



**Wigan Archives Service
The Edward Hall Diary Collection**

**Account of a Short Furlough Spent in India
By H S Clarke**

September 1915

EHC/230

Background Information

H S Clarke and his companions were soldiers in the 1/5th Royal West Kent Regiment, as part of the 1/5th Indian Corps.

Their army numbers were:

- John Bowry 240729
- R A Collett 240726. Discharged to a commission in the Indian Army 4th November 1917
- W J Henville 240696
- H S Clarke 240728. Promoted to Corporal, 1917.

(Information from Ancestry)

H S Clarke was in Mesopotamia in 1915 and sailed to India aboard the S.S. Aranda in July 1915.

In 1916, he returned to Mesopotamia, where he remained until 1919 when he once again returned to India.

This information is from a scrap-book/photo-album which he collated while in Mesopotamia. It is now in the possession of Wigan and Leigh Archives, reference EHC/230.

About the Transcription

The transcript below has been kindly produced by Arthur Jones, Archives & Local Studies volunteer. The transcript is a faithful and complete reproduction of the full text of the manuscript, reference EHC/230.

Mistakes made by the author in spelling or use of place names are highlighted in the transcription but have been recorded as they appear in the original text.

For more information or to access the manuscript, please contact Wigan Archives & Local Studies at archives@wigan.gov.uk

Account of a Short Furlough Spent in India

We left Jhansi at midnight on Tuesday the 31st August & after a great deal of trouble with the stationmaster were granted tickets & we then made ourselves comfortable in the 2-20 train for Cawnpore. The train started punctually to time & we came through Mustra, Garshmau, Paricha, Chirgasa, Mandrhas, Moth, Punch, Passa, Ait, Bhuwa, Orai, Ata, Usargaon, Kalpi, Chaunra, Pakhrayan, Malasa, Lalpur, Paman, Bhirmsen & arrived in Cawnpore at 3-0pm on the 1st Sept (Wednesday) a distance of 137 miles. On arriving in Cawnpore we found it raining hard & it was quite a sight coming up in the train as the fields were simply under water for miles & represented the sea. Cawnpore did not strike us as being a very fine city, it is situated on the right bank of the Ganges but of course we found it in its worst as they had just had 48 hours continuous rain, which had uprooted trees, & houses were simply washed away & several of the streets & houses were under water. Here we saw the peculiar kind of conveyance called "Ekkas" which look very much like ice-cream barrows with coverings over the top, & are for the use of natives only. The old stage coaches running about, pulled by two broken down horses also amused us, as we had not seen anything like them in Jhansi. The distance of 137 miles took us over twelve hours to do from Jhansi, whereas it should have only taken us six hours, but this was due to the unsafe condition of the rails. On arriving outside the station, being practically starving, we called in the one & only place we could find, "The Civil & Military Hotel" for dinner. The first item was a small plate of soup, & Sid, Wallie, John & myself being at one table, simply roared at the small helping we had to start on. After a very good dinner costing Rupee 1, Anna 8 each we went out with a fellow belonging to the 2nd Norfolks who we got into conversation with on the train; he had been out at the Persian Gulf, & was back on furlough with a bullet wound in his right shoulder. We left him at the station, because he was going on to Tatchpur, & then took on of those old stage coaches (I have heard them called "Match Boxes on wheels" & Cinderella Stage Coaches, by different members of the party) to look round Cawnpore. There is very little to see in Cawnpore except its

connections with the mutiny of June 1857. We first visited the Memorial Well, which stands in the Memorial Gardens, which are well kept up. Over the well where the women & children were thrown down, is erected a memorial in the form of an octagonal Gothic screen, with the figure of the Angel of Resurrection in white marble in the centre of the enclosure. The figure was the gift of Lord & Lady Canning. The graves of the women & children who were massacred(sic) lie to the left of the monument. From here we went to the Massacare(sic) Ghet, where women & children were also murdered & it lies on the banks of the Ganges. The Ganges is a very fine river, & very wide, & owing to the heavy rains was very high. We then drove round to the Memorial Church passing the lines of 1/5th Hampshire Regt stationed there. The church is a very fine one in red brick, & cost over £20,000 to build. It then being practically dark we left for the Station arriving there about 7-0pm, & after having tea, enquired about our trains to Lucknow & were told owing to the lines being very unsafe (running over the Ganges) there would be no trains until 6=0 in the morning (Thursday Sept 2nd) so we tucked in the waiting room, & spent the night there, of course the first class waiting room. At 9-0pm a train arrived from Lucknow, & we found some East Surrey fellows on the train, who told us they had left Lucknow at 1-30 today, & only arrived at 9-0pm a distance of only about 50 miles, so it looks as if we shall be travelling all day tomorrow.

Thursday Sept 2nd:- We left Cawnpore 7-0 0'clock this morning, & made the acquaintance of four fellows of the 1/5th Hants who were also going up to Lucknow for the day. Our party being now ten, we took a fine first class carriage & travelled in high old style by mail train. The country coming up in the train was simply under water all round & in some places the rails were also under water. We saw in a paper we got at Cawnpore Station before we left, that Cawnpore and Lucknow had had a record downfall of 18 inches in 24 hours, whereas at Jhansi they had received 1 inch, but still we know they are always thankful for small mercies in Jhansi. The train proceeded very slowly, the rails being quite 18 inches under water in parts, until we came to a bridge over a tributary of the Ganges, where the water was rushing through at a terrific rate, & here the train stopped as it was not safe to take a train over, & we had to

change & walk over the bridge into another train, & found some of the supports to the bridge had been washed away, & we eventually arrived in Lucknow at 12 o'clock midday. Lucknow is the fifth city in size in India, & larger than Cawnpore. We found no gherries at the station so once again took the "Stage coach" & it was a tight fit to get six of us in. We left our 4 chaps of the 1/5th Hants at the Station, & we drove up to the Wesleyan Soldiers Home arriving there about 12=30pm & ordered lunch (which they had to send out for) & by two o'clock we received our first food for the day, which we were ready for, & went down well. Oh, we are enjoying ourselves,(sic) we've had two days of starving so far. After dinner we left for the Barracks of 1/4th Queens, Royal West Surrey Regt. which adjoin the Wesleyan Soldiers Home, & with whom we are attached for accommodation until the 17th Sept & found the Provost Sergeant & got our beds filled & fixed up, & then went over & found Wallie Kerrigan, who was lying on his bed, & seemed very pleased at seeing us & after spending some time with him came back, & we treated ourselves to a bath. After tea Wallie Kerrigan came over & we went down to Sands Soldiers Home, it is a fine place, refreshments good, & very reasonable, & we could do with a place like this at Jhansi, all we can get at Jhansi are anna "Wads" or buns, & then you have to come early for them. We stayed at Sands all evening talking over old times, they had a religious service while we were there, but we did not attend, but stayed where we could get plenty to eat & feeling rather tired we left for the Barracks early, & got between the sheets.

Friday Sept 3rd:- Not having to turn out at revellie,(sic) we took full vantage of a lay in, & we turned out about (I had better leave the time out as you would not believe a soldier could lay abed) & after breakfast we left for the Suddor Baysar, & only being able to get one gherry, three of us (Stan Smith, Sid Smith & myself took bikes) while Reg Collet, John Bowry, & Wallie Henville rode in the tonge, & we left to see the Residency at 12-o'clock. Lucknow struck us as being a very fine city, & there seemed plenty of life there, & the streets were very wide & much more up to date than Cawnpore, but like Cawnpore owing to the heavy rains, we found houses washed down, & the streets in some places underwater. We saw some fine buildings, Mosques, etc on our way to

the Residency which was about three miles from the Barracks, & on arriving near the Residency we found the water was so bad, that it was impossible to bike through same, as in the middle the natives who waded through were waist deep, & the old gherry waller did not care about taking his gherry through, but after swearing and threatening him he took the three in the tonga over first, & then Stan, Sid & I, after putting our bikes up, went over in the gherry afterwards. We first visited the Residency itself, & saw a model of the Residency, & the various buildings in the grounds as they were before the siege, but the old native who was in charge did not understand English, & us not understanding his Hindustani, we decided it was useless him showing us round. We had a look round the grounds, & various ruins etc, & came away intending to come up early one morning when the guide was there to show us round, & explain the why & wherefore(sic) of this & that. After leaving the Residency, we had the same trouble again with the old gherry waller as he did not care about making a double-journey through the water which was running with terrific force, but after threatening him again & promising him "Backsheesh" (which he did not get) he made the journey, & we arrived back at the Barracks about 3-pm & after having a brush up left for Sands Soldiers Home for lunch. The walk from the Barracks is a very pleasant one, the roads are shaded by date, & cork trees, planted each side of the Roads & remind me very much of being in England. On our way we passed the Garrison Church which is quite new & holds on church parades 2 battalions. After tea, which we had in the Barracks, John Bowry, Wallie Henville, Stan & Sid Smith went for a swim in the Regimental Swimming Baths while Reg Collett, Wallie Kerrigan & myself went for a walk round the Barracks, having a look at their Orderley(sic) Room, Canteen, Range & some of the bungalows. There are the 4th & 5th Queens stationed here, & this evening the Kent Territorial Artillery arrived as well, so they are well garrisoned here. After looking round the Barracks, we found John Bowry, Wallie Henville, Stan & Sid Smith had not arrived back, & so Reg, Wallie Kerrigan & myself left for the Rink Cinema Theatre, & the pictures started at 9=30. It was a very fine place, & to hear "Ragtimes" being played, & fine large pictures reminded us very much of being at home, except of course we missed the girls there. We found John, Wallie Henville, Stan & Sid down at the

pictures & they were very good (I mean the pictures were good) & we got back to Barracks at 12-30pm just as it began to rain very hard.

Saturday Sept 4th:- We did not rise very early this morning but found Cpl Coppard and Pte Bellin had arrived here during the night, & we took them down to the Staff Offices, & after reporting their arrival came on with us to Sands for breakfast, & arrived back at the barracks at 10am, & we went over and asked Wallie to come over as soon as possible as we intended going up to the Museum. We waited until 12.noon & as he did not arrive (having a kit inspection) Reg & I went over to his bungalow but found their officer had not been around, so we decided to take gherries & go up to the "Palace of Light". Wallie Henville, Stan & Sid Smith having got tired of hanging about had gone, & were over at the Wesleyan(sic) Soldiers Home playing billiards, so John Bowry, Reg Collett & myself took a tonga, & after passing through the Civil Lines we passed the Post Office, which is a fine new building, & we also passed two large old Tombs, one being the Tomb of the King of Oudh in the Kaiser Bagh. After a ride of about an hour through the city, & some parts through very deep water, we arrived at the Gt. Emambarsh Buildings & Palace, with the surrounding buildings which were very fine. The great Hall of Emambarsh is 163ft long, 53ft broad & 49ft high & is one of the largest vaulted galleries in the world. It is filled with mirrors & chandeliers, & contains the throne of the King, covered with beaten silver, & his wife's divan with solid silver supports. The natives here eyed us with suspicion but never forgot to ask for "Backsheesh" when we left, which they did one & all & there were a few of them but they were very disappointed with what they got. We spent about an hour looking round & then we left for the "Palace of Lights" owing to the water which was 4 to 5Ft deep so we drove up on to the "Monkey Bridge", & we could see what a fine palace it was with its brass dome, which was originally of pure gold, & the Clock Tower could also be seen in the distance. The "Monkey Bridge" is said to have been built for monkeys to cross the River "Gumpti", but the monkeys we saw crossing it had no tails, & I do'nt think we were deceived when we called them natives. Coming back we passed the Governor Generals Lucknow Palace, also several other large buildings, Temples, etc & arrived back at Sands about 3=30

& after a row with the old gherry-waller (a usual occurrence every time we went out) over the fare got our dinner. After dinner we came back to the Barracks & as Sid & Sam Smith & Wallie Henville were asleep, John, Reg & I decided to take another gerry(sic) & visit the "First King of Oudh's Tomb", & then the Museum. This was a long ride through the city, & after visiting the Tomb, went on to the Museum. This latter proved very interesting, there being masonry & parts of buildings used 100 years BC, also fine collections of birds, crocodiles, snakes, tigers, fishes, various freak animals, & old guns which were used in the mutiny. There was a fine picture gallery upstairs, & from the windows we got a fine view of Lucknow, & the gardens of the Museum. We spent some time looking round, & got back to Barracks about 6pm. After tea which we had in the Bungalow we had a proper clean up, & as Stan & Sid Smith & Wallie Henville were going to watch the skating at the Rink, John Bowry, Reg Collett, & myself went for a walk down to the Civic Lines, calling in a Restaurant where we had some fine light refreshments very much like we got at home, & while there we heard they dish up eggs & English bacon, so you bet we shall be down there tomorrow for some. We arrived back at the bungalow, at about 10pm feeling quite satisfied with what we had seen during the day. From what we have seen at Lucknow it struck us as being a very fine city, & much cleaner than Cawnpore, & we could not help noticing that the natives more educated than those at Jhansi. We were enjoying our holiday so much that in the evening we wrote off to our Officer Commanding, asking to be granted two days extra furlough from 15th to 17th Sept, & asking him to reply to Delhi, where we are going to next.

Sunday Sept 5th :- We rose early this morning, I mean early to what we have been getting up, (8-0am) to hear the 4th & 5th Queens going to Church Parade, & after going to Sands Soldiers Home for breakfast arrived back at the bungalow about 10am, & after fishing old Wallie Kerrigan out we took the gherries & the whole lot of us (we are seven) left for the Residency. On arriving at the Residency we found the water just outside had not gone down much, & as we had to get through same we were glad we had not biked out again. On arrival at the Baillie(sic) Guard Gate we found the old English chap in charge had served in the

Army under Lord Roberts, & was with him on the famous march from Kabul to Kandahar, who was the caretaker & guide to the Residency. He was a nice old chap, and when asked how he liked India said he did not want to leave it, He's the first chap I've come cross who likes the country, & we got him to show us round. It will take too long to give a detailed account Of the Residency but the following is a brief account. The siege of the Lucknow Residency began on the 1st July 1857, was partially relieved by General Havelock on September 25th & finally by Sir Colin Campbell on November 17th. On 2nd July Sir Henry Lawrence (in charge of the Residency) was mortally wounded, & died on 4th. Throughout the season the Residency was attacked with great vigour, & was defended with the utmost courage. We first visited the site where the old clock Tower stood, which is marked with a pillar, then on to the main entrance, the Baillie(sic) Guard Gate, & barracks which lie on right on entering. The old Gate & guard room still stand in ruins, & the shot marks on the walls are very distinct. Then to Dr Phrai's-(sic) Fayner's house which was on the left inside the Residency, it was here Sir H Lawrence after being wounded in the Residency was brought & where he died. The jackalls have undermined the ruins of Dr Phrai's-(sic) Frayer's house, & it is beginning to tumble down. We also saw where the various guns were placed behind the Baillie(sic) Guard Gate, & then saw a fine monument erected by Lord Northbrooke in 1876 in memory of the Loyal native troops who served in the defence of Lucknow. We then visited the Residency, which is in ruins but must have been a very fine building with a tower. We first visited the Banquet Hall, which during the siege was used as a General Hospital, & also saw photos of what the Billiard Hall & Banqueting Halls were furnished like before the Mutiny. There is also a swimming bath which is now dry, & broken down, & now the Residency is the headquarters of some fine large owls who came out to, well just have a look at us. In the Banquet hall are the remains of some old marble fountains, & we could imagine after what we saw, & the photos, what a fine place it must have been. Just outside the Residency in the Residency Grounds is a fine marble cross erected to Sir Henry Lawrence & his men & bears the simple inscription "In memory of Sir Henry Lawrence & the brave men who fell in defence of the Residency". We also saw some of the mortars in the grounds, which were used by

the rebels, & then visited Langman's post where he worked his guns in the defence, also the spots where our battalions were placed & where our entrenchments were. We then visited a fine monument to Sir John Inglis, who took command, after Sir Henry Lawrence was wounded. Walking round the Residency, & then past the ruined remains of the Treasury. We then came across two old guns which came from Calcutta with the first relief, & were manned by 200 men under Capt. Peel from the [ship] "Shannon". Four of these guns were brought, but two were taken away after the Mutiny. We then returned to the Residency building again & visited the room where Sir Henry Lawrence was wounded on 2nd July 1857, & the actual spot is marked. We then went into another room, where we saw a large model of the Residency, & its surrounding buildings, gardens etc as it was before the Mutiny, & had it explained to us how the Residency held out. In the same room are several old guns, spears, cannon balls, etc connected with the Mutiny, & in a frame on the wall are the signatures of King George & Queen Mary who visited here in 1905. We then visited rooms underneath the residency, where the women & children were kept, also the room where Jessie is said to have had her dream of "The Relief of Lucknow". The union jack on the Tower of Residency, unlike flags on all other Government Buildings, is never lowered except when anyone connected with the defence of the Residency dies, & naturally this is a great honour to them, & and they are the only people allowed to be buried in the cemetery in the grounds. We then visited Bigam's Court & Mosque, which are all in ruins, but could not be entered because of snakes etc, which the Guide told us were 2&3 foot long, but of course just our luck we did not see any. Passing on we passed memorials marking the sites where the Native Hospital, & Post Office stood, also German's Post, Court House & Anderson's garrison, & the Cawnpore Battery were situated. Farther on we passed Martinere's Post, the remains of the Brigade Mess, & tablet where the Sikhs Square was, & the remains of the old Racquet Court. A little farther on we came to a fine monument erected to the men of the 78th Highlanders who fell, & then saw some more guns used by the rebels and then a few yards farther on to a fine monument erected by the Officers & men of 1st Battn Duke of Cornwall's Battalion, who were stationed in Lucknow in 1898, to commemorate the brave deeds

done by their comrades in the Mutiny. We then visited the cemetery where as mentioned before only persons connected with the Mutiny, & the Residency are buried. On entering we first saw an enclosure with rails all round, where 100 were buried but no record of the names were kept & over the ground is a plain white marble cross. We then passed on to Sir Henry Lawrence's grave, this struck us as being very plain, with iron railings round, & bears the simple inscription "Henry Lawrence, who died trying to do his duty". The grounds of the Residency are very nicely laid out, & most of the buildings are riddled with cannon & rifle shot & as they have not been renovated they are all the more interesting & if the Residency & buildings had not been built of very small bricks, they would have been washed away with the very heavy rains which have just visited these parts, which were the worst they have had for nine years. I forgot to mention before but fresh flowers are put on Sir Henry Lawrence's grave every evening at Sunset. We left the Residency about 2=30, & after dinner at Sands arrived back at the Barracks about 3=30. After dinner it being pretty warm, we did not feel inclined for much walking, so we stayed in, & had a late tea in the Bungalow. Wallie Kerrigan called for us after tea, & we went for a walk down to the Civil Lines, our object being the intended feed on eggs & English bacon. We called in the Restaurant & had some eggs & bacon, the smell was lovely, & we stayed here the whole evening (not eating eggs & bacon all the time) & Arrived back at the Barracks about 11.pm.

Monday Sept 6th :- Once again we did not rise very early, & after breakfast (eggs on toast etc) at Sands, Sid & Stan Smith & Wallie Henville left for the Museum, while Reg Collett, John Bowry & myself took another gherry for the station, to find out how the trains were for Delhi tomorrow. The trains were very few, they run two kinds of train here, what they call a "passenger train" is one stopping at every signal, bridge, & station & what at home we would call a "slow train", the other kind is called the "mail train" which is a little faster than the slow ones, & we found mail trains took 14hrs from Lucknow to Delhi, after this we did not trouble about how long the slow ones took, as we might still be on our way had we taken one. We found there was a mail train leaving at 4pm, arriving in Delhi about 6=30am, on Wednesday morning, this would

suit us down to the ground, & we then left for the Soldiers Home, arriving back about 1.p.m. Our old gherry waller started “Bolding” but if they don’t start grumbling when we pay them, we feel as if we have been “had” so we always leave them to argue with themselves. We found Sid & Stan Smith & Wallie Henville at Sands, they had been up to the Museum, but found it shut, as it did not open until 3pm. We all stayed at Sands for some time, & arrived back at the Barracks about 3-30pm & had a lay down for the rest of the afternoon. It was very hot today so we did not feel like walking about much, and as we had seen practically all we could get out to see in Lucknow, we intended taking things easy, as tomorrow afternoon we were to leave for Delhi, I dropped one or two postcards from Delhi this afternoon. After tea John Bowry & I went down to the Suddar Bazaar, & purchased some picture postcards of various places we had seen in Lucknow, & then we all left for our favourite little restaurant down in the Civil Lines, & with Wallie Kerrigan, for more “eggs &bacon”. It was delicious, & we arrived back at the Barracks about 10pm having spent a very quiet day.

Tuesday 7th :- We did not rise very early again this morning but found, two more chaps from our company (Ptes G Aldred & Kibble) had come in early, & we went down to Sands for breakfast with them. Owing to the weather being very hot, & us not feeling very much like travelling about, we stayed at Sands all the morning & I had a tinkle on the piano. I say piano, because that is what it is supposed to be, but still its like most of the pianos I’ve tried over here, two notes stick down out of every three. Old John tumbled off to sleep to the music, & was soon kicking up a right old row so I packed up. We had dinner at 1pm, & then left for the Barracks, & after having baths all round, & our beds emptied of the fibre, we went over to wish old Wallie Kerrigan goodbye, & then being about 3pm we went & ordered two gherries & left for the station arriving there about 3-30pm. On the station we were able to buy apples at 2 [pice] each, they looked very nice, & were the first we had seen since we arrived in India, but there was very little taste to them & nothing compared to English apples. We left Sid & Stan Smith at Lucknow as they were staying there until the 10th, & I for one ~~were~~ was not sorry, as our party was a trifle too large, & this left our little party of Reg Collett,

John Bowry, Wally Henville & myself to go on to Delhi & Agra. The Punjab Mail Train on which we were travelling came in punctually to time at 4pm, & we turned into the best carriage on the train we could find, a first class sleeper. On our way we passed through several small stations the most important being Baramau, Hardoi, Bareilly. Bareilly is a Hill Station & was where our last Detachment who were going to Kailana had to stay. We could not see much of Bareilly it being about 9-0pm when we went through, but from [afar] it is very nice, & the Duke of Connaught's(sic) Light Infantry (Territorials) are stationed here. The next large station past Bareilly was Maradabad where we arrived at 10pm & where we had to change. From Cawnpore we have been travelling on the Oudh & Rohilkand Railway, & the accommodation is not so good as we found on the Great Indian Peninsular which runs from Bombay through Jhansi to Cawnpore, although we have been travelling 1st class. On Maradabad Station we got into conversation with two fellows of the 1/7th Hants (one a Pte Groves) who were returning to their regiment stationed in Delhi, and they were on their way back from Calcutta where they had been on three week's(sic) furlough. They told us they were stationed at the Fort Delhi, if we cared to call on them, they would be pleased to show us round the Fort, so of course we intend to accept their offer. They told us Calcutta was well worth seeing, & we are hoping to get there at a later date, Xmas if possible. They also told us we would be very disappointed with Delhi & they thought Calcutta would eventually be the Capital of India again. Maradabad is a junction station, & the Punjab mail train which we came up by was going on to Peshawar on the frontier. We left Baradabad by the midnight mail train for Delhi in company of two fellows of 1/7th Hants Hants(sic) Regiment & as we could not find any second class accommodation we took a fine second(sic) first class sleeping-carriage with six bunks & electric fans, & we had a good sleep. Coming up from Lucknow we saw several owls flying about also a few storks, also(sic) the country was very flat, & some parts under water, & the scenery reminded us very much of travelling in the country in England. We did not see much of the scenery between Maradabad and Delhi it being night.

Wednesday Sept 8th :- We woke up about 5.0 this morning, & after a wash, & brush up all round, at 6-am after crossing the River Jumna & passing Delhi Fort on the left we steamed into the fine large station of Delhi. We were glad to get out of the train, & after leaving the two Hants chaps we got some tea on the station, & then took a gherry up to the barracks of the 1/4th Wiltshire Regiment. After a ride of about half an hour through the city we found ourselves outside a fine large white building called the "Imperial Secretariat Buildings" which were put up at the time of the Durbar, & were used as Government offices, & are well worth a visit themselves, & we arrived here about 7.30am & found these were being used as the Barracks of 1/4th Wilts, & where we were to lodge during our stay in Delhi. We first reported our arrival at the Orderly Room, & then saw the Provost Sergeant, & got our beds & fixed us up generally. After arranging breakfast with one of the native cooks, we went & had a shower bath, which was just lovely & very refreshing, & then spent the morning looking round the Barracks. Although the Imperial Secretariat Buildings are very fine as far as offices go, they are very unsuited for Barracks, & being new they are very nice & clean, & we fancied ourselves living in a place that looked like a Palace. The Imperial Secretariat Buildings are used as Barracks in summer time, & as Government Offices during the winter, when Wilts go under canvas. Inside the buildings we visited the Council Chamber, which was very fine & interesting because it was in this Chamber it was decided the Territorials should come to India, anyway this is what we were told, but I have my doubts. It being very hot after we had finished dinner, we did not go out, & after tea we went with the fellows from 1/4th Wiltshire Regiment for a walk up to a place known as the Ridge, which is one of the many reminders in India of the Mutiny, & where the British force was encamped during the siege. We then went on past an old Temple which contained a very large old well, & also some underground passages running into Agra, but we could not find what the old Temple originally was, as no history had ever been kept of it. We then went up an old observation tower used in the Mutiny, & then on to the Mutiny Monument. After climbing a number of stairs we arrived at the top & got a fine birdseye view of Delhi, & could see the Tower of Kutab Minor, which is eleven miles away in the distance. We arrived back about 7-pm,

& feeling rather tired spent the evening in the reading room, and turned into bed early.

Thursday Sept 9th:- We turned out about seven this morning & after having breakfast, went over to the Guard Room using the telephone, & ordered two gherries up, & left for the Jama Hasjid (also called Mati Masjid) or Friday Mosque, at 9-0 o'clock. This is a fine Mohammidan(sic) Temple, & was commenced in 1644AD, by the Emperor Shahjohan(sic) & completed by him in 1658, & is said to have employed a total average of 500 workmen. On entering we were supplied with a "ragtime kind of shoe", which fitted on over our boots, & which appeared to have rubber soles. The ground inside was paved with slabs of marble, & the ceilings are one mass of carvings in stone, & very fine work. After walking up this fine court, the Jama Masjid lay just ahead, the Temple in the middle with two fine towers, one each side of the Temple was approached up steps. On entering we ran across the Priest, then the second Priest, & various other big nobs in their way, who started the old game of "salamming for bucksheesh". We had a good look round the Temple, which was paved with marble, marked out with a small design on which the Mohammadan(sic) pray. The domes are also very fine, & also very high, but the Temple inside is very plain. We then left to go up one of the towers at the foot of which was another Priest who wanted Bucksheesh to which we said "later on" & after climbing up what seemed hundreds of stairs, we eventually arrived at the top, & got a fine view of Delhi, & the surrounding country. It was fun going up stairs, with our new shoes, they just went flop, flop, flop all the time. On arriving back to have our shoes taken off at the entrance, we were surrounded by a little band all shouting "Bucksheesh", I suppose they thought we were all Rajahs, but I think their opinion changed after the frightful large amount we gave them. We felt pleased at being able to get over the Jama Masjid as it is one of the principal places of interest here, & civilians & regular soldiers are not allowed to see over it. The Temple is still used for services, every Friday morning thousands of Mohammidans(sic) come here to pray. We left the Jama Masjid about eleven o'clock & then visited the "Ivory Palace" which is just outside. This is a shop selling all ivory goods, & here we saw natives carving in Ivory, also show rooms of finished

articles which were for sale. The things here were very lovely, & the prices asked were also very lovely, running into hundreds of rupees. We then took our gherries for the Fort, & after looking up our two pals of 1/7th Hampshire Regiment we found out the Palace, & grounds, inside the Fort which contain all the relics of the Mutiny were shut from 10.0 to 4pm, so we decided to come & have a look at the Fort & Palace another afternoon. The Fort struck us as being a very fine place surrounded by a wall, & the Palace Fort, & grounds covered several acres, & was about ten times larger than our dear little Fort at home-Imran Jhansi. The Fort & walls are built of red stone, & some of the gateways are very fine, & noble entrances especially the Hahari Gate, & the Elephant Gate. There is also a very fine wireless station in the grounds, which is the largest I have seen & was very well guarded, & we were told messages were received here from Devises. The Fort was built by the Emperor ShaJohan(sic) between 1638 & 1648 A'D & surrendered in the Mutiny, & at the present time the 1/7th Hampshire Regiment (Territorials) are guarding it. Coming back from the Fort we visited the Memorial Church, here are several ~~mementos~~(sic) monuments to civilians etc, who were killed in the Mutiny, also in front of the Church stand the "cross mounted on a ball" which were on the original church. Although riddled with shot in the Mutiny they remained unmoved on the top of the dome, & after the Mutiny, they were taken down, & erected up as a monument. Passing on we passed the old Fort Delhi, which is now in a very poor state, & seemed to be tumbling down every where. We then drove on to the world famous Kashmia Gate which still stands as a Memorial of the Mutiny of 1857, & the shot marks can still be clearly seen. We then visited the old powder magazines, which still stand as memorials to the Mutiny with old guns mounted on the top. From here we went on to see Lord Nicholson's statue which stands in a pretty little park, & consists of a full size bronze figure mounted on a marble pedestal, with about half a dozen old mortars used in the Mutiny at the base. On our way back from here we passed Ld Curzon's Residence, The Delhi Club Buildings, The Offices of the Chief Commissioner for India, & the Commander- in-Chief's Staff Camps and back at our Barracks (I will call them Barracks as it takes too long to write the name of our house) about 3pm. From what we have seen of Delhi already, it appears a very scattered city

although very fine, but we understand they are building the new Delhi city about four miles out from here, & owing to the War there is very little doing out there, & they say not worth going out to see. There are trams running in Delhi, but they are only for the use of natives, & broken down old cars they are at that. We did not go out after dinner owing to the heat but after tea we rang up, & ordered another gherry for four & after a few curses etc etc(sic) at the old gherry waller, we left to see the sight(sic) site of the Durbar. The roads in Delhi are just fine, very wide & well lighted, & after about an hour's ride out, passing the Principal Lodge on our left & the camps of the Ghurkas, & Bengal Lancers, on our right & then past Kingsway Railway Station, and Power Station, we arrived on the very sight(sic)-site where King George, & Queen Mary, received the various Rajahs at the Durbar, & on the very sight(sic)-site where the King's Throne stood, they are erecting a fine statue. We were unable to see what kind of statue they intend building, as the work was very much in its infancy, but from the foundations it appears to be a very fine monument. The country all round is very flat & very much like Wimbledon Common that is in "Blighty". In the distance we got a view of the new Delhi which is being built, & after a fine run back we arrived at the Y.M.C.A. about 8-pm & as per usual another hot argument with the gherry waller. The Y.M.C.A. here is a very poor one although they had a fine piano & when we asked for music, expecting ragtimes etc, I got a hymn book given me so we had no music tonight. The Y.M.C.A. here is not so good as the one we have at Jhansi so you can guess it must be bad & we turned in about 9=30pm.

Friday Sept 10th:- We did not rise very early this morning & after breakfast we decided to take a gherry ride out to Kutab Minar & we left the Barracks at 9=30am on our eleven miles ride. We passed through the native Bazaars & chief streets of Delhi & got on to the Kutab road. This is a very fine wide road & runs through the new Delhi city & passing through we had a good view of the buildings which are being put up. We could not help noticing going along the Kutab Road what a lot of native women were working making the road up & also doing the heavy work on the buildings with the natives. Just outside the city we passed the Jantar Mantar on our right which is a peculiar kind of Observatory & was

built by the Rajah of Japur but we did not get out to look over same. The scenery as we passed outside the city was very plain only dotted here & there with old tombs of old Kings and Rajahs. About five miles out we stopped to have a look over the Tomb & Gardens of [naiiale] Safdar Jang (d,1754). This is a fine old place & in thorough repair, the Tomb lay in the centre of a fine large ground with walls all round & a noble entrance on each side & after a short ride farther on we passed Humayun's Tomb on our left. We did not stop to look over it but it is said to be the first important architectural work of the Moguls in India. The country past her again is dotted with a great number of exceedingly interesting reminders & relics of the olden times but they are too numerous to mention & we arrived at Kutab Minar about noon. We were very stiff when we arrived & the gherries having no springs we got properly shaken up & the sun being very hot we did not feel exceedingly lively, however after a refresher at the Dak Bungalow we commenced to look round. The Kutab Minar is all in ruins except the Tower, it was commenced by Kuttbudin-Ibak & completed by his successor Shamsuddin Altamash & took over 20 years to build. The Kutab Minar is really a great monument looking what it is what it is intended to be a tower of victory. It bears the date 1503 & is built throughout of stone and is 238 ft high rising in a succession of five stories, marked by balconies & decorated by band of inscriptions. Round the entrance to the Tower are various inscriptions carved in stone & written in Arabic. We first visited the Tower & after climbing 379 stairs (oh was'nt(sic) it hard work) we arrived at the top (the original top lies in the grounds as the Tower was said to be too high) & we got a fine view of the surrounding country for miles. We were very glad to get down from the Tower as it was exceedingly hot up there & after a short rest visited the Tomb of the first King of the Mohammidans(sic) which is 800 years old also the Mohammidan(sic) Mosque & various other tombs to High Priests. In the enclosure are magnificent remains of an old mosque and the famous Iron Pillar one of the most curious antiquites(sic) in India. It is a solid shaft of wrought iron, over 23 ft in length and bearing a deeply cut Sanskrit inscription of six lines & is said to date back three or four centuries before Christ. The peculiarity(sic) about this old Mosque is that it was used by both Mohammidans(sic) & Hindus & in the grounds are

Tombs of Mohhamidans(sic) & Hindus side by side. The Gateways, Arches, Pillars & walls of the Mosque are all made of sandstone & marble & inscriptions in Arabic can be found on all the walls & pillars which are left standing. In some parts can be found wooden beams between the floors & this we were told was cinnamon wood and is now as hard as stone. The Kutab Minar was said to be the first building in India to built of stone & most of the old buildings are 7/800 years old & from what there is left standing of same it must have been a magnificent place & how they built such a place as this so long ago is really marvellous especially considering where it is situated. There is also a rather famous well here called the "Jumping Well" because if you throw "pice" into the well the natives will dive in after it & the water being very clear you can see them on the bottom but we found the well was dry. We left Kutab Minar about 2-0pm & after a hot ride back arrived at the Barracks about 4=30. We did not go out after our dinner & after tea went out for a short walk down towards the Station with Lcp Bellamy & Pte W. Hilliard (two more of our company chaps who arrived in Delhi yesterday from Agra) & after getting a few photos being tired we went & turned in for the day.

Saturday Sept 11th :- We got out early this morning & after breakfast took gherries for Fort. As mentioned before the Fort & Palace were built by Shah Johan between 1630-48 but having given all details about the Fort a few days ago I will pass right on to the Palace. We first visited Shah Johan's Throne of Justice which is inside the Hall of Public Audience, The Divan -i-Am (100ft by 60ft) of extremely beautiful proportions with fine columns and arches where Shah Johan would assemble his people. The throne is a fine piece of work of marble inlaid with coloured birds & flowers. Here was the famous Peacock Throne which was carried off by the Persian, Nadir Shah, & was so called from having the "figures of two peacocks" standing behind it, their tails being expanded and the whole so inlaid with sapphires and rubies, emeralds, pearls and other precious stones of appropriate colours, as to represent life. We then visited the summer & winter Palaces in the Dinan-I Khas & the "Hall of Private Audience" 90ft by 67ft & built wholly of white marble & in several of the various Palaces & Temples can be seen the very

places where the jewels were taken from. We then visited the Pearl Mosque, this was built by the Emperor Aurangzeb in 1659 A.D. This Mosque is built throughout of white marble with inlaid gold work & visitors are reminded not to walk into the Inner Shrine with boots on owing to religious susceptibility. We then visited the various bathrooms with consisted of Turkish Baths; the King's bath; the Queen's Bath; & a plunge bath. These baths are all built of white marble & on the sides of the Baths can be seen the white flowers & where the jewels were set. The baths are very prettily designed & the floors & walls are all of pure white marble with inlaid designs of flowers in their natural colours. We then came into the main Hall again known as the "Hall of Private Audience", here were large marble pillars carved with inlaid work in gold & flowers. The ceiling is worked in a design of blue & gold & is one stretch of about 60ft by 40ft and is simply a magnificent piece of work. We then saw the Screen of the Scale of Justice which is a screen between the Halls worked out of marble. We then went on to the Optical Room where King George & Queen Mary sat at the time they visited the Fort after the Durbar & saw a march past of several native regiments. Passing on we visited the rooms set apart for Rajah's many wives, these were fitted with small reflecting mirrors but the rooms were very black having been used once as an Officers Mess & Cookhouse & were very much damaged but the Guide told us Lord Curzon was having the rooms done up. We then went on to see the hœu(sic) Museum & here we saw a large collection of curios including the jewellery of various Queens of Delhi & the last King of Delhi's Watch, Pipe, Jewel Box, Swords etc also some of the dresses worn by various Indian Queens & we left the Fort about 11am. As we were leaving in the evening for Agra after dinner we stayed in the Barracks & packed up & after a late tea left for the station. We are not sorry to get away from Delhi as we have been living very badly to what we did at Cawnpore & Lucknow but hope to get on better at Agra. We left the Barracks at 7=30pm & caught the 8-0pm mail train from Delhi for Agra. We passed through Dehli, [Sadai], Neyamuddin, Kilokri, Okhla, Tuglakabad, Faridabad, [Ballabgarh], Asaoti, Palwal, Runath, Sholaka, Hodal, Kosi, [Chata?], [Konkera?], [Chhatikra?], Muttra, Bad, [Farahc?], Kitham, [Rankuta?], [Secundra?], Bilochpura, Raja- Kimandi & arrived at Agra Contonment(sic) Station at 1=30am

(having done 102 miles) & turned into the waiting room & slept on the floor.

Sunday Sept 12th :- We got up early this morning not being able to sleep much on the floor in the waiting room as we found the tiles very hard & after a good wash & tea on the station took two gherries for the Soldiers Home. After a run of a few minutes we arrived there & we found it was in charge of one of the 1/6th Hants a chap named Watts & after a good breakfast took a gherry (holding us four) for our new home with the 1/6th Hants. We arrived in the Barracks about 9,0@clock & after reporting our arrival to the Orderly Corporal got our beds fixed up & spent the morning having baths etc. The barracks are very nice only old & they have no electric light & the punkahs are pulled by hand by natives in the bungalows. Of course we are not used to seeing them in the Bungalows & used to hate the sight of them & as luck would have it one used to stand at the bottom of my bed at night & I used to go to bed thinking "I wonder if this old block server is going to do me in tonight", Oh I did like the look of him. We walked down to the Soldiers Home for dinner and at the two o'clock got a tonga & started off to the Taj Mahal. It was a glorious afternoon not too hot & I think this was the most enjoyable tonga ride we had while away. On our way we passed the Rajah Of Gwalior's Agra Residence also drove through his grounds which were very fine & passed the Officers Club & arrived at the entrance to the grounds of the Taj Mahal at 2=30. The entrance is a very noble one built of red Agra stone with white marble slabs inlaid worked in designs of flowers of their natural colours. Inside the entrance the Taj Mahal faces you in the distance & walking up to the Taj Mahal we passed an oblong stretch of artificial water with fountains in the middle & each side of the walk are large trees. The artificial lake is made of slabs of pure white marble as are the paths, & ornamental seats are distributed along the walk also of pure white marble. The Taj Mahal was built by Shah Johan, it was started in 1638 & took 22 years to build. Shah Johan built the Taj Mahal specially for his wife whos name was "Taj Mahal" & after her death he had her buried there & he died himself 32 years after his wife. The grounds around the Taj Mahal are in thorough order & a kind of green parrots abound here in large numbers

& look very pretty. The Taj mahal is, of course, the main object of interest and surpasses description. On arrival at the Taj Mahal it struck us as a magnificent piece of work being built of pure white marble throughout inlaid with thousands of different coloured marble with designs & flowers with not a flaw anywhere & it is impossible to imagine what it is like without seeing same. At the four corners at the base are pillars made of blocks of white marble very artistic in design & and the ground is also of slabs of white marble. We went up one of the Towers & got a fine view of the Minnerettes & dome of the Taj Mahal & also of Agra city, Fort & the River Jomna. The Towers are high & contain stairs. On entering the Taj Mahal Europeans are requested to remove their hats or boots & we first visited the main hall which contain the imitation tombs of Shah Johan & his wife which are also of white marble inlaid with flowers of their natural colours in various coloured marble. The native guide shouted out while we were in the Hall & owing to the large dome above us, it acts as a sounding board & it was surprising how long we could hear the echo. There was also another native here with some [pice] & flowers on the Tomb who started yapping in Hindustani but we were too hot for him & left him alone. We then visited the actual tombs of ShahJohan & his wife which lie exactly in the same place in the room underneath & the bodies are six foot in the ground. From here we came out & had a good look at the Taj Mahal from the outside & our guide told us the spire & crescent at the top of the dome were taken away by another Rajah and are now substituted by brass ones. We then visited the Mosques on the right & left of the Taj Mahal, these are of Red Agra stone inlaid with white slabs of marble carved with flowers etc in various colours & were shown the spots where Shahjohan & his wife used to pray & also saw the Queen's bath. The Mosques are still used by the Mohammedans and the floors are of white marble marked out in squares & each Mohammedan has a square on which he prays and the Mosques hold 700 each. The Taj Mahal stands very high & lies on the banks of the River Jumna which is a tributary of the Ganges and it was the intention of Shahjohan had he lived to build another Taj Mahal in black marble on the opposite side of the River Jumna, he started but only got a little of the foundations finished which we saw & at the present time just a small tower marks the spot. The River Jumna which flows through

Agra is full of turtles and crocodiles & we saw two or three of each while up at the Taj Mahal. On the banks of the River Jumna the Dhobis (washermen) do their washing & it is a sight worth seeing especially the different coloured dresses of the native women laid out on ground to dry. From the Taj Mahal are underground passages leading to the Fort Agra, Fort Delhi & the Juma Masjid at Delhi which places were also built by ShahJohan. The passages are fairly wide & about 8ft high & we went along one of these underground passages for about 200 yards which was pitch black and were not sorry to get out into the light again. There are some new gardens in the grounds which have been presented by Lord Curzon but these were all covered over & we did not see much of them. We arrived back at the Soldiers Home about 6=30pm and after tea John Bowry & I went for a walk round the Barracks while Reg Collett & Wallie Henville went to the Baptist Church. There are some fine churches in Agra being, Church of England, Baptist, Roman Catholic etc. We arrived back at the Barracks about 9=30 & turned in early with the intention of going out to Secundra tomorrow. Agra is situated on the river Jumna and is said to be one of the most interesting and historically valuable cities in India. It came into prominence during the Mohammedan period and was a favourite place of residence with the Emperor Akbar who built the Palace in the Fort & who died at Agra in 1605.

Monday Sept 13th :- We turned out about 7- this morning & found the 1/6th Hants on parade & walked down to the Soldiers Home for breakfast and after a good breakfast got a gherry for four and at 10am left for Secundra which lies 5 1/2 miles out of Agra. The weather nice & cool again today it was a very pleasant ride & we passed through some of the native bazaars of Agra which are very attractive & on our way we saw natives ~~plowing~~ ploughing & could see the Taj Mahal standing out very prominently. When out of Agra the roads are very good with rows of trees like willows each side of the road & we passed through Sikandra (or Secundra) Village & past the Railway & arrived at the entrance to the Tomb of Akbar the Great about 11am. The Tomb of Akbar the Great was built by Akbar's Son & Akbar was the Grandfather of ShahJohan who built the Taj mahal. The Tomb of Akbar is almost, if not quite, as

impressive as the Taj Mahal, although in style it is very different. The entrance is through a fine gateway of red sandstone ornamented with white marble. On the top of the gateway are four marble minarets. A broad path leads to the mausoleum, a building of four stories, three of red sandstone and a fourth of white marble. The Tomb of Akbar lies in the Mausoleum in the centre of a park of 96 acres, the grounds are in perfect order & contain 16 wells. The whole is enclosed inside a wall 50ft high & 6ft thick and contains four noble entrances through arches 74ft high. We took a walk round a short distance of the wall & could see for some miles. All the entrances are built in red Agra sandstone with inlaid marble slabs & there are several inscriptions on the walls in Arabic. One of the entrances is in ruins having been struck by lightning about 200 years ago. Each gateway has several rooms above & from these at the main entrance we could see the remains of the buildings where they used to keep elephants and also the Tomb of Mary, Akbar's wife. We then went to the mausoleum, at each corner is a tower in white marble & very similar in design to the Taj Mahal. We went up one of the Towers & got a fine view of the Taj Mahal also the Fort & could follow the River Jumna for miles. On the top of the mausoleum are several small minarets which are of white marble worked in coloured designs in dark blue & gold stone mounted with brass spires which looked fine with the sun on them. We then went inside the Mausoleum to see the Tombs of Akbar & three of his wives, who were Christian, Mohammidan & Hindu which lie in a very dark room which being built of solid marble acts in the same way as a sounding board for sound. The Tomb of Akbar is a very plain one in white marble & is made only of three pieces & contains no writing or designs and is covered with a large dark blue velvet cloth with a few inscriptions worked in gold – this was presented by one of the present day Rajahs and is quite new. We then visited a kind of court above where we saw the imitation tomb which is in the exact spot as the actual tomb below & the floor is paved with black, yellow & white marble squares. The Black marble came from Persia, the yellow marble from Ceylon & the white marble from Italy. This is surrounded by a beautiful cloister carved on the outer side into lattice work in squares of two feet, every square of a different design & all of pure white marble. In the centre of the court near the imitation tomb can be seen the pedestal

where the Koh-I-noor diamond used to rest & from here it was stolen & supposed to have gone to Persia. The pedestal is of carved white marble & on the walls are several inscriptions which the guide told us were to Allah. The Koh-i-noor diamond went from Persia to Lahore & then to London & was stolen the same time as the Peacock Throne from Delhi. We left Secundra about noon by gherry for the Etmaduddowla which was seven miles away & not far from the Taj Mahal & also lies on the banks of the River Jumna. On our way we passed through the native city of Agra, the streets being known as the High Street & Strand. Etmaduddowla was the son of a Persian & was Prime Minister to the Son of Akbar (Jehangu) & who died in 1622 & he ordered this place to be built, it was commenced in 1628 & took 18 years to build & was finished in 1646. It is built on the same lines as Akbar's Tomb at Secundra & is surrounded by a wall with the Tomb of Etmaduddowla in the centre of the grounds. The Etmaduddowla has three fine entrances & one fine river gate, the entrances are very noble ones & very like those at Akbar's Tomb, Secundra being built of red Agra stone inlaid with white marble with designs of flowers etc. The grounds are very fine laid out with artificial waters made with red Agra stone & the walk up to the Tomb is very fine. The Tomb of Etmaduddowla is built throughout of white marble inlaid with marble of various colours in designs of flowers etc, it is built on the same style as the Taj Mahal with four small minarettes. There is more small inlaid work about this building than any we have yet visited & the designs are just lovely. We then went inside & saw the actual Tombs of Etmaduddowla and his wife which are of lovely yellow marble. We then went up one of the Minarettes and could get a fine view of the Taj Mahal and the River Jumna's winding course. We stayed up here some time watching the shipping etc – sorry, I thought I was looking at the Thames for a moment – there are no boats of any kind on the River Jumna. We then went & saw the imitation tombs which lie in a marble room right above the actual tombs & were of white marble. After this we thought we had seen enough Tombs (like walking round a cemetery is'nt it) for the day so we took our gherry and started back to the Sailors Home. Coming back we crossed over the River Jumna & along the Banks for some time & passed Agra Fort and Station & through the native Bazaar where we saw natives carving the red Agra

stone which is used in so many of the various Temples, Mosques etc we have visited. We arrived back at the Sailors Home about 4-0 o'clock and stayed there until after tea. In the evening we went for a short walk round the Barracks and turned in about 10=0pm.

Tuesday Sept 14th :- Not having had any reply for extra furlough to our letter to our Officer Commanding which we sent when at Lucknow we sent him a telegram this morning & then left for the Soldiers Home for Breakfast. After breakfast we decided as the Palace in the Fort did not open until 5pm we would visit the Fort this afternoon so we spent the morning at the Soldiers Home. After an early dinner we received a reply to our telegram granting us an extension from the 15th to 17th which was good news and we left for the Fort by gherry at 2.pm. The Fort was built by Akbar and he died at Agra in 1605. Shah Johan resided here from 1632 to 1637 & he also built much of the Fort and constructed the principal building of the Palace. The entrance to the Fort is a very strong one in red Agra stone and is approached by a drawbridge over the moat which still has water in it. The drawbridge is drawn up every evening & the entrance is not unlike the hahari entrance to Delhi Fort. The moat is about 30 ft wide & the Fort was garrisoned by a double-company (about 200) of the 1/6th Hampshire Regt besides some R.F.A. The Fort overlooks the River Jumna & you can also get a fine view of the Taj Mahal from here which is round the bend on the banks of the Jumna on the same side as the Fort & Etumaduddowla. Inside the Fort the grounds are very fine & most of the old Palaces are built of white marble with brass spires which were originally pure gold. We first visited the Private Hall Audience which has a fine throne of white marble where ShahJohan would assemble his people and it is similar to the one at the Fort Delhi. We then visited the Mohammedan Palace; Hindu Palace 7 also the three Palaces and Bathrooms of Akbar's three wives. The Palaces are built with a park in the centre in the form of a square & the grounds contain fountains in marble inlaid with seats of marble where the wives would sit & they are very pretty work. We also visited the Library which is in rather a poor state but a part of the wall has been repaired to give the public an idea of what the decorations of the walls were originally like & same must have been a glorious place. We went up one of the minerettes on

the top of one of the Palaces and could see Queen Victoria's monument in a park outside & from these minarets Shah Johan and his wives used to sit & watch elephant fights in the grounds below specially kept for such events & on the walls are small elephants carved. We then went into the Palace into a small room known as the "Glass Room" and the ceilings and walls were full of small mirrors, our guide struck some coloured lights and the effects on the glass were very pretty. The Palace is built throughout of white marble while the lower rooms under the Palace are all built of Red Agra stone & there are Bath Rooms; Ladies Writing Rooms & Libraries. Going down several steps we saw the entrances to three underground passages which lead to the Taj Mahal, Fort Delhi & to Sikandra. There are three separate passages & the entrances start side by side. A short time ago two soldiers were lost down one of the passages & they are now closed up. It was pitch black down here & our guide had a lighted torch with him & these underground passages are full of bats well we knew it. There are also passages running to any part of the Fort & Palace & down to the River Jumna. We then visited the Gallows which are in one of the underground rooms & anybody who was unlucky enough to get strung up their bodies were dropped into the River Jumna. We were very glad to get out of these underground parts on account of the bats and the dirt and it did not smell particularly sweet. In the grounds of the Palace we saw Johang's bath which is made out of one piece of white marble in the shape of a cup and is about 9ft high by 12ft in length. The dining hall in the Palace is also very fine being of white marble with inlaid coloured designs & the Government have repaired about a yard to show the public what it originally looked like & this yard cost the Government 7000 rupees (nearly £470). We then visited the Jasmin Tower & entered the room where Shah Johan died looking at the Taj Mahal, they are all built of pure white marble and the rooms contain rose water fountains (which are now of course run dry) which are also made of white marble inlaid with flowers in red marble. Coming out of the Palace we came into another court & from here we got a magnificent view of the Taj Mahal & River Jumna & in the court we saw where the only shot fired at the Fort in the mutiny from the city hit the Palace. In the court are two thrones, one black & the other white marble, the black throne is cracked right

across & the Guide told us the old tale that goes with it. The tale goes that a Hindu Rajah is supposed to have sat on the throne with his shoes on and it immediately cracked right across. Underneath the throne the Guide pointed out to us that at the time it cracked blood came out of the throne & the smear can still be seen but it looks to me as if it has been dabbed with red paint. We then visited the Moti Muijid or "Pearl Mosque" one of the purest and elegant of its class to be found anywhere. It lies separately in the Fort grounds & took seven years to build in white marble throughout & has accommodation for 570 Mohammedans and the marble floor is marked out to each Mohammedan in slabs of marble. The domes of the "Pearl Mosque" are very fine & are said to have cost £800,00. We then visited ShahJohan's Private Mosques the Naginah or "Green Mosque" which was the private mosque of the royal ladies of the court and was built by Shah Johan who was afterwards imprisoned there for seven years by his son Awrangzeb. The Mosque was used as a hospital in the time of the mutiny and contained 3000 women & children & in the Palace there were 6000. We then visited the [Jihangis] Mahal, this is a beautiful red sandstone palace handsomely decorated & stands in the southeast part of the fort. On our way out we saw Akbar's marble chair, tables & some of the tom toms (native drums) used in Akbar's time. We left the Fort about 6pm & on our way back we could see the natives having a Ramsami (native gathering) on the banks of the River Jumna and they looked very pretty the men in white & the women in various coloured (sulees). I might mention in 1568 Akbar removed from Agra to the now deserted city of [Tatchpur] Sikri which is said to be in a perfect state of preservation & lies about 20 miles out of Agra but owing to the trains being very scarce running out there we could not find one to suit us. We arrived back at the Soldiers Home about 6=30 & spent the evening there, Pte Watt tried his hand at the cinematograph but it was a proper "washout" & we turned in about 10pm to Barracks.

Wednesday Sept 15th :- We did not turn out very early this morning & left for the Soldiers Home about 9-0am. After breakfast Pte Watt asked if any one of us would like to accompany him to the flour mills but could only take one. I should have liked to have gone but old John said he would like to go so we let old John go. I was very glad afterwards I did

not go as Pte Watt was a fellow with plenty of mouth & suggested at times what other fellows had given him when leaving the Soldiers Home & taking him all round I had a very poor opinion of him. Reg Collett, Wallie Henville & I spent the following morning at at the Soldiers Home & John Bowry got back about 1pm. We also stayed there all the afternoon & after tea John & I went for for a short walk round Agra while Reg & Wallie went to play billiards & we turned in about 10pm after spending a very strenuous day – Idont think!

Thursday Sept 16th :- The weather again being very hot we spent the morning at the Soldiers Home listening to what old Pte Watt has done & what he had not done, in fact he was very amusing to listen to and after dinner we took gherries and went round Agra and purchased a fine model of the “Taj Mahal” each and returned to the Soldiers Home for tea> After tea we intended going down to see the Taj Mahal by moonlight as it is said to be a pretty sight but just as luck would have it we had rain in the evening and the moon was not out so we spent the evening at the Soldiers Home & turned back to the Barracks about 10pm. This was the first rain we had had since we left Cawnpore.

Friday Sept 17th :- Oh how we loathed the day coming round being our last day but we turned out about 7-am & after a good breakfast at the Soldiers Home stayed there until 11 o'clock. We were not supposed to travel direct back from Agra Cantonment station to Jhansi as having “concession tickets” were supposed to go back to Jhansi the same way we had come, which was back to through Delhi, Lucknow & Cawnpore & would take about 3 days where as going back direct a matter of a few hours so we decided to go by the direct train & to save being “nabbed” travel by the “Passenger” or “Slow Train”. We left the Soldiers Home at 11-o'clock for the Barracks and after packing up reported we were leaving for Jhansi. We then drove down to the Station to catch the 12=10pm train for Jhansi. We left Agra Cantonment Station punctual to time in a third class corridor carriage (it would have been a first or second you can rely but for the above remarks) & passing through Idgah, Brandai, Jajau, Manai, [Dholpur], Ghair, Hetampur, Marena, Sank, here the train stopped at the entrance to a bridge & we nearly got a “sank” & we shunted on to a side line. The guard came along (A

European) & calmly mentioned they saw the mail train approaching them on the same line, after the mail had passed through we made a move again & it was raining hard & passed through Murabad, [Banmar], Rairu, &[Morar] & then stopped at the fine station of Gwalior. On the right we could see Gwalior Fort the residence of the Rajah of Gwalior, it lay high up on a rock and looked a magnificent & very large place & well fortified. The railway station & bridges we passed over were all guarded by Gwalior's troops & running up to the Fort was also Gwalior's Light Railway & away on the opposite side of the line his racecourse. We stopped in Gwalior Station about half an hour and then passed through Sandalpur, Antri, Ant-peth, Dabra, Katra, Sonagir, Govindpur, Datia, Karari and then arrived at that glorious place of Jhansi at 7=30pm a distance of 133 miles in seven hours, a very quick run-I don't think! The country between Gwalior & Jhansi is very rough & very pretty being through cuttings through very high hills. We took gherries to the Barracks arriving there about 8-0pm & after reporting at the Guard Room, unpacked & turned into bed wishing we could have the time over again. This ends our seventeen days holiday having travelled 900 miles and seen some of the most picturesque sights of India and now we must see about getting back to soldiering again but our hopes are for getting another week's leave exmas(sic) when our happy little party of four hope to spend another holiday together. Before closing this account of our trip round I should like to thank old John Bowdry, Reg Collett & Wallie Henville for their assistance in compiling this record.

Saturday Sept 18th :- "Come on show a leg revellie's sounded" (l'ts 5-30am) – oh is'nt it awful having to turn out so early – still I suppose we must!//

John Bowry
R A Collett The
W J Henville Four
H S Clarke

Transcription Notes:

- 1 The author regularly changes “and” to “&”.
- 2 During the trip from Cawnpore (now known as Kanpur) to Lucknow, the author crossed out the name of Ait, but this station is on that line.
- 3 Bombay is now known as Mumbai
- 4 Kutab = Qutb
- 5 Kuttbudin-Ibak = Qutb al-Din Aibak
- 6 Shamsuddin Altamash = Shams al-Din Iltumish
- 7 Ant-peth = Anatpaith