in the Base Records report. Miss Meimerachi's cable was dated 29th —

"LANCE OUT OF DANGER"

so there is no room for doubt now. Not that there was before. Still, it's nice to have it confirmed, and it is a couple of days later than Base Records. Arrived this a.m.

I asked Mr Lewis if he was going to cable Miss M. and he said no. I thought he might perhaps have replied that he was pleased, and to thank her, but suppose he didn't think it necessary. In his letter to Lance, he asked him if he could give Miss M. a present, that is, if Mr Lewis should send her something, as he had no wish for her to do it all for nothing. Of course, I suppose she is in Cairo, and Lance is at Abassia, so it meant a good many trips out, but perhaps they have a motor. However, Lance will know best what to do.

Abe Shannon came in yesterday to get Lance's address from Mr Toll, as he wanted to send him a cable.

Mr Lewis has a wonderful photo from Gilbert, such a fine one of G. and about 8 or 9 Indian officers. I think G. had 9 days leave to show them round England, and they had an audience with the King &c. Believe it will be in next week's Observer. I had to type out a bit explaining it to-day. It is the finest group photo I've ever seen, every face is so good.

Hoping everything will now go on swimmingly.

With much love,

Kath.