

THE DIARY OF PETTY OFFICER ERNEST ARTHUR COBB

Covers the period from the commissioning of HMS RALEIGH (vi) in
July 1921 until her grounding in August 1922

(Transcription of the hand-written original)



HMS RALEIGH at Pier D, Vancouver. Image: [City of Vancouver Archives reference Bo N100.2](#)



"AMORE ET VIRTUTE"
(By Love And Labour)

This transcript is in Ernest own words; minor punctuation corrections have crept in during word-processing. Uncertainties in reading his hand writing are shown thus [X].

PART ONE - 1921

JULY 1921

23rd. Ships Company arrived on board from R.N. Barracks Devonport ([Xxxxx?] Ratings) & HMS Inflexible, myself included in the latter. Day passed in shaking down to messes etc. First impression, not reconciled to accommodation appears to be insufficient room for men.

24th. Preparing to ammunition ship, armament of 7, 7.5 Guns & 4 3"□ so anticipate long task.

25th. Ammunitioning ships, proceeding more favourably than expected considering it is the first time.

26th. Ship proceeding to Sound to swing compasses & carry out high speed Torpedo trials remained there till Thursday. Still getting ammunitioning stowed satisfactory.

27th. Nothing eventful, still in Sound.

28th. Returned to Harbour, docked & carried out D. Yd. tilt test. Remained in Dock for weekend, went on shore & wrote to Alice.

Sunday 31st. Inspection by Admiral Sir Montague Browning. Cautioned ships company on the necessity of upholding the flag abroad. Altogether pleased that did not have Alice round as only staying a week & not much leave at that.

AUGUST

Monday August 1st. Left England for Bermuda. Not very Cheerful but rather busy so worked it off. From Aug 1st to the 12th at sea. Did not expect the journey to take so long. Am writing a little to Alice each day. Weather not too good. Some of the youngsters losing their appetites.

Aug 12th. Arrived Bermuda. No mail arrived yet. Rather warm now. Dress of the day 'whites'□, not much more happening here. Went on shore during the stay, was struck with the profusion of flowers (wisteria) growing everywhere. Admiral & Staff joined ship from shore 24th.

Aug 27th. Officers 'At Home', ship crowded with visitors of both sexes. Went for pull in racing gig.

28th. Sunday, a quiet day. During stay at Bermuda received 9 letters & Papers from Alice & sent 5. Also, a proof of Photos. Very nice was disappointed at not receiving original.

29th. Left for Murray Bay. Carrying out Fleet Exercises.

30th. At sea.

31st. At sea, Lub calibre firing. Writing letter to wife.

SEPTEMBER

1st. Ship [?] at sea. Passed very close to Nova Scotia.

Sept 2nd. Rather cold. Still at sea. Forenoon fired 17 Rds [Rounds] 7.5 splash marking for 'Calcutta'. G [Gun ?] Programme finished and a good job too. Entered Gulf of St

Laurence. Have finished Letter to Alice wonder if will be able to post it when at Murray Bay. Parson rigging whist drive wish him luck but too cold to sit up there. Expect to anchor at 9 AM (Sardines again).

Sept 3rd. Saturday. Anchored at Murray Bay Rives St Laurence about 10 AM in company with Constance & Cambrian very hilly place. Leave piped to Chief & [Xxxx] but did not go. Sent mail ashore & letters to Alice. Lovely weather one or two pleasure steamers came round the Squadron. Inhabitants are French Canadians.

Sunday Sept 4th. At Murray Bay. Splendid weather. Leave to Chief and POs [Petty Officers] from 1.30 – 7 PM. Did not go accounts from people who landed yesterday not being sufficiently good. Ten women to every man & more kids than both together. Very little English spoken leaving here at 9.30 AM tomorrow Writing to night to Wally Saunders. Captain says he wants everybody's medals polished. Shall have to get a tin of Bluebell.

Mon Sept 5th. Weighed & proceeded at 9.30 AM. Very interesting passage up Rr [River ?] St Laurence. Passed Quebec about 4 p.m., looked much the same as when I visited it in '08. Passed under suspension bridge 150 ft high. Cleared it without striking Top Gallant Mast. Anchored about 2 mile above it. Rained for a time during the evening. Proceed to Montreal to-morrow. Hope there is a mail from Alice there.

Tues Sept 6th. Arrived Montreal 5 PM. Made fast alongside wharf. Went for a walk. Montreal city very nice, night signs etc being particularly brilliant. Price of articles about the same as England. Rate of Exchange \$9.90 to the £. Very Frenchified. Do not think I should like to live here.

Wed Sept 7th. Ship opens to visitors. Plenty on board especially of the feminine variety. Mail arrived two letters from Alice one 16 Aug & one 23rd Aug My letter from Bermuda not yet arrived home.

Thurs Sept 8th. Ship thronged with visitors, mostly French posted letters to Alice. Visited Royal Canadian Regiment Sergts [Sergeants'] Mess. Not a bad lot of fellows Band played sunset with massed drums.

Friday Sept 9th. More visitors. Am went to GQs 226 Po & men landed for free entertainment Did not want to go. Ship took in oil, 600 tons no other mail yet arrived from home.

Sat Sept 10th. Ship swarming with visitors afraid some of the younger fellows losing their hearts in Montreal. Astonishing amount of children aboard & of course playing about with everything they did not ought to. Still no mail. going for walk tonight.

Sunday Sept 11th. Divisions on the jetty. had to check the flow of visitors in the afternoon ship being overcrowded.

Monday Sept 12th. Good day mail arrived with two letters from Alice. One 29th and other 30th Aug answered at once. Good to feel she is feeling well.

Tues Sept 13th. Invited to dinner Royal Canadian Highlanders Sergts mess. Had a very good time.

Thursday Sept 15th. Last day at Montreal. Ships company invited to ball given by 2000 ladies of the city last night. Did not go. Posted postcards to Alice. Forenoon at Field gun Drill on jetty. Took them myself.

Friday Sept 16th. Left Montreal 7 AM Proceeded down River Speed 13 Kts [knots]. Not sorry to leave the wall. But altogether had a pretty good time there. Would not [want ?] to live in that part of Canada though. Arrived Quebec at 10 PM & moored ship.

Remaining here 10 days. No mail here yet. Quite a change to-day to be free from a crowd of visitors.

Saturday Sept 17th. Ordinary Saturdays Routine. Rather dreary day. Rained heavy PM. No visitors to-day but a few I expect will come over to-morrow. Leave given but did not land may one night to get some postcards. Posted Letter to Alice. mail expected to-morrow.

Sunday Sept 18th. Very showery day, usual Sunday routine. very few visitors on board. Altogether a quiet day. No mail yet. Two months since I spent the last evening with Alice. Wrote letters to Kate and Father.

Monday Sept 19th. Mail arrived one letter from Alice dated Sept 5th & one from Bill. No photo yet disappointed. Rigged miniature Range on Jock [?]. Football team beat "Calcutta" 2 – 1. wrote answer to Alice. Left Sheerness two months to-day.

Tuesday Sept 20th. Bright day. Forenoon at miniature R.P. Fired salute 11 guns for G.O.C. Just heard am to land with Fleet Battalion on Thursday "some day" that. Believe mail arrives to-day Hope photo comes. Astonishing amount of letters some of the men are receiving from Montreal looks as if a good many "got off". Just turning in when photo of Alice came. Lovely that's all. Must write and catch some mail as other letters I have just posted to her.

Wednesday Sept 21st. Forenoon at miniature R.P. Make and mend clothes P.M. Preparing for squadron landing party. Afternoon at home and dance on Q.D. [Quarter Deck ?]. Wrote to Alice Empress of France arrives with mail flag but don't expect any for us. Just heard we are likely to spend Xmas at Honolulu. Could not take us much farther from England at that season. Rained in the evening. Must remember to get some PCs.

Thursday Sept 22nd. Paraded through Quebec in the forenoon. Afternoon had a nap. nothing else of note that day.

Friday Sept 23rd. Two months in commission today roll on the other 22. Received letter from Alice dated 9th Sept she seems very cheerful now. Also recd. Ashford paper from Bill. Smoking concert at Engineers mess but did not go. Bought post cards for Alice.

Sat Sept 24th. Still at Quebec. Took team ashore to shoot R.G.A. Canada, 2, 5 & 600 yards. Beat them by 11 points. Very satisfactory performance but still room for improvement in our team.

Sunday Sept 25th. Quiet day. posted letter to Alice. Started breaking the news gently that we shall be miles further away in February.

Monday Sept 26th. Left Quebec 7 AM. cannot say am sorry to leave that place. Weather not too good to-night breezy and cold. Ord sea training class started today.

Tues Sept 27th. Passing through Belleisle Straits. Weather getting colder. 8 PM fired 16 rounds star shell at "Calcutta" rather cold job.

Wed. Sept 28th. Passed iceberg this morning on port beam. Arrived at Forteau 11.30 am. Very desolate place, inhabitants more like Eskimaux. Still cold & have a snuffy nose. leaving for St Johns 6 AM.

Thursday Sept 29th. Left Forteau 6 AM. at sea in a dense fog but clear by noon. Weather still very cold Arriving at St Johns 9.30 am. Turned in early. Snuffy nose still prevalent.

Friday Sept 30th. Arrived St Johns 9.30 AM. A very narrow entrance with high hills & a splendidly enclosed harbour. Weather warmer & cold nearly gone. Strong smell of fish though through cod industry. No mail here, did not expect it, but am sending one.

OCTOBER

Saturday Oct 1st. At St Johns. Went on shore in the afternoon to see football match. Did not like the place. very dirty. mail arrived but no letter from Alice. Very disappointed as it was a mail 7 days later than the previous one. Bought her some postcards.

Sunday Oct 2nd. Usual quiet day for Sunday. Visitors on board in the afternoon. A very nondescript crowd too. Sent PCs to Alice & asked why I had not received a letter.

Mon. Oct 3rd. Left St Johns 11.30 AM en route to Halifax, To-night rather rough. Still feel down about not hearing from Alice. Ordered some PCs of ships entering St Johns.

Tues Oct 4th. At sea, nasty weather & ship making dirty passage. Held meeting to-night re formation of rifle club.

Wed Oct 5th. Arrived Halifax 9.30 and berthed alongside wall. Raining heavily all day. Received two letters from Alice posted at Ramsgate. No hopes yet she says at Ashford. Must answer to-night. Answered letter to Alice finished 11.15 PM.

Thurs Oct 6th. Married 6 months today, many happy returns to myself & Alice. Sent her Reg letter with £7 to keep for me. I do not think she wants any more yet anyhow, so asked her to keep it separate for our holiday on paying off.

Fri Oct 7th. Still at Halifax. Went on shore to see football match, afterwards strolled into "Ackers" music hall. Not very good, a plentiful display of arms and legs in the so-called beauty Chorus, but sadly lacking in humour. Incidentally the youngest beauty? was about 45.

Sat Oct 8th. Hear that Constance won football cup had shooting match with Aurora. Did not shoot in team myself as wanted to try a couple of others. rained heavily so discontinued match at 300 Aurora leading by 11 points owing to the very indifferent shooting of our Lieut Marines. made 61 out of 70 myself not to count in match. No signs of mail from home yet More than ever decided that I don't like Canada too much bunkum.

Sunday Oct 9th. Usual quiet Sunday. A few visitors on board in the afternoon. After tea went for a long walk around Halifax. Place seems more dreary than ever on Sunday. Apparently all those who don't go to church stop in bed. faint rumours that there is a mail in post Office for us. I hope so. Just heard today that we may be in Victoria for Xmas instead of Honolulu. I sincerely hope so then may be able to get a cable from Alice.

Monday Oct 10th. Mail arrived, one letter from Alice dear old girl. Seems a bit nervy, answered it at once & told her not to worry. Wish she hadn't gone to Ramsgate without her mother then she wouldn't have been allowed to look at a drowning man. Don't think it will upset her though. Posted letter to her to-night.

Tuesday Oct 11th. Forenoon at field gun drill. Gave them a good shake up too. Afternoon make & mend. After tea went to Ackers music Hall as there was nowhere better to go. Leaving at 9.30 in the morning for Bermuda.

Wed Oct 12th. Still at Halifax, very heavy fog all day. Impossible to navigate in it, don't know now exactly when we'll leave. Gunnery programme made out till 10th November, some programme too Believe it's a fact that we are at Victoria for Xmas Have told Alice

that I believe it's the 23rd Jan just see how far I am out. Will write to post on arrival at Bermuda.

Thurs Oct 13th. Left Halifax last night about 10.30. Rough weather, Heavy sea & wind. Too heavy to carry out any sub calibre or other exercises. Believe we arrive in Bermuda on Saturday.

Friday Oct 14th. At sea weather abated somewhat forenoon GQs Afternoon carried out the sub calibre through off at Constance. Too rough though to run torpedoes. After tea had general meeting of Rifle club, was elected committee. suggested that team be selected by doing 6 shoots is possible with about 16 men & selecting the best 8, suggestion carried. Arrive Bermuda to-morrow about 10 AM. Am writing to Alice to-night.

Saturday Oct 15th. Arrived Bermuda about 10 AM put the clocks back 40 mins, I say we'll never pay off if they go on at that rate. Cannot see any signs of the damage supposed to be done by hurricane but hear that it blew the roof off an house or two. leave given but did not want to go. No mail from home worse luck. Have seen to-day the proposed programme of cruise, must send a copy to Alice as soon as I can get one. Posted letter to her last night. Admiral left to-day to live on shore while we are here. Wish I was an Admiral.

Sunday Oct 16th. Prepared to muster open list but heavy rain prevented it. Lucky for once. Quiet day otherwise posted letter to Alice with programme of cruise Mail arrives to-morrow.

Monday 17th. Under weigh at 11 AM, carried out sub calibre at Towed Target & run two torpedoes everything being satisfactory & no panics. Anchored at Murrays anchorage for the night. No mail on board yet.

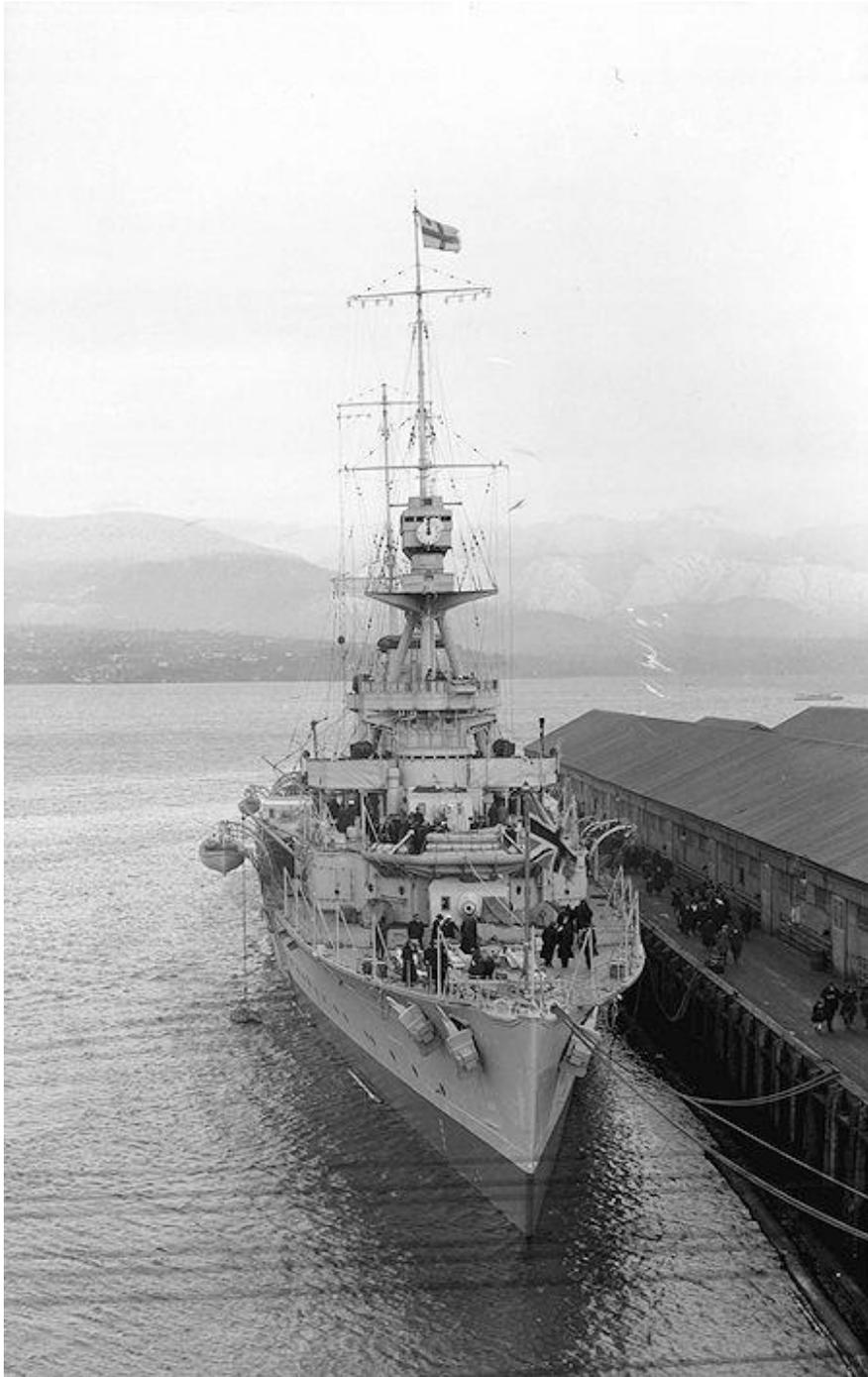
Tuesday Oct 18th. Under weigh 09.30, fired 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ charges at towed BP target. As far as I can see practice was satisfactory. Run one torpedoe. Anchored at Murrays Anchorage for the night Mail arrived, one letter & 3 papers from Sook & 1 paper from Bill. Alice writes very cheerful wants to know the babies name. Think I'll say Nicodemus. Wonder what She'd say if I allowed for two. Writing to her tonight.

Wed Oct 19th. Loader Competition in Forenoon. After Crew won time for 5 rds 32 $\frac{4}{5}$ secs No 4 Crew Second 33 $\frac{3}{5}$ secs. Very creditable performance by both crews. Pm. landed for range practice Good shooting all round. Have hopes of lifting the cups. Finishing letter to Alice tonight.

Thurs Oct 20th. Forenoon under weigh fired 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ charges at BP target. satisfactory shoot. Nasty day plenty of rain. Pm carried out some 1" night firing & very lights for star shell practice. Think I'll sing end of perfect day before turning in. Posted letter to Alice. About time another mail arrived.

Friday Oct 21st. Very wet day. Landed at St Georges range in forenoon for practice. Very satisfactory results considering state of weather. came on board 11.30 slightly damp. Not very good thing for white suits. Went alongside dockyard wall 1.30 pm. Mail arrived two letters from Alice 1st & 4th oct. one paper from her & one from Bill. She seems to think I'm the worried one now just what I want then she wont worry so much about the business.

Sat Oct 22nd. Usual Saturday, plenty of water and sand floating about. Afternoon make & mend of course had a nap. Did not go out for a walk not much to see here. Writing to Alice to-night.



HMS RALEIGH at Pier D, Vancouver. Image: [City of Vancouver Archives reference Bo N100.1](#)

Sunday Oct 23rd. 3 months in commission today. Roll on the other 21. usual quiet Sunday not much of note happened. Posted letter to Alice.

Monday Oct 24th. During the forenoon disembarked 100 Rds 3" HE. Afternoon went to Rifle Range first of eliminating shoots to find 8 to shoot for cup. Finished top but shooting on the whole not too good. Will have to do better to win it. Mailboat arrived but no mail

Tuesday Oct 25th. Embarked stores & Ammunition Afternoon landed for rifle practice. Top score again. Team improving but not too good yet After tea went to CPOs Club for quiet game of billiards.

Wed Oct 26th. Very squally day, plenty of wind & rain. Forenoon Afternoon landed for team practice much better in general. Again top score should like to see myself further down the list. Writing to Alice to-night.

Thurs Oct 27th. Another bad day. Had more practice at Range.

Friday Oct 28. Blowing hard. Hurricane expected. sailing regatta postponed. No shooting to-day.

Sat Oct 29th. Shooting during forenoon. Mr Lamb (sub) won Squadron Sailing cup with 1st whales. No mail arrived yet.

Sunday Oct 30th. Midshipman's race won by Gabbert 2nd cup in two days.

Monday Oct 31st. Rifle cup won by Malabar Our own team not coming up to expectations. Mail arrived 3 letters + two papers these from Alice letters dated 7, 10 & 17 Oct 1 letter from Kate & one from father. Two papers from Bill.

NOVEMBER

Tuesday Nov 1st. Monthly payment to-day writing to Alice. Steamer collided with us when leaving the basin. Smashed up cutter & port gangway. Managed to get whales and gig in board in time. No other damage as far as I know.

Wed Nov 2nd. Took Lewis guns to range & fired them. Afternoon make & mend Raining hard to-night. Posted letter to Alice.

Thurs Nov 3rd. Left wall 7.30. Proceeded to sea & fired 8 full C ranges. Returned alongside about 4.30. Spent evening in collecting Rifle Club money.

Fri Nov. 4 Mail arrived two letters from Alice. Both dated 19th Oct. She has received St Johns P.C.s writing to her tonight. had a look at our Cinema on deck. Not a bad little thing but films evidently chosen by the parson.

Sat Nov 5th. Posted letters to Alice. Usual Saturday, plenty of water & sand & spit & polish.

Sun Nov 6th. Quiet day. Went for walk in the evening. But not to Church.

Mon Nov 7th. Left wall 2.30 pm & anchored in Grassy Bay. Not sorry to leave it either more breeze out in the stream Posted letter to Alice with revised programme of cruise. Also one to Bill.

Tues Nov 8th. Under weigh 9 am. fired 12 full charge per gun at BP target. range 20,000 yards speed 20 knots. Firing satisfactory I believe. Writing to Kate tonight.

Wed Nov 9th. Anchored in Grassy Bay. Returned empty ammunition cases in forenoon. Afternoon make & mend so had a nap. Admiral presented prizes for sailing today. Mail closes to-morrow 10 PM so wrote to Alice to-night.

Thurs Nov 10th. Preparing for sea. Went to DYO in forenoon & returned vent stalk & fittings drew new one.

Fri Nov 11th. Proceeded en voyage to Jamaica 7 AM Carried out throw off firings at Cambrian breezy but not rough. Observed two minutes silence in recognition of armistice day. Two years ago to-day arrived home from Gulf. Lots have elapsed since then. A very sad occurrence to-day AB Brennan fell overboard whilst ship was steaming at high speed. His body was not recovered. Funeral service held and volleys fired. hard luck for somebody at home.

Saturday Nov 12th. At sea. Getting warmer. Not much of note happened. Usual Sat routine.

Sunday Nov 13th. At sea. Usual quiet Sunday Entered Tropical zone about noon. Getting very warm. Starting letter to Alice tonight. Parson giving lecture on these places in Columbus time. Don't want to know anything about the old gent so did not attend. Recd press news to-day with American proposals for reduction of armaments.

Monday 14th. At sea. Passed the Islands of Hayti and Cuba. fine but very hot. Carried out Squadron torpedo firing. Discharged two torpedoes.. finished letter to Alice. Arrive at Jamaica about 9.45 tomorrow.

Tuesday 15th. Arrived Jamaica 9.30 am & anchored Fired two salutes. Very low place plenty of cocoanut palms etc. Very tropical looking place. Usual collection of native washerwomen & "leave [?] I dive" boys. puts one somewhat in mind of Colombo. Mail here, two letters & papers from Alice dated 25th Oct & Ashford papers from Bill. Posted one to Alice & writing another to-night.

Wed Nov 16th. At Jamaica. Posted letter to Alice last night. Very hot weather. Ship swarming with fruitsellers etc. Went on shore in the evening just to look at the place. Rather a pretty show. Amused to see the black girls poshed up in European clothes.

Thurs. Nov 17th. Discharged 146 cases of 9" ammunition to Apostles Island. Hear that mail for England closes to-morrow so must write to Alice to-night.

Fri Nov 18th. Posted letter last night. Had a quiet day. Did not go on shore.

Sat Nov 19th. Went for car ride to Newcastle at top of hills. A fine experience, car nearly overhanging with a drop of a couple of thousand feet.

Sunday Nov 20th. Shooting match with West Indian Regiment. A big affair. Owing to mistake in arrangements they thought they were shooting pick of the squadron for which they had been training. However we made a good show losing by 30 points.

Mon Nov 21st. Left Jamaica 7 AM. Cambrian remaining till 24th. Constance left with us but parted company outside. Altogether sent Alice three letters from there.

Tues Nov 22nd. At sea en voyage to Colon. Still very warm arriving there 6 am. Posted letters to Alice tonight.

Wed Nov 23rd. Arrived Colon 6 am. Received letters & papers from Alice dated 31st oct. oiled ship and proceeding through panama canal Most marvellous piece of work I have ever seen. Arrived Balboa (port for Panama City) about 8.30 pm.

Thurs Nov 24th. Posted quick letter to Alice in answer to hers. Left Balboa 10 am. Fired salute 21 guns. Opened minature range PM.

Fri Nov 25th. At sea. Forenoon General quarters rather cooler, At Evening tested Coston Gun Writing to Alice to-night.

Sat Nov 26th. At sea. Sat Routine. Weather getting much cooler. Writing to W Cotterill to-night.

Sun Nov 27th. Quiet day. opened minature Range in forenoon & evening. Heavy squall of wind & rain struck ship about 4 am. A nice job furling all awnings in it.

Mon Nov 28th. Forenoon general drill (tow ship etc) Not feeling up to the mark.

Tues Nov 29th. Very fine weather passed some sperm whales & astonishingly large schools of dolphins. Keeping the coast on our starboard hand. Feeling in the pink to-day. Fancy dress ball for ships company on Quarterdeck last night. Some fancy dress too. Good job the "Ladies" were only imaginary, I think.

Wed Nov 30th. More General Drill, a cool breeze blowing towards evening. Still at sea. Writing to Alice to post on arrival.

DECEMBER

Thurs Nov Dec 1st. Fired HA guns at target smoke shell 12 Rds per gun. Evening concert party performed. Good job there are no bricks at sea. Weather steadily getting cooler. Payed monthly money to-night.

Friday Dec 2nd. Observe the red ink, brought the wrong bottle away from the mess in mistake. General Quarters this morning otherwise usual Friday work. Top men and QD men Loader and Tug o war Competition to-day. top men winning. Collection for late AB Brennan £79-8-10 plus £80 for his kit.

Saturday Dec 3rd. At sea. Usual Saturday, tons of water floating about. Heavy ground swell but no wind. Posted two letters to Alice one to Cotterill, one to Saunders. Arriving at San Diego at about 6.30 Am to-morrow.

Sunday Dec 4th. Arrived San Diego 6.30 a. No Sunday Routine, hands working all the forenoon. Mails here, 4 from Alice. 7, 8, 9, 11th November and two papers (7th). Plenty of Yankee destroyers here, evidently a naval base. Some visitors on board in the afternoon.

Monday Dec 5th. At San Diego. Party of Chiefs and POs landed early for motor trip. Did not go. Fired four salutes altogether 76 Rounds a good forenoon wasted. Posted two letters to Alice to-night. Visitors on board again this evening. Painted ships everywhere.

Tuesday Dec 6th. Quiet day. No salutes. Admiral & best part of officers landed for motor ride round the district. Did not go on shore Writing to Fred to-night & Alice.

Wed Dec 7th. At San Diego, leave from 1.30 so landed & went for walk through Balboa Park Visited museum & heard open air organ recital returned on board at 5.30 pm. Very interesting day but "dry".

Thursday Dec 8th. Left San Diego at 7 am & arrived at San Pedro 2.30 pm. several American battleships here & of course plenty of salutes. Only remaining here two days. Wrote to Alice to-night.

Friday Dec 9th. At San Pedro. Several people obtained leave to go to Los Angeles but did not trouble. Invited to concert on American Ships Arizona & Oklahoma, by all accounts they had a good time. Did not go myself but smoked some of the cigars they brought back. Oiled ship.

Sat Dec 10th. Left San Pedro 7 am. Nothing of consequence happened make & mend clothes pm.

Sun Dec 11th. At sea. very large swell running but no wind. Passed a seal today & a large whale. Weather getting colder. Opened miniature range in the forenoon. Expecting rough weather.

Monday Dec 12th. Ship making heavy weather of it. Leaden sky & sea, reminds one very much of Channel weather. Rained to-wards evening. if fine enough do full power trial to-morrow More wet paint knocking about.

Tuesday Dec 13th. General Quarters am. At noon commenced full power trial. Heavy swell running and ship washed down fore & aft. Not certain yet what speed we attained but think it was very satisfactory. Passing through straits. Vancouver Island on port

side. Arrive in Esquimalt at 11 pm to-night mail awaiting us. Going to moor ship, not go alongside.

Wed Dec 14th. Arrived Esquimalt at 10.15 last night & moored ship. Mail arrived on board about midnight. Two from Alice 18th & 21st Nov & papers of 20th.

Thursday Dec 15th. Fine but cold, went on shore after dinner & met Cousin David & several other members of family. Surprised to hear that Uncle Jess was dead. Ship working One o'clock Routine while here. Wrote to Alice to-day. Paper arrived from her dated 27th Nov but no letters yet.

Friday Dec 16th. Remaining on board to-night nearly all ships company landed for dance given by Inhabitants. Going on week-end leave to-morrow. Writing to Alice again to-night.

Sat Dec 17th. Cousin Dave & wife came on board & had a look round. Landed at 5 pm in a snowstorm. Went up to Aunt Alice & stayed the weekend. Very cold.

Sunday Dec 18th. Freezing hard, turned out about 9 am. Went out in car to chop down Xmas tree. Remained indoors the rest of the day.

Monday Dec 19th. Came down to catch 8 OC boat but had to wait till 09.30. Ice everywhere temperature 11o below zero. Oilskin froze on me. Did not go on shore to-night too cold. Wind abated though. Writing to Alice to-night. Have had no mail since 21st (posted thus).

Tuesday Dec 20th. Landed for route march with one watch of stokers, fairly warm while marching. Have reason to believe that one of my homeward bound letters was destroyed in the burning of a mail train. Went on shore to dinner at Dave's house. returned on board at 10.30 pm in a blizzard.

Wednesday Dec 21st. Landed with another watch of stokers. Weather not quite so cold to-day but still freezing. No letters yet, writing to Alice to-night. Did not go on shore. Programme of cruise slightly altered. Not going to Mexican ports. Sent alteration of cruise to Alice.

Thursday Dec 22nd. Usual routine during the day. Went on shore after dinner.

Friday Dec 23rd. Mail arrived two from Alice 5th & 7th December 28th November. Posted answers before landing on weekend leave. (1 Letter from Bill)

Sat & Sun Dec 24th & 25th. Spent Xmas at Aunts Had a very good time but not like it would have been at home. Returned on board at 10 am Monday.

Monday Dec 26th. Went on shore to say good bye ship leaving in the morning same opinion as ever, shouldn't like to live in Canada. Two letters arrived 5th & 7th Dec from Alice.

Tuesday Dec 27th. Left Esquimalt 9 am & arrived Vancouver about 4 pm. Berthed alongside CPR Wharfe. Writing to Alice to-night. Went to GQs this forenoon.

Wednesday Dec 28th. Drizzly day but got finer to-towards dinner time. Thousands of the "Great unwashed" came on board. In the forenoon Admiral & Officers received a civic welcome from the Mayor of Vancouver. The mayor made speech to ships company mainly telling them not to leave too many broken hearts in Vancouver. Rather a humorous old bean I thought. Two letters from Alice arrived 9th & 11th December no news from hospital yet. Writing to her to-night. Have not been on shore yet.

Thurs Dec 29th. Raining to-day but that did not stop visitors. Thronged with them. Some of the heart-breaking business started so far as I can see. Writing to-night to Alice. No shore for me yet weather not comfortable enough.

Fri Dec 30th. Still at Vancouver. went to Orpheum Theatre (complimentary ticket). not a bad show A fine day, thousands of visitors on board. sat Dec 31st. Good news to-day a letter dated 19th of December from Alice with result of second exam. very reassuring. Answering it to-night raining again.

Last day of 1921. May the next year bring us better luck.

PART TWO – 1922

JANUARY

Sunday Jan 1st. 1922. At Vancouver. Wrote to Alice. Estimated 12,000 visitors walked round the ship. Went for walk in the evening.

Mon Jan 2nd. Drizzly day. Went to pictures after tea.

Tues Jan 3rd. Paraded Vancouver city plenty of excitement. Ship still swarming with visitors.

Wed Jan 4th. Letter & paper arrived from Alice Dated Dec 19th. Had forenoon at Field Gun drill caused sport for the nation.

Thurs Jan 5th. Wrote to Alice. not much of note happened.

Friday Jan 6th. Forenoon General Quarters. Still alongside & remaining here till Monday. Shant be sorry now when we leave. Getting fed up with the Vancouverites. Shooting War veterans at miniature to-morrow night.

Sat Jan 7th. Shooting match with 1st Batt Canadian Irish. Beat them by 11 points. Made possible myself & tied with RSM Perry late Kings Prize winner.

Sun Jan 8th. Part of ships company landed for Church parade. Naturally I wasn't there Leave expired at midnight.

Mon Jan 9th. Left Vancouver and Arrived Seattle 4 pm. Went on shore and saw Cousin Daisy.

Tues Jan 10th. Went to Daisies place to supper & had a nice evening. Her Husband seems a very decent chap. Showed them round the ship to-day. fired two salutes while they were on board one of 15 and 1 of 7.

Wednesday Jan 11th. Went to Alecs relations (Daisies Husband) to dinner but had to leave early as leave expired 8 pm. Left Seattle for 'Frisco 10.30 pm. no mail since 19th arrived yet.

Thursday Jan 12th. At sea. not much doing everybody settling down after so much leave Wrote to Alice to-night & posted it.

Friday Jan 13th. Forenoon at action stations. Read in W/T press that Carpentier won in 4 rounds lovely weather & getting warmer. Believe we get in San Francisco to-morrow at 9.30 owing to case of appendicitis on board instead of 4 pm. Writing to Bill to-night. Hoping to receive mail

Sat Jan 14th. Arrived at 'Frisco at 11 am & made fast alongside jetty. very interesting place the Authorities have given us to tie up to where the sewerage of the city runs down. Two letters from Alice arrived 20th and 22nd Dec answering to-night.

Sunday Jan 15th. Usual Sunday routine. Went for car ride round the district during the afternoon, very interesting indeed. had PC photo taken of the party. Went through Chinatown after dark with guide, but nothing like China.

Monday Jan 16th. mail arrived two from Alice 26th & 29th Dec & 1 paper. Answering to-night & sending PC photo & postcards of ship etc. Had my own photo taken yesterday sending proof on to-night Banquet & dance on shore for Officers & men but did not go. Dont go much on America although this is a nice town.

Tuesday Jan 17th. About 30 hands down with flu but not I. Went to Pontages after tea. Nothing else of note.

Wednesday Jan 18th. Sending photos to Alice. More gone sick. Went for a long walk. Must be because the place is dry that everyone feels queer.

Thursday Jan 19th. Went for long walk in the evening still more cases of flu. Nothing more worth recording happened.

Friday Jan 20th. Mail arrived, two from Alice 30th Dec & 2nd Jan also paper of first. Leaving this show in the morning.

Sat Jan 21st. Left 'Frisco 8 am. fired four salutes immediately on leaving the wall Passed Yankee Battle fleet & returned their salute to our admiral. another 21 guns at Monterey where we arrived 4 pm. altogether fired 86 Rds to-day. Anchored in an open roadstead quite a change from the stinking old wall at Frisco. Writing to Sook to-night, sent one more photo to her.

Sun Jan 22nd. First 6 months finished to-day thank goodness. Plenty of visitors on board this afternoon Writing to Kate to-night and sending Photo

Mon Jan 23rd. Nice weather, still at Monterey & more ship visitors. Nothing else worth noting. Letter to Alice to-night. Today is 23rd Jan so obviously my guess was wrong, but can't conceive going to march all the same. Flue still pretty strong

Tues Jan 24th. Not much during to-day. FX to SA Drill some visitors in afternoon. Everybody got jazzitis. shooting Yanks to-morrow. "Flu" still "Fluing".

Wed Jan 25th. Yanks beat our team easy, but was leading them all myself until had accident with sight then finished about third

Thurs Jan 26th. Left Monterey 1 pm. Two letters arrived from Alice 5th & 7th Jan also paper of 8th. One from Bill dated 9th Jan. Writing to Alice to-night. Arriving Santa Barbara about 7 am. Flu has flew. Everyone better now.

Fri Jan 27th. Arrived Santa Barbara (Cal) 7 am & anchored in open bay. Afternoon make & mend clothes having a quiet nap when messman capsized bowl of sugar over one. Messroom not yet recovered. Wrote to Bill to-night.

Sat Jan 28th. At Santa Barbara. Quiet day no more sugar episodes. Writing to Alice to-night.

Sunday Jan 29th. Not the usual quiet Sunday. very heavy wind & rain storms. had considerable difficulty in hoisting all boats. Liberty men left on shore. Abated somewhat in afternoon but blew up again to-wards night. Keeping anchor watch.

Monday Jan 30th. No communication with shore too rough was going to write to-night but busy with GL until too late.

Tuesday Jan 31st. Left Santa Barbara 6 am & arrived Santa Monica 10.30. very open anchorage but leave given at 4 pm. Evidently plenty of arrangements for amusement but shall not go. Writing to Alice to-night. Some visitors came off.



HMS RALEIGH in Canadian waters

FEBRUARY

Wed Feb 1st. Started working up sections for annual course when we get to Bermuda. Beautiful weather. A great number of visitors to-day. Mail arrived 1 from Alice 10th Jan & two Ashford papers from Bill. Writing to Victoria & Seattle to-night.

Thursday February 2nd. A fine day. Uncle Dave came on board & had a look round. Going on shore to see him to-morrow Writing to Alice to-night. GO men to preliminary RP to-day.

Friday February 3rd. Went on shore after dinner. Went to Los Angeles & met Uncle Dave & spent the night with him returning on board in the morning.

Sat Feb 4th. went to Los Angeles saw ships team win Football cup. Went to Cousin Berts friends house to dinner then to reception at Overseas club. Had a good time. Saw several film studios.

Sun Feb 5th. Bert & his friend (forget his name) came on board & drank my rum. (Must make a note of that for |I don't often give it away) Went to Los Angeles & said Au Revoir to Uncle Dave & his friends. Charlie Chaplin & several more film Artistes came on board this afternoon. Very posh too.

Mon Feb 6th. Left at 5.15 Am. Arrived at San Pedro 7 AM & oiled ship. American fleet here so plenty of salutes. no more mail so will not get any till arrival at Panama about 16th. Leaving here at midnight to-night. Married 10 months to-day. Calcutta here with ratings & stores for us.

Tues Feb 7th. At sea En Voyage to Panama. Very calm, doing 15 knots. Shall not get mail till arrival on Wednesday 15th. Starting letter to Alice to-night. News that 1500

stokers from Chatham to leave navy. First results of disarmament. Wonder if it will affect us.

Wednesday Feb 8th. At sea. Splendid weather. believe we get into whites to-morrow. Opened miniature range for second spoon shoot. few more lines to Alice

Thursday Feb 9th. At sea. Nothing to record. very fine day. Finished letter to Alice.

Friday Feb 10th. At sea. GQs in forenoon. Pm carried over Sub Calibre night firing.

Saturday Feb 11th. At sea. Usual Sat Routine dodging water all day. Still splendid weather Starting another letter to Alice to-night. Much warmer now we are in the tropics

Sunday Feb 12th. At sea. Very warm. Opened miniature range forenoon & evening. Sea very calm, shoals of dolphin & an occasional turtle passed the ship Hear that our next cruise after the refit is down the Indies.

Monday Feb 13th. At sea. Still very nice weather carried out night firing full calibre. 10 Rds per gun.

Tuesday Feb 14th. At sea. believe we arrive Balboa 6.30 am. put on possible miniature target to-night Hear that mail arrives to-morrow. Posted two letters to Alice & one to Grace. Took mids to musketry to-day

Wednesday Feb 15th. Arrived Panama 6.30 Fired salute of 21 guns & another 15 after dinner. Mail arrived 7 letters & two papers from Alice. Quite a budget. Dates, 12th, 14th, 16th, 18th, 20th, 23rd, 26th of January. seems to be getting a bit worried to-wards the end of the time. Think she must be very near now. Posted letter to Alice in answer to above pile.

Thurs Feb 16th. At Panama. Very hot. Fired several salutes altogether 79 Guns. Among them being the president of Republic of Panama Governor of Canal Zone. Writing to Alice again to-night.

Friday Feb 17th. Went ashore to-night, was surprised at the City of Panama. It is thoroughly Oriental Bad news to-day hear that all foreign commission are for at least 2 years & 6 months. Must not tell Alice that yet.

Saturday Feb 18th. Left Panama 6.30 passed through canal arriving Colon about 1 pm. Weather a bit boisterous this side. not going to Havana now but arrive Bermuda on Friday 24th. wonder how Sook feels to-day.

Sunday Feb 19. At sea. Quiet day. Fresh breeze blowing. Portugese "Man-o-war" in plenty floating by.

Monday Feb 20th. At sea. Nasty weather this morning but running into calm weather again now. Not much happened to-day of note. Passing island of Hayti. Finishing letter to Alice to-night.

Tuesday Feb 21st. At sea. Rather nasty day. Got 3" crews ready for Low Angle firing. arriving Bermuda Friday.

Wednesday Feb 22nd. At sea. Afternoon pipe down, had a nap. run paravanes all day got them in 4.30 pm. getting much cooler, believe its blue clothing to morrow Seven months of the commission finishes to-day.

Thurs Feb 23rd. At sea. In blues again. GQs this morning otherwise uneventful day.

Fri Feb 24th. Arrived Bermuda 7 AM. Tug came out with target. Carried out Sub Calibre runs pm Anchored in Grassy Bay & fired GCIIIs 1" from 3" HA guns. no mail

here having gone to Havana. Rotten luck, anxious to hear from Al. Letter from Victoria BC arrived though. Writing to Alice to-night. Mail for UK closes 7 AM.

Sat Feb 25th. Weighed at 8.30 & proceeded out of harbour. Carried out sub calibre runs 7.5 Directos GLIIs at 3" 9 rounds per man independent at towed target. Eleven fired CPL Bell Bromley I, CPL Bell II & AB Smith III. quicker time 9 Rds 19 secs 9 Pfets [?]. No news from home yet. Mailbox left for home to-day.

Sun Feb 26th. Sunday Routine. Quiet day nothing to note.

Monday Feb 27th. Mail arrived with news of birth of son. A Red letter day. Two letters from Alice after she began to mend 8th & 13th Feb. Evidently the dear girl had a rough time. Two from Mum dated previous, announcing the birth. One from Will Cotterill & one from Kate. Posted one reply to Alice & writing another to-night. Overjoyed at the good news & glad exceedingly that she has pulled through. By all accounts a very pretty baby I bet Alice is happy now. Born on 1st February started the month well anyhow (was at Santa Monica)

Tuesday 28th Feb. Princess Mary's Wedding Day. Hope he doesn't get recalled like I did. piped down 10.30 am Dressed ship at night illuminated. Messmates say its not for her but for my baby. Rather a good joke that. Shall be glad to hear how Alice is getting on with our son & heir (? the heir). writing to Kate to-night.

MARCH

Wed 1st March. Carried out full Cal Reduced charge firing at BP target, had to cease fire owing to visibility, nearly hit tug. Went on shore to wet baby's hair slight headache next morning.

Thurs 2nd March. Alongside D Yd wall Slight headache is there alright. Writing to Alice to-night. Enclosed £2.0.0

Friday 3rd March. Finished returning empties. Afternoon make & mend. Went over & had a few rounds in the evening. Mail arrived, nothing from Alice but two papers. Gathered from note therein that she is alright also Baby. Answered it briefly. was disappointed, expect everybody knows all about her & Baby now bat Hubby. Letter from Bill

Sat 4th March. Usual Sat Routine, nothing to note.

Sunday 5th March. Quiet day, went for walk after tea

Monday 6th March. Been married 11 months to-day Mailboat arrived but no mails for us. Commenced disembarking Ammunition. Played football match v Constance CPOs.

Tuesday 7th March. Finished getting out Ammunition nothing else to note. shall be glad to get some news from home.

Wednesday 8th March. Prepared for taking Middies through RP course to-morrow. Heavy rain to-night. No mail till Friday.

Thurs 9th March. Commenced annual RP with Mids. Nice weather for shooting.

Fri 10th March. At range all day. mail arrived two from Alice 17th & 19th Feb. seems to be going on alright & Baby also. but has had a nasty time by all accounts. Sent one letter off to-night.

Sat 11th March. Went to Range for private practice in the evenin afternoon. Writing to Alice again to-night. Plenty of wind to-day.

Sun 12 March. Quiet day. Went for long walk past Somerset after tea.

Mon 13th March. At range all day. Mail arrived with two from Alice 22nd & 27th M Feb.

Tues 14th March. At range. Posted letter to Alice last night & caught to-days steamer. Went for a walk after tea.

Wednesday 15th March. At range. Completed pistol. Made 160 out of 210. Not a bad performance. Writing to Alice to-night.

Bermuda

Thursday March 16th. At Range. Completed Officers Pistol course Very wild evening blowing & raining.

Friday Mch 17th. Range all day. Witnessed football match in the evening. Mail arrived none from Alice but papers. writing to-night to catch steamer to-morrow. Everybody agog waiting for news of reduction etc.

Saturday Mch 18th. Went to range forenoon & got gear ready for Monday. Pm make & mend so had a nap. Still nasty weather so sp stopped on board in the evening. Wrote to cousin Bert & Lil to-night.

Sunday March 19th. Started fresh range party. Sunday routine Church parade in forenoon but not for me.

Mon Mch 20th. Started fresh range party. pm witnessed trial match for Navy team (soccer).

Tues Mch 21st. At range all day. No mail arrives till Friday & about time too. Weather fairly decent

Wed Mch 22nd. Weather very bad. Did not go to range after dinner.

Thurs Mch 23rd. Weather still bad. Played football against QD men in part of ships cup. Draw 1 – 1.

Fri Mch 24th. finished range party am. Admiral's "At Home" make & mend, mail arrived two from Alice 4th & 8th march & papers. also paper from Bill Alice none too strong yet. Don't like it a bit. Bill has moved furniture in so I suppose we live in the Mansion now. Writing to Alice to-night.

Bermuda

Sat March 25th. Not much doing to-day. Army & Navy Football match at Hamilton. Army won 3 – 2. Did not go over. Writing to Alice to-night again.

Sun March 26th. Usual quiet Sundays routine

Mon March 27th. Weather much warmer at Range all day. Letter from Alice 11th March.

Tues Mch 28th. Range all day. Writing to Alice to-night & sending in Plumleaf who leaves for England to-morrow.

Wed Mch 29th. Range all day. Weather very warm Wrote to Bill to-night. Plumleaf left for England this afternoon & took some of our ratings.

Thurs Mch 30th. Range all day. Evening went to pictures. Officers jazz on QD

Fri Mch 31st. Mail arrived, one from Alice. just got my letters in answer to the news of Baby's birth. Still very reticent about herself though. Played football to-night lost 2 – 0. Got a peice shipped off my lug for my trouble. Some Game. Wrote to Al to-night.

APRIL

Sat M April 1st. Went to Somerset to see cricket match. 12 months today went on draft leave.

Sun April 2nd. Nothing much doing.

Mon April 3rd. Mail arrived none from Alice one from Grace. letters in the ship up to the 24th. very disappointing as my last was dated 14th.

Bermuda

Tuesday April 4th. Weather too bad for shooting. Attended committee meeting at Ch & POs club re entertaining equivalent ratings of Canadian navy saw football match Navy team v rest. Rest won 5 – 2. Wrote to Alice.

Wed April 5th. Weather still bad. nothing much doing to-day.

Thurs April 6th. First Anniversary of wedding day. Went to smoker given by us to CH & Pos of Canadian Navy. Slightly foggy.

Fri April 7th. Shooting match with Aurora. Did not have usual team tried several Middies consequence Lost. Mailboat arrived, no mail just about fed up. Wrote to Alice.

Sat April 8th. Had a day's rest owing to bad foot the result of football.

Sun April 9th. Another quiet day.

Monday April 10th. Range all day. Evening at club. mail arrived none for me. Latest I have received dated 14th March. Ship in floating Dock.

Tues April 11th. Range. Pm at club.

Weds April 12th. Range. Remained on board pm. Did not write yesterday, will on Friday is I get a mail.

Thurs April 13th. Range all day. Did not get on shore p.m. Expecting mail to-morrow & hope not disappointed this time.

Bermuda

Friday April 14th. At last, 3 letters from Alice 24th 27th & 29th March. Answered at once.

Sat April 15th. Went to Warwick Camp & shot Marines. lost by 11 points. Top score again.

Sun April 16th. Not much doing. Quiet day.

Mon April 17th. Good day two letters 1st & 4th April arrived from Alice & papers. Writing to-night & sending two photos of myself & "Biff"

Tues April 18th. Range all day. Very hot though writing to Alice again to-night.

Wed April 19th. Range all day. Went to Moresbys Plain for cricket practice pm.

Thurs April 20th. More cricket after tea.

Friday April 21st. Raining hard. Eased up in afternoon but started again afterwards. Mail boat arrived no letters again. Writing to Bill to-night.

Sat April 23rd. Finished off Range party forenoon Afternoon make & mend.

Sun April 23rd. 9 months of the commission gone. Usual quiet Sunday. Wrote to Mum.

Mon April 24th. Mail arrived one from Alice 7th April & paper Some snaps of her & baby rather nice. Answered to-night.

Tues April 25th. Anzac Day. Seven years ago, & a good job too. Court Martial on board to-day. Rather cold & plenty of wind. Cambrian arrived from Halifax. Writing to Alice to-night.

Bermuda

Wed April 26th. Quiet day on board. Weather still unsettled. No news of anything yet. Writing to **Father to-night.** Started painting ships bottom to-day.

Thurs April 27th. Working in office all day getting watch bill up to date. Turned in early.

Friday April 28th. Steamer arrived with no mails so will have to wait till 5th may. Writing to Alice to-night. Attended meeting POs Club elected new secretary.

Sat April 29th. Sat routine, went for walk PM.

Sun April 30th. Quiet Sunday, nothing to record.

MAY

Mon May 1st. Undocking to-morrow, umpired cricket match this afternoon. could not play hand too bad.

Tues May 2nd. Received official news of C in Cs promotion. Constance saluted with 17 Guns. Cambrian replied with 7. Coaled ship 900 tons first time this commission. Had hand lanced today, very sore. Hear that we have to be ready for cruise by 26th May but not sure where to.

Wed May 3rd. Cleaning ship after coaling.

Thurs May 4th. Went to Hamilton to see soccer match in afternoon.

Fri May 5th. Commenced ammunitioning finished 1, 2 & 3 mags Mail arrived 3 from Alice 13th, 16th & 20th April, paper of 16th & photos of Her & Baby, not very good of her though.

Bermuda

Sat May 6th. All hands provisioning

Sun May 7th. Writing to Alice to-day as boat leaves to-morrow wearing whites.

Mon May 8th. Ammunitioning ship & oiling.

Tues May 9th. Finished Ammunt very easy going time this time. Writing to Alice to-night.

Wed May 10th. Leaving D Yd 8 am for Grassy Bay Had neck lanced to-day pretty sore. Writing to Victoria BC to-night.

Thurs May 11th. In Grassy Bay. carried out aiming tube with Mids, Act GLIs & Ord. T.C. Sick list now with neck. Writing to Fred to-night.

Fri. May 12th. Arrived in Hospital to-day and got bunged in bed.

Sat May 13th. Still in bed, some joke this over a boil, getting fat on milk diet.

Sun May 14th. same as yesterday. Several visitors from the ship, still getting hungry.

Mon May 15th. Won't let me get up to-day but have hopes to-morrow. Mail in but letters not delivered yet.

Tues May 16th. 3 letters from Lal yesterday. 24th & 28th April & first May. One from Bill. Wrote to Alice to-day haven't told her anything about Hospital. Still in bed. Had another slit in neck to-day. gives one some idea how it feels to be carved up. On Low diet not so bad Ship in Murrays Anchorage I hear.

Wed May 17th. Still condemned to bed. just about getting fed up with it too. Two papers from Al & 2 from Bill arrived this morning. See Prize money id 3-15-0 per share hope this is right. Neck much better to-day.

Thurs May 18th. Neck much better. no signs of getting up yet.

Fri May 19th. Allowed up after tea last night, had a good go at the old pipe too. Wrote to Alice last night. Think I shall catch the ship alright she leaves next Thursday. Ship doing full charge shoot at BP target to-day too. Hope they enjoy it. Weather pretty cool for time of year. Hooray! Just heard it; up after dinner & full diet.

Sat May 20th. All day up to-day. Neck much better & should be out alright by Wednesday. George, Mr Bailey & Mr Asquith came up to see one & brought programme.

Sun May 21st. still improving hopes of catching ship alright. Writing to Alice & sending programme of cruise. Rumours of going home in June 1923.

Mon May 22nd. Hopes of going back to ship on Wednesday.

Tues May 23rd. Got round the fleet surgeon alright. Going back to-morrow. Mail arrives to-morrow.

Wed May 24th. Discharged from Hospital thank goodness. Two letters from Alice 4th & 9th May & paper of 7th.

Thurs May 25th. Preparing for sea. Left Bermuda 4.30 pm on cruise. Weather fine, ship very steady. Writing letter no I to-night to Alice.

Fri May 26th. At sea. A little bit breezy. Lowered both cutters to-night to give racing crews a run. Sat Routine cleaning ship ready for Washington.

Sat May 27th. At sea. A nasty blow to-night on Star. beam

Sun May 28th. Weather better, arrived in River Potomac very wooded country both sides. Started saluting, fired one 21 one 17 one 11. Anchored about 5 pm. party landed for cinema. Writing LETTER No II to Alice to-night. Rig of day blues. proceeding to Washington 0730.

Mon May 29th. Arrived Washtn 10 am. Fired a 21 & 13 but no more shooting alongside navy yard. Plenty of nobs coming on board including Sir Auckland Geddes (Ambassador) Had a walk pm all round the Capitol. A very nicely laid out place. Rate of exchange \$4.43

Tues May 30th. Easy routine. Ships company & Officers photo taken on jetty & on board. President US came on board Payed money in forenoon. Ship open to visitors p.m. No mail arrived yet. Dance to-night but not for me.

Wed May 31st. Ship again open to visitors. mail arrived two from Alice 14th & 18th May & one from Bill Father. News of reduction scheme. No shore to-day. Writing letter No 3 to Alice. Weather very warm.



HMS RALEIGH at Washington navy Yard. Phot: [Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division](#)

JUNE

Thurs June 1st. Another gala day. General Pershing came on board during forenoon. Ships team won tug o war cup from Yankees. Raleigh won field events

Fri June 2nd. Raining hard. Dance to-night at British Embassy. Mail from Alice 22nd May. Writing to-night Letter no 4 Sent home views of Washington yesterday.

Sat June 3rd. At Washington. Boat race in fore-noon, both our crews lost. Insufficient training Rainy weather. Paper of 21st May arrived.

Sun June 4th. Church Parade on jetty. Ships Company inspected by Sir A. Geddes the ambassador. Went for invitation motor drive in evening. Saw all the Embassies also place where Disarmament confce was held. Knickerbocker Theatre where roof fell in. Saw Masonic Temple, an exact replica of Solomons Temple, & visited a club called Order of mystic shrine or something like that.

Mon June 5th. At home on QD. Plenty of notabilites on board including President USA, Gen Pershing & Mrs Roosevelt & several millionaires. Wrote No 5 to Alice to-day & sending birthday card to-night Leaving at 8 AM to-morrow for Quantico.

Tues June 6th. Left Washtn 7 am, arrived Quantico 10.0 am & tied up anl alongside jetty. Admiral went on shore & inspected American Marines this being their base on East coast. Left Quantico 4 pm & proceeded down river. Dropped pilot & anchored about 9.30 pm for the night. Much cooler away from Navy Yard Wash.

Wed June 7th. Arrived Norfolk (Virginia) 1 pm fired 21 & 17 Guns. Went alongside wharf in Navy Yard. had a look round Norfolk city in evening, not much off a place, reminds me of Chatham. As usual, "Jazzes" for ships company.

Thursday 8th June. Terrific thunderstorm. very hot here. Admiral presented with American D.S.M. for services in world war, together with an address by Theodore Roosevelt. No mail here. Navy Reductions do not affect me. wish now I had not wrote to Alice about it.

Fri 9th June. Left Norfolk 8.30 am. Fired 17 & 13 guns. Saw Admiral presented with Much cooler at sea to-day. Writing to Alice to-night (no 6). Arriving Bar Harbour Sundy.

Sat 10th June. At sea. Quiet day, Sat Routine & make & mend control parties am. Very foggy to-night. Plenty siren music. Finished & posted letter no 6 to Alice.

Sun 11 June. Foggy all night. Anchored about 4 pm off Bar Harbour. Weighed & proceeded to proper anchorage when fog lifted. Mail here letter of 26th May from Alice but no paper. Rather a pretty looking place.

Mon 12th June. At Bar Harbour, not very exciting day another mail arrived from Alice 31st May. Writing no 7 to her to-night. Weather cool & showery.

Tues 13th June. At Bar Harbour, weather very nice. Ships company & officers football match. Result 2 – 2. Range on 7x to-night, put on possible again. Writing No 8 to-night.

Wed 14th June. At Bar Hbr, A very nice day. Sailing race for ships boats pm. 2nd Cutter won. Range on 7x after tea Leaving to-morrow evening. QD men landed for march without arms. Hear that Capetown meets us before going to Montreal.

Thurs 16th June. Another nice day. Left Bar Hbr 8 pm. Ran into another fog during the night.

Fri 16 June. At sea. Forenoon sun P.V.s & Gen Quarters fog lifted in evening but came on again about 7 pm. Arriving Sydney (Cape Briton) about 3 pm tomorrow narrowly escaped collision with steamer in fog.

Sat 17th June. Arrived Sydney 3 pm & moored. a well enclosed harbour. Large iron factories etc. One letter from Alice 4th June. She has neuralgia pretty bad. Paper of 28th May arrived but 4th June paper adrift again. Wrote letter no 9 to-night.

Sun 18th June. At Sydney. Usual quiet Sunday. Visitors on Board in afternoon. Wrote to Bill to-night.

Mon 19th June. At Sydney. Wretched day raining hard writing No 10 to Alice. believe Cape Town arrives Wednesday.

Tues 20th June. At Sydney. Mail arrived. No 1 dated 6/6/22 from Alice & paper of 4th. Neuralgia much better. Also letter from Bill.

Wed 21st June. At Sydney. Rain negatived landing Party. "Cape Town" joined squadron from England 10 am. Saluted flag, replied with 7. took in 26 cases 7.5 Reduced. Writing No 11 to-night. Leaving for Charlottetown in morning.

Thurs 22nd June. Left Sydney 7 am. Coronation day dressed with masthead flags. Very heavy fog again steaming slow

Friday 23rd June. Arrived Charlottetown 6 am & anchored. Rather a pretty looking place. sports v military to-morrow. Saluted Lieut Governor 17 Guns & American Consul 7. No mail yet.

Sat 24th June. At Charlottetown. Letter no 2 from Alice & a batch of Ashford papers from Bill. Writing no 12 to her to-night. Hear that her Uncle Alec is dead.

Sun 25th June. At Charlottetown. Usual Sunday routine.

Mon 26th June. At Charlottetown. Topmen landed for Platoon & MG drill. Had shooting match with Army team lost by 40 points. Top score again, don't seem to find any talent.

Tues 27th June. Admiral "At Home" on QD so make & mend. No 3 arrived from Alice. all well at home thank goodness. Writing no 13 to-night. Weather very nice. sent cutting of short "Charlottetown"

Wed 28th June. Another quiet day. Wrote No 14 to Alice as will not be able to send any more till arrived at Montreal. Good sport watching Stilt football match on Deck.

Thurs 29th June. Am landed with 1 & 3 platoons & machine guns for drill. Pm prepared for sea. Weighed & proceeded at 8 pm.

Fri 30th June. Constance joined flag yesterday evening. To-day carried out sub cal throw off at her 4 Rds per Gun.

JULY

Sat 1st July. Am. Reduced charge full cal throw off at Constance. Ship v ship firing 24 Rds from 2 & 3 star 7.5. Rather interesting too Constance just dropped 3 or 4 Rds about 75 yds short of our ship side. Needless to say. Cease Fire at once & do the run again. Writing no 15 to-night. Anchoring in St Lawrence River at 10 pm till the morning.

Sun 2nd July. Quiet day. Under weigh about 5.30 am & proceeding up River. Anchoring again to-night & going into Montreal to-morrow. Hope there is mail there

Mon 3rd July. Arrived Montreal no mail yet. Berthed in same billet as last time.

Tues 4th July. Mail arrived letters 4 & 5 from Alice Busy day. Stokers to drill on jetty.

Wed 5 July. Went to St Johns to visit R.C.Ds & played them football also baseball.

Thurs 6 July. Returned to ship. Letter no 6 arrived from Alice. Writing to-night (no 16).

Fri 7th July. Still here. Ship swarming with children at a party given by ships company.

Sat 8th July. Usual sort of Montreal day.

Sun 9th July. Quiet day. Rig no 6s.

Mon 10th July. Last day at Montreal no other mail arrived yet.

Tues 11th July. Left Montreal 6 am & arrived Quebec 6 pm. Berthed alongside wharfe.

Wed 12th July. At Quebec. nothing much doing. very warm though.

Thurs 13th July. Landed in forenoon for Company Drill on plains of Abram.

Fri 14th July. Mail arrived, letters 8 & 9 from Alice & one from Kate. Got new rooms thank goodness. Writing no 18 to-night.

Sat 15 July. Sat Routine plenty of sand & water. Went to Drill Hall smoker.

Sun 16 July. Very hot day, plenty of visitors as usual.

Mon 17th July. Went to plains of Abram am for drill Pm went to Athletic sports. Mail arrived letter no 10 from Alice with small snap of her & Baby. Writing No 19 to-night.

Tues 18th July. Empress of Britain left with some ratings Commander Fraser leaving the ship on retirement.

Wed 19th July. Left Quebec 8 am. Exactly 12 months this morning I bid farewell to Alice. Arrived at Murray Bay 3 pm & anchored. Leave given till 7 am.

Thurs 20th July. At Murray bay. Quiet forenoon & make & mend pm. Glad to be quiet after the hullabaloo at Montreal & Quebec. Writing no 20 to-night & sending PCs of ship at Montreal.

Fri 21st July. Gen Quarters weather still very nice.

Sat 22nd July. Mail arrived 11 & 12 from Alice. Good news seems very healthy now. Held miniature rifle meeting on 7X. Did not shoot myself only to sight Rifles for them.

Sun 23rd July. Anniversary of commissioning. Ex President Taft came on board & inspected ships company. Writing no 21 to Alice to-night.

Mon 24th July. Prepared for "At home" but cancelled owing to bad weather. left Murray Bay 6 pm. Writing 22 to-night.

Tues 25th July. At sea. Exercised collision stations & abandon ship. Finishing no 22 to-night. Notice up about remitting Prize money so will send all mine home.

Wed 26th July. Arrived Dalhousie (New Brunswick) 8 AM. Capetown here also. Handed in remittance chit to-day for £29 (Prize money). Pm make & mend clothes. Visiting to Wally Saunders to-night.

Thurs 27th July. Pulp mills ashore closed down to-day to allow the employees to visit ship. Of course plenty of them. Paper of 9th arrived which ought to have arrived last mail. No letter although letters up to 14th here. Wrote 23 to-night (short letter)

Fri 28th July. At Dalhousie still. Gen Quarters this morning exercised fire in Lobbies etc. Plenty of visitors again.

Sat 29th July. Sat Routine. Letter no 13 arrived with one from Uncle George to Alice enclosed. Posted on 16th July. also letter from Bill. Paper of 16th for a wonder & Ashford paper (Bill) Writing 23 to-night.

Sun 30th July. Sunday at Dalhousie. Gun C inspected Cape Town. Quiet day on board. Weather rather cool.

Mon 31st July. Mustered night cruising stations Left Dalhousie 9 pm & exercised above at stations Fired Star Shell

AUGUST

Tues 1st August. At sea. Carried out sub calibre throw off at Calcutta. Pm cruising stations. Fired star shell at Capetown target. Also sub calibre night firing.

Wed 2nd Aug. Full charge throw off firing 22 rds. arrived at Bay of Islands (Newfoundland) 4 pm & moored. A very nice enclosed harbour but very little habitation.

Thurs 3rd Aug. Forenoon evolutions "our sheet anchor" first time this commission, but not so bad. Admiral transferred flag to Calcutta for 9 days. Saluted him with 17 guns Calcutta replying with 7. Calcutta left at 3 pm.

Fri 4th Aug. Left Bay of Islands & arrived Hawke Bay 5.30 pm. not a sign of a house anywhere Signed remittance chit for Prize money to-day. Weather rather nice. Started letter to Uncle George to-night.

Sat Aug 5th. Sat Routine. Still at Hawke Bay. Pm Interpart cutters race marines v topmen. Marines winning by 9 strokes over 1 ½ mile course. Letter 24 to Alice sent to motor launch "Hawke" the people on board agreeing to stamp all letters.

Sun Aug 6th. At Hawke Bay. Mustered by open list. Pm Interpart Heats cutters & X beat marines by 15 strokes. Stokers beat QD by 37 strokes. Final to-morrow night. Commenced 25 to-night.

Mon Aug 7th. At Hawke Bay. General drill. Cut Stream & both hedge anchors. 7X won cutters race beating stokers by 3 seconds. A splendid race almost a dead heat.

Tues Aug 8th. Left Hawke Bay 10 am. At 3.40 Pm in avoiding an iceberg, done our best to knock spots of Canada (on Labrador). What one would term an exciting finale. Nearly squashed by pinnace so thought it best to stroll over the other side of the deck. Spotted land so decided that was the best side. Cutter manned by seamen & stokers capsized saw several drown but impossible to assist them. Got line ashore from Coston Gun. Some Idiot dropped the end so sent another one. Eventually found myself being dragged through the surf on Carley Hoar. No sleep that night & no Eats.

Wed Aug 9th. Salving gear very nice too. Anyhow got most of mine. Had a delicacy Bread & CB for once. Ship evidently a total loss. Calcutta (with Admiral) & Capetown arrived. No of missing eleven.

Thurs Aug 10th. Beautiful march over the rocks to Forteau carrying about a ton of gear. Billeted now in a fisherman's cottage & waiting for ship to take us home. Said ship expected on Sunday So as I'm like the barber's cat, "off" & finished with the Raleigh apparently this log ends. The first I've ever kept and it will be the last.



HMS RALEIGH wrecked at Point Amour, Fortreau Bay, Labrador, Canada, with surviving crew ashore

Finis

On August 8th 1922, RALEIGH sped through thick fog and ran aground at L'Anse Amour, Newfoundland and Labrador. Eleven sailors were drowned in the shipwreck.

The ship was a total write-off but remained hard-aground and upright for four years. During this period, she was stripped of all salvageable items and was then destroyed with explosives in September 1926