

**WAR DIARY OF  
PRIVATE GEORGE PETERSEN  
NELSON COMPANY  
CANTERBURY INFANTRY REGIMENT  
N.Z.E.F.**

*The diary has been transcribed in an entirely unabridged form, all spelling and punctuation is as it was written.*

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 1915. Left for shooting range at 7 30 am. Returned 2 30 pm. Tent inspection and rifle inspection. Paid 14/-. (Rifle range - Abbasseih).

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>. Disinfecting of tents. General leave from 10 am to 10 pm.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>. Church parade at 10 am. Medical inspection at 11 am. Leave until 10 pm.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup>. Very strenuous march across desert. Dug trenches with entrenching tools, waited for attack from 13<sup>th</sup> Company. Arrived back at camp 4 45 pm after marching about 12 miles.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>. Marched across desert. Field practice in musketry by section. Arrived back at camp 4 45 pm after marching about 10 miles. Very dusty, nearly suffocated. Detailed for town piquet but was kindly relieved by one of my mates.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>. Tent inspection at 9 am free for rest of day till 5 pm when we left camp for an all night outpost and attack practice. Arrived at destination 8 pm. Dug trenches till 11 pm. Troops slept in trenches. I was on "Sentry over Arms" till 5 30 am when we attacked 13<sup>th</sup> Coy. Very cold at night. Dust storm coming home, waited 3 hours in large shed till storm ceased, but it did not.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>. Arrived back at camp after last nights bivouac at 1 pm dead tired and sleepy. In evening posted Pyramid photo to Nellie and Mother. Retired to bed very early feeling very tired.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup>. Left camp 8 am. Marched across desert, distance judging practice by Sergeant Major Glanville. Military law read. Arrived back at camp 3 30 pm. Rained in afternoon.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>. Rained very heavy all last night. Ceremonial parade at 10 am. Hon. Thomas McKenzie gave short speech. Paid 68 piastres (14/-). Leave for remainder of day, stayed in camp, wrote letter to mother and Frank Taylor. New Zealander shot at dawn at Abbaseih Barracks.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>. Leave all day from reveille till 10 pm. Left camp 9 am went to Zoological Gardens and then to Cairo and to the ? Gardens there, entered Caves. Went to picture show after tea. Bought Ostrich feather 4/-.