

**EXTRACTS FROM THE FIELD NOTEBOOK OF  
3963 SGT FREDERICK ARTHUR GREENLAND  
5<sup>th</sup> DRAGOON GUARDS**

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> January 1900. Usual routine. Everybody down hearted, no signs of relief. SQMS Thomas died (*2344 Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant Henry Thomas*)

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>. Usual routine. Tent washed away in heavy thunder storm.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup>. Usual routine. Biscuits in lieu of wet bread. Still no signs of column.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>. Let our horses out to graze. Ration cut short, issue of ½ lb of biscuits, one seventh of an ounce of tea, 1¼ ozs of sugar. Starvation staring us in the face.

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>. Leicester Post guard. 30 horses left in the squadron. They go to GHV, remainder still out to graze. Rations part horse flesh and part bullock. Arms taken away from us.

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Up at 5am, plenty of shells in camp. Issued out with rifle and bayonet. Biscuits for our daily meal, awfully hungry. All cavalry equipment given into stores, issued out with infantry kit complete, our horses being killed to feed us. Weather wet. Issue of bread for tomorrow, thank goodness. Proper infantry soldiering now.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>. Reveille at 4am, parade at 5am. Practise hill climbing and use of rifles. Get a spin up through Dixon "mekometer". Choked off. Rations biscuit.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>. General clean up. Catching spare horses. Horse flesh for dinner, very tasty. Sleep dressed, expected attack, does not come off.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>. Up at 6am, clean up, breakfast horse meat and bread. Bathing parade. Go for a walk, get peaches. Peaches and mealies for dinner. Weather fine. No sign of relief, but lots of yarns. Turned out for Observation Hill East. Remained there all night, returned 6am.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast biscuits and horse flesh. Combined attack of columns. Firing gladdens the heart of the whole of Ladysmith. Firing continues all day.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>. Up at 6am, still hear the firing going on. No sign of relief. Lots of yarns. Firing continues all day. Parade for musketry. March to Observation Hill East. No news.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>. Up at 6am, still sounds of firing. No news. Heavy artillery fire all the morning. Biscuits and horsemeat for breakfast. SSF (*Staff Sergeant Farrier*) Parker dead, Downs escort to funeral. Chevril (*a pun on Bovril, referring to a nourishing stock made from the bones of the horses*) and sausage meat for tea. No smoke for over a week, cannot smoke tea leaves. Column seem to be as far away as ever.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>. Go for a walk to exercise my limbs. No news of column. Still hear the shells falling. Biscuit and horse flesh for rations. Bulwana surprises us during the night by firing.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup>. Up at 6am, no news of column. Can still hear the shelling going on. Do some washing. Have a feed of Indian corn, boiled. Weather warm. Rations shorter still, ½ lb of mealie bread.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>. Up at 4am. Parade at 4.45, march to Observation Hill East. Practise firing. Take range finder, have a few distances, then the troops judge distances. Breakfast tea and horseflesh. No signs of column. 100<sup>th</sup> day of siege. ½ lb of tinned mutton and ½ a biscuit for dinner. 2 ozs of tobacco, quite a treat after being without a smoke for 3 weeks. Surprising how it soothes the nerve.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>. Up at 5am. Church parade at 6am. Breakfast 1 biscuit and 1 pint of weak tea, no sugar. Dinner some green stuff picked up on the hillside like spinach, and boiled acorns, ½ lb of horse flesh.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup>. Up at 5am. Take over Orderly Sergeant. Weather fine. Rations half tinned, half horse flesh. Parade at 6pm Observation Hill East. Remain working until 11pm. Sleep. Return to camp at 5am.

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast horse flesh and biscuits, dinner horse flesh and some "wild" green tea. Rations 6 ozs of mealie bread for tomorrow. Parade for Observation Hill at 6pm. Build sangars until 12 midnight. Sleep. Return at 5am.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>. Good news from columns. Hope they will not be long. Breakfast horse flesh. Dinner horse flesh and biscuits. Columns getting nearer.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>. Guard in fort on Observation Hill. Biscuits and horse flesh again. Bivouac all night, return to camp Friday 16<sup>th</sup> at 6am. Good news from columns, they will not be long now. 6 ozs of mealie bread and horse flesh for day's ration. Feel sick, a little fever. Do not go out.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>. Up at 6am. See doctor, detained in camp. Biscuits and horse flesh for breakfast. No signs of columns. Feel awfully done up.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>. Kimberley relieved Friday 16<sup>th</sup>. No signs of columns. 6 ozs of mealie bread and horse flesh. Can hear the fighting going on. Still feel bad and weak. The column gets no nearer.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup>. Biscuits and horse flesh. Still feel bad and weak. Hand over Orderly Sergeant, thank goodness. Good news from the column, they are getting nearer.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>. 6 ozs of mealie bread for rations. Am very weak and sick. No sign of column coming in.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>. ½ lb of biscuits and horse flesh. Feel a bit better but very weak. Bivouac in charge of sangar.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bread and horse meat for rations. Good news at hand 10am, best news since the siege began "full rations". Cpl Soliague died 15<sup>th</sup> February. (*4534 Lance Corporal Hugh Larmour Soliague*)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>. Rations 1 lb of mealie bread. Column not arrived yet. Mount guard.

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>. Regimental Orderly Sergeant. Rations ¾ of a biscuit 4 ozs of mealie bread. Column not arrived yet. Wet all night.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>. Mealie bread condemned. Rations ½ lb of biscuits, 6 ozs of mealie meal, one sixth of an oz of coffee, ½ oz of sugar. No firing today and no relief. Wet all day. Observation Hill as usual. Sharp firing about 9pm.

Monday 26<sup>th</sup>. Mess up with the mealies, had to go without. Weather fine. No signs of column. Can hear them but not see them. Good news, Roberts' column doing good work. Kronje surrendered 8000 after losing 1700 casualties. Relief delayed through bad country, but are doing well.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>. Weather dull. Anniversary of Majuba. Rations ½ lb of biscuits and 6 ozs of mealies. Can hear the relief fighting hard. Lots of sickness through want of vegetables. Rations short again, 4 ozs of biscuits and 3 ozs of mealies.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>. Weather dull, awfully hungry. Relief still coming, roll on. Good news, Buller's advance scouts are in, all volunteers. Relieved at last after 119 days.

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Garrison guard. Fine sight to see; a field of battle, the Boers completely routed, Ladysmith cleared at last, Majuba revenged, the stain washed out. General Buller and his staff arrive. Remain on guard until Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rations ½ lb of biscuits 6 ozs of mealies. Great expectations. Some of the regular forces have come in, and I hope to see David (*3493 Sergeant David Moody Greenland 1<sup>st</sup> (Royal) Dragoon Guards*) this time tomorrow. Troops seem in jolly spirits. Hope to have a smoke tomorrow. Good news, relieving troops come in tomorrow on full rations.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>. Grand day, troops arrive. Have a good breakfast, a pot of mealies with sugar. Parade to see the column come in. See the Royals, David not there. Go over to see them. David left at the base. They make much of me. Have a good blow out of jam and strong tea. Everybody in good spirits. Lots of yarns to tell one another. Return to camp at 8 o'clock, worn out. Have a good sleep.

*Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>. Curious to hear reveille sound. Get up with a good heart. Church parade. Breakfast sardines and biscuits, oh, curried rice first, and then sardines, and finish up with corned beef, a good cup of tea, and a smoke after, with a read of the paper. Felt like a Rajah. Return the infantry equipment into stores, once more a cavalryman. Went over to see the Royals.*

*Monday 5<sup>th</sup>. Up with the lark and feeling much stronger. Took 2 bottles of whisky over to Dave's chum. Received first mail, new from home. Quite a treat to read a letter and smoke a cigar. Potatoes are a treat.*

*Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>. Feeling stronger. Have a cup of cocoa for breakfast, shall soon get fat and strong again. Draw cavalry equipment again. Royals and 14<sup>th</sup> Hussars go out for 2 day reconnaissance. Receive a present of a pipe and ¼ lb of tobacco. Issue of bread again. After being so long without it is beautiful eating.*

*Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>. SQMS Howlett (2721 Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant John Flemyng Howlett) taken in hospital. Both SSMs (Squadron Sergeant Major) in hospital now. Issue of rum and cheese. Paid out a portion 2 days ago, £3.0.0. Mounted guard.*

*Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>. Regimental Orderly Sergeant. Still on half and half rations. Had a new bit of mutton for breakfast. Mutton for dinner, delicious, full ration of bread. Had some whisky.*

*Friday 9<sup>th</sup>. Took over sick horses from 14<sup>th</sup> Hussars, clean up all the saddles, get our kits. Another ¼ lb of tobacco. Royals and 13<sup>th</sup> Hussars move forward. Our Regiment put on the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade roll. Men making themselves bad scoffing too much.*

*Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>. Quiet. Breakfast dripping and bread, milk in my tea. Am feeling much stronger.*

*Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>. Church parade. Breakfast bacon and jam, mutton for dinner, getting quite fat. Hallchurch and Grimaldi come to see us. Both look fat and well. Issue cheese and rum.*

*Monday 12<sup>th</sup>. Prepare to shift camp, moving down to Colenso. Fine job packing up. Take over Squadron Orderly Sergeant from McCormick (3367 Sergeant Neil McCormick). Up half the night packing up.*

*Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>. Up at 4am. Marched 9 miles. Bivouac all night. Rather rough walking. See some grand fortifications made by the Boers.*

*Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>. Up at 4am. March into Colenso. Took over horses. Tired out. Had a pint of beer.*

*Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>. Up at 5.30am. Distribution of horses and reserve men. Issue of tobacco and pipes.*

*Friday 16<sup>th</sup>. Up at 2am. Take over young horses at railway station. Saddle horses, fatigues all morning. Shepherd, Coleman and others arrive. More horses. Mr Hearsley's father's tobacco ½ lb. Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>. Up at 5.30am. Riding young horses. On the trot all day. Orderly Sergeant sounding for fatigues.*

*Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>. Up at 6am, stables and fatigues, tired out.*

*Monday 19<sup>th</sup>. Up at 5.30am, riding young horses. Fatigues all morning, general fatigue at 2pm.*

This is a list of prices realised during the siege at a public auction held by Joe Dyson, Auctioneer, Ladysmith 21<sup>st</sup> February 1900.

14 lbs of oatmeal	£2 19s 6d
Condensed milk tin	10s 6d
1 lb of beef fat	11s 0d
1 lb of coffee	17s 0d
2 lb tin of tongue	£1 6s 0d
1 sucking pig	£1 17s 0d
Eggs per doz	£2 8s 0d
Fowls each	18s 0d
Cucumbers each	4s 0d
Mealies each	3s 8d
Plate of grapes	£1 5s 0d
Plate of apples	12s 6d
Plate of tomatoes	18s 0d
Vegetable marrow	£1 8s 0d
Plate of shallots	11s 0d
Plate of potatoes	19s 0d
Bunch of carrots	9s 0d
Glass of jelly	18s 0d
1 lb of jam	£1 11s 0d
1 lb of marmalade	£1 1s 0d
1 doz matches	13s 6d
1 pkt cigarettes (10)	£1 5s 0d
50 cigars	£9 5s 0d
¼ lb cake of Fair Maid tobacco	£2 5s 0d
½ lb cake of Fair Maid tobacco	£3 5s 0d
1 lb Sailor's tobacco	£2 3s 0d
¼ lb tin Capstan Navy Cut	£3 0s 0d