Steele Diary 1901 2008.1. Box 4, Folder 20

Front Endpaper

Scheerpont
Capt Birdwood
Lt Godson-Godson

Rhoodeval

Lt. Lang-___ Lt Davies Kroomerai

Capt Pomeroy

Identification Form

My name is Colonel Samuel Benfield Steele Address S.A.C. Johannesburg

In case of serious accident to me please notify
Mrs S.B. Steele
26 St Famille St
Montreal, Canada

I was born 5 Jan 1849 at Purbrook Co ___

My weight was 216 lbs On 8th Aug 1901 Height 6 ½in

The number on the case of my watch is

The number on the works is

The number of my bank book is

Size of hat		$7\frac{1}{4}$	Size of drawer	s 42
"	Collar	$16\frac{1}{2}$	" Hosiery	9
"	Cuffs	9	" Shoes	10
"	undershirt	42	" Gloves	9

S.B. Steele Lord Strathconas Horse

Dominion Pocket Diary 1901

January 1- March 30 Blank

March

Sunday 31

Up early, still sick. Got telegram by cable from Lord Strathcona asking me for the names of the men of Lord S. Horse who applied for service in the S.A.C. and were recommended by me, and also the names of those who were promised commissions in South Africa and are going out there. I asked Moir to send Lord S a cable with full information. Wrote Taylor a letter in full re claims of several for board [top of following page] and other bills against Lord S.

April

Monday 1

Wrote Capt Ogilvie, wired Capt Ogilvie. Mrs F.W. Taylor Durocher St. City, Montreal Wrote White. Certified to Lt Snider being a married man before joining Lord S. Horse. Letter from re superannuation 588. White also to let me have 588 in a day or two. Wrote 2nd letter to Capt Ogilvy. Saturday 6 Busy all day signing the discharge papers of Lord Strathconas Horse and interviewing some dozen of the men who came to have a chat and say good bye to me. Kept me very busy. Harwood called to see me and the rest of the family he goes to Cuba to locate in connection with the William Van Horne Railway Sunday 7 Busy all day writing on discharges and finished at 1.30 PM Wrote so long that I was almost tired looking at the papers. The parchment required to be rubbed over with a sponge perfectly dry. Monday 8 Wrote Allison re 27 (?) pounds obtained under false pretences and placed it in the hands of the police in Calgary. Wrote Officer Cmg Calgary R Riddel(?) wrote Allison accusing him of having obtained money under false pretences. Tuesday 9 Wrote Hilliard re money owed re cattle and ranche Wrote Colmer and R Dickieson and Coy. Victoria Mansell St London E. Wrote Miss Dora Brooks Clarke 77 Manchester

St Southport England

Sent P.O.O. to R Dickieson through Joseph by cable for 3.14.8 paying for a dinner to the band of Coldstream Guards.
Wednesday 10
Wrote Davis, Moir Mrs Taylor, Mrs Gill. Three letters to Carson(?) Yorkton, Assa, Capt Mackie DE Dennis and AW Ridley(?) Vancouver BC 1121 Georgia St. Lord Strathcona re Victoria BC Capt Hicks York Rangers a discharge(?) to Gillies James(?) B Steel, Mac Montreal P Que All mailed today
Thursday 11 Montreal P Que
Up early went to Notman to get photo. Flora with me and much pleased Replied to telegram of Bullers wrote in reply to Dr Borden re the supn
Friday 12
Wired Moir to come down from Ottawa re discharges He wired yes tomorrow Drove to St Lawrence Hall saw Hogan he was glad to see me. Went to Armory could not find military institute Wrote several letters and mailed same. Called and consulted Dr Grant Stewart he sounded my chest says I am quite sound, gave me a prescription for cough. I got it filled to stay in at night. Letter from Lord S
Saturday 13 Montreal

Weather fine wrote Lad Jarvis in reply to his recd today wrote AE Binton LH Cobain(?) Ont FW on Standard Bank CA White late Sgt SH Calgary O.G. Dennis late CMR Capt Cartwright late SH Capt Mackie re rolls that should have been put in in England. EJ Steele re my account at Standard Bank. Sent cheque to Taylor re Standard Bank S.A.
Sunday 14
Wrote Colmer enclosing a letter of reproof to Mgr of Standard Bank of S.A. re a cheque drawn on that branch by Leckie in mistake instead of on the Capetown branch. His letter to be sent on after being read to Lord Strathcona. Letter to Colmer asking him to express regret that the circumstances were such as to cause him annoyance but that I am not to blame and he is repaid Letter to
Monday 15 Montreal P Que
Samuel H Steele HJ Ross
IOF Montreal 180 St James Street 741 IOF Montreal 180 St James
St.
CA Harwood 180 St James Re medals Westmount
Asked Dr Sam(?) about family crest. Jonathan Fitz re Mackintosh
Shaw
To Lt Col Stuart-Monteith Southhampton
enclosing a letter from me for his son as an introduction.

Tuesday 16

Telegram from Major Jarvis Toronto congratulating me that the right thing was done at last wired in reply Did not know what he meant. Wrote Jarvis re same too. Wrote Moir too.

Wrote McCormick 17 Gildersleeve Avenue.

Wrote Elmes Steele Hotel Cecil Ottawa Wrote Moir do do re discharge Mailed a lot of war office papers to Moir to get ready

Wednesday 17 Monday Montreal

Recommended Capt Mackie to Minister of Militia re a permanent commission P. F. of C. Wrote Moir to look up in records for papers re the men who wish to go back to S.A. Wrote Mackie too and for F. Bethune Ottawa. Telegram to DH Macpherson in reply to his on the subject of Lord Strathconas cheque to Lord force. Denied(?) the fact to the Star, to Moir, to Jarvis and to Mackie and Bethune.

Thursday 18 Tuesday				
Letter to Mackie, White Fraser Stewart of Sand Point Kent				
Mrs Wrote sharply to White-Fraser for his impertinence in writing to				
me about his affairs after all my trouble and having the cheek to say that				
he wanted something more substantial than words after doing so much				
for him pretty cheeky.				
Wednesday Thursday				
Letter to Moir enclosing Jarvis letter re S.H. for SAC.				
Friday 19 Montreal				
Thursday 18 th				
Letter from Jarvis saying 160 men engaged with to go back to SA, but				
he handed list to adjutant and kept no copy. I mailed his to Moir today.				
Wrote Boyd c/o JB Clarke Esther re a house in Orillia Mrs				
Moir(?) re the old farm in Medonte night				
Friday				
Letter from White saying I could not be superannuated secondly wrote				
Lord S what Also wrote to Captain Macdonald				
Saturday 20				

re cable and superannuation. Wrote Mackie re his commission. Wrote Minister of Militia asking for leave to go to SA for a year. Wrote to the Comptroller NWMP.			
Letter to B Powell of Sanders Nelson BC			
Saturday			
Inspected Capt Swifts troop and found it well handled and improving			
Sunday 21			
Church parade Captain Davy was the clergyman Captain is chaplain I attended. The band was there and all in good shape. Rode out and had a little exercise.			
Monday 22			
Up early as usual Busy. Inspected the men at riding drill all morning gave advice to the instructors Rode out in the afternoon for a few miles			
Tuesday 23			
Up early busy did all work that was to my notice. Inspected the ride today and was not satisfied with the method of instruction at all. Rode out a good deal.			
Wednesday 24			
Busy all day. Up early. Wrote Colonel Buchan re Lessards statements			
April 25 – June 4 Blank			
June			
Tuesday 4			

Left Ottawa at 4.20 Mrs Panet and Chas saw us off Mr Fielding in town he spoke to me. So did Mrs Power of Halifax Did not feel very well today have over worked myself very much.
Sat up late. Uncle Jack Mrs McMannPayne Mr and Jukes(?) were in and stayed the evening with us.
Wednesday 5 Up early. Wrote letters wired Colonel Macdonald "Holbrook(?) Montreal Wrote many letters to people answered many letters received today.
Wrote Taylor Montreal
Thursday 6 Montreal
Up early wrote JB Clarke Re Lord S 1000 also President re Brothers will and money. Wrote Percy(?) re bayonet
Friday 7 blank
Saturday 8 Montreal
Embarked for England at 9 AMFrank Antoine and all of the boys saw us off but Mays, Gertie her husband Richard and Gerties children and Marie came down. Saw the ship and waved handkerchiefs as long as the thing could go and the ship was in sight. Felt very blue. Have year of separation.
Sunday 9
Got to Rimouski letter from Mays and a good cheer from JB Clarke and a number of officers.
Lots of British men and girls on board and a slow passage going on. Fog to cold etc etc

Met some of the men at night. Met Wyld and Mrs Wyld my niece and others.			
Monday 10 Ship Australasian at sea			
Cold. Foggy. Ship very good. Nothing to do but read. Met some men mostly buyers(?) in Montreal. Very good fellows indeed very good Had a very nice time Boyd sings and so do many of the ladies so they make things very satisfactory.			
Tuesday 11			
At sea. Fog sometimes Captain on bridge Nothing of importance.			
Wednesday 12 Ship Australasian			
At sea. Quiet all night.			
Thursday 13			
Ship sails well but slow engines very good no vibration Some funny things on board. Met some of the at night. Only took two meals per day slept until 10 A.M.			
Friday 14 At sea Australasian			
Nothing doing, good meals Ship steady			
Saturday 15			
At sea. Cold, but steady weather. All hands walking on the wide deck.			
Sunday 16 At sea Australasian			

Steady weather. Cold Talked with the passengers.

Concert. Did not attend Elected as Chairman

Monday 17 At sea Australasian

Got into M___ and landed mail and mailed letters for my wife and others Also wired Mrs Clarke of Lockport(?) ___ Ship has been very comfortable and well managed.

Tuesday 18 Liverpool

Came into dock at this place today. good time. Purser and others seeing girls comfortable. Got them all off to London at 11.45 Purser went home at a late hour.

Wednesday 19 Liverpool

All day in town. Do not feel well. The damp affects me. Wired bank for funds.

Thursday 20 Liverpool

Went to the bank. Got money Left for the town of Liverpool called on Mrs Clarke and her daughter Dora cousins of mine. Had a pleasant time Mrs Clarke is a daughter of William Steele a brother of my father and the only civilian in the family.

Friday 21 London

Left Liverpool at 9.45 and got to London at 1.45 Went to Hotel Cecil very good but full of Yankee Jews haters of us all through as the whole of the American people are. Hotel common. Foreign waiters poor attendance in fact a disgrace to a civilized country but as it caters for a foreign horde of P and W(?) it cannot be helped.

Saturday 22

Called on Lord Strathcona in the morning at 17 Street. Asked me to come out to Knebworth park Bulwer Lyttons place and we enjoyed ourselves. Dr. Howard shewed us all over the grounds and we had a good time there. Dined at 8.00 P.M. very nice people present Hon David Mills and wife Mrs G very nice people Took Miss G into dinner
Sunday 23
We sat up talking politics in a broad sense. I called on Belcher before leaving. He was very kind Drove to Mandeville to see the unfortunately full all the time and returned. Belcher promised to let me know if there are any others. Our hotel is noisy and full of foreigners. Sunday 25 Weather fine. Nothing of importance Slept well. Up at 7. Went to be again until aroused by the footman.
Monday 24 Sunday 23 rd Knebworth House Herts
Dined at 8 P.M. had a pleasant evening and sat up until 12.00 Mr and Mrs Gla Mr and Mrs Mills (Hon Minister of Justice Canada) Lord and Lady S Mr and Mrs Howard and Rvd Mr Wells were present.
Tuesday 25 Monday
Came back to town moved to the 1 st Avenue Hotel Tuesday
Left for Abergavenny met at station to Dr Hill. D Arthur Ian(?) Steele senior Mr Steele junior. Mrs Steele had a nice dinner and lots of conversation we had long talks and pleasant discussions as to who was who in the Steeles on each side of the Atlantic.

Wednesday 26 Abergavenny Wales

Went up to Llanforest(?) church yard and saw the tombs of numbers of Steeles. _____. Sam the dragoon spells his name with the final on his grave. His grandson says that he (Sam) always did. Mrs Dr Sam, my auntie shewed me Elmes my half brothers house also Abergavenny wall and the ruins of the castle as well. Went to Raglan P.M. dined at Wills

Thursday 27 Abergavenny Wales

At Dr S___s all day and met Mrs Underwood the ladies kept me busy talking. Got some rest in the afternoon. Slept late in the morning Dr Will and wife came to see us and spent morning. Sat up until 12 with the Dr and retired to sleep much needed.

Friday 28 1st Avenue Hotel London

Busy. Got settled in the hotel and kept B____ at work all day.

Arrived from England Wales at 6.30 and changed from the Cecil paid up everything there ____ hard on account of the bother of changing hotel.

Left Abergavenny at 11.30 and had a slow tedious dragging journey to London. Left a half sov for the girl

Saturday 29 1st Avenue Hotel London

Wrote Lord Milner asking him to set matters right re Boyds Captaincy and ___ in S.A.C. and referred to Ogilvie ___ too and commented on the fact that he was certainly appointed. Wrote Colmer re the Bath and the decoration and to learn how to get it. Wrote Lord Strathcona re Major Sanders not getting recognition Wrote Sanders and enclosed a copy. Wrote Earnshaw Elice(?) etc etc

Sunday 30 1st Avenue Hotel London

Up at 9 AM breakfast then wrote letter to Vivian Steele, Herbert Steele, Hugh Clarke JC Steele, RH Moir the latter to get Kerrs discharge and look after a lot of things fur us re Ketchens. Wrote Dr Howard to say that I would be at house re pistol on Monday and Tuesday AM.

July

Monday 1

Wrote Colmer re Gen Parkers(?) letter. Munro cheque and Brother packet number 230 and requested to forward it to Mrs A.S. Clarke _____ Forest

Wrote Mr AS Clarke asking him to attend to the matter for me. Tuesday

Went to dinner at the Cecil Dominion Day banquet 200 present fine speech from Chamberlain home at 11.30

Tuesday 2 1st Avenue Hotel London

Thursday 4 1st Avenue Hotel London

Wednesday 3 rd					
Lunched with the Ellisons(?) at the Empress Club Nice time. She is a					
first cousin ofdaughter of my fathers brother William Steele. Her					
son was not					
Col John Peters(?) Royal Engineers called to see					
said I was out when I was not. I wrote a note telling him I would call					
upon him.					
Wednesday 3					
Tuesday 2					
Went to lunch with Duff Millar(?) at the Constitutional Club London					
England Blair andthere. [rest of page – several lines – blotted and					
illegible]					

Wrote letters. Called on Colonel John P Steele 79 Harcourt Terrace and gave him all the information I could about the Steele family. He is a nice old gentleman and wants to do it well has gone to a great deal of trouble. Called and took tea with the Earnshaws and met Fred Stimsons cousin and had a pleasant time of it.

Friday 5

Went and called to say goodbye to Lord S and Colmer and Mrs Colmer Went out and saw the Belchers Wrote letters to my wife Mrs Earnshaw Lord Strathcona and Sam Steele, Col Steele Henry Steele JCSteele Vivian Steele James B Steele Elmes Steele and others for Colonel John P Steele RE who is writing a history

Saturday 6 SS Wakool

En route for South Africa Left Waterloo Stn at an early hour 9.30 got to Southhampton in time and saw the Colonel on the Staff Stackpole and he told me I was to take Command of the troops on board That was found to be a mistake. A great mistake as Capt Webb Munster Fusiliers was the man. All was right though I did not want it. We sailed at 3.30 Saw the fine harbor

Sunday 7

Weather cool pleasant but foggy in the afternoon. Church service at 11 and at 4.00 Did not attend either. Did not rise until 11. I needed rest very much having to attend to all the social functions and having nothing to do to give exercise. I was tired in a way. Got a good rest and now feel extremely well. Took exercise on deck. Had a long talk with one Alfreds(?) guards a sensible man.

Monday 8 SS Wakool

Got up late, did not breakfast as I have not exercise enough. Lunched wrote letters in the afternoon Wrote Lord S re the promotion to Colonel in Canada. Wrote Miss Scott Southsea England. Sat up late chatting with the Dr and others in the mess room they are nice fellows very nice fellows. Went to bed at one o'clock			
Tuesday 9			
Weather cloudy but pleasant ship steady. We are now opposite Lisbon. Wrote letters to Mays Lord Strathcona and others. Got up at 10 lunched did not breakfast, find that it is better. Bartram came down and bothered me about the position he is to get. Told him to be patient.			
Wednesday 10 SS Wakool at sea			
Nice day, called at Las Palmas to coal lots of the fellows went ashore to see the town and get out of the dust. The dirty looking Spaniards are to be seen on all sides. Mailed letters to Mays to Lord Strathcona and others. Esther Miller JB Clarke JC Steele August(?) in fact I overlooked no one.			
Thursday 11			
Cool and pleasant Read and walked the deck times dull			
Friday 12 SS Wakool			
Busy reading and took exercise Nice cool breeze			
Saturday 13			
Concert on deck, warm good songs, boxing Kerr made an ass of himself by singing on the stage.			

Sunday 14 SS Wakool at sea Lat 14 South

Up early. Very hot. Church service. Sat on deck a while Howe amusing the officers by telling their futures.

Monday 15

Nothing of importance going on. Ship steady times dull ennui on all sides

Tuesday 16 SS Wakool (Blue Anchor Line)

Weather warm. Nothing to do. Music is being practiced by the people. Exercised myself for an hour.

Wednesday 17

Weather fine Cool breeze Sat on deck a great deal. Took exercise for some time as usual say an hour.

Retired early Miss my family very much Do not feel happy at all.

Thursday 18 SS Wakool (Blue Anchor

Up early as of late had a good ____ rest having gone to bed at nine PM Walked for an hour in the afternoon Sat on deck in the forenoon. Capt got Mrs ___ a birthday cake in honour of her childs birthday(her eldest girl)

We all partook of it and enjoyed it

Friday 19

Weather cool through the breeze blowing from ahead. Sat up on deck all day retired at 10.30 Did not find it easy to sleep although up early.

Capt Galbraith(?) says he knows the ____ family and asked leave to let them know that I was on the ship with him.

Saturday 20 SS Wakool at sea

Weather fine Nothing doing Awnings taken down prematurely. Sat up on deck most of the day. Took some exercise but facilities poor. Talked with Captain of ship and an officer of Royal Irish Rifles until 11.30 Then read until 12.30 went to bed. Slept well for a wonder.

Sunday 21

Church parade. Did not attend, read and wrote. Hot and unpleasant. Went to bed at 10.00

Monday 22 SS Wakool at sea

Up early. Slept well. Went on deck and had a walk and a talk.

Tuesday 23

Weather very fine. Nothing to do but read and try to get some exercise on the somewhat circumscribed space(?)

Wednesday 24 SS Wakool at sea

Weather fine. Nothing doing.

Thursday 25

Ship rolling heavily on a beam wind and sea. No sleep for us too much rolling.

Friday 26 Capetown Cape Colony SS Wakool at sea

Ship rolling in the trough of the sea. Fiddles on the table all day. A little wine drank to Captain and men of the ship who said nice things of it. I think Thomas the Captain a very sincere man and a credit to his profession. He should be in the Navy or at least R.N.R.

Saturday 27 Capetown Cape Colony

Up early. Ship arrived here at 9.30 went into dock at 12. Lunch one (1) I left the ship at 2.20 and reported to the base Comdt Colonel Cooper who seemed glad to see me and facilitated my desire to see Gen Wynne who was not at home. Walked up to the Mount Nelson after taking rooms at the Royal in town. Capts Webbe(?) Waterhouse Lt Forbes and the Dr. at same place.

Sunday 28 Capetown Cape Colony

Weather fine up at 9.00 after nine hours much needed rest.

Monday 29

Drove out in the afternoon to Sea Point. Met Little Miss Gertrude Fineburg of Bigwood(?) Greenpoint. Told her that Major Jarvis had tried to make his way down with a pony for her in January and could not get leave to bring it down. She did not expect it but was very pleased to hear that he thought of it

α_1	•	
She	1 C	
SHC	19	

Tuesday 30 Capetown Cape Colony

Weather fine. Stayed in bed until after lunch as I had a slight attack of illness owing to the water being bad.

Got up and drove out a bit and met some people.

Called at the Whitehouse Hotel and saw Sister Compas(?) at 9.30 and after a chat said good bye to her.

Wednesday 31

Up early. Reported to the general and then wrote letters to my wife Jarvis Made a cheque for 150£ which was deposited and the money sent to my wife in Canada Bank of Montreal

Mary Elizabeth Steele of Montreal Canada Bought 12£ worth of ____ and ___ lace for Mays

August

Thursday 1

and mailed and registered them to her from Capetown also wrote her to that effect and registered the letters for her. Arranged to leave tonight.

Thursday 1

Did not leave last night because when Kerr booked a car for Boyd and self they forgot it although Kerr wrote my name himself as they could not spell it.

Friday 2

Did not get up early although I retired at 10.30 PM. Left for Johannesburg at 9.00 by mail train ____ Boyd and I a compartment to ourselves. Kerr and Bartram another to themselves. Saw Dixon before leaving and had a pleasant chat.

Friday Beaufort W

Train travelled all night. Breakfasted at a way stn. Dined at another. Spent the night at Beaufort West

Saturday 3 En route by Rail to Johannesburg Norvals Pont

Up early breakfasted at 8.30. spent the night at Norvals Pont met there Magees brother in the Royal field artillery stationed at Norvals Pont.

Sunday 4 Kroonstad

Train left Norvals Pont at 6.30 arrived at Bloemfontein at 11.00 had lunch. Sorry had not time to see Colonel Thaley(?) of the SAC. A staff came to see if I wanted anything. Train went on to Kroonstad for the night. Saw some New Zealanders at our table for dinner. Nice looking men. One told Boyd that Lord Strathconas Horse was the finest Corps in South Africa.

Monday 5 Johannesburg Trans

Weather fine ____ all the way up and dry.

Got no breakfast until we crossed(?) at Viljoens drift at 11.30 Arrived here at 2.30 Went to Heaths hotel and engaged rooms and had our much needed bath and fairly slept in it. The hotel has better rooms than any in Capetown. I suppose the mining millionaires caused that.

Tuesday 6

Called on the Chief S.O. of the Corps, Col. Nicholson nice man – arranged to come out today Major Cantan is in command of B my division.

Lt Col Anderson met us at ____fontein and we came by train to Modderfontein went into quarters and had a nice room. Very busy etc etc

Wednesday 7 Modderfontein

Took over command Recommended Major Cantan for Second in C. Boyd Chief S.O. Hildyard(?) staff adjutant. Deems(?) Humfrey, Johnstone, Jones, Read and Lockhart for commissions as Lieuts in S.A.C. Also Ogilvy for Inspecting Major and Wilby for Commission in the Corps. S__ my seventy(?) to ___ 15th ___ visited all of the posts and put men in the post north ___ town of Modderfontein.

Thursday 8

Busy all day. Wrote a great many letters Wrote for my horses Wrote for things to Mrs S Wrote ____ Richardson, Everton Lt Humfrey, Chesnay(?) Elmes Steele, Willis of Rossleigh Sea Pt Wired Critchley wrote Mrs Critchley Lord S, F White Hendersons(?) in Canada. Col Macdonald in Canada re discharge Wrote Lt George(?) re goods left at 1st Avenue hotel.

Friday 9 Modderfontein Trans

Up early breakfast at 8.20 Lord Kitcheners proclamation promulgated orders that leaders of Boers in arms after the 15th Sept will be banished from South Africa.

Wrote Gordon and Mays the latter re harness horses wagons four in hand so that I can do something in the way of driving if I hold my position.

Saturday 10 Rhoodival (sic)

Rode 30 miles Left Modderfontein at 8.30 and with Major Cantan and ____ Capt Christie I reached Lewkoop(?) 13 miles at 10.30 had a cup of tea and pushed on to Deep ____ had lunch and inspected men houses and forts. The latter badly placed but well built. Davis in Com

Sunday 11 Sheirpont Spruit

Rode 18 miles Left Rhoodival at 8.30 and rode on to Rhenosterspruit and met Burstall and Williams and a Canadian troop moved on to Orange Grove eight 7 miles and thence to Godsons Post 16 miles 8 from Orange Grove, 16 miles today. Stayed the night and had a good time. Slept well.

Monday 12

Rode 18 miles Left Schierpont Spruit at 8.35 and reached Orange Grove at 10.30 and from there to Rhenosterspruit in 1½ hours – distance from Godsons and Birdwoods camp to Rhenosterspruit 16 miles. Lunched at Rhenosterspruit and arrived at Rhoodival (sic) at 2.50 distance 7 miles. Inspected the men at Camerons fort and at the Rhoodival P

Tuesday 13 Modderfontein

Rode twenty five mi (25) Weather cool. Left Roodival at 8.35 on Curries pony and had a good ride all the spruit 2 hrs. ____ a quarter and got here in two more made fast time distance 24 miles.

Lunched came to office and found that it was left open – to appt Staff later on.

Wednesday 14

Up early. Cantans appt as second not yet approved of Neither Boyds or(sic) Ogilvys

Recommended that Humfrey be sent for at once and sent Schnadhorsts application Col. S.O. J'burg. Sent Christie to get me two good horses as soon as possible. Chesney writes saying that he has selected some for me.

Thursday 15 Modderfontein

Weather fine, cool, and pleasant Up early Major Cantan missed his train on account of the cart not coming on time. Wrote Mrs Cowper ____ re nursing and Vivian Steele and my cousin Mr Thos Moon and Capt Jack French

Col Nicholson re the remounts and Canadian D Parkhurst re appointment Col Beevor re Parkhurst Col Edwards re Pte Jackson Fall servant

Friday 16

18 miles ride Rode over to 13 Gen Hospl then to Joburg and stayed the night. Got back here at 10.30 two and a half hours altogether on the 16th instant. Saw the fine horses got for me by Capt Chesney (Colonel) they are all very fine and large powerful weight carrying hunters. Cantan went on two days leave a same to C.S.O. Joburg

Saturday 17 Modderfontein

Rode in(?) 11 miles. Inspected Capt Swifts troop very good for the time they are at work. Poor riders though gave orders to have few on in the manege at a time, and to drill there properly or to ride them in half sections all over the country.

Rode up to the Hosp and inspected all the sick, they appear happy and are well looked after.

Sunday 18

Church parade.

Rev Captain Day whom I met at Standerton officiated. Wrote Mays in reply to letter from her also Flora. Cameron, Belcher, Col Nicholson forwarding an application of the men for Coms.

Letter to Dr Keenan Pte Cary C Squadron Strathconas Horse Capt Birdwood et al

Monday 19 Modderfontein

8 miles ride Weather fine, busy part of the day drills going on at the bks in Swifts troop weather cloudy PM. Rode out at 3.30 and returned at five horse fine in action and very nice. Ken and B___ went out to the town of J. burg to attend to some work etc etc

Wrote Mays, Carvell and James B Steele at night.

Tuesdays 20

6 miles ride Busy all day. Rode out for exercise and saw all going on.

Wednesday 21 Modderfontein

5 miles ride Busy all day. Inspected the rides. Went to the bank and a lot of other places Left my signature at the National Bank of the South African Republic

Rode out for exercise.

Thursday 22 Modderfontein

Joburg gave him

being here Got letters for Mays

30 miles ride Inspected Recruits that came in yesterday. After that rode to Johannesburg via Genneston. Called on the Hospl Staff en route Saw Sister Richardson and Sister Stephens. Rode to office of the S.A.C. from Genneston at a fast trot in 45 minutes. Lunched with the C.S.O. He does not want Cantan says he is and no horse master Land he objects to. Giles he thinks having been a Sergt major [top of following page] not experienced in handling men Wants me to take Was Second
Friday 23
Friday up early and at work. Wrote letters concert '' Quarters at 9.00 Retired at 11.15 Went to the hospl at 4.00 Miss Richardson arrived from J.burg arranged for Kerr to go to Joburg forline, photos, S developers.
Saturday 24
Up early. At OR at 7.45 breakfasted at 8.00 Weather fine Ken to

Major Ross (S ____) arrived and Cantan went away to inspect the

post at Krondrai Ross occupied with his ___ Cantans room Miss Sister

Richardson called and had tea Delivered an invitation to dinner Ross

Sunday 25 Modderfontein

7 miles ride Up early, went to breakfast with Ross. Rained hard last night. Got letters from Mays, Colonel Macdonell, Wilson, Smith, Baden-Powell, Cherry, Lord Dundonald, Colonel Macdonald, Capt Gabett(?) Alexander Sand point re DS Mays Steele, Mays Steele Sam C. Steele		
Monday 26		
6 miles ride Up early. Visited the stables veterinary dept. foot and mounted drills and officers. Walked about a great deal.		
Tuesday 27 Modderfontein		
8 mi. ride Up early as usual. After breakfast busy in the office. Visited the tailors shops the drills, stables and Saw the office work done. Cantan returned had a good report of Pomeroys troop and said that it (the camp) was handed over in a dirty condition. No attention paid to the lavatory arrangements whatever. Latrines in a bad place and offal and refuse at the spruit.		
Wednesday 28		
Rode out eight miles. Had some practice with Sandons(?) developer. Wednesday 8 miles ride Up early Inspected stables at 9 AM. Drill squads and parties going out to mtd drill at 8.45 walked all around the grounds inspected tailor shops, the and saw that they wanted better shelter, told the Corpl to apply. Inspected V stables and saw VS Capt Christie, Orderly room a Corpl. Went out for		
Thursday 29 Modderfontein		

Up at 6 AM, breakfast and went by team to Zwartfontein to take train to Joburg met the C.S.O. Colonel Nicholson whom I was to meet but was called to Pretoria to attend to the work there so I came back and attended to my work.

Friday 30 Modderfontein

Rode 8 eight miles

Weather fine. Inspected everything found fault with the drills and did everything I could about the place rode out with Boyd, gave him the Chestnut and I took the chocolate coloured one. I found the latter the finer of the two.

Ogilvie returned and got a ____ the fast ____

Saturday 31 Modderfontein

Rode 10 miles

The C.S.O. came as a guest of Wilberforce to shoot ____. They were anxious for me to go but I would not do so

Got orders to send a troop from Scheerpont to a point named by Gen Barton. Detached the troop of Godson- Godson to go

Came to quarters at 8.30 and saw no one all night.

Walked and rode a great deal

September

Sunday 1

10 miles

Up early and got a message from the CSO re the troop for Gen Barton. Late breakfast, walked four miles via ____ The C of Staff went out shooting.

Monday 2 Modderfontein

10 miles

Busy all day. Rode out some miles and saw lots of things.

Shewed the horses at the hospital and had a good deal of praise applied to them.

Tuesday 3

Left by train for Pretoria

Saw Lord Kitchener and after a talk it was decided to keep pushing the troops of my division north to the Rustenburg ___ and clear the country as far as the Magaliesburg.

Left for home at 3.20 and arrived at 5.15 Got lots of letters and replied to all

Retired early to bed.

Wednesday 4 Modderfontein

12 miles

Weather fine. Up at 6 AM intended to go to Joburg on horseback but could not on account of CSO going to Pretoria. Rode out seven miles south west and back must have covered a lot of ground. Wrote letters to John, to G____, to Powell ____. Signed pay sheets Arranged to send 100 lbs to Montreal P Que Wrote Geo. C. Caswell(?) Mess meeting. Gave orders re reports etc etc

Thursday 5

22 miles today

Sept. 5 Weather fine up early rode to the city of Johannesburg left here at 6.45 and reached Heaths hotel at 7.45 and rode over to the CSO in a cab costing six shillings

Got orders to go tomorrow and see the situation of our posts and arrange for posts on the Rustenburg road and see about commands etc etc.

Rode back to lunch arrived at noon.

Friday 6 Rhoodeval (sic)

25 mi

Left Moddersfontein at 7 Am and after a brisk ride of twenty five miles got here inspected the fine work done by the men and went to supper – the place could not be better without artillery. I addressed the men and praised them for the good work and they cheered me.

Saturday 7 Scheerpont

~ ~	
ンス	m_1
4 3	1111

Left Rhoodeval(sic) at 7.00 and after a brisk ride of 1½ hrs was stopped for an hour at Orange Grove nek on account of an order misunderstood of General Bartons. _____ and was allowed to pass, got here ____ and inspected the house and entrenchments.

Sunday 8 Modderfontein

65 m

Left Scheerpont at 7 and proceeded to the Nek (Commando) thence to Pretoria via Reitfontein Six Mile Spruit and other streams. Weather hot. Halted for the horse 11 to 1 and walked here Sixty five miles at 7.00 The horses stood well and mine could have done twenty miles more. We only ate one sandwich for lunch Got home in time for dinner

Monday 9

22 mi

Left for Johburg at 8.15 Saw C.S.O. and arranged for ____. I also reported all done. Drove back to here by one PM and gave orders for all When I returned arranged for Capt O'Donnell to go up to Pretoria to get a place for stores and offices for him as Controller and the Paymaster, for same and any men there.

Tuesday 10 Modderfontein, Trans.

Weather fine Nothing of importance. Capt O'Donnell returned from Pretoria and arranged for a house as offices as mentioned in yesterdays diary.

Arranged for the removal of Swift and Godson-Godsons troop to points eight and fifteen miles from Commando Nek west on Rustenburg road and arranged for the departure as soon as possible of Lang___ and Davies troop (Edwards) to

Wednesday 11

take up two more posts at 21 miles and 28 and thirty five miles west of Commando Nek on the Rustenburg road

Wednesday

Sent Major Cantan to the Rustenburg road to take up the positions named on the Rustenburg road and select spot for Hd qrs post and get special scouts for the work.

CSO telephoned for the position of our troops.

Thursday 12 Modderfontein

Telegram from Major Cantan to the effect that two of my troops will move on Friday to their locations, they are doing well.

Friday 13

10mi

Telegram from Cantan telling me that he would have the troops placed tonight and the rest Sunday

Orders to get No 4 troop in readiness to move to north of Magaliesburg (Commando Nek)

Rode out around the forest. Called at the hospital, have a slight attack of indigestion caused by hard(?) eggs.

Went to bed early

Saturday 14 Modderfontein

10 mi

Got authority to send Controller and Pay M to Pretoria, rooms offices for all of the same and their clerks.

Wired by order to Cantan to have the troops specially on the alert for some days. Notified No 4 troop to be ready to move.

Did not eat any breakfast on account of the indigestion.

Sunday 15

Up early telegram for General Barton who says he will do all he can for us and asks me to call and see him.

Monday 16 Modderfontein

Wired Gen Barton to know if he would be home he replied sorry going to Reitfontein tomorrow. Sent Hildyard up to Pretoria to see about quarters Sent S___ up too he returned tonight Busy all day at all sorts of ___.

Rained in torrents all morning. Hailed too.

Tuesday 17

Busy all day at work writing etc.

Wednesday 18 Pretoria (Gen Bartons)

Left Modderfontein at 8.15 by train. Wired to the CSO that I was going to Pretoria to see officers. Met Macdonald at the Avenue hotel which we are to occupy for the men and stores. Went to ____poort and saw the buildings, they are all right I am sure. Went to the General Bartons and stayed all night. Gen and staff very kind.

Thursday 19

Went to Pretoria this AM and saw the

Returned this AM. Gen Barton was seedy(?) I saw him after lunch and he promised to do all in his power for us and gave me the Daspoort(?) buildings Gave Macdonald orders to push the repairs as quickly as possible. Went into Avenue hotel too this AM and saw 665 Skinner(?) St again. Cantan returned, all correct and good

Friday 20 Modderfontein

Weather fine. Up early and attended to lots of work Wrote Nicholson CSO remonstrating against ____ have us left with of my staff officers. I suppose he won't like it all.

Rode up to the hospital as requested by Sister Richardson and she was away but Sister C___ took a snap shot of us both Cantan and me and then gave us a nice cup of tea. Kerr got back from Pretoria with a nice lot of supplies for our new post.

Saturday 21-Tuesday 24 Blank

Wednesday 25 Bokfontein

51 mi

Left Modderfontein 9.15 changed cart at kop

Lunched at Rhoodeval (sic) at 1 PM. Left at 3.15 Reached Commando Nek at 6.15 and here at 7.30 Godson met us at Commando Nek had escort from one post to another all the way

Took Capt Ogilvy from Rhoodeval. Made good time, distance 50 miles

Thursday 26 Bokfontein

Up early inspected the post and horses. Waited on for Ogilvys baggage.

Friday 27

Stayed on all day for Ogilvys baggage Sent wagon for it to Reitfontein and it was met there and brought back.

Saturday 28 Kroondal

35 mi

Left Bokfontein at 6.45 and arrived here at five PM and gave orders for Ogilvy to take transfer of his troop from Lang ____ Stores at Reitfontein to be taken over from Humfrey

Sunday 29 Kroo Kroondal

Went over the village with Ogilvie when he was selecting buildings for troop. Posted him at West End and ordered that S___ go to East End. Lang ___ to Pretoria

Monday 30 Bokfontein

35 mi

Left Kroondal at 6.45 saw Swift at 7.20 and pushed on to Buffelspont 8.15 Left at 8.30. Met Rivell(?) at Elandsdrift Pushed on to Boschfontein arrived at 10.10 Interview Chaplain Davies

October

Tuesday 1 Bokfontein

Up early Anderson and Godson went to Pretoria to arrange for transfer of their ____ then bank accounts. Kerr wired me that the house for quarters was not handed over yet by the Erasmus(?) family. Ordered him to get a place for my baggage which is still outdoors Hd qrs Pretoria

Wednesday 2 Bokfontein

Up early. Wired to Swift and Sellar for the location of their posts. Sent two men off for the body guard.

1st Oct {Reserve division was transferred to B Div to-day

Thursday 3

Anderson and Godson-Godson arrived at 8.00 AM Reported Colonel Kekewich heavy loss and self severely wounded. Attacked at dawn. Several officers killed and many wounded.

Orders to all to ____ tomorrow to bring in all women Kaffirs and destroy houses

Friday 4 Pretoria

30 miles

Up at 5 AM Breakfast at 6. Marched at 6.40

Kerr and mules after us. Got to ford at 7.40 Got to drift at 8.40 Got to cement factory at 10.05 and Dasport at 10.10 Got to Avenue hotel and ____ as soon as possible dined with General Barton Gen. Alderson there and Lt Col. Rivett-Carnac and Gen Bartons Staff. Home to hotel at 10.15

Saturday 5

Busy all day, tried to get a house but could not do so. Ross called and so did a lot of others Williams and his sister too.

I wrote lots of letters today in reply to others Wrote Mays yesterday and today. Very hot today Drove around town

Sunday 6 Pretoria, Trans.

Up early breakfast at 8,30

Wrote letters and answered some that came in Wrote Col Nicholson re seniority of Burstall and Redding I also wrote C.G. Dennis K.F.S ___ and Miss Flora Steele, Mrs S.B. Steele Arranged what should be done tomorrow afternoon and in the morning. Gave Cantan orders re the manual in use, no regt peculiarities to be allowed Arranged for transfer of NCO to the other troops so as to let Campbell be senior as recommended

Monday 7th

Weather hot, busy writing all day and sending messages.

Got several and could not answer on account of the distance to Cantan.

Tuesday 8 Pretoria, Trans.

8 miles

Weather cool, heavy rain in the early morning before six 6 AM. Up early Reported to Lord Kitchener at 11, who was affable Called on General Barton Gave both fully all the information I had Sent lots of orders cautioning our outposts. Two of No 7 troop shot last night on patrol, too bad. Heavy rain at 5.30 to 8.30.

Wednesday 9

6 mi

Wet. Nothing doing did lots of writing

Wrote Jarvis

- " Mays
- " Dr. Sam Steele
- " Col. Nicholson
- " Edwards, etc etc

Thursday 10 & friday Pretoria

Wrote Dr. Borden secretary for War re my war services. Forwarded recommendations of Capt Lloyd Reynolds Montreal P Que. Francis W Steel lieut. 2 nd Shropshire Nursing Sister Newton(?) No 5 Hospital Joburg	
Friday 11	
Went out in the evening walked to the office and got some work done there until nine PM.	
Saturday 12 Pretoria	
8 mi Up at 5.30 walked a bit. Rode to Dasport after breakfast and returned to office. Got a door put through the partition between my place and the clerks and	
Sunday 13	
Walked out to the office and there to breakfast and after with Boyd went down to the office looked over the house and selected rooms a sitting room and bed room. Gave orders re the others.	
Monday 14 blank	
Tuesday 15	
Wrote Mrs. S.B. Steele, Montreal "Miss E. Miller, Orillia Ont	
Wednesday 16 Pretoria	
Wrote Young(?) Lt. Sc. H. " Col Nicholson re Vaux " Lt B	

Lincolns

D. Parkhurst

Thursday 17

Mrs Steele Mr. Colmer

Friday 18 Blank

Saturday 19

Letter from Mrs. S.B. Steele, Coldwater Ont.

" Mr. JM McMullin, Barnham

Court Bognor, England

J.M. McLean Beers Brunswick

Toronto, Ont. Elmes Steele Wpg Man

PG Routh Niagara on the Lake Ont

To Maclean Beers, Toronto Ont.

" P.G. Routh Niagara on the Lake, Ont

" Revd J. McMullin re son

Capt Elmes Steele ___ Club

Winnipeg Man. Canada

AWJ McMullin Barnham Court

Bognor England. Col. Biggar,

Sunday 20 Blank

Monday 21

Mrs S B Steele, R.H. Moir

Col. Macdonald,

J.C. Colmer CMG

Tuesday 22 – Friday 25 Blank

Saturday 26

Mrs SB Steele, Elmes Steele Miss Vivian Steele – Major Dixon, Col. Gordon

Sunday 27

Mrs SB Steele re money
Sent it ___
CA Harwood 180 St James St
Montreal Canada

Monday 28 Blank

Tuesday 29

Miss SH Steel, Mrs ___ Steel Miss Harriet Steel.

Wednesday 30

Col Nicholson re Cantan leave and Delaneys men
Col Nicholson recommending Lieut(?) SC Long Ives, for a Commission
in Scottish Horse

Lt SC Long Ives, S.H.

Lt WK Humfrey, Kroondal

Mrs S.B. Steele 26 St Famille St (Mont.

Dr. Paul Gillespie, Wynburg

late of Cannnington

James G McEmery Lieut Bloomfontein Remount Depot

November

Friday 1 Blank

Saturday 2 Pretoria

Wrote Mays - two letters Wrote Ogilvy

Sunday 3 Pretoria

Wrote Mrs SB Steele

- " Frank Harwood
- " Mrs Moon
- " Colonel Macdonald

Each very long letters today in reply to theirs.

Monday 4

Mrs SB Steele
Lt Fall
Lt St George
CSO _____
Depot troop re ____ of Major Ross and Captain Williams
Tuesday 5

Lt. H.S. ____ written to in reply to his of 30th
Dr. Gillespie in reply to his of the 30th

Wednesday 6

Capt Boyd, No 1 Troop SAC Kroondal. Miss Newton Johburg

Thursday 7 November to Tuesday December 31 Blank

Memoranda

Letters today

Percy Tucker Edmonton

George Agar Slocan City

Major A___ Quebec

RH Moir 223 Gloucester Ottawa

J Parker Whitewood ____

JC Walker

AW Toll Strathcona

RH Moir Ottawa

C.E. Slater Montreal {275 St James

J.B. Clarke ____ 48 St George

CA Thomson 39

St Francois Xavier

Montreal P Que

Addresses

Miss Dora Brooke Clark(?) 77 Manchester

Road Southport

England

Irvine R Snider Portage La Prairie

Late S Horse Man

Dr Saml Steel Abergavenny

Dr Elmes Steel Abergavenny

Herbert Steele Slough, England

Earl Dundonald Castle Wales

Sir R Buller Aldershot

Sir A Milner Capetown S.A.

R.D. Mackintosh Lanark Ont

Miss Afleck Lanark Ont

Baden Powell Pretoria Trans

Ellen Frances Gill 833 Warren

c/o D. Gill } Avenue Chicago

Capt Cartwright {Oak drive(?) Surrey

{Holmwood Eng

O.G. Dennis {295 Cooper St

{Ottawa Ont

CA Whitehead Calgary

A.S. Burton Cobden Ont

AM Jarvis {1 Elm Ave

{Rosedale Toronto

E. McCormick 17 Gildersleeve

Avenue Toronto

W.P. Jackson Prince Albert

Henry Steel Blainavon

Wales

Dr Howard 31 Queen Anne

St. 783 Paddington

Belcher	76 Park St Grosvenor Square
Captain Thomas of the Wakool	Blue Anchor Line Steamers
Capt Webb	Royal Munster Fusiliers
Capt Gabbett	R.W. Fusiliers
Dr. Thomas	Medical Corps temporary
Capt Thomas	Ship Wakool
Capt Forbes	Gordons
Capt Waterhouse(?)	Seaforths
Miss Newton Nurse	Johannesburg
Mrs Cooper	do.
Mrs Sprenger	Capetown
Capt Webb	Royal M. Fus.
" Gabbett	Royal W Fus
Lt Forbes	2 nd Gordons
Capt Ramsay	Infantry

Capt Waterhouse Seaforths Capt Thomas Wakool Miss Richardson No 13 Gen Hospl Johannesburg. Johnston SH for W.H. St Wreighburn(?) Rothbury Northumberland England Lt. W.B. Everton P.A.G.M.I. Port Elizabeth Natal Cape Colony Lt Waterhouse Lincolnshire regt Green Pt Camp Lt Col Gordon DAAG Surrey Cape Colony Rhoodeval Lang-___ Pomeroy do do Godson Godson Rhenosterspruit Birdwood Rhenoster

Davie -

Lt Col Curtis Act C.S.O.

The Earl of Dundonald 34 Portman S West, London

Alex Stewart Sr(?)
Sandpoint Ontario

Sister Richardson No 13 Gen Hospl

Civil Surgeon Parkhurst

Major Birdwood, DAAG Bengal Lancers Pretoria

Capt Conway Paymaster Bloemfontein

Andrew J. Halers(?)
Imperial Military Police
Joburg, Transvaal

Fred S. Burdett, Troop 9
A Division SAC
Krugersdorp

Lt. F.T. Powell 18th Batt Imperial Yeomanry Aliwal North

John Hersch Late S.H.

Bloemfontein

Geo C. Carvell(?)

No. 700, ___ Squadron LSH

Stn. B. Div. S.A.C.

No I Tp Rhoodeval, Lang-___

No 2 Tp Scheerpont, Birdwood

No 3 Tp Rhenoster Spt Davie

No 4 Tp Kroomdrai Pomeroy

No 5 Tp Scheerpont Godson-Godson

No 6 Tp Aldfontein Swift

No 7 Tp " Howell

Detail Tp "

Lts & 2nd Lts Do Do

Cash Account March SAC

		Received	Paid
21	Pay	£100.0.0	150
30	April Pay	£100.0.0	250
31	May		

	Pay	£100.0.0	
30	June Pay	£100.0.0	
31	July	100 96.15.6	
Mrs	Steele		150
	Aug		250
Cas	h Account April		
13	FW Taylor Standard Bank Of S.A.		48.66
Cas	h Account June		
21 st	London	80.6	
	Paid Bartram	11.18	
	Paid Boyd		10.0.0
	Kerr		2.2.8
Cas	h Account Augu	st	
23	PM	496.15.9	
23	D.		10.00
23	Pd Kerr		

1 st	From PM	496	
20	Mrs Steele		150
"			250
"	Kerr		5
"	Bank		46
"	Bartram		

Cash Account December

Mr Ernest Matthews Chequers Mead Potters Bar, England

K. Ingram20 Cranbourne StSecond floor

L Castellain 59 Pulteney St. Bath

L. Booth 37 Alfred Place Tottenham Court Road

Charles A. Duff Miller
Agent General New Brunswick
9 Warwick Square SW
Colonial Club

Mrs Martha Blackwell 3618 Farnham St Omaha Neb

Lt W B. Everton

P.A.G.M.I. Port Elizabeth

Mr Erich Weiskopf

Colonel J.P. Steele RE
United Service club

Mrs Wm Cullen

JH Brown, Great Glen Leicester

Mr Fred Wylie Toronto

Wm R Martel the ____ Ashstead, Surrey

Charles Lancaster

Dr Howard 31 Queen Anne Rd Cavendish Square

Mr J McBoyle 74 Col(?)
Avenue Westmount

Mr DW Becket

Captain William Ross Scouts

Mr PM Mc___ Ottawa

Alexander Sharp
Rossland BC
Major R Benn P.L.D.G. Ottawa
Mr Hugh 19 Randolph Rd Maida Hill west
John Keogh Picton Ont
Mr KW Macfee
Mr Austin D
Mrs T.D. Earnshaw 6 William St Loudun Square London SW
Lt H.S. Burke 2/ Lincoln Reitfontein