

Alexander Mee's War Diary – Transcribed

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Diary - Pencil, Inside Cover and Title Page

Alexander Mee's Pencil is in its holder.

Pvt Alexander Mee
 15 Platoon
 D Company
 24 Rfts.
 NZ

If anyone should find
 this book Please
 sent it to
 Mrs A Mee
 Brighton
 Otago

New Zealand

G

This is the Diary of Alexander Mee deceased marked with the letter "G" presented [?] to Jessie Mee at the time of her ? affidavit before me this 17th day of September 1918
[signature]

A solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand

Diary - Contents Page and Military Section

A Mee

Diary - Military Section - Pages 4 and 5

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Diary - Military Section - Notes Pages

Wednesday, 4 and Thursday, 5 April 1917

The Day we Left New Zealand.

Reveille. 4.am Breakfast

5 am. Roll Call. 8am

marched to the train, from the train to the Troopship, (Devon)

went right on board, left the

Warf[sic] at 1 PM. Went out a

Short distance into the stream, & dropped anchor for

the night, left again. about 5 am

& sailed, south east, & has been doing the same since

Friday, 6 and Saturday, 7 April 1917

Good Friday

At Sea.

Lifted anchor about 5 am
 & sailed away south east
 sea very calm not many
 sick quite well myself.
 We have drill twice a day
 For about - 1 hour, own bunks
 are Hammocks hung from
 the ceiling. Good for not
 making us sick as they
 swing with the boat. The bunks
 hang over the tables, & get
 to be taken down. through
 the day – blankets & then
 rolled. up together & put
 way in racks
 No Hot Cross Buns

At Sea
 Sea as calm as a mill
 pond & looks lovely. Nothing
 but sea for miles around
 saw a whale today passing
 about ½ mile away.
 A concert was held amid–
 ships. tonight. By the course
 of the ship now we are
 making towards S America
 Lat 47 7 9 16 –
 owing to us going so
 far South, we a gain
 a day what they call
 Antipodes day.
 We were unit[?] for duty
 today. Sports were held
 on board today, some
 very amusing events.

Sunday, 8 and Monday, 9 April 1917

Easter Sunday

At Sea

Was at church service in the

morning. In the
afternoon we were
at Bible Class

At Sea
Physical & Drill,
& Signalling, as
usual, Still going
About South East
With a fine sea

Tuesday, 10 April and Wednesday, 11 April 1917

At Sea
Same as, usual
Weather getting cold
Drill & Signalling
saw another whale
Boat Drill,
Raft No 4

At Sea
Our Platoon
went on for guard
Today. 2 hours on, 4
hours off. I was on first.
round 10 to 12, then
12 – 4 to 6 – 10 – 12 – 4 – 6,
we had all the next
day off & we slept in
the clink. Raining
slightly. during the
night. Weather getting
very cold.

Jessie Birthday [words are boxed]
April 11 1917

Thursday, 12 and Friday, 13 April 1917

At Sea
On Guard
Business explained
on previous page,

slept most of
 the day. Very Cold
 night still making
 South East.
 Started mess
 ordlies[sic] duty today
 carry on for a week
 Weather 40 degrees

At Sea
 Weather 38 Degrees
 The morning broke
 very rough raining
 & blowing, some,
 sea getting a bit
 rough now. breaking
 over the lower decks
 our hatchway was
 closed down this
 morning. very cold
 Drilling with great
 Coats on, Kit
 inspecting this afternoon
 Weather improved a
 good deal this afternoon
 We all have bad colds.

Saturday, 14 and Sunday, 15 April 1917

At Sea
 Weather still very
 Rough
 Mess ordilies[sic] still
 Boat Drill.
 Payed today 10/-
 Boxing Contest
 afternoon very good
 Sea getting very
 rough
 Temp 34

At Sea

Temp 32
 Weather very Rough
 High Sea Running
 all day. Several
 showers of snow
 getting near the pole
 I guess / Mess Orderlies
 again. very rough job
 too, seen several
 Dishes[?] of Potatos &
 Sausages. scattered
 About deck. Church in
 troop deck at 10 am
 Bible class afternoon
 30 Present Rev 1 Chapter

Monday, 16 and Tuesday, 17 April 1917

At Sea
 Weather improving
 big swell still
 Running / D Coy unit
 for Duty. Mess ordilies[sic]
 still. Got good praise
 from Cpt Potter, O.C.
 for the conditions
 of mess utensils[sic]
 Lecture afternoon
 re parts of Rifle
 Cleaning & so on,
 Men wanted of working
 coal. had a try but was
 too late 2/- day extra [words underlined].

At Sea
 Weather fine
 Still Mess Ordlie [sic]
 Nothing much
 doing today.

Wednesday, 18 and Thursday, 19 April 1917

At Sea

Weather broke
stormy & got worse
through the day
by time it came
night it was very
wild, very big
swell, on, felt a
bit sick. Got good
praise from the
Dr for the way we
had our dishes
Finished up Mess orderlil[sic]

At Sea

Weather still Rough
Lecture all day
nothing startling
Posted a letter to Jessie

Friday, 20 and Saturday, 21 April 1917

At Sea

Started to work
in. coal bunker
shifting coal.
2/- a day extra.
not a bad job
Keeps you warm
Weather improving
sailing N. E.
Passed Cape Horn
this morning

All Lights out at night

At Sea

Still at the coal
finished for the day at ½ 11.
Afternoon, the Boxing
was finished the
Gold Medal was won by Prvt Mackie

A Company. Several
 heats with the lazy
 stick were pulled off
 to be finished on Wed
 A Concert was held in
 the evening in Lower
 Troop Deck

Sunday, 22 and Monday, 23 April 1917

At Sea.
 Weather improving
 still travelling
 North East
 Mess ordilies[sic] for
 coal lumpers table
 Church Service
 10-am & 7 pm
 Bible Class [~~word crossed out~~]
 2.30 till 3.30 pm
 1 Revelations. 32 Present
 wrote letter to Anna

At Sea
 Weather better,
 At the coal again
 The rest platoon
 Physical drill &
 lecture. Very cold
 & stormy tonight

Tuesday, 24 and Friday, 25 April 1917

Still at Sea.
 Weather fairly good
 but cold.
 Still working at
 the coal. Nothing
 exciting.
 Had a fine dinner
 today grilled chops
 the best I have
 had since I left

home.

At Sea

Weather very cold,
Anzac Day. whole
holiday Services
& speeches from ten to 11
During the speech
we came in sight
of an ice berg they
reckon it was about
3 miles off. The gunman
had a shot but it fell very
short. Sports afternoon
blind fold boxing &
lazy stick. Saw about
50 more icebergs, the afternoon
& passed very close to some
at night
A good concert at night

B Shaw & Fairmaid[?] beat Meek & Mee at 5.00pm

Thursday, 26 and Friday, 27 April 1917

At Sea

Weather cold, but
clear in morning
heavy rain this
afternoon
Working coal.
All day. Had Grilled
steak for dinner

At Sea,

Weather fair.
still working coal
vaccination today.
came down from the
hold to get down & then
straight back
Got paid also £1-0,

got our Identification
disc.

Saturday, 28 and Sunday, 29 April 1917

At Sea,
Weather fair,
Still at coal
Sports this afternoon
was not there.
Writing letters.
Send letters to Sophia
Bella Johnny, Geo Marshall[?]
Brighton Choir. to catch
mail at Capetown
Finished work on
Coal

At sea
Weather very good
best day yet.
Church Service this
morning, / Communion
afterwards was there,
Bible Class this
afternoon. 32 Present
Wrote a letter to Jessie
& Mother. Church at 7 Pm
was not. there
travelling East,

Monday, 30 April and Tuesday, 1 May 1917

At Sea
Weather Good .
Drill very light
on account of
vaccination
Wrote a letter to
Mother & Jessie

At Sea
Weather Good

Did not go Duck
shooting.
On Guard
10 to 12 Shift.
slept out on Deck

Wednesday, 2 and Thursday, 3 May 1917

At Sea
Weather very good
finished guard at
8 o'clock. Armed
Guard put on at
6 A.M. Had to wear
Lifebelts all day
Boat alarm.
Sea very calm
Lovely sunset.
Medical Inspection.

At Sea & Port,
Weather foggy morning
had to stop & blow the
whistle. Met the first,
vessel on the journey.
about 8 Am, fog lifted.
& saw another steamer,
& then between 8 & 9 we sighted
land. Cape Colony the
Tableland appeared to be up in the
clouds. The Harbour tug. met us &
guided us into the harbour
Corinthic, in 2 hrs ahead of us
We were not allowed off on
account of some soldiers trouble
out from Capetown. We berthed
at About 12 o'clock. They started
to coal with about 100 Niggers

Friday, 4 and Saturday, 5 May 1917

In Harbour
Capetown.

Weather very wet in
 the morning, broke away
 fine about 10 O'clock.
 Went for a route march
 for a few miles. around
 the town, back again
 for dinner. General
 leave granted to all troops
 except of 20 of 15 Platoon
 D Coy, for fatigue, & I was
 among the unlucky ones
 we did not get off till
 6 o'clock. we took cabs
 up to the town & then,
 had a look around &
 a big tea & went to the pictures

Bought Kodak £2 - 4/
 In Port
 Capetown
 Weather again wet morning
 lovely after 10 O'clock
 was Marched through
 the city to the Band
 Rotunda, & then dismissed
 for the day. Had a good
 look round everywhere
 lovely gardens. Dinner
 Y.M.C.A. Long Street. afternoon
 went the round trip by
 Tramcar to Camp Bays
 a lovely place rose up 700ft
 above sea level. passed the
 Table mountains. on the way
 Had a swim & cup of tea
 All free Took some snaps. Went to Pictures
 Walked home to boat

Sunday, 6 and Monday, 7 May 1917

Capetown.
 Weather fine

Left the wharf about
7 A.M. & anchored out
in the stream.
D Coy for Duty, did not
get anything to do.
Church Parade at 10 o'clock
Did not get ashore.
Had a couple of hours
sleep in the afternoon
Went to church at night.

In the Stream
Good day
nothing doing.

Sore throat
at the Doctor

Tuesday, 8 and Wednesday, 9 May 1917

In the bay.
Good Day.

At the Doctor,

with throat.
improving.

Starting Physical
Drill Practising
for Sports

In the bay.
good day.
Throat getting
better.
Physical Drill
Signalling.
Practical.
Practice for football

game & Potato race
Slept on Deck

sailing [crossed out]

Thursday, 10 and Friday, 11 May 1917

Fine day.
In the bay till 12 o'clock
& then we lifted
anchor & set sail
for England,
with 8 other troopships
all lights out at
nights. Sailing
three deep.
Practicing for sports
again & signalling

Slept on Deck

Sailing North

At Sea
Fine Day weather
getting hot.
DCoy unit for
Duty.
Went to Dentist,
to get impression
taken. Did a big
washing today
that all
started our choir
Slept on Deck

Got paid for coalwork
14/- 7 days

Saturday, 12 and Sunday, 13 May 1917

At Sea.
Weather very hot.

awnings put up for
shelter. Semaphore
signalling, till 10-30.
Medical Inspection
got my teeth fitted
Afternoon Sports.

Passing football D Coy 15 Platoon
lost their heat.
Potato race won my
heat by default.

Broad Jump Meek beaten
Bible reading.
Concert at night
Slept out on Deck
Sailing North

At Sea
Weather getting hotter
Church Parade at
9-30 AM on the
aft deck, & was singing
in Choir.

Bible Class afternoon
Revelation 2 Chap.
Church 7 O'Clock
Slept on Deck

Sailing North

Monday, 14 and Tuesday, 15 May 1917

At Sea
Weather still hot.
Washing day for,
15 Platoon.
Washed Pants & Coat

Wednesday, 16 May and Thursday, 17 May 1917

At Sea

Weather very hot

Started Mess Ordlie[sic]

J Elder & One

15 Platoon on. Guard

a lot of sickness

aboard feeling quite

well myself.

Reading a good book

On the Edge of Beyond,

by Gertrude Page

Sailing North

At Sea

Weather still very hot

Losing a lot of sweat

A Private. tried by

Court Martial & got

42 days for stealing

a pair of puttees.

All the troops were lined

up. & he was stood up

in front of them when

getting his sentence.

s

Sailing north

Slept on Deck found my

mate to be Joe Simmonds

who used to live at Taieri Beach[?]

Friday, 18 and Saturday, 19 May 1917

Very hot at Sea

Mess ordlies[sic].

Rained at night

very heavy everyone

caught out on deck

Got my false teeth

Slept on Deck

very hot

at Sea

Mess Ordies[sic]

Lecture on discipline

Nothing doing afternoon

Slept on Deck

Sailing N West

Sunday, 20 and Monday, 21 May 1917

Church Parade 9-30

At Sea

very hot.

Crossing the line

Cruiser away a

head to cut the

wires. Father

Neptune came aboard

at 2 Pm with his

full crowd. the best.

time I have put in

on the ship. They tipped

every one into the

water they could get

hold of. Capts. Doctors

Lieut[?] & privates

Slept on Deck

Tuesday, 22 and Wednesday, 23 May 1917

At Sea

Weather very hot & muggy

Sighted land at

daybreak. came to

anchor in bay at

about 9.30 Am.

The name of the

district is Sierra
 Leone, & the chief town
 Freetown. 1 hours drill
 in morning rest[underlined] of day
 off. Lecture on tying up
 wounds Went on Guard
 at. 3 relief

Thursday, 24 and Friday, 25 May 1917

In Bay
 Weather very hot
 coaling all day
 with natives
 Officers went
 ashore. On Guard
 till. 6 Pm. one of my
 eyes very sore
 not allowed to
 sleep on deck

In Bay
 Weather very hot
 Private Mapp. E Coy
 dropped dead at his
 post on Guard
 Body taken ashore
 & Buried. firing party
 & Band went ashore
 with them. at Doctor
 with eye. very sore
 today.

Saturday, 26 and Sunday, 27 May 1917

Weather very hot
 Left Sierra Leone
 at. 10 oclock
 No more escort.
 At Dr With eye
 very sore this morning
 better afternoon.
 Jack Houston took

some Photos for me
 of Sierra Leone.
 did some writing
 to Jessie afternoon &
 had a sleep
 slept on Deck.
 Travelling West

At Sea
 Weather Hot
 Church Parade I am
 at the Dr with eye
 very sore.
 Victor & me name[?] taken
 for sitting on cases
 of potatoes know our fate
 tomorrow
 At Bible Class
 afternoon Rev chtr 2-8-10
 Sgt Halford held Prpbt [Presbyterian?]
 Service a[sic] 6oclock.
 English Church service
 7 oclock, was at neither
 slept on Deck Travelling
 N[?] West by North

Monday, 28 and Tuesday, 29 May 1917

At Sea
 Weather not so
 warm.
 Up before O.C. (first
 time) for sitting on
 Potatoes. 3 days C B
 at Dr. eye getting
 better. Changed
 a pound,
 On Parade afternoon
 name taken for
 lighting a match
 forward of Bridge.
 Slept on Deck

At Sea

Met a strange boat
6-Am this morning
had, cruiser did a
few rounds about her
to see whither bound,
D Coy Guard & Fatigue
I had ½ hour work
for the day. Read &
played cards the rest
of the day & chased the
Bugle 4 times

Slept on Deck,

Wednesday, 30 and Thursday, 31 May 1917

At Sea,
Weather good.
Kit inspection
in the forenoon.
Met a Sailing
ship, this morning

Slept on Deck

Weather Good

At Sea
Chased the Bugle
four times & finished
up.

Started on the
coal. afternoon
at 3/- per extra.

Washing in the
morning

Slept on Deck

Friday, 1 and Saturday, 2 June 1917

At Sea
 Weather Good
 getting cooler
 Working at coal
 all day.
 Boat drill
 10.30.

Slept on Deck

At Sea
 Weather. good
 Cold wind
 Working at Coal
 half day
 Sports afternoon
 lost my heat potato
 race. Great Wrestling[sic]
 match Pascoe G Coy
 versus Mattson G Coy.
 Pascoe Won Great fun.
 Pillow fight over sheet
 Water. Best concert
 yet held. All dressed
 as Pierroits[sic]. Slept on Deck

Sunday, 3 and Monday, 4 June 1917

At Sea.
 Weather good. (cool)
 Church Parade
 9-0am. Sermon on
 13 Chap Revelation.
 Communion 10-am
 was there,
 Did not go to Bible Class
 Wrote letters to Jessie & Maggie
 Church 5.45 Srgt Halford
 Preaching.
 At bit of a riot on board
 over the Butter buried[?] the

Butter. Had to sound the
alarm to break the men
up
Slept on Deck

At Sea
Weather & cool
shower of rain
Working Coal.
Prvt Vezey [Vesey] Court
Martialed for stealing
a comrades money
Belt got 42 days
dedention[sic] & 3 [?] out
of 4 days tied to the
railing. Bought a
writing pad 6d –
Slept on deck

Tuesday, 5 and Wednesday, 6 June 2014

Weather cold
At Sea.
Working Coal.

Met a cruiser &
another boat about
10-30 Am,
L Corporal. Mason
Lost his stripe &
[?] C B for swearing
at Corpl McGuigan

Sea getting rough
Slept on Deck

Met two Ships

At Sea.
Weather cold
Working Coal
forenoon

Sports afternoon
 Enter for all events
 won none,
 a very good after
 -noons Sport,
 Steering gear went
 wrong for about
 1 hour last night
 stopped some time
 Rained very heavy
 Slept on Deck

Thursday, 7 and Friday, 8 June 1917

At Sea
 Weather good Cold
 Wind.
 Lost our job on
 Coal through going
 to Sports.
 Washing close[~~struck out~~] clothes
 Morning. Vaccination
 inspected. afternoon
 & Physical Drill
 Going on Guard
 6-Pm Third Relief
 Slept on Deck

At Sea
 Weather Good
 on Guard all day
 8 to 10 & 2 to 4 hours
 A Coy Sports.
 Between 37 ½ past
 we sighted the escort
 10 Torpedo Destroyers
 moving at full speed.
 It a fine sight,
 the troopships all fell
 into single file.
 The destroyers are all
 round us took 2 snaps

of them
Slept on Deck

Saturday, 9 and Sunday, 10 June 1917

At Sea

Weather Good.

No Drill today

Orders full marching

order, boots & Buttons

shined up. Getting

near to old England

Kits to be packed.

Medical Inspection

First [word crossed out] aid material

given to every man

Books of the Library

given away, Destroyers

cutting about every

where. Got paid for

Coal

Slept on Deck

At Sea

Weather Good.

Went for Dry Rations

Sighted England about

9-oclock. seen first

Aeroplane about 9-15am

Passed Eddystone

Lighthouse in view of

England. Arrived at

Devonport 12 oclock.

Passed Plymouth Hoe

at the Wharf 4 oclock

A beautiful view & scenery on

the way in. Pulled into harbour

take off gold, went out again into

the stream., A Submarine was

sunk just a little in front of

us this morning.

Monday, 11 and Tuesday, 12 June 1917

In Stream

Weather Good

Up at 5 am.

got our kits on Deck

ready to leave the old

Devon while waiting

a seaplane passed over

the ship & came down

in the bay. Came off the

old Devon onto a lighter.

At halfpast nine brought to

the wharf & put on a train

for Sling Camp We passed

some of the loveliest country

& scenery I ever saw. The

paddocks are all wee squares

with hawthorn hedges

arrived at Sling Station

at 6 oclock. Marched to

the Camp, about a mile

the Camp is badly laid

out saw about a dozen

Aeroplanes fling[sic] over us

Went to bed about 10 oclock

Very tired.

Sling Camp

Reveille at 6 oclock

A Shower bath,

before breakfast

Parade for equipment

Medical parade

Dental Parade

Inspection Parade

Dinner.

Review of heads

Lecture by Major,

Smoke

Kit inspection

They shake you up
some

Wednesday, 13 and Thursday, 14 June 1917

At Sling Camp

Weather Good

Went out to drill

at 10-30

Signal Drill [word crossed out]

& Mills Web Equipment

put together & inspected

till 12-oclock.

Afternoon Route March

& pulling[?] arms

a bath & finished

up for the day.

As you were [underlined]

At Sling Camp

Weather hot

Prayers & Inspection

Signal & drill.

Physical Drill

Bayonet Fighting

Heads right, 12 oclock

afternoon,

Lecture on Gases

Lecture on Wire entanglements

Lecture on Lewis gun

into lines

March back

finished 4-30

Friday, 15 and Saturday, 16 June 1917

At Sling Camp

Weather very hot

Prayers & Inspection

Practice with P.H.

Gas Helmets 1 hour

Practice putting up

wire fence 1 hour

Practice with Lewis gun
 March Past 12oclock
 Bayonet Fighting
 Squad drill.
 Bomb throwing
 home 4-30

At Sling Camp
 Weather very hot
 Prayers & Inspection
 1 hr Squad drill
 1 hr Bayonet fighting
 1 hr Bomb throwing
 March past 12 oclock
 1 hr Gas Helmets,
 1 hr Fencing
 1 hr Lewis Gun
 4-30 home

Aeroplane came
 down close by
 both men killed

Sunday, 17 and Monday, 18 June 1917

Sling Camp
 Weather very hot
 88 degr

Church Parade
 9-Am

Went for a
 Walk. had a
 look at Aeroplane
 had tea Y.M.C.A.

Sling Camp
 Weather rain
 Bull Ring as
 usual

Lecture up till 8pm

Tuesday, 19 and Wednesday, 20 June 1917

Sling Camp
Weather hot & Rain
Bull Ring
as usual

The Bull ring
is the place
Where you go through
Squad Drill,
Bayonet Fighting
Bomb Throwing
Gas Helmets
Fencing Lewis Gun

Sling Camp
Weather Cloudy
Bull Ring
as usual,

at Y.M.C.A
had poached
eggs

Thursday, 21 and Friday, 22 June 1917

At Sling Camp
Bull as usual
Finished Bull.

Raining
afternoon

The 23rds Left for
- France – about
midnight [underlined]

At Sling Camp
Weather Cold &

Morning showery
 Throwing live
 Bombs Classed B
 Im [crossed out] in the March
 Past [underlined]
 Afternoon Cleaning [Clearing?]
 out huts
 Evening Y M C A.
 Cup of Tea &
 Strawberries

Saturday, 23 and Sunday, 24 June 1917

At Sling Camp
 Weather cold
 Went through Gas
 chamber with
 P.H. Helmets on.

Squad Drill.

afternoon washing
 & Bath.

at a
 [word crossed out] Concert Y.M.C.A.
 very good.
 Supper
 Y.M.C.A.

At Sling Camp
 Weather Dull
 Church Parade 9-am[underlined]

Monday, 25 and Tuesday, 26 June 1917

Friday, 28 September 1917

Went into
 firing line.
 first time

Wednesday, 10 October 1917

Went into
firing line
2nd time.

A Mee

