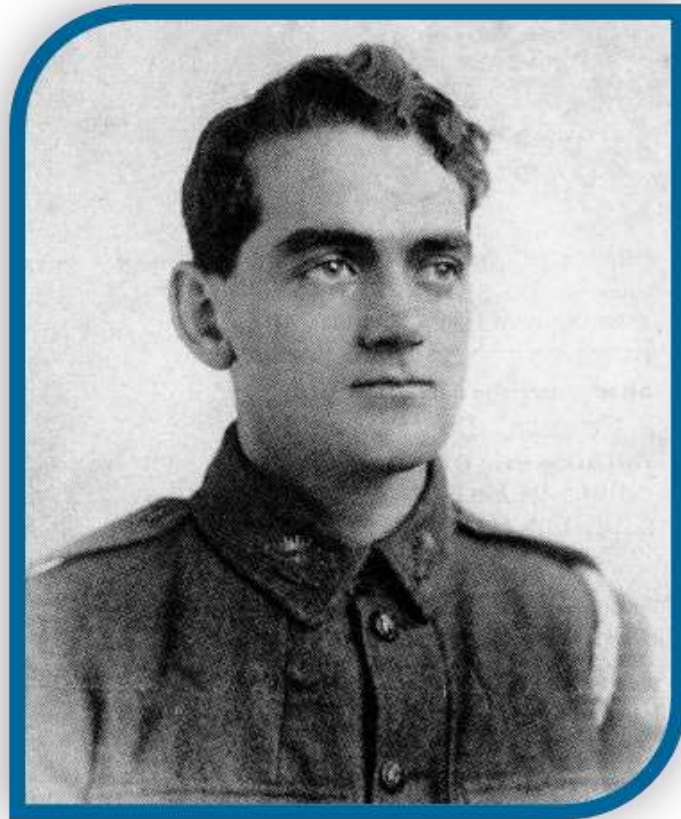


1915 - 1919 WW1 DIARIES OF LESLIE DUNSTAN



The original 1915 - 1918 diaries of Leslie Dunstan were held by his family after his death in 1952 but when a second set of diaries for 1917 - 1919 were found by chance in an East Brisbane home the Department of Veteran Affairs transcribed all five diaries and gave them to Les' family. This was reported in a Courier Mail newspaper article dated 18th November 2002.

These diaries were edited by Sue Smith, a great niece of Leslie Dunstan, in March 2021, to make the diaries more readable and understandable. The two sets of diaries for 1917 and 1918 have been amalgamated into one diary for each of those two years. The ***highlighted black notations in italics and brackets*** were made by Sue to explain the abbreviation or word mentioned in the original diaries.

**1915 DIARY
OF
LESLIE DUNSTAN
2628**

4th AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE FIELD AMBULANCE

Mounted Stretcher Bearer

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

(HOME...222 RIVER TERRACE, KANGAROO POINT, BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND...AUSTRALIA)

APRIL 2. Friday...Good Friday

Drove out to Cosgrove's farm Samford. 9 of us, at 7am.

April 3. Saturday

April 4. Sunday

April 5. Monday

Arrived home 10pm from Samford. Good time.

April 6. Tuesday

April 7. Wednesday

April 8. Thursday

April 9. Friday

April 10. Saturday

1915

April 11. Sunday

April 12. Monday

Decided to join Expeditionary Force. Interview Lieutenant Colonel Horn.

April 13. Tuesday

Passed the doctor. Sworn in.

April 14. Wednesday (*ACCEPTED IN AMC, BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND...AUSTRALIA*)

Accepted in A.M.C. (*Australian Medical Corps*)

April 15. Thursday

April 16. Friday (*TO ENOGGERA CAMP, BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND...AUSTRALIA*)

Went into Camp at Enoggera.

April 17. Saturday

April 18. Sunday

April 19. Monday

Decided to join A.I.F.

April 20. Tuesday

April 21. Wednesday

April 22. Thursday

Caught influenza.

April 23. Friday

Influenza worse.

April 24. Saturday (*ENLISTED AIF, BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND...AUSTRALIA*)

Went home, had hot bath & got rid of influenza, which left me with dizzy head.

April 25. Sunday *Australians landed at Gaba Tepe*

Carried into the hospital on stretcher.

April 26. Monday

April 27. Tuesday

April 28. Wednesday

April 29. Thursday

April 30. Friday

Came out of hospital, got 3 days sick leave, went home.

MAY 1. Saturday**May 2. Sunday**

Returned to camp at night. Presented by choir with gold wristlet watch. Maiden speech.

May 3. Monday (4th LIGHT HORSE FIELD AMBULANCE - MOUNTED STRETCHER BEARER)

Allotted to 4th Light Horse Field Ambulance as mounted stretcher bearer.

May 4. Tuesday**May 5. Wednesday****May 6. Thursday****May 7. Friday**

Inoculated.

May 8. Saturday

Farewelled by church people.

May 9. Sunday**May 10. Monday****May 11. Tuesday****May 12. Wednesday****May 13. Thursday****May 14. Friday****May 15. Saturday****May 16. Sunday****May 17. Monday****May 18. Tuesday****May 19. Wednesday****May 20. Thursday****May 21. Friday****May 22. Saturday**

Horse picquet

May 23. Sunday

May 24. Monday

May 25. Tuesday

May 26. Wednesday

May 27. Thursday

May 28. Friday

May 29. Saturday

Horse picquet. Route March through Brisbane.

May 30. Sunday

May 31. Monday

JUNE 1. Tuesday

June 2. Wednesday

June 3. Thursday

Inoculated.

June 4. Friday

June 5. Saturday

Ivy Davis's 21st birthday. Good time.

June 6. Sunday

Stables. Wet all day. Talking to Stan Stark & Jim.

June 7. Monday

Route march to Chermshire forenoon. Marking kit PM. (*In the evening*) Stayed in.

June 8. Tuesday

June 9. Wednesday

June 10. Thursday

June 11. Friday

June 12. Saturday

June 13. Sunday

1915

June 14. Monday**June 15. Tuesday****June 16. Wednesday**

Preparing to leave camp. Rode down to Pinkenba in the afternoon. Appointed Mess Orderly.

June 17. Thursday (EMBARKED BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND...AUSTRALIA)

Left Brisbane 1.30am. Slight swell running. Left by *HMAT Borda* (P & O branch service) A30.

June 18. Friday

Too sick for Mess Orderly. Out of sight of land.

June 19. Saturday

Fairly calm. Sighted Sydney Heads PM. (*In the evening*) Went very close but passed on.

June 20. Sunday

Fairly rough, a bit sick.

June 21. Monday

Ditto.

June 22. Tuesday

Sick all day. Very rough. Sliding all over decks, etc.

June 23. Wednesday

Arrived in Adelaide 11am. Not allowed to leave wharf. Big crowd in afternoon. Drizzling rain.

June 24. Thursday

Left Adelaide 1.30am. Wrote letters to home, Mrs Davis, Jas. C., Will Cosgrove.

June 25. Friday

Crossing Australian Bight. Very rough.

June 26. Saturday

Pay day (7/-), calmer. Lecture 10am-11am.

June 27. Sunday

Church 11am. Hospital Orderly at night.

June 28. Monday

Short lecture forenoon. Shown surgical instruments by Captain Higgins. Very calm.

June 29. Tuesday

Lecture by Captain Higgins. Vaccinated 3pm. Past Cape Leeuwin 4am. Concert at night. Rotten.

June 30. Wednesday

Very calm, nothing to do. Fire drill.

JULY 1. Thursday

Calm. Practiced boat drill with lifebelts.

July 2. Friday

Calm. Lecture in forenoon. Crook with rheumatic pain in hip. Vaccination beginning its work.

July 3. Saturday

Heavy swell. Rolling terribly. Feeling a bit off with vaccination. Concert held by 4th L.H. F. A. (***Light Horse Field Ambulance***) Very good.

July 4. Sunday

Slept. Well.

July 5. Monday

Lecture in morning. Bandage practice afternoon. Found out where we were in Marconi Room. Four days from Equator.

July 6. Tuesday

Had vaccination dressed. Stiff and sore.

July 7. Wednesday

Sleepless night from vaccination.

July 8. Thursday

Slept well all day.

July 9. Friday

Vaccination dressed, a bit crook.

July 10. Saturday

Vaccination a lot easier.

July 11. Sunday

Ditto.

July 12. Monday

Ditto.

July 13. Tuesday

Sighted land for first time. Island off African coast. Very high cliffs.

July 14. Wednesday

Entered Gulf of Aden. Mess Orderly.

July 15. Thursday

Very warm.

July 16. Friday

Past Aden (invisible) 10am. Drew level with Perim Island & lighthouse 6.15pm. 13th week in A.I.F.

1915

July 16. Friday

Past Aden (invisible) 10am. Drew level with Perim Island (**Yemen**) & lighthouse 6.15pm. 13th week in A.I.F.

July 17. Saturday

Level with Brothers lighthouse & island 9am. 12 Apostles, rising abruptly from the water, very barren. Very hot & muggy. Passed large passenger boat 9.30pm.

(NB: There are 3 lighthouses located in the Red Sea. Daedalus is on land, Sanganeb is located on a reef but the third one is situated on Brothers Islands, 2 small islands that are quite barren and found in the middle of the Red Sea. I believe this is the lighthouse that Les is referring to.)

July 18. Sunday

Cool breeze blowing outside. Hot inside. Land on both sides (visible).

July 19. Monday

Still in Red Sea. Very hot during day strong cool wind at night. Bad time with vaccination.

July 20. Tuesday

Sighted land ahead.

July 21. Wednesday

Anchored at Suez at 7am. Egyptian hawkers pulled along side selling grapes, cigarettes, etc. Very hot. Quaint boats & dress.

July 22. Thursday (DISEMBARKED SUEZ...EGYPT)

Hospital Orderly. Pulled into wharf at 6.30am. Not allowed off. Very amusing to watch the niggers. Reveille 4am. Disembarked at 6pm.

July 23. Friday (ALMAZA CAMP, HELIOPOLIS...EGYPT)

Arrived Heliopolis Almaza Camp, No. 2 Oasis 2.30am, put on guard waggons. Arrived camp 5am. Tinned beef & biscuits breakfast. No dinner. Bought tea in Heliopolis. Pitched tents afternoon.

July 24. Saturday

Reveille 4am. Parade 4.30am. Fixed up kitchen, galley, etc. Baggage guard 4pm till Sunday 4pm. Watch 2am to 4am. Wrote home.

July 25. Sunday

Guard 12pm-4pm. Leave 5pm for Cairo. Didn't see much, returned about 8pm.

July 26. Monday

Tent Orderly. Stretcher drill. Erected hospitals. Baggage guard 11.15pm till 1.15am.

July 27. Tuesday

Baggage guard 11.15am-1.15pm. Wrote to Home, Mrs Davis, Postcard to Jim.

July 28. Wednesday

Stayed in camp. Paid P.T.200 (**Piastres...Egyptian currency**). Inspection of 4th Brigade 7am. Heliopolis at night.

1915

July 29. Thursday

Stretcher drill & route march. No. 1 Stretcher Squad.

July 30. Friday

Reveille 4am. Fall in 5.30am. Breakfast 9am no duties until 4pm. Stretcher drill & lecture till 5.30pm. tea.

July 31. Saturday

Received letter from home. Ditto. Riot in Cairo. All leave stopped.

AUGUST 1. Sunday

Church parade at 6.30am.

August 2. Monday

Usual routine. New spring & glass put in watch P.T.12.

August 3. Tuesday

Ditto.

August 4. Wednesday

Visited Palace hospital 2pm.

August 5. Thursday

Mess Orderly. No. 1 stretcher squad.

August 6. Friday

Usual routine.

August 7. Saturday RAMADAN (Egyptian Xmas)

Ditto.

August 8. Sunday

Went to Pyramids with Albert Cunningham. Disappointed with the general aspect.

August 9. Monday

Paid P.T.1.00. Wrote to home (2), J.C. (2), Will Cosgrove, Postcards to Janie, Syd, (*Older brother*) Jandowae, home. Frank (*Younger brother*), M. Maddocks, A. Grey, A. Harris, Mrs Nalder, F. Keith, N. Williams. Book of views home.

August 10. Tuesday

Route march 5.30am to Obelisk & Virgin's Well. 15 miles.

August 11. Wednesday

Went through the bazaars at Cairo. A. Cunningham, Ray Ramsey.

August 12. Thursday

No. 2 Stretcher Squad.

1915

August 13. Friday

Saw Albert Cunningham 8pm.

August 14. Saturday

Mess Orderly.

August 15. Sunday

Church parade 6.45am. No. 2 Stretcher Squad. Trip up Nile. Black wasser. **(Water)** Feeling well.

August 16. Monday

No. 1 Stretcher Squad.

August 17. Tuesday

Visited Citadel, Cairo. Route march through Abbassia. Went through Citadel mosque.

August 18. Wednesday

Route march through Heliopolis 11 miles (5.30am). No. 1 Stretcher Squad.

August 19. Thursday

Mail Orderly.

August 20. Friday

Received letters from Ina, Janie & Will & Margaret Cosgrove & Esme Labbet.

August 21. Saturday

Peter Cobb & I had our photo taken & Heliopolis (2pm). Went to Cairo. Returned to draw rations. Went again to the Kursaal.

August 22. Sunday

Church parade. Stayed in all day.

August 23. Monday

Long march through sand to Power House 9 miles.

August 24. Tuesday

Usual march. (27 Aug) Wrote letters to home, D. Davis, I. Davis, Monty, J. Charlton, Postcards to Ina Cosgrove & Jim.

August 25. Wednesday

Route march. Zoological garden in afternoon. Heard a rumour we were go away. At 9pm were paraded & detailed to go.

August 26. Thursday

Left camp at 7.15am special car to Cairo. Left Cairo for Alexandria at 9.35am arrived Alexandria 1.25pm. Motored to camp.

August 27. Friday (GABBARI CAMP, ALEXANDRIA...EGYPT)

(Australian) camp Gabbari. Alexandria. Had swim in briny. Unloaded 600 odd wounded 'Tommies'

1915

(British soldiers) from *Salta* hospital ship. 1.30pm till 9pm. Two died.

August 28. Saturday

8pm Driven down to the *HMS Nile* finished at 1.10pm. Went to Alexandria (city). Splendid city. 'Tommies' **(British soldiers)** on boat.

August 29. Sunday (PRIVATE WILLIAM DUNSTAN...VC RECIPIENT)

Driven down to station in motors to load train 8am-11.15am...Australians. Met Private Dunstan, no relation, going home to Australia. I read later that this chap won Victoria Cross. Went Cinema Iris 9.30pm till 12 midnight, camp 12.45am.

August 30. Monday

Unloaded *HMHS Formosa*. Very slow by cradle & crane 11am to 5pm. Paid P.T.100 up till last Thursday.

August 31. Tuesday

No work. Went to Alexandria.

SEPTEMBER 1. Wednesday

Left at 11am unloaded *HMAT Itonus* (A50) 489 men finished 7.15pm. 'Tommies'. **(British soldiers)**

September 2. Thursday

HMHS Gascon 8am till 12.30pm. Australians & New Zealanders. One died.

September 3. Friday

No work, swim in morning.

September 4. Saturday

Ditto. Swim in afternoon.

September 5. Sunday

Turned out 9.15am. *HMHS Gloucester Castle* 850 men Australian & English. Finished 1.45pm. Usual swim 4pm.

September 6. Monday

Paid P.T.100. No work. Swim in afternoon. Alexandria at night. Not too well. Crook tucker.

September 7. Tuesday

11am transferred wounded *HMAT Marathon*. Nearly all walking patients. Alright again. Pictures at night. Very dusty in camp.

September 8. Wednesday

No work. Usual swim. Stayed in at night.

September 9. Thursday

11 o'clock left camp marched to *HMAT Beltana* (sister ship of *HMAT Borda*) A30, but left again & went to *HMHS Salta*, had dinner, started at 1.30pm finished 8.15pm. Australians. Received letters from home, Janie.

1915

September 10. Friday

No work all day. Wrote a couple of letters. Pictures at night. Iris Cinema.

September 11. Saturday

Left camp at 2.30pm. Transferred Australians & New Zealanders from *HMHS Assaye* finished at 7pm. Nearly all walking patients. Started to learn French.

September 12. Sunday

First Sunday free. Went Presbyterian Church. Full of soldiers & nurses. Military Chaplain.

September 13. Monday

Nothing to do. Dismissed at 3.30pm. Had swim went to city at night.

September 14. Tuesday

Taken to wharf unloaded *HMHS Karapara* 8am-11.30am. General leave from dinner time.

September 15. Wednesday

Loaded *HMHS Asturias* 8am till 5pm with over 1,000 convalescent 'Tommies' (**British soldiers**) for England. Finest hospital ship in world. Paid P.T.100. Bought Laffitte's French self-taught P.T.7.

September 16. Thursday

Called out with 5mins notice, barely time for a shave at 7.30am to unload *HMHS Glenart Castle*. Finished 3.30pm very tired. New boots making leg weary. Had our swim went to pictures alone at night...Iris.

September 17. Friday

Another holiday dismissed at 1.30pm. Went to gardens at Nouzha. Had tea in city. Pictures at night. Wrote letters to Mother, Syd, Janie, Margaret, Daisy Davis, Miss A. Hamilton Jandowae, also Greek paper for father.

September 18. Saturday

Ditto dismissed à une heure trente. (**1.30pm**) Had new glass put in watch P.T.3. Bought Hugo French Simplified P.T.17. Came home 5.30pm. Studied Francais (**French**) until 9pm.

September 19. Sunday

Had trip on hospital train, Alexandria to Heliopolis, as Orderly. Left at 4pm arrived Heliopolis 7.15pm. Went out to camp for mail. Got none. Went back to Cairo had trouble with 'redcaps' (**Military Police**) twice. Arrived Cairo 9pm. Made enquiries train left at 10pm. Cup of tea at Red Cross. Train left at 10pm had supper of tinned chicken etc. Very good. Slept until 1.30am arrived at Alexandria walked to wharf driven home in ambulance motor.

September 20. Monday

Arrived at camp 2.15am this morning. Nothing to do all day. Had swim before dinner. Issued with new felt hat. Bought Puttees P.T.10.

September 21. Tuesday

Nothing doing all day until six o'clock. Motors called round & took us to station to unload hospital train of wounded from Persian Gulf. Wrote letter home Will Cosgrove.

1915

September 22. Wednesday

No boats in. Went to lecture at night by a Mr Kennedy, foreign missionary 19 years in Turkey & six months as a prisoner of war in Turkey.

September 23. Thursday

Fell in 9am for wharves. Loaded Australian hospital ship *Karoola* with Australians for England, convalescents. All nurses, officers, etc. even crew Australian. Good dinner. Nothing to do from 11am until 4pm. Italian boat nearby throwing apples over all day.

September 24. Friday

Unloading *HMAT Orsova* from 9am-12pm. Took mental case to 15th General Hospital American - Cosmograph (**Cinema**) at night. Wrote to home. Ina & Will Cosgrove.

September 25. Saturday

Unloaded *HMHS Guildford Castle*. Went with English prisoner to Ras-el-tin (deserted 21 days at Gallipoli, got 9 months). Unloaded luggage of English & Australian nurses off *HMHS Grantully Castle*. Returned to camp at 3pm. Went to Iris Cinema at night. French pictures. Paid P.T.100. One letter from Mother & 1 from Clem, also 'Queenslander'. (**Newspaper**)

September 26. Sunday

9am loading *HMHS Goorkha* finished at 3pm. Went straight down to *HMHS Seang Choon* (Japanese) & unloading about 250 Gurkhas & Sikhs, finished at 5 pm. Studied.

September 27. Monday

Loaded *HMHS Neuralia* with convalescents for England, finished at 12noon.

September 28. Tuesday

Nothing doing, slept all morning, studied PM. (**In the evening**) Theatre Moderne at night, pictures, good light system.

September 29. Wednesday

Loaded *HMHS Guildford Castle* until 11.30am. Then to *HMHS Valdivia*. Broke all previous records. Loaded one train load first, then started at 2.30pm to load motors. Took off 325 cot cases in 2½ hrs, a record. Very hot on board. Letters from Janie, Ina, Daisy Davis. Met a Miss Lyons from Rockhampton. Arrival of 4 Corporals & 1 Sergeant from Heliopolis.

September 30. Thursday

No work all day.

OCTOBER 1. Friday

Taken to No. 5 dock in horse waggons. Very slow day. Crane working both ends. Mobilisation of Greeks. Thousands of Greeks, women & children, marched past our boat (*Somali* No. 14) en route to ships waiting for them.

October 2. Saturday

Unloaded *HMHS Somali* into horse waggons, very slow day, finished at 5pm. Stayed in at night. Cold in head. Stiff neck. Sent F.S.P.C. (**Field Service Postcard**) to Ina Cosgrove.

1915

October 3. Sunday

Wrote to Jim. Nothing to do all day. Met Rev. (**Joseph**) Lundie at Presbyterian Church.

(NB: Rev Lundie was a Presbyterian Minister from Toowoomba so Les probably knew him from when the Dunstan family lived in Toowoomba)

October 4. Monday

Unloaded *HMHS Soudan*, then the *HMHS Glenart Castle* each with about 600 men, from 8am till 7.15pm.

October 5. Tuesday

HMHS Dongola 8am-12noon. *HMHS Maheno* 1pm-8.30 pm. Very good ship as far as tucker goes but bad for working stretchers. No. 3 boat with Australians on board (700).

October 6. Wednesday

Paid P.T.100. Unloaded nurses' luggage from *HMHS Delta* direct from England finished at 1pm. Letter from home.

October 7. Thursday

Volunteered to go down to *HMHS Galeka* help RAN unload, finished 1pm dismissed. Looked through Abattoirs, saw killing.

October 8. Friday

Loaded up the *Maheno* with Australians & New Zealanders for England, finished at 4pm.

October 9. Saturday

Went down early to *HMHS Kanowna*, saw Mr Nalder a 3rd engineer off Suva. cousin. Loaded train for Cairo with Australians & New Zealanders. Went down to see Mr Nalder after tea but found that she had pulled out into the harbour.

(NB: Les wrote letters regularly to a Ray & Chas Nalder back in Australia so it's possibly their cousin)

October 10. Sunday

HMHS Gloucester Castle 8am till 11.30am. 415 cot cases. Marched to *HMHS Salta* had a rotten dinner, started work at about 2pm. Took off 685 cot cases, two trains, finished 8pm. Over 1,050 cot cases shifted today, very tired at night. Very heavy week.

October 11. Monday

Slept all day.

October 12. Tuesday

Loaded *HMHS Gloucester Castle* for England. Slight storm at night.

October 13. Wednesday

HMHS Somali No. 14 unloading 10.30am. Paid P.T.68.2.

October 14. Thursday

Nothing to do. Took watch to be cleaned.

1915

October 15. Friday

Unloaded *HMHS Seang Choon* until 3.30pm then unloaded a few from *HMHS Neuralia* until 5pm. Had slight accident with cars while coming home. Three cars smashed into one another, no one hurt, got stiff neck after it though. *HMHS Kanowna* left for Australia.

October 16. Saturday

Another holiday all day. Paid P.T.15 for watch to be cleaned.

October 17. Sunday

Invited out to tea by one of the nurses, Miss Smythe. Everybody went & had a good time.

October 18. Monday

Had morning off. Left for *HMHS Valdivia* at 2pm unloaded until 5pm. Had a look at *HMAT Borda* carrying troops to Dardenelles.

October 19. Tuesday

Wrote letters to N. Williams, J. Charlton, home, Janie. No work. Paid P.T.78.2.

October 20. Wednesday

Unloaded *HMHS Delta* about 520 patients 2pm till 8pm half Australians. Rotten night with fleas, etc. up all night till 2am.

October 21. Thursday

2 letters from Janie & 1 from home. Bought Vest Pocket Kodak (**Camera**) at P.T.175, 1 roll film P.T.5. All signed a petition to go to the front.

October 22. Friday

Loaded *HMHS Egypt* 8am-3pm. Unloaded *HMHS Dongola* 3pm-8 pm. Moved into new tents.

October 23. Saturday

Unloaded *HMHS Glengorm Castle* (Indians) 12.30pm till 3.45pm. Went to a dinner given by the Sisters of the Red Cross. Good. Arrived home at 10.30pm.

October 24. Sunday

No boats. General leave from 3pm. Went through Italian cemetery. Took two photos of tombs (ancient). Kursaal at night.

October 25. Monday

Wrote letters to home (2), Janie, Jim, N. Williams, Daisy Davis. Loaded *HMHS Delta* from 8.30am till 12noon. Returned to camp for dinner expecting to go out later. No to do in afternoon, dismissed 4pm.

October 26. Tuesday

Camp guard. Remainder out all day with the *HMHS Dover Castle* & *HMHS Devanha*, unloading.

October 27. Wednesday

Loaded *HMHS Glengorm Castle* 360 convalescents. Paid P.T.68.2. Finished 12 o'clock, afternoon off. Went to Pompey's Pillar, took two photos. Pictures at night.

1915

October 28. Thursday

Loaded *HMHS Asturias* with about 600 8am-5pm. *HMHS Salta* 6pm-7.30pm.

October 29. Friday

Loaded *HMHS Asturias* 8.30am till 12pm. Went home for dinner, returned again to load from 1.30pm till 2.15pm. Went to Anfushi Baths & Nouzha afterwards.

October 30. Saturday

Go for films. Loaded *HMHS Ebani* 10am. Unloaded *HMHS Glenart Castle* 380 from 1.15pm till 4pm. Row with chummies in camp at 10.30pm.

October 31. Sunday

Mail day. No work all day. Went through Italian cemetery. Letters to Janie, Percy Green, May Maddocks.

NOVEMBER 1. Monday

Loaded *HMHS Salta*, 350 convalescents. Dismissed at 2.30pm. Wrote a letter to D. Davis.

November 2. Tuesday

HMHS Grantully Castle first boat from Salonica carrying survivors of the torpedoed *SS Marquette*. Went to *HMHS Goorkha* at 2pm, 422 cases, 44 cot cases. *Grantully Castle* 370 cases.

November 3. Wednesday

Paid P.T.68.2. Told on first parade that we would go back to Heliopolis on Friday night. No work all day. Went to Pompey's Pillar.

November 4. Thursday

Unloaded *HMHS Seang Choon* 350, 70 ambulance cases. Dismissed at 12noon. Captain Vernon presented Corps with football.

November 5. Friday

Unloaded *HMHS Lanfranc*. Went for a sail round the harbour, took several photos. Letter from Jolimont.

November 6. Saturday

Loaded *HMHS Goorkha* 9am till 11am. Did some developing. Afternoon off. Went to Luna Park, had skate.

November 7. Sunday

Unloaded *HMHS Nevasa* 8.45am till 5pm 700. 250 cot cases. Wrote letters Jean, Father (P.C.) (**Postcard**), Mother, Janie, E. Harris. Found field glasses.

November 8. Monday

No work. Luna Park skating at night.

November 9. Tuesday

HMHS Galeka 500. Trip to Cairo on No. 4 train. Received tin of sweets, etc. from home. Left docks 9am, arrived Cairo 12.45pm, left at 4pm, arrived Alexandria 7.15pm.

1915

November 10. Wednesday

Unloaded *HMHS Grantully Castle* met Nurse Lyons again. Paid P.T.68.2.

November 11. Thursday

Unloaded *HMHS Delta* 9.30am till 4.30pm. Sent Field Service P.C.s (**Postcards**) to home, Ina, Janie & Will Cosgrove, F. Keith, E. Harris, & J. Charlton.

November 12. Friday

Unloaded *HMHS Karapara* 8.30am till 12pm. Skating at Luna Park, met Maggie Cuzzer, made appointment to meet same next Friday.

November 13. Saturday

Went 43 dock at 11am returned at 12noon, went back again at 2pm unloaded *HMHS Rewa* till 6.30pm. Motored to *HMHS Neuralia*, worked till 8pm.

November 14. Sunday

General leave from 10.30am. Took several photos out Mustapha way. (**British Convalescent Camp Depot**)

November 15. Monday

Went with horse waggons to take nurses to station. Unloaded *HMHS Maheno* (New Zealanders) 1pm till 5pm. Good tea.

November 16. Tuesday

Loaded *HMHS Neuralia* 9am till 12noon. Left the docks at 3.45pm. Refused to eat dinner thrown at us.

November 17. Wednesday

Kit inspection 10.30am. Paid P.T.68.2 at 2.30pm. Luna Park.

November 18. Thursday**November 19. Friday**

To meet Miss Cuzzer at Luna Park. Loaded *HMHS Rewa* 9am till 12noon. Luna Park at night.

November 20. Saturday

Wedding cakes from H. Vickers. Camp guard. Parcel from home, mittens. Received letters from Mother, Father, Clem (**Sister**), Frank, E. Harris, J. Cosgrove (2), Ray Nalder, Monty.

November 21. Sunday

Unloaded *HMHS Syria* 8am-12pm then the *HMHS Dongola* 2pm till 6pm. Took photos of Indians washing. Wrote letters to home & Janie (Postcard).

November 22. Monday

Holiday all day. Theatre Moderne at night. When I got home again I found 6 letters & 1 parcel of socks from home. Letters from Syd, Jim (2), D. Charlton, M. Maddocks, Will Cosgrove.

November 23. Tuesday

Unloaded *HMHS Somali* 8am-12noon. Wrote letters to home, (P.C.) (**Postcard**) to Janie, Syd, O. Rowntree.

1915

November 24. Wednesday

Paid P.T.68.2. Skating Rosette Gardens P.T.8. Loaded *HMHS Dover Castle* for England.

November 25. Thursday

Nothing to do all day. Did a bit of printing. Wrote letters to Jim Charlton, Monty, M. Maddocks.

November 26. Friday

Unloaded *HMHS Devanha* 10am-6pm. Letters from D. Davis & A. Gray.

November 27. Saturday

Home all day. Wrote to D. Davis.

November 28. Sunday

Home all day. Wrote to Clem & Mother, sent 17 negatives home, F.S.P.C. (**Field Service Postcard**) to R. Nalder, A. Gray. Worked during morning on boats.

November 29. Monday

Very rough & windy. Hospital ship couldn't cross bar. Waited on wharf till 12noon then came home again for rest of day. Very wet & windy all night, expecting tent to come down.

November 30. Tuesday

Spent morning on quay 43 waiting for boat. Returned for dinner, back again to dock at 2pm. Loaded *HMHS Delta* 502 cases (251 cot cases).

DECEMBER 1. Wednesday

Unloaded *HMHS Carisbrook Castle* 9am till 12.30pm. Paid P.T.68.2. Left for 45 dock at 2pm. *HMHS Assaye*. Unloaded.

December 2. Thursday

Started *HMHS Lanfranc* at 5.15pm finished at 7pm taking off 160 cot cases. 230 walked off. Mail day.

December 3. Friday

Called out at 9am unloaded *HMHS Grantully Castle* until 12pm. Took two chaps to Mustapha (**British Convalescent Camp Depot**) as prisoners. Kursaal.

December 4. Saturday

Unloaded *HMHS Essequibo* (1,010 cases) continued from yesterday afternoon finished at 12. Walked to *HMHS Galeka* finished at 5pm. Went *HMHS Dongola* finished at 8.30pm. Total for the day, about 1,700 cases, not including those taken off yesterday from *Essequibo*.

December 5. Sunday

Finished *HMHS Dongola* 11.30am, Australians. Waited for the *HMHS Oxfordshire* to come in till 3pm, finished at 7pm. Very good tea on board.

December 6. Monday

Loaded *HMHS Glengorm Castle* (Dock 23) 8am till 12noon. Wrote card home, afternoon off.

December 7. Tuesday

Loaded *HMHS Galeka* (Dock 23) 10am-12noon. Unloaded *HMHS Asturias* (Dock 26) 2.30pm till 5pm.

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400 cot cases, a record.

December 8. Wednesday

Loaded *HMHS Essequibo* (Dock 23) 10-11.30am. Unloaded *HMHS Gloucester Castle* (Dock 26) 12noon till 4pm. *HMHS Devanha* (Dock 45) 4pm till 7.30pm. Letters from A.E.C., one from Jim Charlton (dated 17 Oct).

December 9. Thursday

Moved into new camp across the road 7.30am. Paid after breakfast P.T.68.2. Took 1 film to be developed. Wrote to A.E.C. & Janie Cosgrove.

December 10. Friday

Left camp at 10.10am. *HMHS Gascon* (23) till 12noon. *HMHS Delta* (Dock 42) till 6pm, *Tagus* (Dock 45) till 7.30pm. About 200 Australians 58 cots.

December 11. Saturday

HMHS Madras (Dock 44) 9 till 12noon, *HMHS Glenart Castle* (Dock 45), 2pm till 5pm. Parcel from Janie Cosgrove. Wrote to Miss Campbell (T.G.S.) (**Toowoomba Grammar School**), Janie.

December 12. Sunday

Took 63 cot cases off *HMHS Goorkha* (Dock 46) but had to put them on again on account of no trains. Went to camp for dinner, returned to dock 45 again and after messing about a lot finished at 3.35pm.

December 13. Monday

Unloading *HMHS Dongola* (23) 10am till ?

December 14. Tuesday

Unloaded *HMHS Grantully Castle* (23) till 12noon, then the *HMHS Lanfranc* (44) till 5.15pm.

December 15. Wednesday

Paid P.T.68.2. Loaded *HMHS Goorkha* 1pm till 2pm 150 cases. Unloaded *HMHS Oxfordshire* till 5pm over 900 Australians. Small boat from Tripoli *Rasheed*. 150 cases.

December 16. Thursday

Nothing today all day.

December 17. Friday

Unloaded *HMHS Morea* 11am till 12.30pm. Splendid dinner on board. Invited to Quarantine Station for the evening. Went to the Quarantine Station to enjoy a Christmas dinner given by Lady Carnarvon & several others. We had a splendid time with turkey, plum pudding, etc. Concert after, left at 10.30pm.

December 18. Saturday

Three letters. Mother, Mrs Nalder, May Maddocks. No work all day. Wrote Mother, Jim Charlton.

December 19. Sunday

Letters from Mother, Janie C. (2), Jim, Will Cosgrove, Marie Hamilton (Jandowae), May Brown, E. Harris, Maud Hamilton (Jolimont), Chas Nalder. 3 papers & 1 large parcel from home containing pudding, etc. Unloaded *HMHS Seang Choon* 9am till 2.30pm. Got a Gurkha's knife.

December 20. Monday

Loaded train with convalescents for Cairo, Australians, finished 10.30am, dismissed for day. Wrote to Mother (2), Janie & Will Cosgrove, May Brown, Misses Hamilton (Jolimont), Fred Hudson, E. Harris, Chas Nalder, May Maddocks, 11am till 9pm.

December 21. Tuesday

Nothing to do all day. Wrote to Syd. (**Brother**) Skating & Alhambra Theatre at night till 12.30am. 7 drivers returned to Heliopolis.

December 22. Wednesday

Letter to Will Cosgrove, & D. Davis. Holiday. Paid P.T. 68.2. Skating. Parcel from Mr Reynolds (Uncle) Melbourne.

December 23. Thursday

Unloaded *HMHS Assaye* 2pm till 3.45pm. Unloaded *HMHS Dunluce Castle* 4pm till 7.30pm.

December 24. Friday (20TH BIRTHDAY)

Birthday (20th). Telephone Orderly. Wrote Mr Davis, Greg Bayard, Grace Vanstone, D. Davis.

December 25. Saturday

Letters from Mother (2), Uncle Dick, Janie (Diary), Frank, Syd, C. Harris, Jim, Will Cosgrove, Grace Vanstone. Christmas dinner given by Lady McConachie. Splendid. Turkey & plum duff (**Pudding**) galore. Half a dozen girls to wait on us. Theatre Moderne at night.

December 26. Sunday

Loaded *HMHS Dunluce Castle* 8.30am. till 11.30am. Train arrived at 2pm & 5pm. Unloaded *HMHS Devanha*.

December 27. Monday

Storm in morning. Letter from Janie. Unloaded *HMHS Delta*. Two transports from Gallipoli (Australians), several Toowoomba boys on board. Finished *Delta* at 5pm.

December 28. Tuesday

Heavy storm during morning. No work all day. Went in for spurs during morning. Nouzha Gardens afternoon.

December 29. Wednesday

Loaded *HMHS Lanfranc* till 12 o'clock. Paid P.T.68.2. Dismissed for afternoon. Stayed home. Wrote letters home, also Janie Cosgrove.

December 30. Thursday

Loaded train of convalescents for Cairo, Australians & British. Finished 10.30am. Billies from Red Cross (puddings mouldy). Dismissed during afternoon. Casino at night.

December 31. Friday

Parcel from home. Chocolate, soap, socks, etc. Did a bit of washing. General leave. Skating at Rosette Gardens 4pm till 9pm. Bonza time. Very tired going home at 10pm.

1916 DIARY

OF

LESLIE DUNSTAN

2628

4th LIGHT HORSE FIELD AMBULANCE
Mounted Stretcher Bearer

&

3rd AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE
Stretcher Bearer

3rd Infantry Brigade

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

JANUARY 1. Saturday (ALEXANDRIA...EGYPT)

We were very fortunate in starting this year with a holiday. The Captain & several of the boys went for a picnic on donkeys during the afternoon. Took off a few proofs during morning. Sergeant Caddon, Corporal Saunders & Private Shaw came down from Heliopolis at about 11am. For dinner we had plum pudding given by the people of England for the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. Slept nearly all afternoon. Wrote letters Home (1), Janie Cosgrove, Grace Vanstone, Aggy Gray, Jim Charlton, also Private E. Harris.

January 2. Sunday

Spent another lazy day doing nothing. Very wet all day. Wrote letter to Gladys & Emily Dowle, S.A. Australian mail arrived at 4pm. Letters from home, Janie Cosgrove, Ern Harris, Ina Cosgrove. One paper from Miss Campbell T.G.S. (**Toowoomba Grammar School**) Went church. First Methodist church opened in Alexandria. Full church 6pm till 7pm.

January 3. Monday

Very wet all day. Slept all morning. After dinner half a dozen of us decided to go skating. We were waiting for 3 o'clock to go, but at 2 o'clock orders came to proceed in motor ambulances to Quay. No. 23 to unload the *H.M.H.S. Grantully Castle*. Finished at 4.45pm. Very wet & cold so stayed in at night.

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January 4. Tuesday

Expecting to leave Alexandria. All leave stopped but at 5pm we found out that nothing was in the rumour, so got a late pass & went skating with Ball & Wilson. Left there at 8.30pm then went to Kursaal to see the monkey, Prince Charlie. Had to leave before end to catch last car home. Arrived home 12.30am. Good time with motor drivers.

January 5. Wednesday

Left camp at 9am for route march to Alexandria. Arrived back at 10.30am then we were paid P.T.68.2. (**Piastre...Egyptian currency**) Stayed in camp remainder of day & went to bed early. Had a sleepless night.

January 6. Thursday

Woke up with crook, dizzy head. Went on sick parade. Very miserable all day.

January 7. Friday

Route march. Saw old fort with moat & drawbridge. Very interesting. Spent evening at American Cosmograph. (**Cinema**) Late leave passes stopped, expecting to leave for Cairo at 11pm. Alright after illness.

January 8. Saturday (ALMAZA CAMP, HELIOPOLIS...EGYPT)

Were told to pack up for Heliopolis at first parade. Driven to Ramleh Station in Horse ambulance, left at 12noon, arrived Cairo 3.30pm. Met by horse ambulance driven to Heliopolis, arrived camp 5.15pm. Had some tea then went to city with Peter Cobb till 8.30pm. Slept in hospital tent. Very cold. Present address...Almaza Camp, No. 2 Oasis, Heliopolis.

January 9. Sunday

Very cold night. Got up at 6.30am. Very interested in manoeuvres of aeroplanes (biplanes) being tested, flying right above our heads. Breakfast at 8.30am. Played tennis till 12 o'clock (dinner). Slept during afternoon. Went Kursaal at night with Ern Thorpe, met Norman Charlton. Wrote short letter home...2.

January 10. Monday

Parade at 3.40am. Short route march. Breakfast 8.30am. Cleaned harness till 12noon. Escorted prisoner to Abyssia, (**British Barracks in Cairo**) 1pm. Fixed up new horse-lines till 4.45pm.

January 11. Tuesday

6th & 7th Field Ambulances left for Tel-el-Kebir early morning. Letter from Aunt Amy. Went for ride on one of the horses through Heliopolis. Wrote P.C. (**Postcard**) to A.E.C. letters to Auntie Amy.

January 12. Wednesday

Short route march as usual. Easy day, nothing to do. Met Albert Cunningham at about 5pm. Went to Music Hall with Australians Cunningham, Bob Greenbury & Roy Ramsay.

January 13. Thursday

Nothing to do. Went for route march about 100 yards from camp & sat behind a small hill, Corporal in charge. Paid P.T.75. Very dusty & windy. Letter from Mrs & Daisy Davis dated 11 Nov 1915.

January 14. Friday

Had a trip to pyramids with Ramsay, Greenbury and A.E. Cunningham. Left camp at 10am went straight

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into Cairo, had haircut, boot shine, etc., walk all over city trying to buy V.P.K. (**Vest Pocket Kodak**) films, unsuccessful. Met Wade. Caught 2pm tram to Zoo. Picked up Greenbury at No. 2 Base details. Arrived pyramids 3.15pm, donkey rides etc. took couple photos, left at 5pm. Went to Gezira skating rink, no skates, came into Esbekia Gardens, skating for an hour. Met Roy Bauer, in No. 2 base details, convalescent, septic hand.

January 15. Saturday

Mess Orderly. Had a ride on horses in the morning. In afternoon Dip Kenny, Bell & myself went to the aerodrome & took a few snaps of the planes. Had tea in Heliopolis. Letter & handkerchief from Daisy Davis dated 27 Oct 1915. Issued with sheepskin vest & silk socks. Paid P.T.40 from Corps fund. Wrote to Home (3), Janie Cosgrove, Will Cosgrove, Daisy Davis.

January 16. Sunday

Very windy. Played tennis during morning. Went to Atelier Convalescent Hospital to see Albert Cunnington. Stayed there all afternoon. Had tea in Cairo. Went to American Cosmograph (**Cinema**) at night.

January 17. Monday

Went for ride in the morning. Dismounted troop drill by Captain Vernon from 2.30pm till 4pm. Went to get developed film in Heliopolis, returned at 7pm. Bit crook with sciatica. Let money grow.

January 18. Tuesday

Fixed up horse-lines ready for getting bearers' horses. Registered 1915 diary home.

January 19. Wednesday

Absolutely nothing to do all day. Horse picquet at night, 9pm till 12midnight. (**A picket or picquet is a soldier, or small unit of soldiers, placed on a line forward of a position to provide warning of an enemy advance**)

January 20. Thursday

Pulled down hospital tents & packed ready to move. Pulled down horse-lines in afternoon. Rumours to effect that we were moving to Maadi. Bought 6 V.P.K. (**Vest Pocket Kodak**) films. Played tennis all the morning. Mail arrived at 2pm. 19 letters & 2 papers for my share. Dress parade at 3pm. Speech by Lieutenant Colonel Horn, the first for months. He told us the L.H. (**Light Horse**) would soon be abolished, we would be attached to 1st Brigade leaving Australia shortly. In meantime, would be in charge of hospitals in Maadi. Received P10, balance of Corps fund. Home (2), Clem, Percy, Janie (5), Jim (3), Dorothy, Daisy Davis (2), Norm Williams, Ern Harris, May Maddocks, Grace Vanstone.

January 22. Saturday

Played in a tennis tournament. Met Arthur Knight. Kursaal at night.

January 23. Sunday

Met Will Drew in afternoon. Went for tram ride to Zoo. Cinema Violet at night.

January 24. Monday

Preparing to leave camp. Took a few snaps of a building being built by a wealthy Belgian. Paid P.T.100.

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January 25. Tuesday (MAADI CAMP, CAIRO...EGYPT)

Reveille 5am, all kits packed & tents struck before breakfast, 6.30am. Arrival of 17 A.S.C. (**Australian Supply Column**) G.S. (**General Service**) waggons. Moved off at 8.35am, 17 G.S. waggons, 8 ambulance waggons & 20 odd horsemen. A halt every hour. Arrived Maadi 1.40pm. Pitched tents, etc. till 5.30pm, tea. Had lunch on the road.

January 26. Wednesday

Cleaning up camp. Route march through Maadi, passed Turkish prisoners' camp (3000).

January 27. Thursday

Route march physical exercises, etc. Put stones round camp. Heavy storm during afternoon. Very cold at night. Mail arrived at about 6pm. Letters from Mother (1) & Father, Jean, Janie Cosgrove, Jim Charlton, invitation to Clem's wedding for 25th January.

January 28. Friday

Fatigue work all day. Parcel from home containing handkerchiefs etc.

January 29. Saturday

Short run & physical drill before breakfast. Fatigue duty during forenoon. Removed heap of dirt & stones, found 4ft brown snake. Went through two native villages taking photos during afternoon.

January 30. Sunday

Rode over to Napoleon's Fort. Spent all afternoon looking through the caves & strongholds etc. Took several photos returned about 5.30pm. Mess Orderly.

January 31. Monday

Very foggy & cold. Physical exercise & a short run before breakfast. Fatigue duty until about 10.30am, then had a sleep. Dismounted troop drill after dinner from 2.30pm until 4pm. Posted letter to Mother & Janie, & Habil Melokiah (Alexandria).

FEBRUARY 1. Tuesday

Got a full day's leave with E. Thorpe. Went to Museum. Took a few photos of mummies, statues, etc. till 12.15pm. Had dinner in Cairo then proceeded to Pyramids. Climbed Cheops up one side & down the other...20 mins up & 10 mins down, hard work. Next, we decided to go inside. Slippery passage, sloping 30 degrees, granite, took boots off. Climbed equally steep & slippery passage to Queen's tomb, then up to King's tomb. Passageway, 3 x 3 ft. Gave guide P.T.5. Had tea in Cairo. Caught 8.15pm train from Bab-el-Louk to Maadi. Arrived camp 9pm.

February 2. Wednesday

Crook foot, sinew behind right foot swollen. Did nothing all day. Letters from Daisy Davis & Harry Vickers.

February 3. Thursday

Went out exercising Peter Cobb's horses morning & afternoon. Got two films developed.

February 4. Friday

Route march to petrified forest. Left camp at 2pm & arrived at the forest after a long hot march at about 4.30pm. Very heavy going running up hills etc. Nothing to see at the forest except a few small

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specimens. I rode back on the front seat of the first waggon. Nearly lost our way, running down gullies & sudden drops 3 or 4ft deep. Nearly upset several times, arrived in camp 7.35pm. Sinew behind right foot swollen.

February 5. Saturday

Went into Abyssia as guard to Brett who was sentenced to 7 days C.B. (**Confined to barracks**) Left camp 12noon. Left Cairo 4pm. While on our way home, called in for parcels at Savoy. Met motor driver from Alexandria going to Helouan (**Also known as Helwan**) in his car so I got in and drove to Maadi with him. Got negatives of Museum photos.

February 6. Sunday

No work as usual. Very slow day.

February 7. Monday

Went out exercising transport horses in morning (Voluntary!). In afternoon went out again on transport horses & watched a marchpast by the light horse & field ambulance. Splendid show.

February 8. Tuesday

Wrote to Janie Cosgrove, Hilda Golder, Millmerran.

February 9. Wednesday

Exercising horses morning (voluntary). Mail from home (2) (two letters (No. 2) Janie Cosgrove, Jim, E. Harris, May Maddock. Paid P.T.150. Played scratch-match football during afternoon.

February 10. Thursday

Sports held by 2nd L.H. (**Light Horse**) Brigade in our camp grounds all day. Letter from Janie Cosgrove.

February 11. Friday

Left camp at 9.45am on route march to Helouan arriving there at 1.15pm very tired & footsore. Left again at 2.50pm just about done up when 2 miles from camp then got into waggons for the rest of journey. Blisters all over feet. Walked about 22 miles altogether.

February 12. Saturday

Exempt from early morning parade. Practised scrums & passing (football) during morning. Had a match at soccer in afternoon.

February 13. Sunday

Church parade at 9.45am. Wrote letter home enclosed snaps of Cave at Napoleon's Fort, Napoleon's flour mill, Biplane, Pharaoh's mummy, statues at Museum, also programme of 2nd L.H. (**Light Horse**) Brigade sports. Played 6th L.H. football. Warrant Officer Kerr had rib broken, Private Sabine broken wrist.

February 14. Monday

Raid by military on villages next to camp. Kitbags, ammunition, etc. recovered. Went out on horses.

February 15. Tuesday

Raining all day. Nothing to do. Watched two of our teams play rugby football during afternoon in the rain.

February 16. Wednesday**February 17. Thursday**

Visited Memphis & Saqqara. Hired donkeys at Helouan. At Memphis saw statues of Rameses I & II. At Saqqara we visited the Step pyramid, then went to a tomb. The opening is similar to Cheops, sliding to the centre of the tomb. Inside the walls are covered with hieroglyphics. Next we went to the tombs of the Sacred Bulls. Here we saw the great granite coffins in which the bulls were buried. We next went to the tomb of King Ti. (***Mastaba of Ti was an official not a King***) Returned at 7pm to Helouan, arrived Maadi 8.30pm.

February 18. Friday

Letters from Home (3), Janie Cosgrove, Jim, Ern, May Maddocks, Syd, Grace Vanstone, Olive Rountree, Mrs Nalder. Route march during afternoon to Kasr-el-Nil Bridge. Returned in waggons arrived at camp 7.30pm.

February 19. Saturday**February 20. Sunday**

Church parade.

February 21. Monday

Rode into Cairo on horseback. Bought 9 films.

February 22. Tuesday

Paid P.T.150. Nothing to do all day.

February 23. Wednesday

Lay in the tent all day. Transfer of Captain Vernon into 11th L.H. (***Light Horse***)

February 24. Thursday**February 25. Friday**

All day leave. Went to zoo taking several photos. Had dinner in Cairo afterwards, went through jewellery bazaar. Bought tarboush (***A type of hat like a Fez***) (5). Had tea in city, listened to Egyptian band in gardens. Went through Wassers (***Red light district***) after tea.

February 26. Saturday

Nothing to do all day. Letter from Les Bayard (B. Detail - Gezirah). Mail day, letters from home (4th), Janie Cosgrove, Jim Charlton, Ern Harris, Ruby Nalder, Fred Hudson (England).

February 27. Sunday

Wrote letters home, sending 8 photos of views in Giza Zoo, Janie Cosgrove, Les Bayard (Zeitoun Camp), E. Harris. Sent two parcels one containing Gurkhas knife, silk, etc., the other containing 7 dozen negatives (15th June). Had word that parcels arrived home on the 13th April.

February 28. Monday

Nothing doing all day. Had dinner at night with officers. A very rowdy time. No respect shown to officers, beer doing the trick. Said farewell to Captain Vernon who has been transferred into the 11th L.H. (***Light Horse***) The Colonel told us that the 4th L.H. Field Ambulance has been abandoned.

February 29. Tuesday

Wrote Auntie Amy & Fred Hudson, England. Dismissed for the day after breakfast.

MARCH 1. Wednesday

All blanks show that nothing of special interest has taken place during that day (LD).

March 2. Thursday**March 3. Friday**

Visited The Barrage (**Gardens**) all day, took a dozen or so photos. Weighed myself at Cairo Railway Station, 12 stone 7 lbs. (**175lbs**)

21st June 1917

Weighed myself in hospital
on 1st June 1917

10st. 4lbs

March 4. Saturday

All leave stopped from 11.30am. Struck camp 5pm. Slept in the open, very windy.

March 5. Sunday (TEL-EL-KEBIR CAMP, CAIRO...EGYPT)

Left Maadi camp 7am trained to Bab-el-louk marched to Gizeh station. (**Also spelt Giza**) Met E. Baldwin, left for Tel-el-Kebir in open trucks at 10am. Arrived Tel-el-Kebir 1.30pm. Unloaded waggons, etc. marched to camp (½ mile), pitched tents, etc. Met Hawkins (Toowoomba), Norm Charlton. Horses & waggons taken from us.

March 6. Monday

Very hot. Wrote to Home (6), Janie Cosgrove, A.E. Cunningham, Jim Charlton, Ern Harris.

March 7. Tuesday (TRANSFERRED TO 3RD FIELD AMBULANCE)

Transferred into 3rd Field Ambulance. Met Will Drew. Paid P.T.150.

March 8. Wednesday

Met Morsley (King's College).

(NB: Cyril Morsley was his future brother-in-law who was a student at King's College when he enlisted for WW1 in 1915 and was serving with the 3rd Field Ambulance)

March 9. Thursday

Morning, infantry drill. Afternoon, stretcher drill, etc.

March 10. Friday

Route march, stretcher-drill.

March 11. Saturday

Half-holiday. Infantry drill during morning.

March 12. Sunday

Mail arrived. Nos 5 & 6 from home, 2 from Janie, 2 from E. Harris, 2 from J. Charlton, 1 Grace Vanstone.

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March 13. Monday

Lecture by Sergeant O'Carrol during morning. Inoculated against typhoid in afternoon.

March 14. Tuesday

Crook from inoculation. All day off. Rotten headache. Wrote home (7) & Janie. Field P.C. (**Postcard**) to Janie, Ern Harris. Filled in card for Labour Bureau.

March 15. Wednesday

Letters from Miss Campbell (T.G.S.) (**Toowoomba Grammar School**), Emily & Gladys Dowle (S.A.). Inoculation a lot better. Issued with infantry pack, etc. Paid P.T.50. Issued with chocolate rectangles for shoulders (1st Division colours, A.M.C. [**Australian Medical Corps**]).

March 16. Thursday

Filled infantry pack ready to move off at shortest notice. Water voyage expected.

March 17. Friday

Full-dress inspection by O.C. (**Officer Commanding**) with packs up 10am. Lecture in afternoon. Packed black kitbag with surplus issue including new sheep-skin vest sent by Soldiers Sock and Comfort Fund, Queensland.

March 18. Saturday

Kit inspection. Guard from 4pm.

March 19. Sunday

Guard till 4pm. Expect to leave tomorrow for France.

March 20. Monday

Inspected by O.C. (**Officer Commanding**) of 1st Division A.M.C. (**Australian Medical Corps**)

March 21. Tuesday

Inoculated 2pm. 6pm went to free picture show. Arm a bit crook. Field service cards (**Postcards**) to Ivy Davis, Connie Bassett, Janie Cosgrove, Auntie Amy.

March 22. Wednesday

Not too good from effects of inoculation. Water cut off from camp. Issued with brassards. 2nd Division supposed to have arrived at Marseilles.

March 23. Thursday

Field service cards (**Postcards**) to Con Bassett, Auntie Amy. Rumours still flying round as to when we are leaving.

March 24. Friday

Fatigue duty in Officers cookhouse. Easy day.

March 25. Saturday

Signalling practice during morning. Half-holiday as usual for Saturday. Letters to Mother (8) & Daisy Davis, Ruby Nalder, Amy Horn.

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March 26. Sunday (LEFT TEL-EL-KEBIR CAMP, CAIRO...EGYPT)

Struck camp. Started at 9.30am & had everything cleared at 12noon. Left camp with packs up at 9.30pm. Had to wait for train until 1.30am. Australian mail arrived for us at 10pm & I received 14. Letters from (2) Home (No. 7) & one written from Rocky. Janie, Mary & Maud Hamilton, Mr Harrison, Reg Bayard, Jim Charlton, Ern Harris (2), May Maddocks, Ag Gray, May Brown, Daisy Davis.

March 27. Monday (EMBARKED ALEXANDRIA...EGYPT)

Left Tel-el-Kebir at 1.45am in open trucks. Arrived Alexandria 8.45am (No. 43 dock), marched to 25 dock, embarked on troopship B15 (*Kingstonian*). Taken to our messes somewhere near the bottom of the ship, a dark unventilated hovel, packed very closely together. First meal for the day at 2.50pm bully beef & bread & black tea. Tea at 5pm, bread & jam & tea. Pulled out from wharf at 6.15pm into harbour, dropped anchor. Slept on iron deck. Ship full of mules & horses. 'Tommies' (**British soldiers**) on board also.

March 28. Tuesday

Pulled out of Alexandria harbour at 7am. Picked up light cruiser outside which accompanied us all day. Put on guard from 10.30am till 10.30am next morning (24 hours).

(Feb. 24th, 1917 – *Kingstonian* has since been torpedoed.)

(NB:Date of sinking was 29th April 1918)

March 29. Wednesday

Finished guard at 10.30am. No parades all day. Passed several boats. Mine sweepers seem to be scattered all over the Mediterranean. A bale of hay in the water caused great consternation at about sundown. It passed within about 30 yards of the boat & we thought it might be a floating mine.

March 30. Thursday

Mess Orderly, a rotten job. A member of our unit lost overboard during night. Walked overboard in his sleep.

March 31. Friday

Blew up fairly rough towards midday. Began to feel a bit crook as the result of rolling, etc. Sighted Malta 3pm. Hung outside Valetta until 4.15pm waiting for orders. Ship torpedoed half an hour behind us.

APRIL 1. Saturday

Slight attack of influenza. Another ship torpedoed soon after we left Malta.

April 2. Sunday

Feeling a lot better. Sea much calmer. Mess Orderly, dinner & tea. Passed Sardinia & Corsica. Another ship torpedoed 200 miles behind us.

April 3. Monday (DISEMBARKED MARSEILLES...FRANCE)

Sighted Marseilles 7am. Pulled into wharf 9am. Disembarked at 5.30pm. Marched a mile or so to railway station. Left for unknown destination at 9pm.

April 4. Tuesday

No sleep until 3am this morning. Stopped at Valence 7am. Lyons at 11am. Great reception given by the people here. Passed through Dijon at 9pm. Passed another restless night.

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April 5. Wednesday

Travelled through the Rhone Valley. A more beautiful sight could never be imagined. Large mountains on either side of us & the river below us, with its irrigating system. Stopped within 10 miles of Paris, then went on a different line, skirting Paris, passing through Versailles in the afternoon.

April 6. Thursday (PRADELLE...FRANCE)

Passed through Boulogne at night. Disembarked at 8am and after hunting about the country for our camp, arrived at a small village where we were put into a barn at 1pm. Met Tom Carpenter. Name of billet Pradelle. Disembarked from train at the village of Godewaersvelde.

April 7. Friday

Reveille 9am. Long walk after breakfast until dinner time. Another walk after dinner. Watched the 5th Brigade go by on their way to the trenches. Several of the old 4th L.H. (**Light Horse**) Field Ambulance (B Section S.A.) were in the 5th Field Ambulance.

April 8. Saturday

Another long walk after breakfast this morning. We are in the district of Hazebrouck where, in the early part of the war, the Ulhams mutilated the Nuns.

April 9. Sunday

Had a stroll through the village. Wrote a letter home (9) but remembered at night that I had forgotten to address it. Sent Field Service Card (**Postcard**) to Janie Cosgrove.

April 10. Monday (STRAZEELE...FRANCE)

Left Pradelle in the morning & marched a mile or so to Strazeele, where we took up our new address. Billeted in a farm potato store. Letter home (10), field service cards (**Postcard**) to Auntie Amy, E. Trembath, R. Reynolds, Hilda Golder, May Brown, Grace Vanstone, Daisy Davis, Ivy Davis. Watched a Taube (**German monoplane**) being fired upon by French or British air-guns. The shells could be seen from our position here bursting in the air.

April 11. Tuesday

Detailed for sanitary duty. Very wet. Issued with respirators. Attended a French lesson given by the Parson at the Y.M.C.A. (**Young Men's Christian Association**) (Bucksheesh) (**Charitable donation**). A sing-song was held after the lesson.

April 12. Wednesday

Very wet & cold. Handed in camera to Q.M.'s (**Quartermaster's**) Store to be taken to Cook's agency. Issued with new cardigan jacket. Kept 1 film with 3 exposures taken, & 9 unexposed films.

April 13. Thursday

Much warmer than it has been for some time past. Sun came out nearly all day for the first time since we left Marseilles. Still exempt from parades, doing sanitary duty, a good job. Went to the French class again.

April 14. Friday

Cold & wet again all day. Slight sleet storm at about 2pm. Paid 40 francs. A Taube flew over us & dropped 3 bombs within a few hundred yards of our billet. Learned some more French. A bit of a sing-song after the class.

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April 15. Saturday

Marched about 3 miles out to the military baths & laundry. Supplied with clean singlet, flannel, underpants & socks. Entered a long building where our dirty clothes were taken from us & then had a hot shower bath. On our way we marched through a snow storm. Another heavier snow storm at about 11am. Walked to Hazebrouck about 7 miles away in the afternoon. Population 20,000. Bought illuminous watch from 'Tommy' (10 francs).

April 16. Sunday

Wrote a letter home (11) & sent a book of war sketches. Stayed in the billet all day. The weather fine but began to rain after dark. Met Arthur Knight and went to church at the Y.M.C.A. (*Young Men's Christian Association*)

April 17. Monday (DOULIEU...FRANCE)

Left Strazeele with the advance party at 9.30am to Doulieu. Arrived at 1.30pm. Had lunch then strolled into the town & saw the church burned down by the Germans. They filled the place with straw & burned their dead on top. Stayed at Soldiers Club after tea.

April 18. Tuesday

Put on sanitary detail again. Cold & wet. Boots falling to pieces so that the water comes through & my feet are constantly wet.

April 19. Wednesday

Rain cleared off a bit & the sun struggled hard to get through all day.

April 20. Thursday

Fine warm day, no rain at all. Remainder of unit arrived at 12noon. Ninth Battalion blown to pieces as they entered a billet, by a German shell, 8pm. One Major & 1 Lieutenant killed, 20 men killed & 50 wounded.

April 21. Friday

Cloudy again. Witnessed several aeroplanes (Germans) being fired upon by Allies.

April 22. Saturday

Worked during morning but took afternoon off. No leave granted.

April 23. Sunday

Treated as an ordinary day of the week. Fatigues went on just the same all day.

April 24. Monday

An enemy aeroplane flew directly above our billet, fired upon by Allies anti-aircraft guns. Pellets from the shrapnel fell close to us, one piece grazing one chap's head. The plane was then chased by one of our machines which opened fire with its machine gun. A very exciting (to us) & fast race then took place, but finished behind some clouds which spoiled our view.

April 25. Tuesday

Anniversary of Anzac Day. Three large meals. Something like Xmas but no holiday which caused to dampen the whole proceedings.

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April 26. Wednesday

Weather still fine. Very pleasant weather indeed. Wrote letter to Mother (12). Field P.C. (**Postcard**) to Aunt Amy, Janie Cosgrove, Jim Charlton, Ern Harris.

April 27. Thursday

Paid 40francs. Usual routine for the day. Aeroplanes rather quiet. A Taube flew over the billet but was turned back by shrapnel. A few bombs dropped on 2nd Field Ambulance billet, wounding several & killing 1 artillery man, this morning. No mail to date since we left Tel-el-Kebir.

April 28. Friday

Heavy bombardment near Armentieres all night. Allied non-combatants given orders to quit Sailly. A retreat expected by Allies. A gas attack last night came within the outskirts of Estaires (4.1 kilometres) from here (2½ miles).

April 29. Saturday

Nothing unusual happened. Wrote to Peter Cobb & Mr Edgecumbe, Liskeard, Cornwall.

April 30. Sunday

Usual routine, fatigues all day.

MAY 1. Monday

An enemy plane directly overhead. A heavy shower of bursting shrapnel all around us. No one hit.

May 2. Tuesday

Sanitary duty all day as usual. (Working all morning, sleeping in afternoon.)

May 3. Wednesday

Feeling well.

May 4. Thursday

Inspected by Lieutenant-General (**Harold Bridgwood**) Walker (after whose name Walker's Ridge, Gallipoli, was named) at 3.30pm. Spoke about saluting.

May 5. Friday

Nothing unusual.

May 6. Saturday

Same every day routine.

May 7. Sunday

Church parade 9am. Australian Chaplain. Rained throughout the service. Rainy & windy all day. Cold towards night.

May 8. Monday

A very unpleasant day. Very strong wind blowing with rain at intervals.

May 9. Tuesday

Windy, rainy & cold all day. Very miserable. No mail or word from home yet. Wrote Mrs Boxford, London.

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May 10. Wednesday**May 11. Thursday**

Nine bags of mail with nothing for the 4th L.H.F.A. (*Light Horse Field Ambulance*)

May 12. Friday

Paid 40 francs. Another 4 bags of mail but no letters for the 4th. Wrote Mrs Curtis, London, sister of Mrs Andrews Brisbane.

May 13. Saturday

Raining very hard when we awoke. Cleared off at about breakfast time but very cold. I was wearing shorts on account of my trousers being washed. Very easy day. Received letter from Mr Edgecumbe, England. He says that Bob Hoffner, W.A. is staying with him. At present in pay office, invalided from Gall.

May 14. Sunday

Taken off sanitary duty, put on gardener fatigue. Worked all day. No church parade. Posted letter to Mrs Curtis, London.

May 15. Monday

Wet & cold all day. On guard 8pm till 10pm in guard tent watching Winchester under close arrest.

May 16. Tuesday

Australian mail closes (11am) (7pm). Large mail arrived for 4th L.H.F.A. (*Light Horse Field Ambulance*) 12 letters & 22 Queenslanders (*Newspaper*) from Miss Campbell. Letters (13) from Mother (No. 8) dated Feb 19, Janie Cosgrove dated 27 Feb, 3 & 8 Mar Jim Charlton (2), Ern Harris, Amy Harris, May Maddocks, Monty, Auntie Amy, Mr W.H. Harrison. Wrote letter home (13) & to Janie Cosgrove. Australian mail only once a fortnight.

May 17. Wednesday

Gardeners assistant.

May 18. Thursday

Gardening all day.

May 19. Friday (NOUVEAU MONDE...FRANCE)

Left Doulieu at 2.10pm as advance-guard to Nouveau Monde arriving at 4.20pm. very tired.

May 20. Saturday

Main party arrived at about 3.30pm from Doulieu. I had to turn out at about 3.30pm with three others as a burying party to take a Captain, Lieutenant & a Private to the cemetery. They were killed last night, belonging to the 10th Battalion Australia.

May 21. Sunday

Sanitary duty all morning. Washed a few clothes in afternoon. At 4 o'clock a mail was given out. 7 letters. One from Mother (No. 9), March 18, Janie Cosgrove, March 13, Ina Cosgrove (2), Jim Charlton, Norman Williams, Camp Adjutant Chermside, Ruby Nalder. We are only about 4 miles behind. The shrapnel can be seen quite plainly bursting. Billeted in the second story of an estaminet. (*Café*)

May 22. Monday

Sanitary Duty all day.

May 23. Tuesday

Building fumigators for hospital blankets, etc. Left at 1830 (6.30pm) with steel helmets for the trenches 4 or 5mls away – by road – to build bomb-proof shelters for wounded. Passed the place where the 10th Battalion were shrapneled in the road & the billet where the shell entered & blew up the 9th Battalion. Ruins everywhere. Couldn't start work until dark (9pm) when we had to grope about, filling up the sandbags, using the star-shells (***Parachute flare dropped from aircraft used as a means of illuminating the battlefield***) to get our bearings every now & then. Arrived home from trenches at 3am (300) dead beat. Had a bit of a camp on the road. Tumbled into bed, awoke at 8.30am had bit of breakfast, went to sleep again till 12 o'clock. Had dinner. On parade at 2pm, fatigues till 4pm. Mail, Mother's No. 10, one from Clem - honeymoon trip. Janie Cosgrove - last of Bluff trip, Will Cosgrove, Ern Harris, Hilda Golden – Millmerran, Mrs Curtis, London.

May 24. Wednesday

Picked as escort to two of our fellows who were court martialled for insubordination. Went into the court with the first chap as his escort. Pleaded not guilty. Case lasted for two hours. Second chap pleaded guilty. Sentences not out.

May 25. Thursday

Fatigues all day. Wrote letters Mother (14), Monty Edgecumbe, M. Maddocks, Daisy Davis, Miss Jean Campbell, Grandma, Auntie Amy, postcard to Amy Harris.

May 26. Friday

Fatigues as usual. Told by Colonel to finish job or go without dinner. Didn't finish job but needless to say, I didn't go without dinner. Colonel lately has proved himself a perfect rotter. Wrote to Mr Harrison. Paid 40 francs.

May 27. Saturday

Today, a General inspected the camp. To give a better impression of the Colonel's worthiness to General in hopes of a higher position, we were taken off fatigues (road mending, etc.) & were given a lecture on gas, in the shade, & in a very conspicuous position, so that the General couldn't help seeing us & forming the opinion that we were always having these useful lectures instead of working ourselves to a shadow on the jobs the Colonel finds for us to do. The prisoners' sentences were read out in the afternoon. For drunkenness, Bartlett 56 days, No. 2 Field punishment; for obscene language Winchester 3years penal service.

May 28. Sunday

Went to gas school all morning. Went through a gas cloud with helmets on, also tried the weeping gas with & without the goggles on. This gas comes from a bomb but nothing can be seen, the gas is invisible not like chlorine & phosgene which is a yellow cloud. The weeping gas smarts the back of the nose & eyes & almost blinds one. The chlorine is a liquid in the tube but becomes gas in contact with air. Also shown how to clear a dugout of gas. Guard at 6pm.

May 29. Monday

On guard all day until 6pm. Our hopes of becoming motor drivers shattered. 'Tommies' (***British soldiers***) declare that we incompetent to drive so are kept on, instead of being sent back to Rouen, their base.

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May 30. Tuesday

Rode down to Bac-St-Maur for coal. Returned 1.30pm. Walked to Laventie after tea. Crawled into the church, which is terribly knocked about by shells, & secured a piece of stained glass as souvenir. A heavy bombardment started about half an hour after we left Laventie, & shells began to fall thick & heavy into the township. Heavy artillery from both sides from 8.30pm till 10pm. Shells were dropping a few hundred yards from our billet. Big casualty list coming into the hospital. Biggest bombardment we have heard since we arrived. Some of the wounded say that Gallipoli was nothing to what they experienced out there in the trenches.

May 31. Wednesday

Fatigues all day. Sent down to advanced dressing station at Sailly. Stayed here during night. A parcel arrived from home containing lollies, shirt, soap, etc. & Syd's wedding cake. (**Older brother**)

JUNE 1. Thursday

Stayed at dressing station all day digging a trench for emergency.

June 2. Friday

Left dressing station 1.30pm walked to Rifle Villa (**First Aid Post**) (about 5 miles) relieved stretcher party at about 4pm. Six stretcher cases to be wheeled a mile & a half came in before 9.30pm. Coming back from taking the first case two shrapnel shells burst above us & fell all around the stretcher but neither of us was hit. Went to bed at 10pm. Wakened up again at midnight to take another man who had been shot through arm. Got to bed again at 2.30am.

June 3. Saturday

Took two cases down to the car during morning. Very quiet on our front (Australian) but active for the Welsh and Canadians.

June 4. Sunday

One wounded this morning at 3am. No more during the day. Relieved at 4pm. Funny incident coming home across the fields. Our planes above us fired at by gun shrapnel very close. Two of the party jumped behind trees but fell into ditch, up to their waist in water.

June 5. Monday

Sent down to Infantry Training School to report to a Captain Colvin. Found that we had to clear out all the rooms of a large house occupied by officers. Wash the floors, etc. Good job.

June 6. Tuesday

Left the billet at 7am for Rifle Villa in the trenches to build a bomb-proof shelter. Came back at 4pm. Australian mail arrived. One from Mother (No. 12), 1 from Janie & Ern Harris. Kukri, (**Gurkhas Knife**) watch, negatives, etc. arrived home. Letter from Mother sent from Maryborough, dated 15 April.

June 7. Wednesday

Fatigues all day. Rumour to the effect that Lord Kitchener was drowned.

June 8. Thursday

Fatigues about the camp all day. Still feeling well. Paid 40 francs. Rumours confirmed concerning Kitchener. England dumbfounded, according to the papers.

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June 9. Friday

Left the billet at 1.30pm to relieve working party at Rifle Villa. Left for home again at 9pm. Fairly lively time with shells lobbing rather a bit too close. Made for the dugout each time. Pieces of shell smacking against the wall outside. Eased down a bit then we'd go out again for a few minutes then they'd start whizzing over again. No one hit.

June 10. Saturday

Gardening during morning. Holiday in afternoon for football match against 1st Field Ambulance. Went for a walk after tea & met Frank Waugh from Toowoomba in the 6th Engineers (No. 3365).

June 11. Sunday

Hospital general duties. Letter from Mr Edgecumbe. Wrote letters to Mother (15), Janie Cosgrove, Daisy Davis, Jim Charlton.

June 12. Monday

Left billet 7am for Rifle Villa. Building dugout till 2pm. Arrived back again in time to see mail being given out. Letter from Janie, May Brown, Hilda Golder. Very tired. Raining all day.

June 13. Tuesday

Very wet & cold all day. No first parade. Detailed on water-cart in morning. Posted letters to Mother (2, one containing notes), Janie, Jim Charlton, Peter Cobb. Heavy bombardments all around us.

June 14. Wednesday

Put on permanent sanitary duty. Daylight saving bill came into force for us at 9.30pm.

June 15. Thursday

Ditto. Very cold. Got up at 5 o'clock although the clock said 6am. Wrote Mr Edgecumbe.

June 16. Friday

Sanitary fatigues all day. On guard at 6-8pm. While on guard from 12-2am I smelt a slight odour of chlorine. It gradually became stronger so I woke up the Corporal of the guard and rang the gong for a gas alarm. Throat & lungs stuffing up, could hardly breathe. Stopped ringing gong to put on helmet. Whole village was soon up. Church bell rang. Gas came from Armentieres, 6 miles, 600 casualties, 160 died (Tommies) (**British soldiers**), 2 New Zealand Officers.

June 17. Saturday

On guard all day until 18.00. (**6pm**) Parcel arrived from Mr Edgecumbe.

June 18. Sunday

Fatigues during morning. Half-holiday.

June 19. Monday

Working party to Rifle Villa at 1300. (**1pm**) Fourth Division arrived at Sailly from Egypt.

June 20. Tuesday

Helping gardener. Got new tunic from stores.

June 21. Wednesday

Sanitary duty. Heavy bombardment by Germans, right along the line from Armentieres to Neuve

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Chapelle, at 11 o'clock last night. Flashes of the guns & bursting shell very vivid. Relieving squad to Eaton Hall 20.00. **(8pm)**

June 22. Thursday

Four cases at 19.00. **(7pm)** Gas alarm at midnight. Breakfast at 10am, dinner at 6.30pm, tea at 11.30 pm. Twilight until 10.30pm.

June 23. Friday

Got up at 10.15am. Had breakfast at 11.30am. Dinner at 5.30pm. Left Eaton at 8.15pm. Walked all the way home arriving at 11.15pm.

June 24. Saturday

Paid 40 francs. Half-holiday. Mess Orderly.

June 25. Sunday

Lovely weather (beau-temps). **(Good weather)** Walked into La Gorgue trying to buy some buttons for my tunic. Unsuccessful. Stretcher squad in waiting 6am-6pm.

June 26. Monday

Working squad to Rifle Villa 7am. Starting new gas-proof dugout.

June 27. Tuesday

Stretcher squad in waiting 6am-6pm. Raining all day.

June 28. Wednesday

Very wet. No early parade.

June 29. Thursday

Took Kay's place in Q.M.'s **(Quartermaster's)** Store while he went up to the trenches.

June 30. Friday

Q.M.'s **(Quartermaster's)** Store. Letters from P. Cobb (in England), Ern Harris, Daisy Davis, Janie, Mother's No. 13, Ina Cosgrove.

JULY 1. Saturday

Kay returned from trenches. Twelve of us were detailed off to go up to the trenches tonight. A raiding party is expected to take a trench or two after a gas attack & we have to help the regimentals. Issued with anti-gas solution, large water-bottles & steel helmet.

July 2. Sunday

Returned from the trenches at 5.30am. The 9th Battalion raiding party made a successful attack. We sent over gas at midnight. At 2.45am a heavy bombardment of trench-mortars & 1 field battery opened up for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour. Then the raiding party, 150 men of the 9th Battalion, went across & took 45 prisoners besides several killed. Several of our fellows obtained souvenirs such as officer's helmet & revolver, gas respirators, etc. They painted their faces black which mystified the Germans, especially when they saw the Australians in our trench white. We lost 1 Captain, 1 Sergeant & 2 Privates.

July 3. Monday

Slept nearly all day. Packing in Q.M.'s **(Quartermaster's)** Store until 11pm.

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July 4. Tuesday (OUTTERSTEENE...FRANCE)

Left Nouveau Monde at 9am packs up. Marched to Outtersteene (10 miles) arriving 11.40am. Billeted in attic of a small house. Taken over baths between Merris & Outtersteene. Relieving 12th Australian Field Ambulance.

July 5. Wednesday

Detailed to drying-room, folding up clean clothing. Guard 6pm.

July 6. Thursday

Guard. Three letters arrived No. 14 from Mother, Jim & Ern.

July 7. Friday

Wrote letters to Mother, Ern Harris, F. Hudson, P.S. Cobb, Janie Cosgrove, Edgecumbe, Frank. F.P.C. (**Field Postcard**) to May Maddocks.

July 8. Saturday

Half-holiday. 1st Australian Division has now become a mobile division meaning that we may be here, there or anywhere at a moment's notice. Here today & miles away tomorrow. If French want help, off we go; if English, away we go to them, & so on.

July 9. Sunday (BERTHEN...FRANCE)

Left Outtersteene 2.30pm pack up, carrying everything. Pulled up at Berthen at 5pm. Blistered feet. 10 miles.

July 10. Monday

Did nothing all day. Officers & N.C.O.s (**Non Commissioned Officers**) played cricket again. Privates won by 30 runs or so.

July 11. Tuesday

BERTHEN. 8.15 am packing up ready to move off. Moved out at 10.30am. Arrived Godewaersvelde 11.30am (4mils). Entrained 1.45pm. Passed through Hazebrouck 2.15pm. Through Saint Pol, stopped at Doullens at 7.30pm. Started immediately to march to unknown destination. Good roads but feet soon blistered – by time we arrived at our billet between Halloy & Pernois at 3am I was just about done. Had to put pack on waggon before we had gone half way. Altogether we walked about 20mils & 6 hrs in train.

July 12. Wednesday (WARGNIES, THE SOMME...FRANCE)

Got up at 8.30am had breakfast then had a bath in icy cold running creek behind billet. Felt much relieved but feet very sore. Watch gone crook. Full of dust after march I think. 9.15am orders came to move. Pulled out of bed, packed up & moved off at 10pm. Arrived at Wargnies (**On the Somme**) about midnight. Billeted at a castle/chateau...4 mile walk.

July 13. Thursday

10.00am. Sent F.P.C. (**Field Service Postcard**) to Father, Janie, Jim, Ern Harris, May Maddocks, Daisy Davis, Ivy Davis, Grace Vanstone, Hilda Golder, Auntie Amy, Percy Green, Reg Bayard, May Brown, Miss Jean Campbell, Grandma, Monty, Norm Williams, Ruby Nalder. 1pm mail arrived. Letters from Mother No. 15 May 25, Janie (2), Daisy Davis, Jim & Ern Harris. 2.30 pm All ready to move off (A Section).

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July 14. Friday

Nothing to do all morning. Packed up at 12noon. 'Standing to' all afternoon expecting to move off at any minute. Nothing happened so we were dismissed at 8.30pm.

July 15. Saturday

Another alarm this morning. Hung about until midday but nothing happened. Mail arrived one letter from Mr Edgecumbe. Had a look through the underground city where the refugees lived during the Spanish invasion 400 years ago. Marvellous piece of work. All passageways, rooms, etc. & Chapel cut out of chalky rock with large pieces of flint showing. One passage in the living section 100 metres long has 400 rooms running of on either side. A wonderful hiding place. **(NB: These caves are found in the village of Naours)**

July 16. Sunday

Fell in with packs at 9am. Just marching out of gate then were halted. Sat down for a while then were marched back again. Told to fall in again at 10.30am. It just shows how orders come to a mobile unit. Fell in again at 12.30pm marched out at 1.30pm. After marching about 8 miles arrived at Herissart at 5pm. First Australians to be in this village. 6000 'Tommies' **(British soldiers)** left this morning.

July 17. Monday

Weather very cloudy. Spent morning doing a bit of washing.

July 18. Tuesday

Packed up & marched out by 10.30am. Arrived at Hedauville 2.20pm, about 9 miles. Camped in huts with 'Tommies' **(British soldiers)**. Roads very muddy. Wet through with perspiration when I arrived but had no dry change as the clothes I washed yesterday didn't dry on time. Went to bed early.

July 19. Wednesday (ALBERT...FRANCE)

Got up about seven. Breakfast very small, boiled ham & slice of bread. 'Tommies' **(British soldiers)** band entertained us all morning to a bit of good music. Band came home very pleased last night. Collected 100frcs off Australians who had just been paid. Marching orders at six o'clock. Passed through Bouzincourt. Arrived Albert 8.30pm. British band played us out of camp. Ten minutes after arriving here 6 large shells burst in front of our billet (railway workshops). One fell right on the road & a pellet went through Garde Wilson petrol tank (motorcycle).

July 20. Thursday

2.30am Fritz strafed us again lobbing shell after shell in the railway a few yards away. Pieces of stone etc. falling all around us. No one hit. Met Les Bayard (2nd Field Ambulance) and [blank]. Left Albert at 2.30pm for the trenches. 30 of us told off to go as bearers. Trenches three miles from D.S. **(Dressing Station)** 4 squads volunteered to carry from front line. In old German trench captured last week. Dugouts open out to present German line. 10 minutes after arriving a shell hit the parapet & nearly hit us. Exciting time carrying first patient. Nearly hit.

July 21. Friday

Relieved from trenches at 5pm after a strenuous day. A little different to Rifle Villa.

July 22. Saturday

Spent day lying about at the Chateau dressing station. A shell fell near the transport where I was standing but hit no one. Parcel from Mr Edgecumbe. Relieved 'B' Section up at the aid-post again at

1916

5pm. An advance expected by the Australians. A village has to be taken. 8 attempts by English regiment repulsed before.

July 23. Sunday

One o'clock this morning our boys went over the parapets. Casualties began to come in by 3am. Bob Scott & myself went down to Contalmaison for a case. At 5am 4 of us walked down to the 4th trench for cases. Sniper tried us with a dozen shots while coming back through the valley in the open. By 4pm just about done. Sent off for a sleep till 8pm. Carried again till 10.30pm. Got a cold in back. Sent back to Chateau. We took the village & dug ourselves in on this side. About 2,500 casualties. Dead everywhere. Mail arrived, 2 from Janie, 1 from Ruby Nalder & Mrs Curtis (England).

July 24. Monday

Came back to the dump after a bit of sleep at Chateau. Another advance was made last night taking one thousand yards, entrenching on other side of village (Pozières). Back not too good. General Ware (Toowoomba) killed. Our artillery gave two heavy bombardments during the night. Every gun opening up. Several successful moves made by Australians. British advanced level with us on left. French attempted on right. No news of French yet. Expected to be relieved by 2nd Division but none came. Just about worn out.

July 25. Tuesday

Went to aid-post in shrapnel gully. Very hot with shrapnel at present. Large shell fell within a few yards of us while carrying a stretcher up the gully, nearly blowing us off our feet but no one was hit. 17th Battalion (2nd Division) came in today, also 5th Field Ambulance. We were withdrawn at about 5pm & driven back to Albert in motor lorries dead beat. Had no wash or shave for 6 days and only 10hrs sleep since Saturday night. Wrote to Mr Edgecumbe. Australian casualty heavy.

July 26. Wednesday

Slept in till 11am. At 2pm left our billet (North Chimney) in motor lorries back to the trenches. Hardly a shot was fired when we marched down. Our artillery opened up at 8pm. We 30 bearers took up our positions at the 1st aid-post behind the front line. A warm corner. Not too much doing up till midnight. About a dozen cases.

July 27. Thursday

Very cold night. Big German bombardment started at 9am. Cases began to roll in. Big shells falling on our tracks. Just as we arrived at the aid-post (Reynolds & myself) after carrying a case, a shell fell on the bank above the door of dugout, exploded a bomb nearby, killed a R.S.B. (**Regimental Stretcher Bearer**), broke another's leg & wounded several others, not touching either of us two although only 10ft away. Worked very hard. Fell exhausted at the second last case. Had a drink & felt better. Relieved by 6th Field Ambulance after bringing back next case. Walked back to dressing station. Rode back to Albert on ambulance waggon. Slept out in open on the green fields outside Albert. Looked for Frank in 25th Battalion. Hadn't arrived.

July 28. Friday (**PUCHEVILLERS...FRANCE**)

Packs ready to move off at 10am for a spell somewhere. 4pm...Lobbed at a Casualty Clearing Station near Puchevillers. Drove down on motor ambulance. Put on duty straight away, without time to have a wash. Stretcher bearing, carrying patients from wards to dressing hut or operating theatre & back again. 11pm Just finished. Working hard all the time.

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July 29. Saturday

Started duty again at 8.30am after a good breakfast. We are under British Officers. No bonne! **(Good)**
 Watched an operation. Man's leg amputated at thigh. Felt no effect. 3pm...Relieved by English
 Cyclist Company.

July 30. Sunday

Called at 5am to load hospital train. Slackened off at about midday. Detailed for night duty from 6pm
 till 11pm. A delicate operation was performed by a Major-General, a specialist. A bullet was removed
 from a man's heart & sewn up again.

July 31. Monday

Assisted at an operation to remove a piece of shrapnel from a man's back. Fairly easy day. Finished
 at about dinner time.

AUGUST 1. Tuesday

Carrying cases to dressing room & theatre as usual. Had nothing to do all afternoon.

August 2. Wednesday

Evacuated to hospital train at 6.30am. At 9am a party of 20 from the 1st Field Ambulance arrived to
 relieve us. Driven away in motor ambulances & arrived at Berteaucourt near Havernas & Pernois at
 about 12 o'clock. Had a good swim in running creek after dinner. After tea we walked into the village &
 bought fruit of which there was plenty. First chance of spending money for over a month. Mail day.
 No. 16 from home, 2 from Janie, 2 Ern Harris, Alice Hamilton, Jandowae, May Maddocks, Peter Cobb,
 (England).

August 3. Thursday

Paid 40 francs. Wrote home, Janie, Mrs Curtis (England).

August 4. Friday

Loafing about the camp all day.

August 5. Saturday

Having a good rest.

August 6. Sunday

Wrote letters, Ern Harris & Daisy Davis.

August 7. Monday

2nd Division arrived back in this district for a spell.

August 8. Tuesday

Still having a good holiday & spell. Going into the town every day & buying a meal of eggs, etc. &
 coming home laden with fruit. Never had so much fruit since we left Australia. Not as cheap as one
 would think, though grapes about a shilling a pound, etc. Plums, peaches, etc.

August 9. Wednesday

Third Brigade is now in reserve so that we may not have to go into the trenches for long. Perhaps to
 relieve when wanted or in a big stunt go up to help. 1st Division left on their way back to the line
 somewhere.

August 10. Thursday

Walked to Canaples through Havernas looking for the 25th Battalion but found they hadn't arrived. Birdwood had a bad reception today by the 2nd Division. They were under the impression that they were going to England & during a speech by the General they were told that they would shortly be in the trenches again. They had a bad time during this last stunt. When cheers were called for not a sound was heard.

August 11. Friday

Our holiday has come to an end at last. The W.O. (**Warrant Officer**) told us that from today we were going to start soldiering again. For a start, we had a three hour route-march over the hills in the morning & company drill in the afternoon. Paid 40 francs. Met Frank Waugh.

August 12. Saturday

Route-march till dinner time. Issued with underpants after dinner. Dismissed. Two letters, one from Janie & 1 from Ern Harris arrived. Did a bit of washing, etc.

August 13. Sunday (LA VICOGNE...FRANCE)

Put on Q.M. (**Quartermaster**) fatigue during morning. Rest of Corps route-marching. Orders came to move. At 12.30pm we marched out of Berteaucourt taking a route through Halloy-Canaples-Naours pulling up at La Vicogne at 5.30pm. Intending to sleep in open but on our way to the aerodrome it started to rain so we had to double back & find a dry possie. Blew into a shed across the road, owned by a very homely lady whose husband died before the war, leaving 4 kids, one very much like Jeannie.

August 14. Monday

Packs up, moved off at 9am passing through Puchevillers-Toutencourt, arriving at Vadencourt at 2.30pm, a clearing hospital run by 2nd Field Ambulance. Heavy shower wet on the road. Mail arrived, 2 from Mother No. 17, (Clem's letter & Frank's photo), 1 from Janie, & one from Mrs Edgecumbe.

August 15. Tuesday (ALBERT...FRANCE)

Met Peter Cobb this morning as he came to report to 2nd Field Ambulance as reinforcement. Had a good yarn. Marched off soon after dinner, arriving at Albert at about 5pm. Had tea on the outskirts & slept under A.S.C. (**Australian Supply Column**) waggons at night. A bit wet all day, light showers after tea.

August 16. Wednesday

Packs up at 10.30am marched to North Chimney (**Dressing Station**). Left again at 12.30pm for Becourt Chateau. Detailed at 4pm with 19 others to go up to trenches. Arrived Chalkpits & found that we had to stay in reserve until 8am next morning. Had tea & went to bed. Saw German aeroplane come down in flames 100yds from No. 3 post.

August 17. Thursday

8am sent up to Advanced Chalkpits. From here we were sent to 3rd & 4th Battalion regimental aid-post. On our way up along a crook road, up & down shell-holes through Pozieres, 6 shrapnel burst above us as though we had been seen. Had a warm trip at about 4pm. Whiz-bangs flying along the trench in front of dugout & bursting on our men. Ran up there like lightning. On our way back a heavy shower fell & we had a bad time walking up & down the shell-holes about 4ft deep. Dropped patients about dozen times. Relieved by remainder of corps at 8pm. Came back to first aid dugout for the night.

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August 18. Friday

Detailed to carry from here to Casualty Corner (**Clearing Station**). 4pm...Very few cases up till now. Only two trips so far. Heavy artillery duels for the last hour. 'Scotties' (**Scottish soldiers**) went over & took three trenches, our boys making a demonstration to help them. Heavy bombardment from 8.30pm till midnight. Two of our bearers wounded, Syd Reilly from Toowoomba & a reinforcement. Another wounded later on.

August 19. Saturday

Carrying from 3rd & 4th Battalion. Very warm possie. Heavy shells doing a lot of damage on our track. At about 5.30pm 12th Battalion went up to the trenches using our track instead of the communication trench. Our track is constantly under observation so as soon as they were well on their way they were shelled, making it a proper hell for us. One of our bearers was killed at about midnight.

August 20. Sunday

Carry from No. 2 station only one case all day.

August 21. Monday

5am sent up to No. 4 station, first station behind front line. Had to carry in the open using white flag as protection from snipers but very risky with shells. 6pm our guns opened up & 11th, 10th & 12th Battalions took 3 trenches. No news of casualties yet. Met Peter Cobb, bearing with 2nd Field Ambulance. Corporal in charge of our squad wounded while coming home. Narrow escape for rest of us. 2nd Division coming in.

August 22. Tuesday

Relieved by 6th Field Ambulance. Sent as guide to 6th M.O. (**Medical Officer**) to each post, relieving our boys as we went along. 11am met Tom Carpenter at Casualty Corner (**Clearing Station**), Les Bayard at Chateau. Marched to Albert, had dinner, left for Warloy in motor lorries. Corporal Fry, Lance Corporal Wilsdon & Lance Corporal Flynn awarded D.C.M. (**Distinguished Conduct Medal**) in last stunt. Letters from Frank & Ern Harris (& 4 mails). A parcel from Mrs Edgecumbe. Frank wrote from Salisbury Plains.

August 23. Wednesday

Left Warloy at 10.30am marched to Herisshart by 12.45pm, had dinner beside the cemetery then pushed on to La Vicogne Chateau where we stayed for the night. Had an attack of ptomaine poisoning (**Food poisoning**) after tea. Picked up on the road lying unconscious. Bad night.

August 24. Thursday

Not feeling too good. Rode in ambulance waggon when we moved to Beauval arriving 12.45pm. At 7pm orders came to move on again. Feeling a lot better. Decided to walk without pack. Marched 3klms to Gezaincourt where we stayed the night, sleeping in a damp barn.

August 25. Friday

Had a spell all day. Feeling a bit crook all over. After-effects of poisoning I suppose.

August 26. Saturday

Left at 2.30pm marching packs up, arriving at Doullens (3klms) shortly afterwards. Had tea in the park then entrained at about 7.30pm. Travelled northwards. Nothing unusual on the way up. Slept most of the way.

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August 27. Sunday (BOESCHEPE...BELGIUM)

Arrived at Proven in Belgium at 3am, marched off at 3.45am, still dark. At about 6.45am marched through Poperinghe & crossed the border into France arriving at Boeschepe at 8am. Billeed in an old theatre, had breakfast at 9.30am. Walked up on Mont des Cate (***A small hill near the town of Godewaersvelde***) in the afternoon & had a look at Ypres through the glasses. Saw shrapnel bursting. Ypres about 20klms from here.

August 28. Monday

'A' Section taken over hospital, rigged up a few tents during the day. Two letters one from Janie (3rd July) & one from Grace Vanstone arrived.

August 29. Tuesday

Pottering about the camp. Very heavy rains fell this afternoon for an hour or so. On guard 8pm till 10pm. Raining all through the night. Letter from Auntie Amy (May 16).

August 30. Wednesday

Romania has joined the Allies. Letter from Mother (No. 18 dated July 7), one from Janie Cosgrove & Mrs Curtis (England).

August 31. Thursday

Fine weather again. Posted letters to Mother, Janie, Mrs Edgecumbe & Frank. Field Cards (***Postcards***) to Syd, Clem, N. Williams, Miss Campbell, Grandma, Reg Bayard, Jim Charlton, Hilda Golder, May Brown, May Maddocks. Letters from Auntie Amy & Mrs Edgecumbe arrived after tea. Answered Amy's.

SEPTEMBER 1. Friday (RENINGHELST...BELGIUM)

Left Boeschepe at 2pm marched about 6klms towards Ypres. Had my tunic done up a bit. A letter arrived from Mrs Curtis, London. Arrived Reninghelst.

September 2. Saturday

Route-marched during morning. Cleaning drivers harness in the afternoon. Parcel from Mrs Curtis arrived, cakes, lollies, etc.

September 3. Sunday

Sixteen of us were detailed up to proceed to Divisional baths to take charge of same. Apparently, a good job ahead of us. Baths not working yet.

September 4. Monday

Detailed to take over the fires for the hot water system. One tank (hot) & 1 cold for men, 30 showers. 1 hot tank for officers & laundry. A few parties came for a bath.

September 5. Tuesday

At eight o'clock the girls arrived to start washing, but not expecting them, I had no hot water for them by eight. Kept busy all day with the wash-tubs & men's showers. About 300 went through during the day.

September 6. Wednesday

Good, the fires going well, although I had to get up at 5am to do it. Close on 400 had a bath.

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September 7. Thursday

Tried banking the fires last night & found them going good this morning. Men's water up to 150° when I got up, a good start. Letter from Florrie Johnson. Letter from Clem & one from Monty. Enemy aeroplane flew over us at 10 o'clock tonight & dropped kind of star-shell (***Parachute flare dropped from aircraft used as a means of illuminating the battlefield***) in three different places, apparently as signals. One of our searchlights picked her up & she looked great.

September 8. Friday

Paid 40 francs. Very busy all day. Big mail at night. Mother's No. 11 dated 1 April with Clem's wedding group, 2 from Janie (8th April & 20 July). Auntie Amy (30 May), Ruby Nalder, Harrison, Hilda Golder, Daisy Davis & Marie Hamilton (Jolimont), Fred Hudson (2 March & 16 July), Jim Charlton.

September 9. Saturday

Still at the baths. Rumours that we are here for some time. Australians are building winter quarters. The Colonel went to England a couple of days ago on furlough. Went up to the British Canteen after tea & bought a block cake as a luxury.

September 10. Sunday**September 11. Monday****September 12. Tuesday****September 13. Wednesday****September 14. Thursday**

Letters from Mother (In Victoria) & Uncle Dick. Feeling crook with rheumatic pains in back all day. At 4pm rheumatism got me properly. Felt a paralysing, gripping pain across buttock & right thigh. Had to knock off & hobble up to the hut. Rain & cold wind all day.

September 15. Friday

Wrote letters Mother & Janie. Did no work. Very bad night. Couldn't bend or help myself at all. Every twist sent a sharp pain through body. Walked about all day to ease the pain. Much better towards tea time.

September 16. Saturday

Alright again except for slight pains. Letter from Father with Father's and Jean's photo, taken by Percy, 1 letter from Janie, Ern Harris, Mr Harrison with photo of Manly Jetty.

September 17. Sunday**September 18. Monday**

Letter from Frank.

September 19. Tuesday**September 20. Wednesday (OUDERDOM...BELGIUM)**

Left the baths to rejoin unit at 11am. Baths are now run by reinforcements before being drafted to units. Met Albert Cunnington. He is now attached to our unit as a full Corporal, but was sent down to

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the baths after dinner. Name of our present billeting area, Ouderdom, 5 miles from Ypres.

September 21. Thursday

Doing fatigues, making roads, etc. Very wet all day. Went into Poperinghe with Roy Ramsay. Letters from Janie & Will Cosgrove & Ern Harris.

September 22. Friday

Doing fatigues about the place. Walked to Poperinghe after tea. Paid 40 francs. Poperinghe shelled this morning, several houses blown up but no one was hurt.

September 23. Saturday

Putting a roof on the Officers' mess until dinner-time. Afternoon off. Walked into Poperinghe. Much aerial activity, several enemy machines came over.

September 24. Sunday

Church-parade at Gas School conducted by Chaplain McKenzie (Salisbury). The most well known & highly respected of all our chaplains. Also at the service, Lieutenant General Birdwood & staff & Mr Andrew Fisher on a short visit to the Australian troops. Birdwood presented about 30 odd distinctions to men, won at Pozieres. He gave us to understand that we couldn't expect a holiday yet. We must be 'up & at 'em.'

(NB: Chaplain William McKenzie was known as 'Fighting Mac' and was awarded a Military Cross in June 1916 for his efforts at Gallipoli)

September 25. Monday

Walked into Poperinghe after tea. Bought a couple of 'Australias'. Stopped at an old couple's place named Catteniev until 8.30pm.

September 26. Tuesday

Marched to the baths for a shower. Had a yarn to A.E. Cunningham. One of the madams gave me a few Belgian stamps that she is collecting for me.

September 27. Wednesday

Doing fatigues about the camp. Put my name in for a position in a wireless Corps being formed for Australians. Hope to get on. Walked to the pictures at night.

September 28. Thursday

Q.M. (**Quartermaster**) fatigue. Letter from Janie dated 20 Aug.

September 29. Friday

Doing fatigues about the camp. Wrote letter to Janie (printed) Field P.C. (**Postcard**) to May Maddocks, Jim Charlton, Nellie Mosses.

September 30. Saturday

9am-11.30am fixing the ground for the sports. 1pm sports started. Won heat in potato race, pillow fighting, 2nd in hop, step & jump, tie for 3rd place in broad jump but lost the jump off. Our team in wrestling on horseback beaten, 2nd in semi-final potato race, & 3rd in final, beaten in semi-final pillow fight. Altogether a good day but no wins. A concert held after tea. Very good. A little farce was given which was very amusing. Bombardment started on the front & we had to stand-to till 9pm, but nothing happened for us.

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OCTOBER 1. Sunday

Inspected by General Walker (G.O.C.) (**General Officer Commanding**) 1st Division at 11.30am. 2pm...Got a special pass with 12 others & had our photos taken in a group. I had one taken by myself.

October 2. Monday

Fifteen men & 1 N.C.O. (**Non-commissioned Officer**) detailed for fatigues at Hopoutre baths. Very wet, so we did nothing all day.

October 3. Tuesday

Guard from 6pm tonight till 6pm tomorrow. Decided to do 4 hrs on & 8 off through the night. I had from 10pm till 2am. Never put in such long hours before. Very cold & misty.

October 4. Wednesday

Mail arrived, 1 from Mother No. 18 dated 18 Aug, Doris Davis & Mrs Edegcumbe. S.M. from E.H. Half-holiday for rest of unit for a football match but turned out too wet to play. Went into Poperinghe & got my photos.

October 5. Thursday

Working at Baths, fatigue work.

October 6. Friday

Ditto.

October 7. Saturday

Half-holiday. Went into Poperinghe with Bob Scott & Johnny Reynolds. Letter from Aunt Amy.

October 8. Sunday

Fatigues all day. Letter from Ern Harris.

October 9. Monday

Fatigues. Pictures after tea.

October 10. Tuesday

Fatigues all morning. Captain Robinson told us not to work too hard in the afternoon. Rumours that we are moving to St. Omer tomorrow. Got a rotten cold. Crook head.

October 11. Wednesday

On sick parade with cold in head. Off duty all day. Went down to baths at Hopoutre Junction to see Albert Cunningham. Stayed there from 1pm till 7pm. All the 3rd Field Ambulance boys had to rejoin unit tonight so I marched up with them. Expecting to leave tomorrow. Arrived at Ouderdom at about 8pm & found all tents, etc. packed on the waggons. After hunting about for my kit went to bed in the mess shed.

October 12. Thursday (STEENVOORDE...FRANCE)

Reveille 6.30am, fell-in 9am, moved off at 10.10am, marched to Steenvoorde by 3pm with an hour for dinner on the road. Distance about 10 miles. Fairly large city. Had tea in town, pork chops & eggs, etc. then went to bed. Letter from Clem 29 Aug. & Mr Hobbs 24 Aug.

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October 13. Friday

Moved out again at 9.30am. arrived at Wemaers-Cappel at 2.10pm without dinner, in fact had no dinner until 4.30pm, tea & dinner in one. Distance 9½ miles. Washed feet, turned in at 5.30pm, feet very tired and aching. Carried no blankets either day, all on ambulance waggons. Name of village – Noordpeene, not the other. Letter from Frank (in 7th Battalion 'A' Company), letter from May Brown.

October 14. Saturday

Left Noordpeene at 9.15am. Picked up the Infantry soon after. The whole brigade is moving in one long line & we always bring up the rear. You can imagine how long the line is, it took 1½ hours to pass through Watten, so a chap said. Marched about 5klms & had dinner. Another 5½ kilos to Watten, then another 5klms to Eperlecques where we camp in a large castle.

October 15. Sunday (NORDAUSQUES...FRANCE)

Letter from Mother (6th Aug). Left the Eperlecques Chateau at 9.15am, arriving at Nordausques at 10.30am.

October 16. Monday

Route-march during morning. Voting (conscription) took place at 2pm. Afterwards washed waggons in the creek.

October 17. Tuesday

On sick parade, crook head with cold. Posted photos to Mother, Syd, Clem, Annie, Janie, Aunt Amy, Mrs Edgecumbe. Card just arrived from Amy Harris dated 13 July addressed to 4th L.H.F.A. (**Light Horse Field Ambulance**) Talking to Eric Gordon.

October 18. Wednesday

Paid 40frcs. Francs...210 in wallet to date. On sick-parade again. Exempt from duty. Mail arrived midday. No. 20 from Mother dated 2 Sept, also enclosed was a letter dated 7 Aug 1915. One letter from Aunt Amy, 5 Sept, Daisy Davis 4 Sept & Ern Harris 1 Sept. Expecting to return to the Somme district. Saw Tom Carpenter.

October 19. Thursday

Wrote Ern Harris & Doris Davis. Stopped pay until further notice, on account of accumulating too much in pocket for safety.

October 20. Friday (BELLANCOURT...FRANCE)

Left Nordausques at about 2.15pm, march to Audruicq about 4 miles then entrained after tea at about 7.30pm. Passed a very cold night in the train. In the morning when we arrived at Pont Remy we found a very heavy frost on the ground which tuned our feet up considerably. Marched 4 miles to Bellancourt.

October 21. Saturday

Walked into Abbeville (7.5klms) after dinner & had a good look round. Fairly large city & flash shops, etc. Not much sign of war except for the few soldiers walking about, both French & English. Bought a good pair of gloves (fleece lined) for 10½frcs.

October 22. Sunday

Route march in the morning, dismissed after dinner.

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October 23. Monday (BUIRE...FRANCE)

Left at 9am, marched 7 miles then were put into motor lorries (French). Started off at about 3pm, passed through Amiens, one of France's biggest cities, at dusk. Pulled up at Buire at about 7.30pm. About 7kms south of Albert.

October 24. Tuesday

Whole of third brigade moved up to the line this morning, working a portion of the French front.

October 25. Wednesday

Unit (or rather 'A' & 'C' Section) took over XVEN Corps rest station. Capacity of station, 1,600 patients. Raining all day, camp very sloppy. I was put on outside duty. Tucker no bonne! **(Good)** No breakfast, no tea for dinner, dry bread & cheese for tea.

October 26. Thursday

Stretcher squad in waiting today. Big bombardment last night, Australians (5th Division) supposed to have taken 3 lines of trenches.

October 27. Friday

Very wet & cold. Sleeping in a bivouac.

October 28. Saturday

Much finer & warmer. Mail from Australia. No. 19 from home, Janie, Jim Charlton, Ern Harris, Annie. 2nd Division passed through on their way to the trenches.

October 29. Sunday

More rain. Camp very muddy & sloppy. Everyone feeling miserable.

October 30. Monday

More rain & more mud. Too wet to work outside after dinner. Another mail. No. 21 from Mother Sept. 10, & one from Don, Janie, Auntie Amy, Grace Vanstone, Jim.

October 31. Tuesday

Wrote to Mother, Jim Charlton, May Maddocks, Janie. Weather much better. No rain, sun shining all day.

NOVEMBER 1. Wednesday (BECOURT WOOD...FRANCE)

Reveille 5.30am, packed up, moved off in motor ambulances to Becourt Wood. Transferred to charabancs, **(Buses)** then after travelling for 5 hrs through the captured country arrived at 5th Division. Had to walk back about 2mls to 2nd Field Ambulance. Slept 20 in a bell tent. Nothing to eat since breakfast.

November 2. Thursday

Breakfast at 6.30am. Very cold. Moved off at 7.30am to relieve 1st Field Ambulance in the trenches. Detailed to advanced collecting station. Very few cases. Long carry...¾ mile carry through 15ins mud then 1½ miles on trolleys. Examined one of the 'tanks'. Hit on the back with a large lump of mud thrown up by a shell. Thought I had you 'Blighty'. **(England)**

November 3. Friday

Not much work. Stunt at midnight. 1st Division tried to take a ridge but failed in first attempt. Got it

after third. Sleeping in the open. No shelter from rain or shrapnel. Very cold. No rations.

November 4. Saturday

Cases began to roll in after midnight. Too dangerous to carry any stretchers in the dark on account of mud & condition of track. Started off at 4am with 20 walking cases. Feet very sore. Worked hard after daylight. 50 infantrymen called to help us.

November 5. Sunday

Relieved at 12 midday. Just as we got to the dressing station about 5 miles behind the line, a shell fell right on a motor lorry full of large shells which was being unloaded, causing about 20 casualties, killing 9 or 10 outright & 5 or 6 died in the station. A couple of the 1st Field & 1 of ours being hit, while passing.

November 6. Monday

Went on sick parade with sceptic toe & trench-feet. Ordered to Corps Rest Station. Left at 10am, arrived C.R.S. (**Corps Rest Station**) 7.30pm. Had feet dressed & anti-tetanus injection. Large French munitions dump exploded by German airmen near Bray, or thereabouts. Damage said to be about 3 million pounds.

November 7. Tuesday

Met Bob English, old workmate, with M.M. (**Military Medal**) 14th Field Ambulance. Letters from Mother (No. 22), Janie & Jim Charlton, 16 Sept.

November 8. Wednesday

Woke up with cold in shoulder & neck. Foot a lot easier. Enemy aeroplane passed over us after breakfast.

November 9. Thursday

Feeling fairly well. Discharged from hospital. Wrote letters Mother & Janie, F.P.C. (**Field Service Postcard**) to Jim, Ern, May Maddock, A. Gray. A very clear & warm day. Full moon. Enemy aeroplanes flying above us.

November 10. Friday

Another splendid day. Walked over to the aerodrome after dinner. Gave them a hand to pull out a plane. At about 7pm enemy planes were again heard above us. At 10.30pm I was awakened by the explosion of a bomb behind my bivouac. Then another fell near the hospital. Ten mins later another plane flew over & dropped 6 right on the hospital tents, killing 6 & wounding 30 or 40 including 2 of our office staff killed & 3 or 4 wounded. A heavy bombardment opened up at midnight on the front before Bapaume.

November 11. Saturday

On light duty. Helping in the dry canteen. Another Staff Sergeant from our office staff died tonight at 7.45pm making 3 dead. Bombardment continues unceasingly. Using very big guns.

November 12. Sunday

Put into scabies ward as Orderly for the day. Bombardment still continues. Apparently they are bombarding Bapaume after leaving it untouched for so long. A lot of prisoners taken near Thiepval & a lot of ground gained (about 5,000 prisoners) or more.

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November 13. Monday

Great consternation in the canteen. In the morning they found that 750frcs were missing. Later discovered it in a rat hole. Bombardment still continues. Up till midnight the bombardment has lasted 72 hours without even 5mins peace. Heard very distinctly here. The earth is in one long tremble. It must be awful.

November 14. Tuesday

Still doing light duty in canteen although feeling fairly well. 1st Division is now out of the line resting. Mail arrived, No. 23 dated 23 Sept. from Mother & one from Father, 1 from Syd, 2 from Janie, Auntie Amy, Ern Harris, May Maddocks, Ruby Nalder. Bombardment still raging. Bombardment stopped at midnight.

November 15. Wednesday

Orderly in scabies ward. At three o'clock two of us were sent with two Sawyers stoves up to the 7th Field Ambulance. Went in motor ambulance to Meaulte. Had to wait from 3.30pm till 7pm out in the cold wind for a train. Train left at 7pm & went to Mametz Wood. Handed over stoves to 7th Field Ambulance then caught same train back again which was filled with wounded. Arrived at Meaulte & found no traffic on the road so had to walk all the way home, about 7 miles, arriving at 4am.

November 16. Thursday

Slept all day. Parcel & letter from Mrs Edgecumbe. Mittens from Miss Sweet enclosed.

November 17. Friday

Paid 80 francs. Heavy frost this morning & cold wind blowing all day. Letter from Doris Trembath.

November 18. Saturday

Paid 50 francs (back-pay, bringing pay book up to date.) Found snow on the ground this morning & strong cold wind blowing. Snow inches deep in places. Wrote Mrs Edgecumbe.

November 19. Sunday

Doing general duties. Erecting Marquees. Very cold.

November 20. Monday

Put on permanent duty on baths.

November 21. Tuesday

Ditto.

November 22. Wednesday

Two of us had leave granted us to go into Amiens. Left the camp at 7.30am & caught a motor lorry on the main road. Amiens is about 22 kilos from here, so we had a fair distance to travel. Had a fair time in the city walking about the shops, etc. quite a unique experience for us to be in a gay city again with all the trams, etc. buzzing about us. Tried to buy things to send home but could not see anything suitable. All windows full of winter goods. Had plenty of money but not the choice. Bought a watch & silver identity disc chain. Amiens much bigger than Abbeville.

November 23. Thursday

Been feeling a bit crook lately with a throat complaint (bronchitis, I think), not too good today.

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November 24. Friday

Reported to Constructional Royal Engineers for duty. Doing carpentry work making carriages for stretchers on light railways. A terrible lot of Germans also employed there doing the labouring work. Drive to & fro in Ford car. Wrote home, Janie, Jim, Ern, Doris Davis, Miss Sweet (England), Miss Kitty Edgecumbe (England).

November 25. Saturday

Worked at the C.R.E. (*Constructional Royal Engineers*) all day.

November 26. Sunday

On sick parade. Dizzy head & cold.

November 27. Monday

Continued at C.R.E. (*Constructional Royal Engineers*) Temporarily attached to C.R.E.

November 28. Tuesday

Ditto. No car called for us. We knocked off at 4.15pm. Decided to wait till 6pm then if no car came, would jump on a lorry. At 5.30pm all traffic was held up somewhere so that not a vehicle passed. At 9pm still no traffic, decided to walk home, 8 miles. Arrived home 11.30pm. Very cold, almost freezing while waiting but the walk fixed us up. Had tea at 12am then went to bed.

November 29. Wednesday

Got to work at 9.45am instead of 7.30am. No questions asked. Very cold, expecting snow.

November 30. Thursday

Ditto. Had to walk home again after work.

DECEMBER 1. Friday

Very cold. Paid 40frcs. No. 25 dated 14 Oct. from Mother, one from Clem, Doris Trembath, Janie, No. 24 missing.

December 2. Saturday

Another mail day. No. 26 dated 21 October from Mother with honour board (photo enclosed), 2 from Janie, small parcel, 3 handkerchiefs & letter enclosed from Doris Davis, Mr Harrison, photo of River Terrace, (*Home address in Brisbane*) 2 from Ern Harris. Janie also sent a diary. Ready to move up to Longueval again, perhaps tomorrow or Monday. Extraordinarily cold. Ground frozen hard all day. Haven't seen sun for some days.

December 3. Sunday

Wrote to Frank and Doris Trembath. Walked to Buire looking for Frank but couldn't find him.

December 4. Monday

Doing general fatigues about the camp during the day. Not so cold as last week. Jumped on a lorry and went to Dernancourt but found that the 7th were on a different road towards Albert. Heard later that the 7th were seen marching into Albert this morning.

December 5. Tuesday

General fatigues all day getting ready to move tomorrow. Sent F.P.C. (*Field Postcard*) (Xmas greetings) to Aunt Amy & letter to Clem.

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December 6. Wednesday (LONGUEVAL...FRANCE)

Left Anzac Rest Station in motor lorries at 9.30am & came right through to Fricourt, then had to walk about 5 miles to the advanced dressing station where we were before. The whole of the ambulance unit moved up this time, the first time the whole unit has been up so close. Living in semi-circular bow huts. Stationed at Longueval. Very cold.

December 7. Thursday

Fritz has a nasty habit of sending over salvos of four shells (*Simultaneous discharge of artillery or firearms*) twice a day regularly all around our camp. One wounded a 1st Field driver today.

December 8. Friday

Drizzling rain all day. At last we have a chance of sleeping in till breakfast time (8am) tres bon. (*Very good*)

December 9. Saturday

Ditto. Leave to England is still being continued, two men every three days going so we shan't be long, although it won't be this year.

December 10. Sunday

Ditto. Parcel arrived from Mrs Edgecumbe dated Dec 1st.

December 11. Monday

Clouds cleared away for a wonder until midday, then it clouded over again & rained all afternoon. Enemy aeroplanes took advantage of the clear weather before ours, and very soon the whole country was being shelled. At about 10pm shells fell all around our huts & a large piece of shell fell through a hut next to us, half built & smashed through the roof & floors.

December 12. Tuesday

Woke up to find snow falling & continued all morning, up till midday. Surrounding country looked beautiful with all the dugouts, etc. showing black against the white. Three men every third day go to England now, so we shan't be long.

December 13. Wednesday

'C' Section went up the line this morning.

December 14. Thursday

'A' & 'B' Sections followed 'C' Section up the line this morning, relieving 1st Field Ambulance. Four of us were left behind to build the winter huts. Good tucker both here & up the line. 100% better than last trip. No stunts, so of course very few cases coming down. Some of the 1st Field Ambulance only carried 2 or 3 stretcher cases during the 10 days.

December 15. Friday

Snowing lightly all day. Not very cold. Letter from Mrs Edgecumbe (England). Fritz (*Germans*) threw some shells uncomfortably close at about 9pm, splashing the huts with mud.

December 16. Saturday

Sydney Mail from Ern Harris.

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December 17. Sunday

Artillery very active all day & up till midnight. Fritz was fairly active although he didn't trouble us here after dark. Had a few casualties up the line last night. One killed, 1 wounded & a Sergeant with shell-shock, all our men. Letter from Mrs Curtis.

December 18. Monday

As usual very cold. No. 27 from Mother dated 27 Oct.

December 19. Tuesday

Another heavy fall of snow fell all afternoon, starting at about 2.30pm. Getting colder every day. Sun rises after 8am & sets at about 3.30pm. Gets dark at 4.30pm. Ground has been frozen hard for the last two or three days.

December 20. Wednesday

Sun came out very strong all day & the sky was clear. Aeroplanes were soon out in hundreds. All around our camp from 11am till 4.30pm Fritz sent over his heavies & caused much damage & many casualties amongst the surrounding camps.

December 21. Thursday

Ground thawed during the night, so was very sloppy this morning. Fritz very quiet around our way. Met Corporal R.V. Wilson 15th Battalion from Wesley. **(Wesley Church in Brisbane where Les attended and his father was the Minister)**. Friend of Aggy Gray.

December 22. Friday

Still at A.D.S. **(Advanced Dressing Station)** doing the carpentry about the camp. A few slight showers of rain during the morning. Clouds cleared away during afternoon. Much warmer all day.

December 23. Saturday

Duty. Received our Christmas parcels from Australia, a couple of tins tobacco, lollies, writing paper, etc.

December 24. Sunday (21ST BIRTHDAY)

21st Birthday spent in rather quiet fashion. Doing our ordinary fatigues all day, bit doopey at night.

December 25. Monday

No duty all day, bit of plum pudding for dinner to remind of it being Christmas. Very dreary day, strong wind blowing & rain. Our guns fairly active at intervals. Fritz also gave our bearers a 'hurry up' up the trenches...3 came down with shell-shock. Christmas celebrations very dull amongst the boys here.

December 26. Tuesday

Another clear day, aviators busy.

December 27. Wednesday

44 of our bearers returned from Flers relieved by 2nd Field. Parcel from Mrs Curtis (England). Wrote Mrs Edgecumbe, Mrs Curtis, Mother, Janie, Field Postcards to Monty, Doris Trembath.

December 28. Thursday

Ditto.

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December 29. Friday

Ditto. Put in transfer for 1st Anzac Light Railways Corps but was stopped at orderly room.

December 30. Saturday

Weather medium. Letter from Janie. 12/11/16.

December 31. Sunday

Church parade was held during the morning in our hut by a **C of E** Chaplain (**Church of England**). 12 pm...Decided to wait up for the New Year. Bombardment for a few minutes at 11pm. Fritz tried to interrupt us during the service. This is only the 3rd church service we have had since coming to France.

1917 DIARY**OF****LESLIE DUNSTAN****2628**

**3rd AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE
Stretcher Bearer**

&

**1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SUPPLY COLUMN
Wheeler**

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES**JANUARY 1. Monday (LONGUEVAL...FRANCE)**

Large mail from Australia to start New Year with. Nos 28 & 29 dated Oct 31, Nov 10, Mother, Janie Oct 30, Nov 8 Jim Charlton, Ern, Annie, May Brown. Still at Longueval, 2nd Field bearers in trenches.

January 2. Tuesday

Peaceful day although Fritz kept plonking H.E.s (**High explosive**) up the road. Cable from home 'Birthday greetings'.

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January 3. Wednesday

Building new iron place for patients.

January 4. Thursday

Ditto. Artillery very quiet. Parcel from Mother arrived, knee-caps, cigarettes. Two Sydney Mails from Ern Harris.

January 5. Friday

Ditto.

January 6. Saturday – Epiphany

Ditto. Horse & motor transport left for Ribemont 12th Field Ambulance bearers came up at about 3pm.

January 7. Sunday – 1st after Epiphany**January 8. Monday**

12th Field Ambulance took over & we left at 9am catching a train at Mametz Wood, leaving at 11am. Got off at Meaulte & walked to Ribemont. Billeted in a flour mill. Passed 7th Battalion at Buire but didn't see Frank.

January 9. Tuesday

Marched to Vivier Mills baths for a bath & carried our packs back which had been stored there.

January 10. Wednesday

Did nothing all day. After tea a few of us walked to Mericourt to see the Divisional Follies. Not bad.

January 11. Thursday

After dinner I walked down to Buire to look for Frank. Couldn't find him in the Company so went to H.Qs (**Headquarters**) but found that he wasn't on the rolls. A bit puzzled.

January 12. Friday

Put an application into orderly room for a transfer to 1st Divisional Supply Column. Heard that Frank was in 1st Anzac Rest Station (Buire) sick. Parcel from Auntie Amy.

January 13. Saturday

Walked to Buire but was told that Frank had been evacuated to C.C.S. (**Casualty Clearing Station**) four days previously.

January 14. Sunday – 2nd after Epiphany

Whole unit marched to Warloy where we are working in hospital.

January 15. Monday

On guard 8.30am till 6pm. Transfer approved by the C.O. (**Commanding Officer**) & passed on to C.O. of 1st D.S.C. (**Divisional Supply Column**) Waiting for reply.

January 16. Tuesday

Fatigues.

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January 17. Wednesday

About 6 ins of snow fell during the night & continued all day. Great fun amongst the troops snowballing.

January 18. Thursday

Went down to 1st A.D.S.C. (**Australian Divisional Supply Column**) on one of the cars as orderly intending to have interview with Colonel Moon. While there my transfer came through & was approved of & requested me to undergo trade tests. Passed satisfactorily.

January 19. Friday

Told by W.O. (**Warrant Officer**) to report to the unit until they sent for me. Put my gear on motor lorry & rode back to Warloy. Mail arrived No. 30 Nov 24, 2 from Janie, Millie, Mac. (Rocky) Jim & Ern.

January 20. Saturday

A dinner was given by the Sports Club from the Corps Fund monies. It was a great feed of 5 courses, including turkey, geese & ducks, ham, plum-duff etc. Concert afterwards. Parcel from Mother & Jim.

January 21. Sunday – 3rd after Epiphany

Received note from A.D.S.C. (**Australian Divisional Supply Column**) saying that they didn't require my services. Half-holiday. Letter from Janie.

January 22. Monday

Fatigues. Went to Q.M. (**Quartermaster**) Store for new pair of boots. Felt nearly crippled by old pair.

January 23. Tuesday

Last Wednesday's snow still lying on the ground but has lost its adhesive powers and is very crisp. Today has been exceptionally cold. No. 31 letter from Mother.

January 24. Wednesday

Volunteers called for the infantry as officers. Stepped out with 33 others. Colonel took particulars of education, previous military experience, etc. Could tell by his tone that I wouldn't be accepted. Turned down.

January 25. Thursday

Wrote out application to 1st A.D.S.C. (**Australian Divisional Supply Column**) as driver. 17 of yesterday's applicants (I wasn't one) had to report to A.D.M.S. (**Australian Director of Medical Services**) Application rejected by Colonel. Coldest night in France for past 8 years.

January 26. Friday – Foundation Day

Jumped on a lorry & rode to Ribemont 16klms & interview Colonel Moon, 1st A.D.S.C. (**Australian Divisional Supply Column**) Gave experience etc. of motor driving (3years with Sunbeam & Ford) & put on books to await test.

January 27. Saturday

Very cold but sun shining. Enemy aeroplanes busy. Letter from Kitty Edgecumbe. Paid 80 francs.

January 28. Sunday – 4th after Epiphany

Very cold. First signs of Laryngitis showing.

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January 29. Monday

Today's paper says that this is the coldest France has experienced since '95. Went out for a drive in afternoon. Letters from Mother No. 32, Janie, Nellie, Doris Davis, Clem. Voice completely gone.

January 30. Tuesday**January 31. Wednesday**

More snow fell. On sick parade with my voice. Parcel from Percy.

FEBRUARY 1. Thursday

Usual fatigues.

February 2. Friday

Three of us told to report to 1/1 South Midland C.C.S. (*a.k.a. No. 61 at Edgehill near Dernancourt*) for duty, left Warloy at 2pm per motor ambulance, found C.C.S. (*Casualty Clearing Station*) between Dernancourt & Buire, British concern. Three Australians from each division are unloading hospital trains. 9 of us are here so far. Very cold. Voice still silent.

February 3. Saturday

Trains come in at 2.30pm & 10.30pm which means no sleep until midnight. Wrote to Mrs Edgecumbe & Doris Trembath.

February 4. Sunday

Loaded evacuation train during morning and unloaded other two trains as usual.

February 5. Monday

Unloading & evacuating day & night.

February 6. Tuesday

Ditto. Voice has come back to about normal again. Very cold wind blowing. Heavy frosts.

February 7. Wednesday

Ditto. Fingers nearly freeze off while working out in the open. Wind still continues.

February 8. Thursday

Yet again another day passes in the same routine as before. Started to evacuate at 12.30pm which meant dinner at 4pm instead of 1pm.

February 9. Friday

Mail arrived No. 33 & 34, Janie, Ern, Monty, Jim, Xmas Queenslander from Mother, Sydney Mails from Ern, & Charlie Nalder. Parcels from Mother (gloves, etc.) & Uncle Dick (Reynolds).

February 10. Saturday

Wrote to Mother, Janie, Ern, Jim, Doris Davis. P.C.'s (*Postcards*) to May Maddocks, Auntie Amy.

February 11. Sunday**February 12. Monday**

While loading evacuation train I ricked my back. Felt a sharp pain between shoulders. Felt very queer,

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nearly fainted & broke out in cold sweat. Rode off in a motor & saw a doctor. Went to bed. Given a tonic to take regularly.

February 13. Tuesday

Back very sore. Got up at 10.30am.

February 14. Wednesday

After unloading afternoon train, I rode into Albert to find the 'K' Corps Supply Column & ask about my transfer. Nothing has happened yet so must wait. My back, though weak, gives no pain. Still use the tonic.

February 15. Thursday

Walked to Vivier Mills (Meaulte) & had a hot bath & clean change. Letter from Janie (24th Dec). Much warmer today. All the snow has disappeared, ground slightly muddy.

February 16. Friday

Walked over to Millencourt to where the unit is working a rest camp. Would rather be where I am than be working up there.

February 17. Saturday

Five divisions of 'Tommies' (*British soldiers*) hopped the bag at 6am. Many casualties coming in all day, long lines of ambulances coming & going continually. Evacuating till midnight.

(NB: "Hopped the bag" is a term commonly used for the sandbags that constituted the top of the front wall of a trench)

February 18. Sunday

Called up at 5am for another evacuation. Kept going until 10pm.

February 19. Monday

Decided to do without breakfast, being too tired, so stayed in bed till 10am. Walked to Mericourt after the afternoon train was unloaded & went to a concert given by Grenadier Guards.

February 20. Tuesday

The skies are continually over-clouded & a drizzly rain is falling, gradually making the ground very sloppy. The atmosphere is considerably warmer, so much so that we can go out even at midnight without wrapping up as previously.

February 21. Wednesday

Jumped on the afternoon ambulance train & rode into Meaulte for a bath. Feeling A1.

February 22. Thursday

Sent letter to Fred Keith.

February 23. Friday

After unloading train in afternoon, walked over to Millencourt for pay & mail but was disappointed in both. Handed in pay book prior to receiving new one. No word from 'K' Supply Column yet. Becoming cold again.

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February 24. Saturday

Moved our tent down to the E.M.O. (*Embarkation Medical Officer*) office, being closer to our work. Walked to Mericourt after tea to the picture show. Colonel Butler left us to go to home to Australia. **(NB: Colonel Butler was in command of the 3rd Field Ambulance)**

February 25. Sunday

Did a bit of washing.

February 26. Monday

Letter from Kitty Edgecumbe. Issued with new pay book. Walked to Millencourt & got neither pay nor mail. Evacuation afternoon.

February 27. Tuesday

Evacuation morning. Went to Mericourt for picture show.

February 28. Wednesday

Walked to Millencourt across ploughed fields of mud & got paid 60frcs. No mail. Evacuation afternoon.

MARCH 1. Thursday

Evacuation afternoon. Went to Mericourt picture show at night, standing room only.

March 2. Friday

No. 21 evacuation morning. Night train brought 42 stretcher cases. As a rule, only 6 or 7. Bought German revolver for 10frcs as souvenir.

March 3. Saturday

Jumped a lorry & went to Corbie. Had a fair time, rather large town but nothing flash about it. Mail arrived No. 35 & 1 from Mother, Janie, Frank, Annie, Jim, Ern, Aggy Gray.

March 4. Sunday**March 5. Monday**

Went to Millencourt on an ambulance motor for mail. None for me.

March 6. Tuesday

Went to Mericourt after unloading train. Fall of snow during night.

March 7. Wednesday

No. 17 train evacuation after dinner. Very cold.

March 8. Thursday

Very cold. No evacuation. Stayed in bed until 12noon. Went to Mericourt picture show at night.

March 9. Friday

No. 5 train evacuation during afternoon. Shrewd Bell called round with his car after breakfast so jumped on with him. I drove it from Ribemont to Dernancourt through Buire, about 10klms. After tea two of us went scouting for material to build a humpy. Found a tarpaulin building half a mile away, so pinched it.

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March 10. Sunday

Started on the building. Put up most of the frame about 12ft x 9ft. No evacuation. Went to Millencourt after dinner. Paid 40frcs. No mail.

March 11. Sunday

Nearly finished the Chateau. Evacuated No. 9 train before dinner. Heard rumour that spring offensive would start within 48 hrs.

March 12. Monday

No evacuation. Went to Vivier Mills for a bath after the train came in. Worked hard on the hut.

March 13. Tuesday

Finished our hut today & are sleeping in it tonight for the premier temp. Bunks erected, fire stove inserted, fanlights & windows complete. Mail, No. 3 from Mother, Fred Keith, Jim, Ern, Doris Davis, Kitty Edgecumbe. Evacuation No. 5 train.

March 14. Wednesday

Sent letters to Mother 4, Janie, Monty, Jim, Ern, A. Gray, G. Vanstone, F. Keith, K. Edgecumbe. No evacuation.

March 15. Thursday

No evacuation. Weather much warmer.

March 16. Friday

Evacuated No. 1 train before dinner. 23 cases off local train both afternoon & night.

March 17. Saturday

Jumped on Shrewd Bell's car & went for a drive after breakfast till dinner time. Concert at No. 3 A.C.C.S. (**Australian Casualty Clearing Station**) after tea. Bapaume officially reported fallen.

March 18. Sunday

Went to the unit after breakfast. Letter from Mrs Curtis.

March 19. Monday

Evacuation No. 11 A.T. (**Ambulance Train**) Good news in paper concerning the advance. Met Norm Charlton in Buire. 2nd Division having the honour of taking Bapaume & following up Fritz, while all others are resting.

March 20. Tuesday

No evacuation. Went for drive in Les Frayne's car to unit & back. Gave good pair of officers riding breeches to Shrewd.

March 21. Wednesday

Very cold. Evacuation No. 31 ambulance train after breakfast. 21st Battalion cut up near Bapaume. 4th Division marched up toward Albert. 1st Division expecting to go to Abbeville. Dip Kenny reported to Flying Corp to go through tests.

March 22. Thursday

Local train came down again at 7.30am with 31 more stretchers mostly 21st Battalion. A special train

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brought eleven more in at 10am. Prince Henry of Prussia brought in last night being wounded by M.G. (*Machine Gun*) after descending (being brought down) in aeroplane then trying to escape.

(NB: Prince Henry was actually Prince Friedrich Karl of Prussia and he died of his injuries 2 weeks later on his 24th birthday on the 6th April 1917. In 1912 he won a bronze medal for Germany at the Olympic Games in the equestrian team jumping event.)

March 23. Friday

Evacuation. A bit warmer. Nothing else to report.

March 24. Saturday

No evacuation. Caught a car going to Millencourt. Paid 40francs. Parcel from Mrs Curtis & letter from Mrs Edgecumbe.

March 25. Sunday

Evacuation No. 4 train. Freezing morning but hot afternoon. Went to 'K' Supply Column.

March 26. Monday

No evacuation. Went to Vivier Mills for a bath & then on to Albert to the pictures. The French people are beginning to come back to Albert again, now that it is beyond gun fire.

March 27. Tuesday

Evacuated No. 27 train after dinner. Local train brought 1 stretcher & 57 walkers. Parcel from Mrs Edgecumbe. Very peculiar weather hot, cold, snow, sunshine at intervals.

March 28. Wednesday

Went into Amiens by myself. Left camp at 7am. Bought some fine photos of the Cathedral. Had a fair time.

March 29. Thursday

Evacuated No. 4 train before dinner. Very few cases coming down on local train.

March 30. Friday

No evacuation. Fairly warm weather, rain at intervals. No. 45 C.C.S. (*Casualty Clearing Station*) moved to Aveluy.

March 31. Saturday

Mail. No. 2 from Mother, 2 from Janie, Ern, Kitty Edgecumbe. No evacuation. Wrote to Kitty Edgecumbe, Mrs Curtis.

APRIL 1. Sunday

Evacuation, No. 30. Walked to Albert after dinner.

April 2. Monday

Rather warm during morning then began to get cold after dinner. At 5pm a heavy fall of snow fell. Wind sprang up after tea & blew a gale all night. Drove Dip Kenny's car from here to Lavieville.

April 3. Tuesday

Evacuation No. 30 train. Went to Albert at 3pm. Called in at 'K' Supply Column. Can expect something in a week or so. Went concert given by Anzac Concert Party in Albert.

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April 4. Wednesday

Drizzling rain. Went over to unit after dinner. No mail. Prince of Wales & General Birdwood at Anzac concert in Albert. America declared war on Germany today.

April 5. Thursday

Evacuated No. 23 train. A lovely day & full moon at night. Quite light up till 8.45pm. 3rd Field Ambulance moved up to a position 5 miles passed Bapaume, but we are still left here. No stretcher cases last night & only 1 this afternoon.

April 6. Friday – Good Friday

Nothing to do in morning. A bit of evacuation after tea No. 3 train. No. 3 A.C.C.S. (**Australian Casualty Clearing Station**) received orders to move to Achiet-le-petit.

April 7. Saturday – Easter Eve

1st Field Ambulance takes over local train. German aeroplane flew over us at a height of no more than 300 or 400ft.

April 8. Sunday – Easter Day

A perfect day, in fact, sun was rather hot. Enemy planes busy above us. Evacuation No. 23.

April 9. Monday

Big advance on Arras-Lens front. Evacuation.

April 10. Tuesday

Evacuation. Good news in paper of the advance at Arras.

April 11. Wednesday

No evacuation. Went to Albert to the Anzac Concert Party. Very good turn.

April 12. Thursday

Evacuation No. 25 train at 7pm finished up at 9pm. At 8pm we received orders from the Colonel of 1/1 S.M.D. (**South Midland Division**) to catch 7am train tomorrow & report to our unit. After dinner I went to Fricourt looking for 25th Battalion (Frank) but couldn't find them. (him) Day warm up till 5pm then snow fell till 7.30pm.

April 13. Friday

Got up at 6am, had breakfast packed up & reported to the train. Learned that we 9 had to replace 9 of the 1st Field Ambulance on train. 4th Division broke Hindenburg line yesterday but were driven back again today. Wrote to Frank, but learned after I had posted it that the 2nd Division had gone in again.

April 14. Saturday

Went to Albert at about 4pm. Saw a mob of reinforcements march through. Had tea at Y.M.C.A. (**Young Men's Christian Association**) then went to Anzac Coves concert at 7pm.

April 15. Sunday

Did two trips on train then got our 'walking ticket'. Reported to unit two villages past Bapaume at 7pm.

April 16. Monday

Collected large bundle of mail at main collection station in Bapaume yesterday, Nos 4, 5, 7 from

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Mother, 1 from Frank written before going into the trenches, dated 30th March. 4 letters from Janie one containing photo, Jim, Ern, May Maddocks, Aggy Gray. Name of our village here, Beugny.

April 17. Tuesday

Cold and miserable day. Very busy all day dodging W.O. (**Warrant Officer**) & work. Walked across the open fields to be out of the way. We are working in main dressing station about 4 miles from Fritz. (behind the line) Learned that my transfer had come through to the orderly room but the Colonel won't let me go yet because he says we are too busy.

April 18. Wednesday

Put on carpenters gang. Didn't do much. Very wet & cold. Walked to Fremicourt between Bapaume & Beugny after tea. Mail arrived. No. 6 from Mother, 1 from Clem, 2 from Janie & 1 from Monty.

April 19. Thursday

No. 8 letter 26 Feb from Mother. Father suffering from nervous breakdown. Not much rain. Doing fatigues in Beugny. Collecting timber in village this morning when Fritz started to shell it. A couple came very close covering us with brick dust. Put the wind up. Fritz is supposed to be massing for an attack. 2nd Division hop over tonight. (7pm) All guns open up in bombardment on 2nd Division front to the left.

April 20. Friday

Detailed to do a bit of carpentry at Fremicourt in the dentist's place. W.O. (**Warrant Officer**) said I could report to the Motor Column when I have finished.

April 21. Saturday

Fritz shelled the village with heavies today but did no damage. Sent letters to Mother, Janie, Ivy Davis, Kitty Edgecumbe.

April 22. Sunday

Parcel from Janie. Paid 40frcs. Aeroplanes busy. One of our kite balloons burned by Fritz near here. (very close to this hospital)

April 23. Monday

At about 5pm Fritz started shelling the 6" howitzer batteries in front of our camp (hospital), with 8" shells. He kept up the bombardment till 9pm then started again at midnight till 5am. Blew up three 6" howitzers (guns) & caused many casualties. One of our men wounded (got a nasty wound in the shoulder). He fairly haunted the place.

April 24. Tuesday

Parcel from Mother, socks, etc. Letter from Mother (No. 9) & 1 from Janie. 'C' section tent sub-division moved back to Bapaume to take over a rest camp. Bearers came back from the line.

April 25. Wednesday Relieved by 'Tommies' (**British soldiers**)

Anzac Day. Whole unit left M.D.S. (**Main Dressing Station**) at 9.30am en route to Bapaume. Expecting to work our way up to Armentieres. Got a great surprise after dinner. Had just settled down in our new possie when Frank walked into the tent. He is looking well. We had a yarn till tea time then he had to go home. Gave him 20 francs.

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April 26. Thursday

Went to pictures after tea.

April 27. Friday

Inoculated after tea. Frank called around again at about 3pm & stayed for tea. We expected to go to the pictures in Bapaume together but while having tea, 'A' Section were told to fall in at 7pm for inoculation. We had a good yarn for about 3 hours then Frank went home. A shell fell in Bapaume just before Frank came, killed 18, wounded 31 & smashed a motor lorry & a couple of railway trucks.

April 28. Saturday

Feeling very doopey all day through effects of inoculation. We were all turned out into the open field with our blankets to lie in the open all day. Diary from Mother & 3 mails from Chas Nalder.

April 29. Sunday

Election day for Federal Parliament. My first vote. Walked to Beaumont to see Frank. Stayed till almost 6.30pm. While there he got a mail. A perfect day. Received this diary from Mother & 35 Ms from Chas Nalder on Saturday. Parcel from Mother socks etc. also letter (No. 9) & 1 from Janie on Tuesday.

April 30. Monday (ALBERT...FRANCE)

Reported to 'K' Corps Supply Column at Albert. Caught a lorry at Bapaume going right into Albert. Noticed on the way that a monument had been erected for the 1st Australian Division at Pozieres.

MAY 1. Tuesday

Told to report to workshops after dinner. Worked till 5.30pm.

May 2. Wednesday

It came out in orders that I have been temporarily attached to the 'K' Corps Supply Column workshops as a wheeler. (***A wheeler would repair not only wheels, but also the woodwork of carts and waggons***)

May 3. Thursday

Started work at 8am, worked till 12 noon & then from 1.15pm till 5.30pm. Tucker very good.

May 4. Friday

Woke up with crook head, felt bad all day. After tea lay down for a while but seemed to get worse. Spoke to Australian Medical detail, (medical orderly) took temperature...103.6, thought it best to see a Doc. Drove up to 8th Field Ambulance in car to Belle Vue Farm. Admitted to hospital.

May 5. Saturday

Not too good. Head very big.

May 6. Sunday

Much the same. In bed all day.

May 7. Monday

Got up after medical inspection for a walk in the sun. Feeling a little better. Met Percy Hunt in 8th Field Ambulance. Came across one of the 3rd F.A. (***Field Ambulance***) boys. He said that the 3rd had

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suffered many casualties, 3 killed & 8 (9 or 10) or so wounded during first night at Bullecourt. They went in on Thursday.

May 8. Tuesday

Crook head again. M.O. (**Medical Officer**) came around after dinner. Marked me C.C.S. (**Casualty Clearing Station**) Left for Aveluy 9th C.C.S. after tea. Given a blue ticket for the Base.

(NB: Soldiers recovering in Britain were required to wear a loose blue uniform, known as the 'convalescent blues')

May 9. Wednesday

A lovely day. Got up after medical inspection out into the sun. A band gave us a bit of a concert after tea. Wrote short notes to Mother, Frank, Janie, Kitty Edgecumbe.

May 10. Thursday

Feeling a bit better. Sun very hot & air muggy. At 7pm I was warned for evacuation at 9pm. (The Sergeant came round & picked out a few to be evacuated at 9pm. I was one of the lucky ones.) Train came in at 10pm but was too full to take us.

May 11. Friday

Not too good all day. Very miserable with crook head and pains in leg. Another train has come in.

May 12. Saturday

Crook again, temp. 102° at night.

May 13. Sunday

Same.

May 14. Monday

Much better today. Still at C.C.S. (**Casualty Clearing Station**) though I am trying hard to go down the line. No more trains have come in yet. (4pm) Hurried orders to get ready. Put on hospital train at 4.15pm arrived at Boulogne at midnight.

May 15. Tuesday (EVACUATED TO HOSPITAL AT WIMEREUX...FRANCE)

After getting off train we were driven to No. 2 A.G.H. (**At Wimereux**) arriving at 2am. Had a good shower, dirty clothes taken away, uniform rolled up in bundle to be fumigated, put in pyjamas & gown then went to the ward. Put to bed with spring mattress between white sheets. Tres bon, (**Very good**) food and everything else excellent.

May 16. Wednesday

M.O. (**Medical Officer**) told me this morning that I would be going to 'Blighty' (**England**) shortly for a holiday. Weather rather misty & cold. Somehow I have a presentiment that I won't be able to get my pack from unit & that I won't join them up again. (join the unit again) Perhaps war will finish.

May 17. Thursday

Much the same. Aches & pains in all joints. Trench fever is rheumatism, but as a man is entitled to a pension if discharged from the Army with rheumatism it has been changed to trench fever.

May 18. Friday

Got my ticket for 'Blighty' this morning. Expect to go tonight. Up till 9pm no boat left.

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May 19. Saturday (EVACUATED TO ENGLAND...BROOK WAR HOSPITAL WOOLWICH)

Embarked on *HMHS St. Denis* for Dover at over. Two hospital ships two troopships & two or three 9.45am. Left Boulogne at 1.50pm. Very foggy coming destroyers in our convoy. Arrived Dover. After a lot of waiting, entrained. Beautiful country. Arrived at Well Hall at 9pm. Motorbuses took us to Brook War Hospital, Woolwich.

May 20. Sunday

Fine hospital.

May 21. Monday

Still in bed.

May 22. Tuesday

Very quiet day. A bit of a disturbance last night by one of the patients who is subject to fits. Went mad for about 2 hours after coming to. Removed to another ward later.

May 23. Wednesday**May 24. Thursday**

Got up after tea.

May 25. Friday

Got up after dinner.

May 26. Saturday

Letter from Mr Edgecumbe. Got up for the whole day. Drew new boots & overcoat from stores.

May 27. Sunday

Visitors day.

May 28. Monday

Mail brought 9 letters for me.

May 29. Tuesday

Went to Woolwich after dinner. Bought colours for overcoat, blue over white with red shamrock in centre.

May 30. Wednesday

Went to Woolwich again.

May 31. Thursday

After dinner three of us went to the Hippodrome. Bucksheesh. (*Charitable donation*) Good show.

JUNE 1. Friday

Went to Woolwich & Eltham.

June 2. Saturday

Caught a bus outside hospital after dinner & went to London. In Trafalgar Square & walked up the Strand several times. Not very favourably impressed. Not half up to what I expected. There were

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three in the party & none of us knew London at all. After walking about for 2½ hours then home again. A bit tired.

June 3. Sunday

Went to London again with a young chap who knows the place, so I found it very interesting. Walked through Hyde Park, Marble Arch then around to Buckingham Palace. Queen Victoria's statue very fine.

June 4. Monday

Expecting to be paid the 3/6 so stayed in until tea time then went to Woolwich for a ride on a motor bus.

June 5. Tuesday

Caught a bus into London at 2pm, through Lewisham Way to New Cross Gate to Tower Bridge. Got off at the bridge & walked around the Tower of London then went up Needle Street, passed Lloyds then to St. Pauls then on to Blackfriars Bridge & home again.

June 6. Wednesday

Caught No. 21A bus to New Cross Gate, No. 53 to Trafalgar Square. No. 32 to Balham, walked up Sainfoin Road & found Mrs Curtis. Had a talk then tea & before I realised the time it was 6 o'clock & I had a two hour journey to get home by 7pm. Needless to say I was late. Came in at 8pm instead of 7pm. Expect I'll have my leave stopped.

June 7. Thursday

Orders came for me to draw my Khaki this afternoon. Went down to the stores at 2pm. New clothes. As soon as I had drawn my clobber I went to the matinee at the Hippodrome in Woolwich. (Bucksheesh) *(Charitable donation)*

June 8. Friday (No. 3 AUSTRALIAN AUXILIARY HOSPITAL AT DARTFORD...ENGLAND)

Reported to orderly room with 16 others at 12 o'clock, then we rode down to the Woolwich Station in a tram & caught the train for Dartford, arriving there at 3pm. Had 'blues' issued again. No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital.

(NB: Soldiers recovering in Britain were required to wear a loose blue uniform, known as the 'convalescent blues')

June 9. Saturday

Stayed in camp all day. Concert after tea in theatre.

June 10. Sunday

Went into Dartford after dinner. Drew Khaki from stores again. Met Morsley in stores.

(NB: Cyril Morsley was his future brother-in-law who was convalescing at the hospital and 2 months later was detached from the 3rd Field Ambulance to work at the hospital)

June 11. Monday

Dressed in Khaki, fell in at 10am & were driven to station. Train took us to Waterloo Station, had dinner at Free Buffet. Caught another train at 1.25pm for Weymouth, express to Southampton. Reached Weymouth at 4.30pm driven to Monte Video camp, No. 2 Australian Command Depot.

June 12. Tuesday (WESTHAM CAMP, WEYMOUTH...ENGLAND)

Parades at 7.45am, 8.15am, 1.30pm & 5pm for different reasons such as medical inspection, kit etc. Classified at 8.15 as BIA. *(Fit for light duty only)* At 5pm a few of us were marched about 2 miles to

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the Westham Camp in the city. Monte Video is 2 miles outside. Went to the city after we were settled down. Nice place.

June 13. Wednesday

Classified as BIA2. (*Fit for overseas training camp in 3 to 4 weeks*) B class. Issued with new kit, boots, trousers, tunic, etc. making two pairs of boots & 2 suits. After tea went to the theatre on the boulevard, Au Revoir Paris, revue.

June 14. Thursday

Physical jerks & route march.

June 15. Friday

Called out on 1st Draft for Wareham. Payed £1/10/-. Bought V.P.K. camera. (*Vest Pocket Kodak*)

June 16. Saturday

Marched out at 10am. Wareham about 17 miles towards London. About 1½ miles from station head by land. Band played us all the way from the station. Stayed in town all afternoon & evening. Very hot, given a yellow armband to wear (Unclassified)

June 17. Sunday

Went over to 161st Field Ambulance 6th Division to see Peter Cobb. The 6th Division has only lately been formed. Marched to church in town.

June 18. Monday

Seven mile route-march in the morning. Classed as B1A2 (*Fit for overseas training camp in 3 to 4 weeks*) again with blue armband. Wrote to Doris Davis & Annie.

June 19. Tuesday

Went out with Peter Cobb after tea.

June 20. Wednesday

16th Brigade, 6th Division left this morning, marching to somewhere on Salisbury Plains. Wrote Jim. Spent evening in Y.M.C.A. (*Young Men's Christian Association*) Intended going to picture show but discovered that I only had 3p in pocket, so I had a cup of tea & bun (2p) leaving me a penny to do as I liked with.

June 21. Thursday (CODFORD CAMP, SALISBURY PLAIN...ENGLAND)

Reveille 4am, breakfast (1 slice bread & piece of bacon) 4.30am, moved out at 7.45am, entrained, & left at 9am arriving at Codford at 12noon (Salisbury Plain). Posted letter to Jim.

June 22. Friday

Put in application for furlough. Met Walter Paterson in Church Army Hut. Letters from Mother, Janie, Doris, Kathy. Wrote to Janie. Went up the village after tea, rotten. Came back in a few minutes. Worse than a French village.

June 23. Saturday

Told off for guard at 5.30pm.

1917

June 24. Sunday

Guard on No. 4 Camp.

June 25. Monday

Classified again B1A3. (*Fit for overseas training camp in 2 to 3 weeks*) Told off to relieve one of the quarter guards for dental parade. Had to stay on all day, till 7pm. Went for a walk up the village with Paterson.

June 26. Tuesday

Route march in the Park with 'tanks', blue & red bands. Letter from Frank, Kitty & Mr Edgecumbe & Will Angell (Maryborough). At about 8pm. I had a bad turn, dizzy head & vomiting. Got some medication from dispensary. Crook all night.

June 27. Wednesday

Still feeling crook.

June 28. Thursday

Medical inspection before proceeding on furlough. Paid £4/10/-.

June 29. Friday (ON LEAVE AT LONDON)

Caught 8am train from Codford, arrived Paddington 11.30am. Walked to Horseferry Road drew £2/16/- ration allowance. Caught bus to Balham. Bought tunic £2/5/-.

June 30. Saturday

Went to Hampton Court in AM (*In the morning*) with Gladys Curtis. After dinner went Tower Bridge & Tower of London, St. Pauls (inside & out) with Mr Curtis.

JULY 1. Sunday

Walked all round city seeing the sights. Had a ride on Tube.

July 2. Monday

Went to city by myself at 9am. Stood in Victoria Street & saluted King & Queen as they drove past on the way to Westminster Abbey. After dinner went to Selfridges. Bought underclothes (£1). Victoria Palace at night.

July 3. Tuesday

Left Balham at 10am & caught bus for Westminster. Had a look through the Abbey, then saw the Horse Guards change, then through the National Museum, then bus to Regents Park through Park to Zoo. Three hours in zoo, had tea, bus to Hampstead Heath, walked across Heath to Highgate, train & bus to town. Called in at Mrs Wimberley's at Victoria, then home.

July 4. Wednesday (ON LEAVE AT LISKEARD, CORNWALL...ENGLAND)

Left Balham at 9am, train to Victoria, Underground to Paddington (Praed Street) & left by 11am train for Liskeard arriving 5pm. Met Ray Viner, old 3rd boy, now 2nd Lieutenant in Flying Corps. Great reception by Mr & Mrs Edgecumbe. Feeling very shaky. Had supper at Mrs Sweet's.

July 5. Thursday

Stayed home all day instead of going into the country. (with Mr Bennett Edgecumbe) Weighed at Morcom's. Weight 11st. 6lbs.

1917

July 6. Friday

Drove around the country in a Ford car with Bennett Edgecumbe from 9.30am till 6pm. Lovely country all the way. Saw where Mr J. G. Hobbs lived. Took photo of house.

July 7. Saturday

Not too good when I work up. Dizzy headaches all morning, improved after dinner.

July 8. Sunday

Church three times.

July 9. Monday

Market day in Liskeard.

July 10. Tuesday

Drove around the country again with Mr B. Edgecumbe from 9.30am till 5pm. Had tea at his place then came home with him. At 9pm he told us that the tribunal had given him total exemption from military service.

July 11. Wednesday

At 9am we left Liskeard in Mr Sweet's car & drove to Polzeath (30 miles) a lovely ride, to the north coast. Spent a bonza quiet day. Mr & Mrs & Florence Sweet & Kitty & myself in party. Stayed in their house 'The Turret'.

July 12. Thursday

Went for a walk to Shilla Mill after breakfast & took several photos. After 5 o'clock tea we started off for home again in the car arriving Liskeard 7pm. A lovely breeze blowing so that we had a splendid trip. After coming home I went to Dr Nettle to try for an extension. Got 10 days.

July 13. Friday

Get nasty pains in heart and left shoulder blade.

July 14. Saturday**July 15. Sunday**

Church.

July 16. Monday

Very nervy all day. Weak in the legs.

July 17. Tuesday**July 18. Wednesday**

Intended going to Looe but it rained continually all day, so we went to Mrs Sweet's for the afternoon & evening.

July 19. Thursday

Walked to Crow's Nest (Mrs Dawe) then drove home at 9.30pm. Very fine people. 3 girls 1 son.

July 20. Friday

1917

July 21. Saturday**July 22. Sunday**

Feeling fairly good up till 11pm. Went for a long walk with Kitty & Florence after tea. Arrived home at 10.30pm. Had supper at Sweet's. Pains came back again after 11pm.

July 23. Monday

Woke up feeling crook. Pains spread all over back & neck. Went to Dr Nettle & he advised me to call in at a military hospital at Plymouth which I did, catching the 12noon train. They wouldn't admit me to hospital but told me to report sick at the depot. By that time, it was too late for me to go on so I returned to Liskeard.

July 24. Tuesday (CODFORD CAMP, SALISBURY PLAIN...ENGLAND)

Started off from home with Kitty at 8.45am to catch 9.11am train. Halfway down met Mr B. Edgecumbe in his car so he drove us down. Had rotten trip to Bristol. Changed trains. Left at 4pm. Arrived Codford 5.50pm. Waiting in the orderly room until I was finally fixed up, then I was put into 'B' Company & shown my hut. By that time, it was after 9pm.

July 25. Wednesday

Collected 15 letters No. 12 and 13 from Mother, 3 from Janie, Kitty (2), Clem, Ern, Mrs Curtis, Bill Chamberlin, Shrewd, Daisy Davis, Uncle Dick, Aggy Gray. Parcel from Mother, 2 pair socks.

July 26. Thursday

Wrote to Mother, Janie, Mr Edgecumbe (2), Classified B1A4. (*Fit for overseas Training Camp when passed dentally fit*) Up before C.O. (*Commanding Officer*) for court martial, 11 days A.W.L. (*Absent without leave*) Case dismissed.

July 27. Friday

Busy day. Wrote to Uncle Dick, Mrs Curtis, Shrewd, Doris Davis, Bill Chamberlin.

July 28. Saturday

Parcel of washed clothes came from Mrs Edgecumbe. Washing.

July 29. Sunday

Letter from Kitty. Wrote answer. (reply) Warned for draft tomorrow.

July 30. Monday (PERHAM DOWN CAMP, SALISBURY PLAIN...ENGLAND)

Marched out of Codford at 8am caught train with over twenty others, arrived No. 4 Detail Camp Perham Down 4pm. Walked into Tidworth after tea (2 miles).

July 31. Tuesday

Wrote to Clem & Kitty. Very cold wind & rain blowing all day. Half hour physical jerks before breakfast. Reveille 6am, fall in 6.30am, breakfast 7.30am, fall in 8.30am, dinner 12.30pm, fall in 1.30pm, fall in 1.30pm, tea 5pm.

AUGUST 1. Wednesday

Paid £1/10/-. Raining all day. Big advance started from Ypres to the coast. Australians in it again. Many casualties from gas & prussic acid. (*Hydrogen cyanide*)

1917

August 2. Thursday

Wrote to Aggy Gray & posted letter to Kitty. Sent 1916 Diary & £2/10/- by registered post to Mr Edgecumbe. Very cool.

August 3. Friday

On duty in Sergeant's Mess. Draft of over 300 leaving tonight for France. Concert by party from Bristol.

August 4. Saturday

Wrote Frank & Jim Harris & Jim. Raining again. Half holiday. Much warmer.

August 5. Sunday

Wrote Doris, Kitty, Mrs Morcom. Florence Sweet's birthday.

August 6. Monday

Met a chap that I was introduced to at Liskeard, Greenwood, 38th Battalion, 3rd Division. Went into Tidworth after tea.

August 7. Tuesday

Schemed off fatigues. Warned for draft for Parkhouse to march out tomorrow. Medical inspection during afternoon.

August 8. Wednesday

Draft fell in at 8.30am but when the pay books were given out mine was missing & couldn't be found in the orderly room or pay office so I was taken off the draft although all my kit has gone to Parkhouse leaving me nothing.

August 9. Thursday

Wrote application to H.Q. (**Headquarters**) for transfer Government Employ Department, as motor tractor driver to work in Cornwall with Mr Botterell of Liskeard. Also letter to Colonel Moon 'K' Corps asking for his permission to transfer. Also wrote to Mr Botterell, Liskeard on same subject & 1 to Kitty. Letter from Kitty this afternoon.

August 10. Friday

'Ducked' off morning parade & stayed away till dinner time. Got a nasty shock on afternoon parade, picked for guard. Paid £1/10/-.

August 11. Saturday

On Quarter Guard all day. Letter from Mr Edgecumbe.

August 12. Sunday

Met Bill Cumberland in Tidworth 65th Battalion A.M.C. (**Australian Medical Corps**) Details.

August 13. Monday

Stayed off parades all day. Went the Garrison Theatre in Tidworth after tea. "The Man Who Stayed At Home."

August 14. Tuesday

1917

August 15. Wednesday

Concert given by the Magpies at 7.30pm. The Magpies are a party of men from this camp.

August 16. Thursday

Letters from Annie, Janie, May Maddocks, Ern. Very distressed with the news Annie sent that Father had died from his illness while in Melbourne. Wrote to Mr & Kitty E. & Florence Sweet.

August 17. Friday

Kitty starts her holidays. Wrote to Frank & Albert Cunningham. Full parade this morning. Ceremonial Brigade drill preparatory to Duke of Connaught's inspection on Monday. Missed another draft today.

August 18. Saturday

Drill again during the morning. After tea I went to the Garrison Theatre in Tidworth, "Raffles".

August 19. Sunday

Stayed in camp all day.

August 20. Monday

Inspected by the Duke of Connaught at 12noon. Picked for guard tonight. 850 (**Days**) since I enlisted.

August 21. Tuesday

On guard, first relief. Note from 'K' Supply Column stating that as I had been evacuated from Unit to England sick I am struck off the strength of the Unit. Letter from Kitty & Mr Edgecumbe. Wrote to Kitty.

22. Wednesday

Letter from Bill Cosgrove.

August 23. Thursday

Rifle drill. On guard at 6pm.

August 24. Friday

On guard all day.

August 25. Saturday

After dinner I decided to walk across to Parkhouse to look for my kit but after a lot of searching couldn't find any trace of it. Q.1 form also lost.

August 26. Sunday

Letter from A.E. Cunningham. Made arrangements about drawing new kit from Q.M. (**Quartermaster**) Store. Wrote to Mother.

August 27. Monday

Went again to see Q.M. (**Quartermaster**) about my kit & he was going to give me a new Q.1 form & complete outfit but he would go to the draft office first. Found that at Parkhouse all my papers & also myself, had been signed for by them which means that I am on that roll, so he let it stand-by for a while to let them know that they are responsible for my kit. In the meantime, he gave me a clean change. Later I went around to orderly room to see if anything had happened with Mr Botterell's scheme. Nothing had come through but was told that I had been put on the staff here with the Engineers. Reported to Mr Higginbottom (O.C. (**Officer Commanding**) England). Good job. Too wet to work all

1917

day.

August 28. Tuesday

Crossed off strength of details. I should have reported here on the 22nd. Raining all day. Too wet to work.

August 29. Wednesday

Wet again. Rotten concert after tea by the Magpies. Working in the theatre making alterations.

August 30. Thursday

Letter from Frank written from France. 'Offsider' to surveyor.

August 31. Friday

Ditto. Wrote to Kitty & Bill Cosgrove.

SEPTEMBER 1. Saturday

Ditto. Half day. Drew 10/-. Went to the Garrison Theatre, Tidworth, "The Merry Widow" after tea. Started letter to Annie.

September 2. Sunday

Two letters from Kitty. No parades at all for the staff. All in a hut together.

September 3. Monday

Working on the drains all day putting down new ones. Wrote to Annie, Kitty, Albert Cunningham, Mrs Curtis. Inspected by General Murray G.O.C. (**General Officer Commanding**) Southern Command. Letter from Kitty with 10/- enclosed.

September 4. Tuesday

Ditto.

September 5. Wednesday

Ditto.

September 6. Thursday

Letter from Mother dated 24 June.

September 7. Friday

Doing the same work. Posted letter to Mother.

September 8. Saturday

Ditto. Half day. Stayed in camp. Letters from Kitty & Mrs Curtis.

September 9. Sunday

Wrote to Kitty & Mr Botterell.

September 10. Monday

Parcel from Mother 1 pair socks.

September 11. Tuesday

1917

September 12. Wednesday

Wrote to Frank, Jim, Ern, & May Maddocks. Gave evidence at court of enquiry with regard to the loss of my kit.

September 13. Thursday**September 14. Friday**

Required again at the Court of Enquiry office to give an account of everything lost in my kit-bag. Paid £1/10/-

September 15. Saturday

Went to the Garrison Theatre, Tidworth after tea 'Who's the Lady'. While in the theatre I was told that my kit was in No. 2 camp Parkhouse.

September 16. Sunday

Walked over to No. 2 camp Parkhouse & met Walter Paterson who is in the Q.M. (*Quartermaster*) Stores. We had tea then he took me to the store & I found the kit at once. Everything was in it just as I had packed it 6 weeks ago.

September 17. Monday

End of Summertime. Letter from Kitty. Wrote one in return. Winter is approaching quickly. Quite dark at 7pm. Everywhere the trees are turning brown.

September 18. Tuesday

Wrote a short note to the C.O. - A.B.P.O. (*Australian Base Post Office*) regarding my mail. Began to rain at about tea time & kept up all through the night. Had to meet Mr Paterson at Garrison Theatre but he didn't turn up so came home again.

September 19. Wednesday

Heavy, steady rain falling again today. Too wet to work. No parades. Wrote to Janie & Mrs Edgecumbe.

September 20. Thursday

Letter from Bill Cosgrove and Dip Kenny. Wrote Dip Kenny. Becoming colder every day. Saw "Vogue" at Garrison Theatre.

September 21. Friday

Met Ambrose Kyte, 7th Field Ambulance, one of the lads who used to be with us in Les Maison Rouge, Edgehill, France. Concert after tea by a Bristol party. Cruel.

September 22. Saturday

Met Arthur Eva, 3rd Field Ambulance. Went to Garrison with him after tea.

September 23. Sunday

Large bundle of mail from Aussie. No. 17 & 15 from Mother, Janie (4), Will Cosgrove, Doris Davis, Jim & Ern, May Maddocks, Monty, Uncle Dick, Ina, Grace Vanstone. Photo from Janie. Spent morning in Court of Inquiry office. Took a few photos of an aeroplane flying very low over the camp. Also a photo of a few pals.

1917

September 24. Monday

Wrote to Will Cosgrove and Mr Edgecumbe. Letter from Frank, on 10 days leave in London. Took a spool into Tidworth to be developed.

September 25. Tuesday

Wrote out application for 4 days leave from Thursday till Sunday. Parade to Adjutant about it. Parcel of clothes from Mrs Edgecumbe, short note from Kitty.

September 26. Wednesday**September 27. Thursday**

Letter from Mother No. 18 & Hedley Barkla.

September 28. Friday

Wrote Kitty. Letter from Dip Kenny. Nothing come through about leave yet.

September 29. Saturday

Saw "Seven Days Leave" at the Garrison Theatre Tidworth. Wrote to Kitty.

September 30. Sunday

Letter from Kitty. Rather hot & sultry. Quiet day. Spent morning in Court of Inquiry office.

OCTOBER 1. Monday

Concert after tea by a Bristol party. Met Bert Howard, old 3rd Field Ambulance chap, now a 2nd Lieutenant in 44th Battalion.

October 2. Tuesday

Very heavy fog up till 10am. At 10pm I was told that my leave had been granted and would start from 6am tomorrow until 12pm Saturday. Air raids on London last night & several today.

October 3. Wednesday (ON FURLOUGH AT LISKEARD...ENGLAND)

Up at 6am & had hot bath. Obtained my pass but had to wait until 9am for pay. Left Tidworth 12.10pm. Left Tidworth 12.10pm. Arrived Andover 12.40pm, left 2.20pm. Arrived Salisbury 3pm, changed again 3.20pm, through Exeter & Okehampton, tried to catch connection at St. Budeaux but missed. Caught another train to Mill Bay at 8pm, caught 10.20pm, arrived Liskeard 11pm.

October 4. Thursday

No one on station, walked up to Market Street & found house in darkness last night. Raining. All went to Sweets after tea. Tres bon (*Very good*) time.

October 5. Friday

After dinner Mrs Edgecumbe, her cousin Hubert Batiste, Kitty & myself went to Plymouth. Walked around the Hoe, had tea, then went to Grand Theatre "The Prodigal Son". Came home by 10.20pm train. Hubert caught 12.12am from Plymouth for London, en-route for France.

October 6. Saturday

Wired for extension first thing in morning, then again at 7pm. No answer came back.

October 7. Sunday

Wet all day. Kitty & I stayed home from church at night & kept the fire warm while Mr & Mrs

Edgecumbe went to church.

October 8. Monday

Left Liskeard by 1.6 arrived Exeter 3pm (G.W.R.) (**Great Western Railway**) changed at 4.10pm arrived Salisbury 6.30pm changed again 8.55pm to Andover (L. & S.W.R.). (**London & South Western Railway**) Arrived 9.30pm. No trains to Tidworth so had to stay at a boarding house for the night.

October 9. Tuesday (PERHAM DOWN CAMP, SALISBURY PLAIN...ENGLAND)

Caught first train for Tidworth 7am. Reported to B.O.R. (**Brigade Orderly Room**) handed in pass. Warned for draft Thursday or Friday. Taken off staff. Only Infantry are kept on the staff. All my mates Reg Cartaar, Jack Connell & the others have gone. Letters from Mother, Nos. 19, 20, 21, Kitty, Frank, Clem, Janie, W.H. Harrison, cousin Ethel and Marjory Cock, Hilda Golder, Ern. Went to Tidworth after tea.

October 10. Wednesday

900 (**Days since I enlisted**) Wrote Hilda Golder, Mrs Curtis. Letter from Jim. Warned for draft tomorrow. Walked into Ludgershall. Wrote Kitty.

October 11. Thursday

Wrote Daisy (Doris) Davis & Mother. Draft didn't go. Went to Tidworth Theatre. Expect to go to new camp next Monday.

October 12. Friday

Wet & cold. No fatigues all day. Wrote to Jim. Over 700 Infantry left for France tonight.

October 13. Saturday

On loading party at Tidworth Station. Not so cold.

October 14. Sunday

Fatigues most of the day. Cleaning up the camp.

October 15. Monday (SANDHILL CAMP, LONGBRIDGE DEVERILL...ENGLAND)

Left Perham Down 11.30am entrained at Tidworth. Arrived Warminster 1.30pm. 4 miles walk to No. 15 Sandhill Camp Longbridge Deverill. Heavy cold in head.

October 16. Tuesday

Bad cold & headaches. Signs of rheumatics appeared last night in legs & shoulders. Wrote Kitty. Paid £2. Walked into Warminster.

October 17. Wednesday

Sent small birthday gift to Kitty enclosing £1 to be put away for me.

October 18. Thursday

Mess Orderly to the guard. Walked into Warminster after tea.

October 19. Friday Kitty 28

Wrote to Janie.

October 20. Saturday

Walked into Warminster after tea.

October 21. Sunday

Wrote Janie and Clem. Spent morning in Court of Inquiry office.

October 22. Monday

Wrote Monty. Moved into No. 11 Camp. On sick parade 2 days, light duty.

October 23. Tuesday

Light duty. Nothing to do all day. Wrote Kitty.

October 24. Wednesday

Kit inspection prior to moving to Parkhouse on U.K. draft. Letter from Will Cosgrove. Two letters from Janie after tea 22 & 29 July.

October 25. Thursday

Very cold wind blowing. Wrote Ina Cosgrove & Mr W.H. Harrison. Letter from Walter Paterson. Parkhouse Camp.

October 26. Friday

Letter from Beryl Webb, Toowoomba.

October 27. Saturday**October 28. Sunday**

Letter from Kitty. Answered at night. Went for a walk after tea. Taken off draft. Q.1 form lost. Wrote Ruby Nalder. Spent morning in Court of Inquiry office.

October 29. Monday

Physical jerks & route march.

October 30. Tuesday

Fatigues. Wrote Beryl Webb Toowoomba & Pat.

October 31. Wednesday

Letter from Monty this morning. On guard. Wrote Monty. Later. Letters from Janie (2) 7 & 13 Aug, Jim, Doris Davis, Lil Goldsworthy. Paid £1. Warned for U.K. draft.

NOVEMBER 1. Thursday

On guard. Kit inspection. Had to pay for several articles (7/5). Letters from Rev. C. Martin, Marie Hamilton, Grace Vanstone & Frank.

November 2. Friday

Wrote Mother & Marie Hamilton.

November 3. Saturday (PARKHOUSE CAMP, SALISBURY PLAIN...ENGLAND)

Wrote Mac & Kitty. Reveille 5am, breakfast 5.30am, fell in 6am, moved off at 6.20am arrived Warminster 7.45am, caught train at 10am. 1½ hours to wait at Salisbury, changed again at Andover

1917

Junction. Arrived No. 4 Camp Parkhouse 3pm without having had dinner.

November 4. Sunday

Wrote to Will Cosgrove, Bill Chamberlin. Church parade.

November 5. Monday

Wrote Hedley Barkla, Ethel & Marjory Cock, Uncle Michael Cock, Ern Harris, Doris Davis. Inoculated. Wrote out application to have pay book fixed up with back pay.

November 6. Tuesday

Wrote Florence Sweet.

November 7. Wednesday

Letter from Kitty. Went to Theatre Tidworth after tea "Kick In".

November 8. Thursday

Wrote Kitty & Ted Doig.

November 9. Friday

Walked over to see Pat (**Walter Paterson**) at No. 2 camp.

November 10. Saturday

(Emden sunk 1914) by Australian cruiser *H.M.A.S. Sydney*. Wrote Grace Vanstone. Jim, Lil Goldsworthy. Letter from Kitty & Mac.

November 11. Sunday

Wrote Mother & Kitty. Church parade. Draft picked out for artillery & machine gunners from A.S.C. (**Australian Supply Column**) & motor drivers. Over 110 men. I was fortunate enough to miss. Came up to No. 2 camp to see Pat. (**Walter Paterson**)

November 12. Monday

November 13. Tuesday

Letters from Janie (2).

November 14. Wednesday

November 15. Thursday

Letter from Will Cosgrove, Florence Sweet. Paid £1/5/-. Took spool to be developed in Tidworth.

November 16. Friday

Letters from Kitty, Ted Doig, Janie, Jim (2) with photo of Roll of Honour statue in Mowbray Park. (**Brisbane**) Warned to go on detachment duty, to leave tomorrow. Pat (**Walter Paterson**) came down for tea. On picquet.

November 17. Saturday

Detachment move cancelled. Saw the story of the Rosary ("**The Golden Rosary**") at the Garrison.

1917

November 18. Sunday

Worked instead of going on church parade.

November 19. Monday**November 20. Tuesday**

Walked into Tidworth to get developed spool & prints but found that they weren't finished. Letter from Frank in hospital in Lancashire, gassed. On picquet.

November 21. Wednesday

Wrote Frank, Kitty & Peter Cobb.

November 22. Thursday

Letter from Kitty. Walked into Tidworth after tea to get negatives & prints but they hadn't arrived. Will send them on to me.

November 23. Friday

Moved into another hut. Draft of wheelers called out this morning, only 4 of us left in the shop.

November 24. Saturday

Photos from Dickinson & Son arrived this morning. Wrote Mac & Reg Cartaar & enclosed their snaps. Also wrote Fred Keith. Met Ted Brittain & Les Rogers at Y.M.C.A. (**Young Men's Christian Association**) concert. Hut very good.

November 25. Sunday

Very cold & strong wind blowing. Church parade 9.45am.

November 26. Monday

Letter from Bill Chamberlin (France). Pat (**Walter Paterson**) went away on draft to France tonight. Wheeler's draft from here left at 8pm.

November 27. Tuesday

Letters from Kitty (25 Nov). Ted Brittain came down after tea & we had a good yarn together.

November 28. Wednesday

950 Wrote Dip Kenny.

November 29. Thursday

950 (**Days since I enlisted**) Paid £1/5/-. Went out after tea with Ted Brittain.

November 30. Friday

Wrote Kitty. On picquet. Wrote to O.C. (**Officer Commanding**) AIF (**Australian Imperial Forces**) Kit Stores enquiring after my camera which was handed in when we first arrived in France during April 1915.

DECEMBER 1. Saturday

Wrote Janie.

December 2. Sunday

1917

December 3. Monday

Letter from Frank on furlough at St. Just. Wrote to him after tea & posted it in Tidworth.

December 4. Tuesday

Wrote Mac.

December 5. Wednesday

Letter from Kitty. On picquet. Went over to No. 2 camp to see Ted Brittain, called on Sergeant Reg Addison & stayed there until 9pm. Very cold. Slight fall of snow before dinner.

December 6. Thursday

Reply from Kit Stores, re: camera. Can obtain same by application. Heavy frost this morning. Wrote to Mother on Sunday & posted it today enclosing plans of house.

December 7. Friday

Applied to Kit Stores asking them to forward camera. Enclosed 9/- for registered fees.

December 8. Saturday

Applied for road pass to go to Salisbury tomorrow.

December 9. Sunday

Went into Salisbury. Very cold. At 2pm Stan Dunstan & I caught the bus at Shipton for Salisbury, arrived 3.15pm. Walked about a bit, very quiet. Had tea at the Blue Bird & while walking up a street passed a Methodist Church so we went in. Were afterwards invited to a social in the School room where we had supper. Had to rush away to catch bus by 9pm. A bit too late for an inside seat so we had to roost on the top & by the time we arrived back at Shipton we were almost stiff with the cold. It was a frosty night & we had 12 miles to go.

December 10. Monday**December 11. Tuesday**

Met Ted Brittain & went for a long walk after tea. He goes to France tomorrow. Camera arrived by registered post. Referendum voting begins today. Voted this morning. NO.

December 12. Wednesday

Ted Brittain, Les Frayne & Wallace left for France. Wrote Kitty & Shrewd.

December 13. Thursday

Paid £1/5/-. Wrote Kitty & Mr Edgecumbe enclosing 10/- for parcels to A.E.C. & Bill Chamberlin. My application was turned down.

December 14. Friday**December 15. Saturday**

Read in orders today that leave will be granted for Xmas but not over Xmas day. From 19th till 24th.

December 16. Sunday.

Letter from Frank. Wrote to him after dinner giving information as to how to get transfer. Heavy fall of snow just after church about 6".

1917

December 17. Monday

Applied for 4 days from Wednesday but heard that Xmas leave was being granted so withdrew application & applied for next Monday.

December 18. Tuesday**December 19. Wednesday**

Letter from Kitty & Cousin Ethel Thomas.

December 20. Thursday

Wrote Kitty & Ethel. Crook all day with effects of an attack of Trench fever.

December 21. Friday

My leave has been granted for next Monday till 28th (4 days). Fever left me about midday. Letter from Kitty. Wrote Kitty & Ted Doig.

December 22. Saturday**December 23. Sunday**

Medical inspection after Church parade prior to proceeding on leave. Paid £1/15/-.

December 24. Monday (*ON LEAVE TO LISKEARD, CORNWALL...ENGLAND, 22ND BIRTHDAY*)

Got up at 5am & without breakfast walked to Tidworth at 6am. Roads covered with ice. Caught the 7.35am train & after a good run through changing at Yeovil Junction arrived eventually at Liskeard at 5pm. Not so cold, a bit wet. Rather warm for Xmas weather. Introduced to 2nd Lieutenant Frank Carson W.A. 44th Battalion staying with Mr Edgecumbe. Also Dennis Morcom. Quiet evening at home. Met Mrs & Flo Sweet.

December 25. Tuesday – Christmas Day

Spent quiet, enjoyable day. Dinner at Market Street, then at 3pm we all marched off for tea at Stuart House. Stayed there until 11pm. Went for a short walk before dinner with Frank & Mr Edgecumbe for an hour or so.

December 26. Wednesday

Walked to Crows Nest arriving 11.30am. Had dinner with Mrs Dawe (Darite) & started off home at 3pm. Had tea at St. Malo & stayed till 11.30pm. Good time. Altogether a most pleasant holiday.

December 27. Thursday (*PARKHOUSE CAMP, SALISBURY PLAIN...ENGLAND*)

Called around at Mr Coathes studio & had photo taken. Caught 1.6 train accompanied by Dennis Morcom on his way back to college. Arrived camp 12.30am. Presented with diary by Kitty.

December 28. Friday

Refused to get up for first parade. Letters from May & Bertha Thomas, St. Just. Frank is spending Xmas & New Year with them. Wrote Kitty. Walked into Tidworth & handed in spool to be developed.

December 29. Saturday

Boiled some clothes after dinner. Wrote Mother. Very cold.

1918

December 30. Sunday – First after Christmas

Church parade. Made bed & got into it after dinner until tea time.

December 31. Monday

982 (***Days since I enlisted***) Extraordinarily cold. Didn't wake up until after the five minutes warning had been blown so I dropped back into bed again & stayed there until breakfast. Cannot understand where all my mail is going to.

1918 DIARY**OF****LESLIE DUNSTAN****2628**

**1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SUPPLY COLUMN 'K' CORPS
Wheeler & Driver**

**12th Army Brigade
Australian Field Artillery Park Section**

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES**(PARKHOUSE CAMP, SALISBURY PLAIN...ENGLAND)****JANUARY 1. Tuesday. Sun rises 8.08am sets 3.58pm**

Holiday in the camp. Sports. Stayed in the shop all day making something for myself.

January 2. Wednesday. Sun rises 8.08am sets 4.00pm

Working in the canteen. Can't make out where my mail is going to. Much warmer. Sun out most of the day.

January 3. Thursday. Sun rises 8.08am sets 4.01pm

Not much work doing in the shop. Walked into Tidworth after tea with Fred Allen of Brisbane to get photos. Disappointed.

1918

January 4. Friday. Sun rises 8.07am sets 4.02pm

Walked into Tidworth again after tea and disappointed again. Slight misty rain falling. Proofs of photos taken in Liskeard came. Very good.

January 5. Saturday. Sun rises 8.07am sets 4.03pm

Returned proofs to Liskeard having picked out two & decided to have one dozen of each. Wrote Mother.

January 6. Sunday – Epiphany – Twelfth Day.

Church parade. Went down to the shops after church to finish the box I started on Tuesday.

January 7. Monday. Sun rises 8.06am sets 4.06pm

Started on partition in canteen between wet and dry bar. No mail. Rode into Tidworth. No photos.

January 8. Tuesday. Sun rises 8.06am sets 4.08pm

Rode into Tidworth again. Again no photos.

January 9. Wednesday. Sun rises 8.05am sets 4.09pm

Parcel came with no note inside but guess that it is from Janie. Went down to the shop after tea to do a bit more to my box.

January 10. Thursday. Sun rises 8.04am sets 4.10pm

Paid £1. 1000 days since enlisting. Letter from Kitty & large parcel from Janie. Rode into Tidworth once more & disappointed again. Strong wind blowing but not cold, making the ground thaw & become very muddy. Wrote to A.B.P.O. (**Australian Base Post Office**) concerning my mail.

January 11. Friday. Sun rises 8.04am sets 4.12pm

Wrote Cousin May Thomas, Peter Cobb & Janie also Kitty. Won leather coat in rattle (1/-) & sold it for £1/-/-.

January 12. Saturday. Sun rises 8.04am sets 4.13pm

After tea went to Garrison Theatre with Stan Dunstan. Called in for photos but found that they were all spoiled & not one good one amongst the lot.

January 13. Sunday – 1st after Epiphany.

Warned for draft overseas this morning. Medical inspection before dinner. A class. Expect to leave on Wednesday. Wrote Kitty & posted to Janie & Ted Brittain. Heavy fall of snow during night.

January 14. Monday. Sun rises 8.03am sets 4.15pm

Dental parade & Q.M. (**Quartermaster**), issued with goggle gauntlets etc. Rained heavily during night & washed snow away.

January 15. Tuesday. Sun rises 8.02am sets 4.17pm

Wrote Dip Kenny & Frank. Heavy rain all day.

January 16. Wednesday. Sun rises 8.01am sets 4.19pm

M.T. (**Mechanical Transport**) parade for reinforcements only. More snow. Have done no work since being put on draft. Packet of mail No. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 from Mother, Janie (6) Ivy Davis, Annie (**Sister**), Marie Hamilton, Auntie Amy (2) May Maddocks 2 P.C.s (**Postcards**) A Gray, Jim Ern.

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January 17. Thursday. Sun rises 8.00am sets 4.20pm

Bhurtore (**Barracks at Tidworth Camp**) fatigue party. Snow fell last night, 7 or 8 inches. Letter from Kitty. Wrote Kitty, Janie, Mother, May Maddocks.

January 18. Friday. Sun rises 7.59am sets 4.21pm

Another batch of mail Janie 19 Aug, 26 Aug, 2 Sept, 7 Oct, 14 Oct, Clem 8 Oct, A. Gray 18 Oct. Marie Hamilton 27 Oct, May Maddocks 25 Oct Doris Davis 14 Oct. Wrote to Auntie Amy, Clem. Met Jim Devine, Vince Sneyd marching in.

January 19. Saturday. Sun rises 7.59am sets 4.22pm

Wrote Ern, Anne, Ivy, Daisy. At 4pm warned to leave on draft tomorrow. Medical & Dental inspection. Paid £1.

January 20. Sunday. 2nd after Epiphany. (LE HAVRE...FRANCE)

Up at 5am had breakfast etc. & left camp headed by band at 7am. Arrived Southampton 12.30pm. Left by C.O. 683 (**Ship**) at 3pm. Americans, Portuguese and 'Tommies' (**British soldiers**) on board. Paddle-boat. Arrived in Le Havre 12.30am. Stayed on board until...

January 21. Monday. Sun rises 7.57am sets 4.26pm

7am this morning then marched off to A.G.B.D. (**Australian General Base Depot**) camps, a good 6 miles. Very foot sore when we at last arrived there. Wrote Kitty & cousin Bertha, St Just.

January 22. Tuesday. Sun rises 7.56am sets 4.28pm**January 23. Wednesday. Sun rises 7.54am sets 4.30pm**

Marched out of A.G.B.D. (**Australian General Base Depot**) at 5.30pm entraining at Le Havre, after a tiring march at 9pm. Left Le Havre at 3am next morning.

January 24. Thursday. Sun rises 7.53am sets 4.32pm (ROUEN...FRANCE)

Arrived Rouen at 6.30am caught tram to M.T. (**Mechanical Transport**) Base Depot. First impression of depot rotten. Full of British discipline. Hope to get out of it very shortly. Only a few Aussies.

January 25. Friday. Sun rises 7.51am sets 4.34pm

Went through gas instruction, practical and theoretical.

January 26. Saturday. Sun rises 7.50am sets 4.36pm

Wrote Kitty, Stan & B.P.O. (**Base Post Office**) AUSTRALIA DAY. All Australians in this depot granted half-holiday and passes to attend sports at 1st A.G.H. (**Australian General Hospital**) Sports very tame but had a good time in the city.

January 27. Sunday. Septuagesima. (9th Sunday before Easter)

On guard from 6pm. Lorry guard.

January 28. Monday. Sun rises 7.47am sets 4.39pm

Relieved off guard 6am.

January 29. Tuesday. Sun rises 7.46am sets 4.40pm

Reported to wheelers shop. Working at Velodrome, doing repairs to the Grandstand. The B.M.T.D. (**Base Mechanical Transport Depot**) intends holding sports there during the summer.

January 30. Wednesday. Sun rises 7.44am sets 4.42pm
At Velodrome.

January 31. Thursday. Sun rises 7.43am sets 4.44pm
Ditto.

FEBRUARY 1. Friday. Sun rises 7.42am sets 4.46pm
Partridge and Pheasant Shooting end. Ditto.

February 2. Saturday. Sun rises 7.40am sets 4.48pm
Ditto. Took photo of Roses.

February 3. Sunday. Sexagesima. (8th Sunday before Ash Wednesday)
Church parade 10am. Open camp at 2pm.

February 4. Monday. Sun rises 7.36am sets 4.52pm
Letters addressed through Mr Edgecumbe arrived today from Mother 14 Dec, Janie 15 Dec, Daisy 16 Dec, & Stan Dunstan (Parkhouse Draft of 50 M.T.'s (**Mechanical Transport**) from Parkhouse marched in this morning).

February 5. Tuesday. Sun rises 7.35am sets 4.53pm
Kit-pack 7.30am, marched out at 1.30pm. Entrained at Rouen in horse boxes. Left at 3pm. Slow travelling all night. Letters in the morning from Mother 28 Oct & 26, Janie 28 Oct, Frank, Auntie Amy 21 Oct, Aggy Gray, 15 Oct.

February 6. Wednesday. Sun rises 7.33am sets 4.55pm (BAILLEUL...FRANCE)
Passed through Boulogne at 7.30am. Calais 12noon arrived Hazebrouck 2.30pm. Changed trains, left at 3.56pm arrived Bailleul 3.40pm. Walked to column, 4klms & reported.

February 7. Thursday. Sun rises 7.32am sets 4.56pm
Too many in shop, put on fatigues. Met several 3rd Field Ambulance boys. Wrote Stan, N.C.O. i/c P.O. (**Non-commissioned Officer in charge Post Office**) 'K.' Supply Column, Frank.

February 8. Friday. Sun rises 7.30am sets 4.58pm
Paid 40frcs. On lorry guard, 12hrs.

February 9. Saturday. Sun rises 7.28am sets 5.00pm

February 10. Sunday. Quinquagesima. (5th Sunday before Easter)
Wrote Kitty, Mother, Marie Hamilton.

February 11. Monday. Sun rises 7.24am sets 5.04pm
Letter from Kitty. Wrote Janie.

February 12. Tuesday. Sun rises 7.22am sets 5.06pm
Letter from Stan. Expected over here shortly. Wrote Medical Orderly 'K' Supply Column, F.N. Draney. B.P.O. (**Base Post Office**), Will Cosgrove.

February 13. Wednesday. Sun rises 7.21am sets 5.07pm

February 14. Thursday. Sun rises 7.19am sets 5.09pm

February 15. Friday. Sun rises 7.17am sets 5.11pm

Parcel from Auntie Evelyn.

February 16. Saturday. Sun rises 7.15, sets 5.13.

German was brought down this morning by an Australian airman, right above at a height of only about 1,000ft. Fell not far from the shop. Airman uninjured. A mere lad of 18. Went to see the 'Sentimental Blokes' (**Australian Concert Party of comedy, songs, dance & sketches**) in Bailleul after tea. Spoke to W.O. (**Warrant Officer**) today asking to be put on a lorry. Getting tired of messing about the camp doing nothing in particular. Today I was put in the cookhouse as offsider to relieve a chap who is sick. All the week I have been cleaning up the camp & doing odd jobs.

February 17. Sunday. 1st in Lent.

Letters from Janie (2) 2 & 10 Dec 1917) Uncle Dick 5 Dec, Annie 14 Dec, Monty 5 Dec, Ern 13 Dec. After dinner I caught a lorry and went to the 'K' Supply Column at Nieppe to see Colonel Moon. Could not do anything regarding having my back pay entered up as I was taken on the effective strength. Saw Stan Bayley on his bus and had tea together. In Bailleul met Mills looking for his column so as it was late, brought him home with me. Very cold. Issued with patch colours.

February 18. Monday. Sun rises 7.11am sets 5.17pm

Fritz dropped a bomb at 7pm tonight in the village. Although over a mile away the concussion was so great that a window was broken in the canteen here.

February 19. Tuesday 7.09am sets 5.19pm

February 20. Wednesday. Sun rises 7.08am sets 5.20pm

February 21. Thursday. Sun rises 7.06am sets 5.22pm

General Birdwood inspected the workshops today although there was no parade. Collected fair mail. Letters from Mother 12 Nov, Clem 3 Nov, Janie 11 Nov, Mrs Curtis 22 Nov, 20 Dec, 17 Jan, Harry Eddy 24 Dec, Will Cosgrove 16 Jan, Stan Dunstan 18 Feb, S. Cunningham 16 Jan, Monty 25 Nov, May Maddocks 22 Nov, Aggy Gray 13 Nov. Parcels from Mother (2), 1 registered containing socks & handkerchiefs. Registered diary from Janie. Wrote Harry Eddy, Mrs Curtis. Very quiet on the front all around us. Walked up to the pictures in Meteren after tea with several others. Met several of the chaps who came over from England with us at the show. Saw Po Brown this afternoon.

February 22. Friday. Sun rises 7.04am sets 5.24pm

Cold wind blowing all day with slight rain. Paid 40frcs. Finished letter to Clem tonight. Received Xmas parcel from 'Miners, Tunnellers, Engineers and Pioneers of W.A.' containing small tin of lump sugar, 1 tin 50 Australian cigarettes, 2ozs tobacco, Cherrywood pipe, tooth powder & brush, soap, laces & chew. Not bad considering.

February 23. Saturday. Sun rises 7.01am sets 5.26pm

Parcel arrived from Janie containing pair socks, handkerchiefs & 1 tin ginger. Letters from May Thomas, youngest of the family with her photo enclosed written on 19/2/18

February 24. Sunday – 2nd in Lent. St. Matthias.

After dinner I decided to go out to the 4 D.S.C. (**Divisional Supply Column**) on the Locke road to see

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Stan Dunstan & Perc Spargo. Saw them alright & both are doing well. Didn't stay long, had to be back for tea. Two letters, one from Frank written in Sutton Veny on 16 Feb. & one from Kitty 16 Feb. When I returned from the 4th D.S.C. I was informed that I had been transferred to the 12th A.B.A.F.A.P.S. (**Army Brigade Australian Field Artillery Park Section**) & have to report there tomorrow. They are now in Meteren so I only have a couple of kms to go.

February 25. Monday. Sun rises 6.56am sets 5.29pm METEREN

Marched out at 9.30am. Reported to 12th A.B.A.F.A.P.S. (**Army Brigade Australian Field Artillery Park Section**) at Meteren. Only a small unit of 12 lorries, no workshops & have to be attached to another unit at every stop. At present we are with the 3rd A.A.S.P. (**Australian Ammunition Sub Park**) Walked down to the 1st D.S.C. (**Divisional Supply Column**) after tea to bring up my extra kit (a corn-sack full). Got a letter off the N.C.O. i/c P.O. (**Non-commissioned Officer in charge Post Office**) while I was there from Janie (23 Dec.).

February 26. Tuesday. Sun rises 6.54am sets 5.31pm

February 27. Wednesday. Sun rises 6.53am sets 5.33pm

Wrote Kitty after dinner. Walked into Bailleul after tea to the 'Sentimental Blokes'. (**Australian Concert Party of comedy, songs, dance & sketches**) Very good. Came outside to find a drizzling rain falling & had to walk all the way home. I had no overcoat so by the time I got back to the billet I was fairly wet, considering that it was a 35minute walk.

February 28. Thursday. Sun rises 6.51am sets 5.35pm

Not too much doing this morning so took a stroll down to the 1st A.D.S.C. (**Australian Divisional Supply Column**) where I got 2 letters (Janie 30 Dec & Marie Hamilton 30 & 2 parcels...1 from Mother containing plum pudding, cake, lollies made by Dorothy, tobacco, biscuits, handkerchiefs, etc, & 1 from Jim (4ozs of Vice Regal (**Tobacco**) light & dark). Felt severe pains in stomach all day.

MARCH 1. Friday. Sun rises 6.49am sets 5.37pm

Pains no better, in fact very painful at times. Went around to M.O. (**Medical Officer**) at about 8pm and got two pills which eased it a lot.

March 2. Saturday. Sun rises 6.46am sets 5.38pm

Pains nearly gone but can't eat. After tea walked to Outtersteene to see Jeanne Penin whom I haven't seen for nearly two years, June 1916. She remembered me alright after a few minutes & gave me a great reception. A cold wind was blowing today & snow fell this afternoon.

March 3. Sunday – 3rd in Lent.

Walked over to Outtersteene after dinner to see Jeanne Penin. Came home for tea went on guard from 6pm till 10pm. Cold and wet. Rather a large mail arrived for me today (15 letters) from Mother, Nov 3 & 23 & Jan 4 (1918), Janie Nov 18 & 28 & Jan 6, Monty Jan 3, Hilda Golder 12 Dec, W. H. Harrison 6 Jan, Doris Davis 3 Jan, Ruby Nalder 2 Jan, Ted Brittain (France), Bill Chamberlain (France), Jim Charlton (photo of self), Kitty Edgecumbe 23 Jan, 21 Feb.

March 4. Monday. Sun rises 6.42am sets 5.42pm

Cold day. Went down to 1st D.S.C. (**Divisional Supply Column**) to fill in the afternoon & stayed for tea. Spent a musical evening there afterwards.

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March 5. Tuesday. Sun rises 6.40am sets 5.43pm

Very cold miserable day again. Filled in the morning doing nothing. After dinner I walked down to the 1st D.S.C. (**Divisional Supply Column**) for mail. A letter for me from May Thomas. I went down with Andrew Hines, a farmer from Clifton, with whom I have become friends. Must do some writing tonight. Wrote to Jim, May Thomas, Clem, Aunt Amy, May Maddocks, Daisy Davis.

March 6. Wednesday. Sun rises 6.38am sets 5.45pm

Paid...drew 20frcs only, with the intentions of saving a little for leave and other purposes. Settled down after dinner in the mess room to do a bit more writing. Wrote Ruby Nalder, Aggy Gray, Ina. Blew Ruby up for behaving as she did with Monty.

March 7. Thursday. Sun rises 6.36am sets 5.46pm

Fairly cold again. Walked down to 1st D.S.C. (**Divisional Supply Column**) for mail after dinner. Parcel from Janie arrived, scarf, kneepads & choc date (registered) Letter from Uncle Michael Cock 19th January from Penang Straits Settlements. Did a fair bit of washing after dinner before afternoon parade. After tea I went down to the 1st D.S.C. & then with Stan Fewster & Bluey Andrews walked nearly to Caestre to see Stan Dunstan at the 4th D.S.C. While there we got a gas alarm. On our way home I bought an English-French dictionary for 5frcs (Bijou). (**Highly prized**) Two of our drivers killed in an accident tonight at 8.15pm. Also 'Tommy' D.R. (**Despatch Rider**) Coming home from Ballieul, by some means or other the despatch rider ran into them & the driver, to avert an accident, swerved to the side of the road but travelling as they must have been at 25 m.p.h. with a 3 ton lorry, before they had time to straighten out on the road, she went down into the ditch. Both the drivers and D.R. were killed almost instantly. Wrote to A.B.P.O. (**Australian Base Post Office**)

March 8. Friday. Sun rises 6.34am sets 5.48pm

Three of us had to go out on breakdown lorry at 7am to fix up the lorry which ran into a ditch last night. Managed to get her out in pieces by 1.30pm. Went down to the 1st D.S.C. (**Divisional Supply Column**) for mail. Letter from Frank. He is now going through a signals course of 3 months at 'C' Company, 5th T.B. (**Temporary Base**) No. 1 Camp, Fovant, Wiltshire. Spoke to Lieutenant Noall (**Officer Commanding 12th Army Brigade Australian Field Artillery Park Section**) tonight. Tried to get in as a wheeler. Promised to do what he could. Wrote Janie No. 4 giving explanation of letter received last week of something I must have said some time ago.

March 9. Saturday. Sun rises 6.31am sets 5.50pm**March 10. Sunday – 4th in Lent.**

As a result of my interview with Lieutenant Noall, I reported to 3rd A.A.S.P. (**Australian Ammunition Sub Park**) workshops for duty doing the carpentry for 12th A.B.A.F.A.P.S. (**Army Brigade Australian Field Artillery Park Section**) If I prove to be alright, may get 8/-. Wrote Frank and Mother (9 pages).

March 11. Monday. Sun rises 6.26am sets 5.54pm

Nothing much doing all day. Working in wheelers shop. Had our photos taken this afternoon in a group. First the 3rd A.A.S.P. (**Australian Ammunition Sub Park**) had theirs taken then we had ours.

March 12. Tuesday. Sun rises 6.24am sets 5.56pm

Fritz plonked a few shells into Bailleul today doing very little damage. Walked down to 1st D.S.C. (**Divisional Supply Column**) for mail. Letter from Doc Draney 'K' Supply Column. Wishes to see me as he still has my pack with all my gear & souvenirs.

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March 13. Wednesday. Sun rises 6.22am sets 5.58pm

1,000 DAYS SINCE EMBARKATION. 3rd A.A.S.P. (*Australian Ammunition Sub Park*) are preparing to move, changing places with the 1st D.S.C. (*Divisional Supply Column*) So far no word of our moving has come through. Letter from Mother dated 11th December. Wrote Albert Petersen (Toowoomba) & Bertha Thomas (Cornwall).

March 14. Thursday. Sun rises 6.20am sets 6.00pm

Soon after breakfast the 3rd A.A.S.P. (*Australian Ammunition Sub Park*) began to move out & the 1st D.S.C. (*Divisional Supply Column*) began to move in. The 1st D.S.C. have amalgamated with the 1st D.A.P. (*Divisional Ammunition Park*) & the column is now called the 1st A.M.T.C. (*Australian Mechanical Transport Company*) After dinner I secured a pass to go to 'K' Supply Column & went down to where I thought they were, Nieppe, but discovered that they had been disbanded & the man I was looking for was in Bailleul. Came back & found him & got my pack from him. When I arrived back at Meteren, I opened the pack & found that the field-glasses, leather vest, Turk's belt, & all my P.C.s (*Postcards*) were missing.

March 15. Friday. Sun rises 6.17am sets 6.01pm**March 16. Saturday. Sun rises 6.15am sets 6.03pm**

Fritz pumped a few shells into Hazebrouck this morning & shelled Bailleul tonight. Lovely warm day. Did a bit of carpentry on the lorries today. Two letters, one from Mrs Curtis & a short note from Harry Eddy. Wrote a 3 page to Monty.

March 17. Sunday – 5th in Lent.

Letters arrived today readdressed from Mr Edgecumbe, from Mother (19 Jan to 26th), Jim 27 Jan, Ern 25 Jan, Beryl Webb, Toowoomba 10 Jan, Daisy Charlton 22 Jan.

March 18. Monday. Sun rises 6.10am sets 6.06pm**March 19. Tuesday. Sun rises 6.08am sets 6.08pm****March 20. Wednesday. Sun rises 6.06am sets 6.10pm****March 21. Thursday. Sun rises 6.03am sets 6.11pm**

Wrote to Annie. Germans began an offensive on the Somme today.

March 22. Friday. Sun rises 6.01am sets 6.13pm

At about 10.30am Fritz dropped a few shells 100yards or so from our column on the edge of Meteren but did no damage. Evacuated 8 'Berna' lorries & got 'Peerless' in exchange this morning. At present ours are Swiss Berna makes. After tea Stan Fewster & I walked down to Fletre to the Anzac Press (where the 'Aussie' is printed) (*The Australian Soldier's Magazine*) to see a cobbler of Stan's. Stayed there until 9pm & got home at 10.15pm. Had a drink of strong cocoa there which seemed to upset me during the night by dreaming & waking up every hour or so.

March 23. Saturday. Sun rises 5.59am sets 6.15pm

Fritz continues to shell Bailleul. Almost everyone is out of it now & it has been put out of bounds to troops. Refugees are walking about the streets of Meteren with no place to go to for food or shelter. Pitiful to see the old people & children wandering aimlessly up & down. Many civilians have been killed with shells. Yesterday a whole family & three Australians were killed in a cellar beneath a house by

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one shell. Bad news from the Somme today. Shouldn't wonder if the Australians are sent down there as a big fight is promising.

March 24. Sunday – Palm Sunday.

This afternoon 8 of our lorries went to Mont Kemmel to be loaded with Field Artillery ammunition. Got back at about 7pm.

March 25. Monday. Sun rises 5.54am sets 6.18pm ROBECQ

Moved out at 1pm passing through Outtersteene, Merville, Haverskerque arriving at Robecq at 4pm to await orders. Expecting to go to the Somme. Went down to the village after tea & while there was surprised to meet Bob Smith of Toowoomba.

March 26. Tuesday. Sun rises 5.52am sets 6.20pm

Our lorry had to go to the tyre press at Isbergues this afternoon. Went out with Bob after tea.

March 27. Wednesday. Sun rises 5.50am sets 6.22pm

Wrote to Annie (Birthday).

March 28. Thursday. Sun rises 5.47am sets 6.23pm

Took 6 wheels to the tyre press today for new tyres. Mail arrived from Brigade H.Q. (**Headquarters**) Annie 14 Jan, Janie 14, 21st & 28 Jan, Aggy Gray 10 Jan, Ben Reynolds 18 March.

March 29. Friday. Sun rises 5.45am sets 6.25pm VAUDRICOURT

Letter from Frank written on 23 March from Fovant. (**Camp in England**) Moved out of Robecq at 12 midday, passing through Berthune & stopping for the night at Vaudricourt.

March 30. Saturday. Sun rises 5.43am sets 6.27pm VERDREL

Moved off again at 9am, passed through several small villages & pulled up at Verdrel, 6klms past Coupigny. On guard at 6pm.

March 31. Sunday – Easter Sunday

Expect to be here for a few days. Nothing much to do today. Half day off. Mates went out but I stopped home & had a bath. Bob Smith came around at 6pm so went out for a walk. Gave him a couple of pairs of socks. Wrote Mother, Aunty Evelyn & Annie. O.C. Petrol. (**Officer Commanding, Army Service Corps, Mechanical Transport Auxiliary Company**)

APRIL 1. Monday. Sun rises 5.39am sets 6.30pm

Saw a good piece of work today by a German airman. He brought down five balloons one after the other in quick succession out in front of us. Letter from Kitty & Bertha Thomas. Wrote Kitty.

April 2. Tuesday. Sun rises 5.36am sets 6.31pm

Wrote Bertha Thomas.

April 3. Wednesday. Sun rises 5.34am sets 6.33pm

April 4. Thursday. Sun rises 5.32am sets 6.35pm

April 5. Friday. Sun rises 5.30am sets 6.36pm

Walked down to Olhain after tea to see Bob Smith. Stayed there until 8pm.

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April 6. Saturday. Sun rises 5.28am sets 6.38pm

Wrote May Smith.

April 7. Sunday – Low Sunday.

Wet again. A miserable rain has been falling for the passed few days.

April 8. Monday. Sun rises 5.23am sets 6.41pm

Emptied the ammunition at the Summit Dump. Our artillery is going in today.

April 9. Tuesday. Sun rises 5.21am sets 6.43pm

Up till 5pm everything was quiet & peaceful, in fact one would hardly believe that there was a war on. The supply waggons brought home the news at 5pm that the Huns had broken through at Saily & Estaires where the Portuguese were & that our artillery brigade had been pulled out & were on the road to there having just got into their possies & only had time to fire a few shots when they received 'tout-de-suite' orders (**Immediately**). Had to pull their guns out in broad daylight & Fritz spotted them but the only casualty was a wounded horse.

April 10. Wednesday. Sun rises 5.19am sets 6.44pm BRUAY

Left Verdrel soon after 7am & pulled up on the outskirts of Bruay at about 10am. A fairly large city, though not very pretty, as its environments are full of coal mines, likewise the city itself full of miners. Several of us walked into the city after tea & had a look about the place but came home early. Had a fair time. Attached to 'Tommy' (**British**) M.T.C. (**Mechanical Transport Company**)

April 11. Thursday. Sun rises 5.16am sets 6.46pm LILLERS

Left Bruay this afternoon just after tea & after several hours continued travelling & passing through many villages, eventually stopping on a bit of a rise 2klms outside Lillers. Here the O.C. (**Officer Commanding**) got orders to about turn as Fritz was on his way up towards us, so we went back to Lillers & took another road, stopping on the side of a hill. Thought we had stopped for the night so sought a house to have a feed in. Found one. Just enjoying a piece of bread & marg, & coffee & happened to look out of the door to discover that our lorries had gone. Ran for a kilometre or more & found them at the top of the hill just parking up. Glad they hadn't gone further. Our artillery are having a warm time at Robecq. Have had to retreat. Many casualties are reported. Hope Bob Smith is all right.

April 12. Friday. Sun rises 5.14am sets 6.48pm BOURECQ

The column left the possie up the road just before dinner & moved into the village at the bottom of the hill this afternoon & parked up in the main street. Name of village Bourecq. Attached to 51st Division M.T.C. (**Mechanical Transport Company**) (Scottish). Famous division. Just after dinner our lorry was detailed to go for ammunition to the dump near Aire. After losing our way a few times & narrowly averting a few accidents & escaping being ditched, we eventually arrived home at 9.30pm without tea. Soon after 10pm Fritz made himself a nuisance by dropping a few bombs in the fields close by, also in Lillers 2 klms away. Lillers, by the way, a fair-sized city, is filling up with refugees from Robecq & other villages.

April 13. Saturday. Sun rises 5.12am sets 6.50pm

Left the park this morning at 10am (slept in till 9am) & went to Verquigneul Dump for 248 x 18 pounder (**Long range gun**) shrapnel shells, 1½ hrs run from here. Chinese Labour Corps loaded. The road from Marles-les-Mines to Bethune was lined from end to end with refugees of all ages & classes carrying their belongings, what few they could carry tied up in towels and sacks. Got back to Bourecq

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at 4pm without any dinner. Last night one of our lorries had to go to Bethune which has been evacuated by the civilians and were lucky in finding an E.F.C. (**Expeditionary Force Canteen**) also evacuated by the men, with all goods intact. They brought home their lorry loaded with all sorts of loot & were able to give every one of us a month's supply of cigarettes etc.

April 14. Sunday – 2nd after Easter.

Letter from Mr W. H. Harrison redirected from Mr Edgecumbe with two photos taken at the seaside. Cold and windy day. Emptied our reserve load of 18 pounders at the D.A.C. (**Divisional Ammunition Column**) just outside Lillers in the morning & went for another load in the afternoon near Aire. 60 boxes H.E. (**High explosive**)

April 15. Monday. Sun rises 5.07am sets 6.53pm

April 16. Tuesday. Sun rises 5.05am sets 6.54pm

April 17. Wednesday. Sun rises 5.53am sets 6.56pm

Up at 3am this morning to take ammunition out again after breakfast & before dinner we took a load of R.E. stuff (**Royal Engineers...provided manual labour to work on docks, railways, roads, delivering supplies etc**) to St. Venant right up to the 18 pounder guns. Fritz was using a bit of hate against the guns all the while we were there. Had a bit of experience with an M.M.P. (**Military Mounted Police**) on our way home. Our engine refused to motor about half way home so after a while I decided to catch a lorry back to the park to get a tow in. I had my old clothes on with no badges & I attracted the attention of this M.M.P. He asked me all sorts of questions as to what I was, etc. even going as far as to ask me if I could speak any other languages. Had to laugh at him. He wanted me to go with him back to the lorry to be identified & just as we were on our way, the lorry came up & my mate identified me to his satisfaction. Got home at 9pm with nothing to eat since breakfast.

April 18. Thursday. Sun rises 5.01am sets 6.57pm

Taken off the ammunition lorry today to do a bit of carpentry. Made a few arrow boards. After tea our lorry had to go out to the D.A.C. (**Divisional Ammunition Column**) to dump the load of 18 pounders off, so I went with it so as to be on it in case we were out all night. Came back to the park at 6pm & found one of our lorries on fire. The driver was filling up & the petrol overflowed onto the red hot exhaust pipe & ignited, burning most of the woodwork. He had just dumped off his load of ammunition with us. Lucky! A mail was given out, No. 2 from Mother, 3 Feb, Frank 10 March, Janie 4, 11, 18 Feb, Grace Vanstone 28 Jan, Aggy Gray 14 Feb. Had to go out to the dump again at 7pm for another load of 18 pounders (shrap) & arrived back at the park at 10pm.

April 19. Friday. Sun rises 4.59am sets 6.59pm

After 12 midnight last night we were called up to dump our load of ammunition at the 12th Brigade dump then report to the Trezennes dump. Arrived at Trezennes dump & were informed there that we three lorries had to carry on until 12 noon today. Loaded up with 18 pounders & took them back to the 51st (Black Watch) Division dump. Lost a lot of time that trip through missing the road, not discovering the mistake until were within a very short distance of the firing line. Back to the Trezennes dump again & took a load to the 5th Division & then back again, taking another load to the 51st Division. By the time we got back again to the Trezennes dump it was 11.30am so we filled up with a load of reserve ammunition & came back to the park. Each trip was about a 10mile journey & we had to unload by ourselves & as each case weighs 115lbs, we were just about fagged out when we arrived home. Slept all afternoon. Dug up a billet for myself in the village so as to miss these night stunts. It was rather

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difficult to find a room anywhere as the village was full of refugees. I eventually alighted on a decent little maison (**House**)...small room, a good bed and everything nice for 1fr. per day. I am not supposed to go out on the lorries now but if I am sleeping in the lorry & it is called out at midnight I can't very well promenade the streets until morning, so that is why I went out yesterday.

April 20. Saturday. Sun rises 4.57am sets 7.00pm

Built a set of lockers into Corporal Bluey Norman's lorry. I am not supposed to go out on the lorries now but if I am sleeping in the lorry & it is called out at midnight I can't very well promenade the streets until morning, so that is why I went out yesterday.

April 21. Sunday - 3rd after Easter.

Mucking about the park, painting & making arrow boards, etc. & finished off Bluey's lockers. Parcel of socks (2 pairs) came today from Marie Hamilton, but no letters although there was a large bundle for the unit. All the civilians round about this district have been warned to leave as the military are expecting 'beaucoup' (**Many**) bombardments of villages. The King is flying about here somewhere and was expected through this village today but he must have got the wind up as Fritz was over in a plane. Today we got the photos of our column which were taken at Meteren on the 11th March by a French woman. Wrote to Shrewd, Marie Hamilton & Mr Curtis. Lillers was bombarded & bombed tonight. Civilians are moving out.

April 22. Monday. Sun rises 4.53am sets 7.05pm

Working in the 51st workshops with English (**Fellow soldier**) making Q.M. (**Quartermaster**) Store for our unit. Walked down to the next village after tea & had good time with the Jocks of the 51st Division. Have a splendid pipe band. Lillers bombarded tonight. All civilians left. Our guns opened up all night.

April 23. Tuesday. Sun rises 4.51am sets 7.06pm

Working on the Q.M. (**Quartermaster**) Store this morning. Put new tarpaulin on 27010 (**Lorry**) this afternoon. Sun quite hot today.

April 24. Wednesday. Sun rises 4.49am sets 7.07pm

April 25. Thursday. Sun rises 4.47am sets 7.09pm

April 26. Friday. Sun rises 4.45am sets 7.11pm

April 27. Saturday. Sun rises 4.43am sets 7.13pm (AIRE)

Left Bourecq this morning at 10.30am & made our park 1klm from Aire at a small village which boasts the name of St. Quentin (Aire). A cold bleak wind was blowing when we came here & our park is in the open with no shelter at all & it didn't help to make us think that we were in a good possie although we are close to Aire.

April 28. Sunday

April 29. Monday

April 30. Tuesday

MAY 1. Wednesday

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May 2. Thursday

Letter today from Janie dated 24th February in which she mentions something to the effect that an understanding had arisen between herself & Wally Goss. Wish her all sorts of luck & prosperity. Another Ace beaten by the bower.

May 3. Friday

The sun came out all day & at times was fairly hot. After tea Corporal Thorman and I went into Aire & during the evening met some Jocks from the 52nd Division K.O.S.B. (**The King's Own Scottish Borderers**) who have just come to France from Palestine, having been in the East since the Landing without any leave. We had a good time together talking about old times. Got home at 10.30pm.

May 4. Saturday

Put in most of the day making Lawson's lockers. After tea two of us went into Aire. Walked about a bit then wandered down to the E.F.C. (**Expeditionary Force Canteen**) to get some cigarettes & a few things domestique (**Domestic**) for our larder. Having arranged earlier in the evening to get a hot bath at 8.30pm, & it only being 6.30pm now, we proceeded to the Y.M.C.A. (**Young Men's Christian Association**) concert hall. Found the concert rotten so imshi-ed (**Took off**) ten minutes later still having some time to wait for our bath so we decided to have a feed. Had our feed & a good yarn with the Jocks of the 52nd Division & it was just on 8.30pm when we left the chips joint. The bath was tres bon (**Very good**) but not as hot as the sign led us to suppose. The Mademoiselle (**Unmarried woman**) explained that the gas only came on for two hours a day which was the reason I suppose for the gas going out just as I was nicely lathered up.

May 5. Sunday**May 6. Monday****May 7. Tuesday**

Went out this morning on the lorry to the bridging school in Aire carrying girders from the train to the quay on the canal. Fished up at 5pm. When I came home I found a bundle of letters waiting for me. From Mother I got No. 4 (25 Feb), No. 5 (1 Mar) & No. 6 (8 May). One from Clem 20 Feb, Auntie Amy 25 Feb & 10 Mar, Janie, 3 & 10 Mar, May Maddocks, 10 Mar, L. Turner 9 Mar, (Toowoomba), Grace Vanstone 24 Feb, Marie E. Hamilton 25 Feb.

MAY 8. Wednesday. Sun rises 4.22am sets 7.30pm

Went out on bridging work carrying steel girders, etc. from the Aire Station. (Got lock on canal.)

May 9. Thursday. Sun rises 4.20am sets 7.32pm

Went out on the lorry today carrying S.A.A. (**Small Arms Ammunition**) Rather nasty experience on our first trip. After loading up we had to go to Berguette to unload. Missed our turning & discovered ourselves later just behind the communication trenches instead of several miles behind the line. Fritz shelled Berguette and Isberques while returning there.

May 10. Friday. Sun rises 4.18am sets 7.34pm

Wrote a letter today to Mother & enclosed one of the group photos of our unit taken in Meteren.

May 11. Saturday. Sun rises 4.17am sets 7.35pm

Four of our lorries & 20 H.D. (**Heavy Duty**) lorries reported to the R.E. dump (**Royal Engineers...provided manual labour to work on docks, railways, roads, delivering supplies etc**)

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outside Aire to carry sleepers to a track that was being built for heavy guns in case of a retreat between St. Venant & Robecq. Aeroplanes were employed to keep Fritz's observation balloons down until the road was finished as the position is well under observation. While on the first trip were badly ditched in a nasty pace on a narrow road, lorry nearly turned over with us but the axle saved us. Took us four hours to get out of it.

May 12. Sunday – Sunday after Ascension.

Worked fairly hard today but it was cold so I didn't mind. Carrying screenings from Aire Station to a position on the Lillers road just past Lambres.

May 13. Monday. Sun rises 4.14am sets 7.38pm

Stayed in the park all day today. Fixed the tarpaulin on the lorry.

May 14. Tuesday. Sun rises 4.12am sets 7.40pm

Taken off the lorry today & given a billet in the village. We have to stay in the park in future. Perhaps the O.C. (**Officer Commanding**) thought we were having too good a time joy-riding. Now we have to stay in & clean lorries. No. 3 from Mother arrived today with plan of new house. Also, a letter from Peter Cobb, who, ere this, is well on his way home to Australia.

May 15. Wednesday. Sun rises 4.11am sets 7.41pm

Finished letter to Mother & one to Bob Smith in England having been wounded in the head at La Basse. On guard, last shift 2-6am.

May 16. Thursday. Sun rises 4.09am sets 7.43pm

May 17. Friday. Sun rises 4.08am sets 7.44pm

At 10.30pm last night Fritz came over in his planes & dropped two bombs somewhere in the neighbourhood of Aire. The anti-aircraft guns behind us immediately opened up. By 11pm he had dropped 15 bombs & set fire to a shop in Aire. Using this as a mark he continued to bomb the city until 12.30am. As we are only 1,000 yards away, & he was scattering them in all directions, it wasn't too pleasant. There are 2 C.C.S.s (**Casualty Clearing Stations**) between our village & Aire & at 12 o'clock I heard several voices calling, apparently for help so I slipped on a few clothes & hurried down but found that the C.C.S. hadn't been hit. Many civilians were being taken in, wounded, & a great many women & children were clearing out of Aire with just their nightdress on. I went into Aire this morning to see the damage done. Many houses were in heaps & the Town Hall had been hit several times. I noticed one lady in distress, having lost a child in the debris, & workers were then digging away trying to find it.

May 18. Saturday. Sun rises 4.07am sets 7.45pm

Bombs were dropped in Aire again tonight but not as many as last night. Three were dropped near our village but did no damage save splattering one of the 61st lorries. Although one of the drivers was sleeping on the floor he wasn't touched. About 15 pieces came through the side & all passed over him.

May 19. Sunday – Whit Sunday.

Bombs were dropped on a large dump at Arques tonight & set fire to the lot. A few Chinese and a couple of French were killed. The explosions could be felt & the flames seen by us. A stack of gas cylinders were destroyed & we got the warning just after getting into bed.

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May 20. Monday. Sun rises 4.04am sets 7.48pm

Fritz worried us again with his bombs but he wasn't over for long.

May 21. Tuesday. Sun rises 4.02am sets 7.50pm

Tonight was cloudy so we had a little peace from Fritz and our anti-aircrafts.

May 22. Wednesday. Sun rises 4.01am sets 7.51pm**May 23. Thursday. Sun rises 3.59am sets 7.53pm**

After tea Bluey & I went into Aire to the E.F.C. (**Expeditionary Force Canteen**) to get a supply of cigarettes & matches as we heard that we were moving & wanted to make sure. On our way in we saw the boss coming out on his motorcycle.

May 24. Friday. Sun rises 3.59am sets 7.55pm

This morning the Sergeant greeted us with the news that we (Bluey and myself) were under open arrest. Paraded before the O.C. (**Officer Commanding**) for being in Aire last night without a pass. The boss interviewed us at about 11am but only went crook a bit & then dismissed us. Reprimanded only.

May 25. Saturday. Sun rises 3.58am sets 7.56pm RACQUINGHEM

The column received 'tout-de-suite' (**Immediate**) orders at 10.30am to move. Left St. Quentin at 10.30am & parked with the 1st A.D.M.T. (**Australian Divisional Mechanical Transport**) Company at Racquinghem. English (**Fellow soldier**) & myself were given a billet together so set about making ourselves comfortable & after half an hour's work we succeeded. Took a stroll up the village after tea but it was too quiet so came home again.

May 26. Sunday – Trinity Sunday.

I intended going to Arques this afternoon but after dinner I felt otherwise so stayed at home. I wanted to see a few cobbers there in the workshops of the 1st A.D.M.T. (**Australian Divisional Mechanical Transport**) Company. After tea I wrote a letter to Mother, Kitty & part of one to Janie.

May 27. Monday

This morning I asked the boss whether, if I were to write to the I.C.S. & ask them if I could continue with my studies, would the military authorities sanction the passing of my drawing through the post. He wasn't sure but would find out for me. A letter came from Bob Smith today with a photo of himself. He is at Hurdcott (**Camp**) Wiltshire (**England**). On guard tonight.

May 28. Tuesday

Slept in this morning until 12 o'clock. After dinner two of us set to work to make a cookhouse. Had to rip 4 pieces of 4 x 2 15ft long down the centre which took most of the day. All the material, 10 sheets 7ft iron & 4 sheets of 6ft iron & the timber was scrounged by the drivers. Even the oven, which is a beauty for cooking, was grouted from an evacuated house up near the line. Just before tea I felt a bit of a headache coming on. Later I felt quite dizzy. A bit of mail came in after tea. I got No. 7, 8 & 9 from Mother dated 14, 20, & 30 Mar, three from Janie 17, 24 & 28 Mar & one from Ivy Davis 29 Mar. Clarrie Hill is expected home in a few weeks.

May 29. Wednesday

Worked on the cookhouse all day. Had it erected & stove put in by the afternoon. It is made portable. The iron is put on with screws so that by removing about 30 screws & 9 bolts (on the frame) the whole

lot can be taken down in pieces & put on a lorry.

May 30. Thursday

May 31. Friday

Finished off the cookhouse this morning, working easy. After dinner I started on some lockers for 27010 (**Lorry**) Bill Taylor. Parcel arrived today from Mr Edgecumbe...tunic, tank etc. Fritz came over tonight in droves & gave us some interesting sights, being caught in the searchlight & all sorts of weapons from 3" anti-aircraft to rifles firing at him. Dropped very few bombs. Paid 20frcs after tea. Took off a few prints. Wrote to Bob Smith & Grace Vanstone.

JUNE 1. Saturday

June 2. Sunday

June 3. Monday

June 4. Tuesday

Thought I would go for a joy-ride today as one of the drivers said he was going down to the coast. We left at 9am & had to report to the 2nd Army Corps Artillery School H.Q. (**Headquarters**) at Tilques 7klms past St. Omer. At 2pm we started off with 10 British Artillery Officers, not to the coast as we expected but towards the line. Our first stop was Racquinghem where we dropped ones for the 30th Division & then we made off for Wallon-Cappel as ordered but when we reached there we were told to go to Hondeghem but the men weren't wanted there so we went on to St. Sylvestre-Cappel where we dropped 7 of them. The other two had to report to 119th Brigade Field Ambulance west of Hazebrouck so off we started again & after rummaging about for an hour or more we found it at last just behind the 18 pounders. By the time we had waited for them to have tea, etc. at one joint we pushed off to their billet, delivering them by 10pm. Arrived home at 12 midnight. My mate had left a little supper ready which was tres bon (**Very good**) as we had had nothing since midday. He left custard (chocolate custard) & a mess tin of cocoa.

June 5. Wednesday

Filled in the day somehow. Didn't get out of bed until 11.30am - yet they say there is a war on. Tonight just as I got into bed Fritz put a few shots over our heads in the direction of Arques & St. Omer. The distance from the gun to St. Omer must be well over 20 miles.

June 6. Thursday

Times seem to drag nowadays when one has nothing to do. I have not been on parade for over a week now. This morning one of the lorries pinched a portable latrine seat so I set to & erected it just for something to do. That filled in an hour. Then I painted a small box I made some time ago for one of the Corporals & for the rest of the day I did a little washing & reading. My mate has gone on pass to Wallon-Cappel to see his brother in the 4th Light Horse. It is now 10.30pm & he has not come back yet.

June 7. Friday

Had nothing else to do today so we cut out 8 scotches for the lorries. These are blocks of wood used for blocking the wheels when stationery so of necessity, must be made of sufficiently large wood. We cut them out of a railway sleeper which English (**Les - fellow soldier**) scrounged & brought home on one of the lorries & was 8 x 6 so we had our work cut out when we only had a No. 6 handsaw to do it

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with. Nevertheless, we finished them this afternoon. Had a game of cricket after tea.

June 8. Saturday

Couldn't find anything else to do today so I sharpened up a couple of saws. Fred Allan came around after tea so we went for a walk up the village.

June 9. Sunday

Half day off this afternoon (?). Sounds strange to be given a half day off when all the week we two have been doing nothing else but lie on our bunks all the while. I have a job to do tonight though & that is guard but that's nothing. We get a half day off tomorrow for doing it. A letter came from May Thomas this afternoon.

June 10. Monday

On guard last night from 7.30pm until 11pm. Got up for breakfast instead of sleeping in until midday as my mate is down with the 'flu'. After dinner I sat down and wrote a few letters. Wrote to Mother, Clem. Later in the evening I wasn't feeling too bright, so guessed that the influenza was getting me.

June 11. Tuesday

This morning I woke up with the first signs of the fever on me, severe headaches & pains. Instead of getting up I stayed in bed. As the day drew on I got worse until by nightfall I was in positive agony. The pains behind my eyes were awful. I couldn't stand the sight of food so didn't touch a thing all day.

June 12. Wednesday

Rotten this morning & spent a rotten night. The agony has been something awful. The Medical Orderly from the 1st A.M.T.C. (**Australian Mechanical Transport Company**) came over after tea tonight & gave me some dope & took temp. English (**Les - fellow soldier**) has been acting as nurse & has done it well so far, feeding me up with hot milk & custards instead of the hard tack.

June 13. Thursday

Got up this morning at 11.30am just before dinner. Not feeling too brilliant although the worst is over. English (**Les - fellow soldier**) was sent out on a lorry so I had to get up to get some dinner. There are 14 of our men down to the fever now & out of that number 7 or 8 are in hospital. The Sergeant & several Corporals are amongst the numbers. Gunners have had to take the place of second drivers on the lorries and 2nd drivers put in charge. That is why English has gone out. Two letters came today, one from Shrewd still in England & one from Stan Dunstan.

June 14. Friday

Feeling very weak & nervy but otherwise alright. Dizzy head & sore throat. Started to put new maps into the map boards of the lorries, to fill in time, but couldn't do too many before I was fagged. Paid tonight by the boss. I drew 20frc only. Saving up for leave. Have £3/-/- credit already.

June 15. Saturday

Put new maps in all the map boards today. Had a game of cricket after tea. Feeling fairly fit but a bit weak. Wrote to Stan after I came back from cricket.

June 16. Sunday

This morning I wrote to Janie & Ivy Davis. After dinner we had a game of cricket out in the fields. The boss came down after a while & proved himself a fair all-round cricketer. This morning he went down to the Australian Comforts Fund & got two new bats & a couple of balls from them as gifts.

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June 17. Monday

Spent a very quiet day. Had a bath after dinner. After tea we adjourned to the cricket field where we spent the best part of the evening. Afterwards I came in & wrote some letters, one to Kitty & one to Jim. Four letters came via Mr Edgecumbe. No. 11 from Mother 21 Apr, 2 from Janie 14 & 21 Apr & one from Hilda Golden 7/4/18. Hilda has been making love, naughty girl.

June 18. Tuesday**June 19. Wednesday. Sun rises 3.44am sets 8.18pm**

This afternoon four of us were tested for drivers. Taken on a 4klm test. Passed alright. Played cricket match after tea, scratch match to pick a team for Saturday. Made a duck first innings & 5 second. Our team beaten 2 runs 7 wickets.

June 20. Thursday. Sun rises 3.44am sets 8.18pm

This morning I cut out a few tin shells for the lorries. Stan Dunstan came down today at 11am. He is parked up the road 200yards. After talking for an hour, at 11.30am one of the Corporals told me I was to go out as 2nd driver on 27022. Had a drive all the afternoon. Got home at 5pm. Stan came down after tea & talked till 7.30pm. Went for a walk up to his park & had supper there. On guard from 11pm till 2.30am. Letter from Mrs Curtis.

June 21. Friday

Last night I was on guard so this morning I slept in until 11am. The Sergeant came around at 10am & told me I had to go out this afternoon with the other three prospective drivers for a bit of a run. At 1.30pm we went out on 24049 & took it in turns to drive as far as the 1st D.M.T.C. (**Divisional Mechanical Transport Company**) workshops at Nieppe. Saw several of the chaps from Parkhouse. Came home at 4pm. Four letters were waiting for me. No. 10 from Mother, 7 Apr from Janie, 1 Apr from Ina & one from Kitty 16 June.

June 22. Saturday

Filled in a very lazy day. Painted the discs for the lorries with red on one half this morning. After dinner enjoyed a couple of hours 'couche' or 'shut eye'. After tea Stan came down so a party of 6 of us went to the E.F.C. (**Expeditionary Force Canteen**) pictures at Wardrecques. Rotten show. Parcel came today from Mrs Curtis (London) addressed to 1st A.D.S.C. (**Australian Divisional Supply Column**) & a letter from Ethel Cock addressed to 3rd Field Ambulance.

June 23. Sunday

Painted the other half of discs today blue. Went for a short walk after dinner. Wrote to Mrs Curtis, Shrewd, May Thomas.

June 24. Monday

Put the shells on the lorries this morning. After dinner I had nothing to do so lay down & went to sleep until 3.30pm. After tea a couple of Demoiselles (**Young ladies**) who were visiting their friends in the estaminet (**Café**) in front of our billet walked in & had a chat for a while. And very nice too. They promised to come around again next Sunday. Wrote to Janie (9 pages) & Ina.

June 25. Tuesday

Went out on ammunition this morning but only did one trip so got back to park in time for dinner.

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June 26. Wednesday

Went out with 27010 (**Lorry**) on ammunition after dinner. Came back to park at 5pm. Took my tunic (the one I had sent over from England) down the village to a dressmaker to be altered.

June 27. Thursday

Didn't get up today until 12 o'clock on account of being out last night. A detail came in at 11pm for 8 lorries to go out on ammunition from the Ebblinghem dump to the D.A.C. (**Divisional Ammunition Column**) We expected two trips but were pleased to find that only one was needed from the lorry I was on. Most of the others had to do two trips. We got back to park at 4am this morning. The boss, Mr Noall (Lieutenant) went on leave to England today. That doesn't mean any more privileges for us as we very seldom see or hear him when he is here.

June 28. Friday

Went out on detail with Bill Taylor on 27010 (**Lorry**) on R.E. work. (**Royal Engineers...provided manual labour to work on docks, railways, roads, delivering supplies etc**) Left park at 7am & went to Ebblinghem Station to pick up 30 Cape Colony Labour Battalion boys & then made off for Renescure R.E. dump. Received orders there to proceed to 'Y' Corps Salvage dump to pick up salvaged Nissen huts & carry them back to 'Y' Corps R.E. dump at Renescure. The Cape boys did all the loading & unloading. Bill would drive the lorry full & I would take it back empty, so I did a fair bit before today was done. Came home after taken the boys back to Ebblinghem arriving at 5pm. Paid tonight at 8pm.

June 29. Saturday.**June 30. Sunday.**

Cut out a few more shell discs in the morning. After dinner our cricket team went out in a bus to the D.A.C. (**Divisional Ammunition Column**) Signals lines to play a match so I went as a spectator. Started at 2pm. They (D.A.C.) made 34 first innings & we made 102. In the second innings 7 wickets fell for 72 runs & then we came home. Wrote to Mother tonight 9 pages & Annie 3 pages.

JULY 1. Monday

On guard last night, last shift from 2.30am till 6am this morning. After being wakened at 2.30am I fell asleep again & woke up with a start at 20 minutes to 6am. As luck happened only two lorries were going out & they left at 7.30am so there was no need to wake the cooks up before 6am. After breakfast I went back to bed & stayed there till 11.30am. Got up for dinner (lunch) & fancied a tin of bully as English (**Fellow soldier**) was out, so in opening one up with a jack-knife the blade slipped & I cut my finger rather deep right across the knuckle. Letter tonight from Frank, just leaving the base to rejoin the 25th Battalion. Posted letters to Mother, Annie & Janie this morning in green envelopes. Wrote to Frank. (**NB: "Green Envelope"...The letter writer had to sign a declaration on the outside of the green envelope, swearing that the contents within were only personal or family matters. The premise was to allow soldiers to write home without concern of their private matters being read by their superiors within the battalion**)

July 2. Tuesday

Very, very quiet day, in fact 'beaucoup buche torte le jour'. After tea I went down to the dressmakers to whom I took my tunic to be altered, in the village, & found it ready. Also my mate's, so, as he was out on detached duty at Ebblinghem I collected his also, paying 2frs for each.

July 3. Wednesday

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July 4. Thursday

This morning I put on a number of shells which were left. Leading a very quiet life. Eight letters arrived today readdressed by Kitty. Mother No. 12 (5 May), Janie 5 May, 12 May, 27 Apr, Auntie Amy 5 May, Marie E. Hamilton 6 May, Doris Davis 28 Apr, Ruby Nalder 12 May. Bought pair of riding breeches 10 francs.

July 5. Friday

Spent all day stamping out identification discs for the mob. Taylor came in today off detachment duty expecting to go to England tomorrow for 6 months in exchange for one of the others over there. As he wanted to sell the primus stove he was lending me, he offered it to me for 30 francs so I bought it. Wrote a letter to Auntie Amy at midday. Letter today from Bob Smith. Expects to be over again shortly.

July 6. Saturday

Nothing to do all day today so I settled down to a bit of washing this afternoon. After tea wrote a 6 pager to Daisy Davis. Made some custard & opened a tin of fruit for lunch.

July 7. Sunday

Did nothing. Letters today from Shrewd in England & May Maddocks 13 May & Jim 3 April.

July 8. Monday. Sun rises at 3.54am sets 8.16pm

This morning I filled in the time by making a petrol filler for the primus by cutting off the detonator end of a German machine gun bullet and fitting it tightly into the bottom end of an 18 pounder nose-cap protector. Neat little job. Made a communication window for 27010 (**Lorry**). Shifted latrine seat. Played bridge all the afternoon.

July 9. Tuesday. Sun rises at 3.55am sets 8.15pm

Had nothing to do today so went out with the ammunition lorries after dinner to Ebblinghem, then found that we had to go further up to the Nieppe dump. Had only one load to do. Drove 27034 (**Lorry**) from Ebblinghem to Nieppe up a rotten steep hill. Went to D.A.C. (**Divisional Ammunition Column**) with 27010 (**Lorry**) & drove it right home from the D.A.C. Went down to the E.F.C. (**Expeditionary Force Canteen**) pictures at Wardrecques after tea.

July 10. Wednesday. Sun rises 3.56am sets 8.14pm

Sports & concert at the 1st D.M.T.C. (**Divisional Mechanical Transport Company**) Very good. We weren't invited although we are attached to them. All our lorries were sent out on S.M.T.O. (**Senior Mechanical Transport Officer**) work instead. A dirty trick to play on us just because the boss is away. For the past fortnight our rations have been cut so that they could have enough bread to supply sandwiches during the sports with the free beer. Parcel tonight from Auntie Amy.

July 11. Thursday. Sun rises 3.57am sets 8.13pm

This morning one of the lorries had to go to St. Sylvestre-Cappel through Hazebrouck so I decided to go to the 3rd Field Ambulance after getting their whereabouts yesterday. I hopped on & went with them & jumped off near Hondelghem & found the 3rd Field Ambulance. Had a great time meeting all the old boys. Bill Ray, in charge of the medical stores, supplied me with numerous everyday necessities in the medical line. Chic Mackenzie offered to fix my teeth up, put several new ones on a new plate. Left at 2pm. Shall go up again next week to have the teeth done.

July 12. Friday. Sun rises 3.58am sets 8.13pm

Today a day of accidents. Two lorries got ditched in a narrow road. Three of the 1st D.M.T.

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(Divisional Mechanical Transport) Company lorries tried to pull one out & in doing so smashed ours against a tree & broke the canopy & then they slipped in themselves on account of the road being greasy. Another driver was knocked off the step by a passing lorry & cut his head a bit, the other driver ran a screwdriver through his hand & later smashed his lorry against another, damaging radiator, dash & engine. So when I got home they were my first jobs.

July 13. Saturday. Sun rises 3.59am sets 8.12pm

Mr Noall came back from leave last night.

July 14. Sunday

July 15. Monday

July 16. Tuesday

July 17. Wednesday

After tea a team from our Column played a team from the 5th Battalion cricket. We went in first & made 36 & they went in & made 99. There was only time for the one innings.

July 18. Thursday

July 19. Friday

Posted do's and don'ts for drivers on the lorries today. Our friend Louise from Wittes (**Village south east of Racquinghem**) visited us today.

July 20. Saturday

Did nothing all day. After tea wrote to Mother, Auntie Amy, Janie & Daisy Davis.

July 21. Sunday – 8th after Trinity.

A letter was brought into me this morning at about 7.30am from Kitty written last Sunday. At about 3am this morning I was awakened by the sound of something falling. A kitten had come in during the night and upset a mess tin full of milk which I had left on the primus stove after heating. It had a great time licking it up off the floor. I felt like drowning it but it was too cold to get out of bed. Played H.Q.

(Headquarters) of our artillery brigade this afternoon & beat them by merely three runs in the two innings. After tea an ammunition detail came in for 7 lorries so I went out on one of the lorries. Came back 10pm.

July 22. Monday. Sun rises 4.10am sets 8.02pm

Put in charge of petrol & rations today while the other chap is on leave in Paris. There's practically very little to do, draw petrol & rations in the morning, see that each driver signs for the juice he takes each time the lorries come in & issue rations at night. After tea a couple of us walked down to Wardrecques tonight to the pictures. After getting inside for about 5 minutes, the light went out. The Padre in charge, a D.S.O., (**Distinguished Service Order - Medal for gallantry**) M.C. (**Medical Corps**) Lieutenant Colonel explained that the engine was crook & offered us our money back. They started a singing competition but got tired of it so we came home.

July 23. Tuesday. Sun rises 4.12am sets 8.00pm

Up at 4am. Drew rations & petrol this morning. Went to Nurlu for load of gas shells then took them to the 18th D.A.C. (**Divisional Ammunition Column**) Continually running from 4.30am till 8pm. Civvies

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(Civilians) are being taken from Elincourt & other villages in lorries. One lorry full thought a lot of us because we gave them a loaf of bread. It has been raining hard all day – as miserable rain. Cleared off at about 4pm. After tea 4 or 5 of us decided to go to the pictures. After they had been showing for a while - just when the girl thought she loved him - the light fizzled out again. As a little consolation, they offered us a free show tomorrow night.

July 24. Wednesday. Sun rises 4.13am sets 7.59pm

July 25. Thursday. Sun rises 4.14am sets 7.58pm

July 26. Friday. Sun rises 4.15am sets 7.57pm

July 27. Saturday. Sun rises 4.17am sets 7.55pm

July 28. Sunday – 9th after Trinity.

Drew petrol & rations in the morning as usual. After dinner our lot played cricket against the 6th D.M.T. **(Divisional Mechanical Transport)** Company. They beat us by a few runs in each innings. I didn't play in the team but was scorer.

July 29. Monday. Sun rises 4.20am sets 7.52pm

July 30. Tuesday. Sun rises 4.21am sets 7.51pm

July 31. Wednesday. Sun rises 4.23am sets 7.49pm

The boss told us this morning that we shall be moving shortly. Probably tomorrow or the day after.

AUGUST 1. Thursday. Sun rises 4.24am sets 7.48pm

Looked after the petrol & rations this morning. Had a bath & did a little washing after dinner. After tea three of us went to the pictures. 3frs of joy. My predecessor returned from Paris this afternoon so I expect he shall carry on with the petrol business. A letter came from Kitty today. At Polzeath.

August 2. Friday. Sun rises 4.26am sets 7.46pm

August 3. Saturday. Sun rises 4.27am sets 7.45pm

Several 3rd Field Ambulance chaps came down to the 1st D.M.T. **(Divisional Mechanical Transport)** Company's concert so I went with them. The ambulance has left Hondeghem & are now at Quiestede not far from here. They left their old possie yesterday afternoon & an English ambulance took over from them. That night Fritz came over & dropped bombs in the place. All the while our mob were there they were never troubled.

August 4. Sunday – 10th after Trinity.

Met Ray Cartaar this afternoon, a chap I knew in Perham Downs.

August 5. Monday. Sun rises 4.30am sets 7.42pm ST SAUVEUR

Moved out from Racquinghem at 10.15am. Passed through Wittes, Aire, Lambres, Ferfay, Pernes, St. Pol, Doullens & stopped at Bertangles through Talmas for fresh orders. Moved off and are attached now to the 4th D.M.T. **(Divisional Mechanical Transport)** Company at St. Sauveur. Eight o'clock when we parked up. On guard tonight from 9pm till midnight. Our batteries passed through at 11pm & said they were going into action. Tried to find a decent billet in a maison **(House)** but unsuccessful.

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August 6. Tuesday. Sun rises 4.32am sets 7.40pm

Fixed up the billet allotted to us as comfortably as possible. Built the latrines, made bunk for one of the gunners, put new maps in the boards, & erected the offices.

August 7. Wednesday. Sun rises 4.33am sets 7.39pm

Slept in this morning until 9am. Went out on ammunition today & took it up to Corbie. The lorries are doing a lot of running about on supply & ammunition work. Four lorries went out on ammunition just on dinner time so I thought I would go out too. Just had time to have a mouthful of bully. We made for Flesselles, about 10 or 12 kilos away. Had to wait an hour or so for the train to come in. When we were loaded we took the load (250 boxes bombs) up to Fouilly about 8 or 9 kilos through Amiens to the 4th Division dump. Saw a few chaps I knew, Sid Reilly. All our divisions are making an advance tomorrow morning at 4am, no objective, 2 water bottles, 3 days rations & no blankets. Came home to park at 9pm.

August 8. Thursday. Sun rises 4.35am sets 7.37pm

Stayed in park all day. Most of the lorries are out. We began a big advance this morning at 6am against Fritz. Up till 9pm we alone, 5 Aussie divisions, had captured 40,000 prisoners & advanced 16klms & still going! The cavalry are in & taken over from the Infantry. Wrote to Mother, Janie, Kitty, & May Thomas.

August 9. Friday. Sun rises 4.36am sets 7.35pm

An artificer joined us up today from the 1st D.M.T. (*Divisional Mechanical Transport*) as a motor mechanic & is taken on strength as such so that makes three of us.

August 10. Saturday. Sun rises 4.37am sets 7.33pm

Letter came this morning from Frank. He was wounded on 17th July, not a serious wound but a nasty one and is now in Ward Casino 2, No. 1 General Hospital (Presbyterian U.S.A.) B.E.F. (*British Expeditionary Force*) He will probably go to 'Blighty' (*England*) now although he doesn't think so himself. He doesn't know that a big stunt is coming off. Wrote to him this afternoon.

August 11. Sunday – 11th after Trinity.

Book of views of Hastings was sent to me from Mrs Curtis, London, this morning. Word came through this afternoon that we would be moving further up after tea so we had to stir things up a bit & prepare, as there were only three of us to do it as all the rest of the gunners & loaders were out. At 6.30pm we moved out passing through Ailly-sur-Somme, Amiens, Daours, then parked up at Aubigny. We were then directed to our park, a bonzer possie to the left of the village alongside the Somme Canal. It was too late for a swim when we arrived & had unloaded the lorries so we promised ourselves one tomorrow. There are no billets...not much left of the village. All ruins. So tonight we are sleeping in the open, watching the searchlights playing on Fritz in the air.

August 12. Monday. Sun rises 4.41am sets 7.29pm (AUBIGNY)

Messing about all day erecting the offices, etc. & built a bivvy for we three. Had a swim in the canal. Tres bon. (*Very good*) About 8 or 10 feet deep. A pontoon bridge has been thrown across & is very handy for diving off. Fritz made himself felt last night just as we were settling down for the night. We had no shelter so slept in the open. The weather is lovely although the roads are very dusty travelling.

August 13. Tuesday. Sun rises 4.43am sets 7.27pm

At 10am our ammunition detail came & I was told to go out too. After waiting until 2pm for the train to come into Daours, had to take it up to Guillaucourt – miles from here. Several difficulties occurred on

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the road. A main road going over a steep hill was used by the troops before the advance, & the stores etc. from the dugouts was thrown halfway across the road making a one way. Just as we got midway up the one way, the water connection burst & we stopped dead. Miles of lorries were held up behind us & on top of the hill waiting to come down, for half an hour. Had to do a second trip. As we were going between Villers-Bretonneux & Warfusee Fritz dropped three bombs in the field alongside us as we were taking the last load up at 11pm. Delivered the last load at 12.20am (4.5s & charges) Got back to park at 2am. Three letters waiting for me when I came back, from Aggy Gray & two from Ern Harris, 17 & 31 May.

August 14. Wednesday. Sun rises 4.44am sets 7.25am

Detail came in at 8am & 5 lorries went out. When we got to the railhead the train wasn't in but was expected at 12 noon. Had to wait until 4pm before it came. Through being out late last night, I was put on the one load lorries. Five of the eight had to return for a second load. We delivered the load & returned to park at 7.15pm.

August 15. Thursday. Sun rises 4.46am sets 7.32pm

Out at 11am delivered 4.5's, BX 60 boxes & 24 charges from Blangy-Tronville to Hamelet (Corps Reserve dump). When we got there at 3.30pm they wouldn't take delivery or something went wrong. About 200 lorries were waiting & up till 6pm nothing happened so two of us came home for tea. About an hour later the lorries began to come in. Apparently soon after we left the 'heads' woke up. Finished at 6.30am. Paid 50frcs.

August 16. Friday. Sun rises 4.48am sets 7.21pm

Out at 8am on 27032 & went to Vecquemont railhead with 6 lorries. Filled up with 18 pounders, 56 A.X. (H.E.) (**High explosive**) almost immediately & started off in convoy with 10 or 12 of the 4th D.M.T. (**Divisional Mechanical Transport**) Company's lorries on the same job for the 58th D.A. (**Divisional Artillery**) at Chipilly, passing through Aubigny, Fouillooy, Hamelet, Hamel (where I presume, Frank was wounded), Cerisy, Mericourt. Just outside Cerisy our bus fizzled out & we were hung up for over an hour. Eventually we got her to go & delivered our load. 5.9 shrapnel was coming over in the valley where we were. One man killed & one wounded – but not our men. Got home for dinner at 3pm. Had to deliver a load of empties but had no instructions where to take them so brought them home to the cooks for the fire. Two letters today, No. 13 from Mother dated 22 May & one from Janie, 2 June.

August 17. Saturday. Sun rises 4.49am sets 7.15pm

No lorries went out today. Fixed up a set of lockers on 27048 (**Lorry**). Hopped in for a swim at 4pm. After tea wrote to Mother and Daisy Davis. On guard tonight.

August 18. Sunday

On guard today guarding a chap who is awaiting a D.C.M. (**District Court Martial**) Wrote to Janie & Marjory (**Younger sister**). Enclosed a photo of the unit with Mother, Daisy & Janie's letters.

August 19. Monday

Took a load of 4.5's from Corbie to Vaire-sous-Somme this morning. The 9th Battalion are at Vaire so I tried to find Johnny Reynolds but couldn't. Got home by midday.

August 20. Tuesday

Went out this morning at 10.30am to Corbie railhead for load of 57 cases 18 pounders. Owing to the congestion of traffic in the roads leading to the station it was nearly 2pm before we were loaded. Took the load up to Sailly-le-Sec on the Somme. Eight of our lorries went on the job. Got back to park at

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4.30pm. After tea some Yanks were swimming in the canal when one was seized with cramps & drowned. Saw several of the old 3rd Field Ambulance mob in the 9th Battalion in Corbie today.

August 21. Wednesday

Left park at 7am, 10 lorries. I had to go on 27032 (**Lorry**) as second driver. The duty order was made out for Longpre. There are two towns of that name in this district, one is just outside Amiens & the other outside Abbeville. I had no idea which one it was but as we were in convoy I followed on through Amiens, Longpre, St. Sauveur, Belloy & Flixecourt. We lost our way here & for some time we toured around the country on our own. We lost the rest of the convoy & eventually pulled up at Longpre & reported ourselves to another convoy of our lorries & 4th D.M.T.C. (**Divisional Mechanical Transport Company**) mixed. We got our load at 3pm, Q.M. (**Quartermaster**) Store & packs of 32nd Division. Scrounged a few pairs of leather soles from the Q.M. Had to take our load to Villiers-Bretonneux. Got home at 10pm. Travelled about 150 miles.

August 22. Thursday

All the lorries went out this morning at 9am on ammunition but I felt a bit tired or lazy so I took a holiday. During the morning I washed a pair of socks, handkerchief & singlet, half soled a pair of boots with the soles I grouted yesterday. Letters came from Frank & Bob Smith. Frank is still in the U.S.A. hospital & doing well but with no prospects of getting to England. The wound has nearly healed but nerves in his foot give him trouble. Bob has got a chips job in 'Blighty' (**England**) in the wheelers shop of his depot. May be there for some time.

August 23. Friday

Went out on 27033 to a dump between Hamel & Villers-Bretonneux & took a load of 4.5 out of box, loose, to Vaire-sous-Corbie. Back in park by 1pm. Bought 6 tins of milk from 5th Division canteen for 10 francs.

August 24. Saturday

Three letters today, No. 15 from Mother, 23 June, 2 from Janie 19 & 26 May. Also, 'Observer' (**Newspaper**) from Brisbane with Albie's (**Younger brother**) first big report.

August 25. Sunday

Went to Vaire-sous-Corbie this morning to the Corps Reserve Dump & took load of 18 pounders to 1st D.A. (**Divisional Artillery**) this side of Cerisy. Fritz hit about 14 donks up that way with bombs last night. Came back to park at 1pm for lunch. At 2.30pm 10 lorries went to Corbie railhead & as usual the roads & station yards were full of lorries. Up till 5pm we hadn't got anywhere near the yards so two of us walked along the railway & came back to park, only a mile or more, for tea. Went back at 6pm & found my lorry just pulling out loaded with 'prips' - 6 inch H.T. (**High Temperature**) Mortars. Delivered the load at Vaire-sous-Corbie, & on our way home we were stopped at a M.D.S. (**Main Dressing Station**) & asked to take wounded to the C.C.S. (**Casualty Clearing Station**) at Daours. Hundreds of gas cases were coming in from the 1st Division. Took a load to the C.C.S. & arrived home at 10pm.

August 26. Monday

Woke up this morning with rotten cold in head & chest. I was out till nearly 10pm last night with only a singlet on & it got fairly wet after a while. My tunic was on another bus. Took 2 loads of 4.5 from Corbie to Warfusee, 2nd D.A.C. (**Divisional Ammunition Column**). Went out on 27027 (**Lorry**) as 2nd driver. The 1st driver drove from the railhead to the dump & I drove on the return trip.

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August 27. Tuesday

I didn't go out at all today. Feeling crook in the head. Started to make a few souvenirs – an aeroplane to start with. Showery weather & cold at times. Another advance made today from where we dug in.

August 28. Wednesday. Sun rises 5.7am sets 6.56pm

Only two lorries left in park after the rest had gone out on a detail to Bray. Left park on 27027 (**Lorry**) at 11am, picked up a load of 300 boxes Mills bombs from Cerisy & took them to Vaux-sur Somme. Back in park at 3.30pm then went for rations into the village in the 4 D.M.T. (**Divisional Mechanical Transport**) Company's stores.

August 29. Thursday. Sun rises 5.8am sets 6.54pm

Out at 10.15am on 27027 (**Lorry**) as 2nd driver with 9 other lorries to the 32nd D.A.C. (**Divisional Ammunition Column**) to Warfusee, shifting a dump to a new position about 10klms through Harbonnieres just near the line where the second hop-over started last Tuesday, 2 days ago. Many of our men & Fritz's are lying about. Both the 4th & 5th columns were there also but nevertheless we all had to do three loads. After doing two loads (it was then 7pm & we had had nothing to eat since breakfast) we tried to sneak off home & just as we had passed the corner leading to the dump at Warfusee a Corporal hopped out of the ruins & stopped us. Coming back after the 3rd load we made sure of it & came a different road. As luck had it, all the rest were sent home soon afterwards as the dump was finished. We had delivered our third when the others were just coming back from delivering their 2nd & we were 4th from last on entering the dump when we first started. It was hard work all the way & we were 'done' at the finish & very hungry. Got home at 9.15pm, first lorry in. On guard tonight from 10pm till 12.50am.

August 30. Friday. Sun rises 5.10am sets 6.52pm

I was feeling a bit crook this morning so stayed in park today for a change. Making a bit of a souvenir, a miniature aeroplane from 18 pounder cartridge cases. Paid this morning 30 francs.

August 31. Saturday. Sun rises 5.11am sets 6.49pm

Took a load of 18 pounders from Vaux-sur Somme to a new dump 3 or 4klms from Cappy, (just captured a day or so ago) One trip & it took us from 8.30am from the time we left park till 3.15pm when we arrived back again to deliver that load & no time was lost on the way except loading & unloading of course.

SEPTEMBER 1. Sunday PROYART

15 lorries went out this morning on ammunition from Blangy-Tronville to the D.A.C. (**Divisional Ammunition Column**) at [blank] We only did one load & that took us from 8.30am till 7pm before we returned to park. When we did arrive back we found that the mob had moved & instructions were left for us to proceed to Proyart. We were the last lorry home. The cooks had gone also so we had no option but to turn round to make for the new possie. After a while we found a fairly decent maison (**House**) with walls & floor but we had to fix up the roof to make it rain proof. Letters today from Janie 9 June, Auntie Amy 17 June.

September 2. Monday

None of the gunners were sent out today. We had to fix up the park a bit, clearing away the debris from the road. After tea the three of us took a stroll down the road for a couple of kilometres to where a German 15 inch gun had been blown out. What a marvellous piece of work! The casing of the barrel at the breach is 14 inches thick & the barrel itself is 80ft long. Electric motors & petrol motors played the most important part in the working, loading, etc. but every piece of machinery was destroyed. On our

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way home we came across the fields & saw many dead Germans who were killed there in outposts a couple of weeks ago.

September 3. Tuesday

Today letters arrived from Mother, No. 14, 17 June, Janie 16 & 25 June, Doris 17 June, Ern Harris 17 June, May Maddocks 17 June. Went for a walk after tea around the country. Saw Sydney in the next village, in the 2nd D.M.T.C. (**Divisional Mechanical Transport Company**)

September 4. Wednesday

Letter came from Gladys Curtis, London. Nothing to do all day. Wrote 8 pages to Janie this afternoon. Good news in the paper around Douai & Cambrai. Told to go out on 27012 (**Lorry**) at tea time. Reported to the dump & at 9pm they discovered the train wasn't coming in so we came home again.

September 5. Thursday

At 2pm I was told to go out on 27032 (**Lorry**) as 2nd driver. We went straight down to the railhead, 2kms away & didn't get loaded until 7.30pm. While we were waiting, a heavy show fell. Before we had gone a mile one of the driving chains came off so that held us up for half an hour. At the Corps Reserve Dump we found a dozen or more lorries ahead of us. Another long wait. As we were unloading one of the 4th D.M.T.C. (**Divisional Mechanical Transport Company**) backed on to our radiator and broke 3 tubes. As we were pulling out the chain came off again, then the petrol gave out & we had to use our spares. Half way home the engine fizzled out & we spent another delightful half hour winding her up. Got home eventually at 11.30pm with no tea.

September 6. Friday

After breakfast a nasty pain & ache made itself felt from the bridge of my nose & spread upwards & across my forehead. At 11am I went down to the medical orderly of the 4th D.M.T.C. (**Divisional Mechanical Transport Company**) He said it was merely cartarrh & gave me a douche for the nose. I had an idea that it might be adenoids or a growth of some sort. In the afternoon walked down to the A.F.C. (**Australian Flying Corps**) aerodrome which has just come here. Saw no one whom I know. Parcel came from Jim 4ozs of Havelock. (**Tobacco**)

September 7. Saturday

Woke up this morning feeling fairly good but soon after breakfast the pains in my forehead came back again & hung to me until nearly tea time. After that it cleared off considerably. Nevertheless, I thought I would go out, so hopped on 27027 at 11am & took a load of T.M.G. (**Turret Machine Gun**) (pigs) to Corps Reserve Dump. Letter came from Frank. He is in a Brighton hospital, Victoria Ward, 2nd Eastern General Hospital. Wrote to Janie, Jim, Doris.

September 8. Sunday

Went out on 27049 (**Lorry**) as 2nd driver. Carried load of 762 boxes 13 x 13 pounder anti-aircraft from railhead to Corps Reserve Dump. Left at 8am back at 1pm. Letters were waiting for me from Mother No. 16, 1 July, Janie 30 June. Jim 20 June & Shrewd Bell in England 1 Sept. Mother enclosed several photos of the house & groups.

September 9. Monday MONT SAINT-QUENTIN

Packed up & left Proyart at 9.30am & made off on the Peronne road. Passed through La Valleette & other villages & then through Peronne anchoring on the side of the road just near where the Aussie had a rough scrap with Fritz 8 days ago, namely Mont Saint-Quentin. Erected the cookhouse & offices & started to pinch a Nissen hut but it was dark & wet so we decided to leave it until tomorrow. In the 1918

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meantime we fixed up a bivvy with a tarpaulin for two of us. It was a bit leaky but we managed to get through the night. I was on guard but feeling a little fatigued so to speak, instead of getting up at 3am & walking the park like a soldier until 6.30am, I slept in until 6.20am in time to get the cooks up.

September 10. Tuesday

Pinched the Nissen hut today & started to erect it. Managed to get half of it up so as to have a dry bed. A strong wind with rain was blowing all day making things very uncomfortable.

September 11. Wednesday

Finished the hut today. Fritz made things very lively last night around our possie. A parcel came from Marie Hamilton today, 2 pairs socks & plum pudding. Paid 20 francs. Bought tunic for 5 francs.

September 12. Thursday

Finished letter to Mother tonight. Posted letters to Mother, Janie, Daisy & Jim in Green Envelope. Wrote to Kitty.

(NB: "Green Envelope"...The letter writer had to sign a declaration on the outside of the green envelope, swearing that the contents within were only personal or family matters. The premise was to allow soldiers to write home without concern of their private matters being read by their superiors within the battalion)

September 13. Friday

September 14. Saturday

Had some sport last night. Fritz came over in his big Gothas (**German heavy bomber plane**) at about 9pm. The first came over from Peronne direction & was soon picked up by the searchlights. Just as he got opposite our park he dropped his load in the paddocks. The second came from the opposite direction & passed right across our park & although he was in the light all the while & the Archies (**Anti-aircraft gun**) were pumping him, he continued on his way & returned to his own lines without dropping his load. The third came from the same direction & passed over the road a little higher up & made inland full in the lights. When he had passed over for about 8 or 10 miles one of our planes signalled & the guns stopped. In a few seconds a huge glare lit up the sky & Fritz fell in flames. His Verey lights (**Coloured flares made for signalling**) made a very pretty sight as they caught fire on the way down. Five minutes later another came from the same quarter & was coming straight for us, but all of a sudden he swerved, dropped his bombs and made off. Again one of our planes signalled & shortly we saw another Gotha brought down in flames. This is the first time I have seen a plane brought down in flames at night.

September 15. Sunday

Went out today on 50131 as second driver with Cutts. He drove it to the dump at Corps Reserve, Cappy & I took it full to the dump at Tincourt about 10 or 12 kims. We did two trips & were told to report back for a third. As we got nearer the dump the Corporal met us & said that there was no more ammunition left for us, so we returned to park. The boss gave us the rotten news tonight that we would be leaving tomorrow. Some infantry chaps told us that Billy Hughes (**Prime Minister of Australia during WW1**) during a speech said that all 1914 men would be out of France by the end of this month & all 1915 up to July would be out by Xmas. Goodalak. (**Good luck**) Fritz came over tonight & one was brought down in flames. We also heard that all men who were in Egypt or lines of communication during 1915 were to be given the Khedive's Star. **(NB: Soldiers who fought in Egypt between 1882 and 1889, regardless of rank, were presented with the Khedive's Star)** We are also entitled to

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wear 'A's & when on leave must wear good conduct stripes as well as service stripes. We will be more like Christmas trees than soldiers.

(NB: "A" was for Anzac for those who served in 1915. Good Conduct Stripes consisted of a single khaki inverted chevron worn on the lower left arm for each year of service meeting requirements of good conduct. Service stripes were inverted chevrons worn above the cuff on the right arm. A blue chevron for each year of service and a red one for service in 1914.)

September 16. Monday

Driver English, who has been carpenter in the unit since I joined, has asked the boss to be put on a lorry so now I have to take on the job. I will let it go for a couple of weeks & broach the 8/- racket to the boss. Many of the 1914 men are leaving for Aussie. Over 50 left from the M.T. **(Mechanical Transport)** alone two days ago. Nearly every man we pick up on the road for a ride, if he has three blues & a red, says he is on his way to Aussie.

September 17. Tuesday

September 18. Wednesday

Today English **(Fellow soldier)** was put on a lorry so now I have to fulfil the vacated position of unofficial carpenter, a rather exalted position no doubt. After tea I decided to go across to the 38th Battalion Band to find Harry Eddy. Found him alright & doing well. I have never seen him & of course he has never seen me – so we started off level. I hadn't much time with him at first as five minutes later the band had to fall in to a concert so I had to wait until it was over to continue our yarn. We tried to unravel our relationship while he was walking home with me, but couldn't get very far into the depths. We came right to our park & had supper then I walked halfway back with him. He is a decent fellow & I like him very much.

September 19. Thursday

Last night I gave Harry a spool for his V.P.K. **(Vest Pocket Kodak...camera)** so after tea I went out with him to take a few snaps. It was dull & all exposures had to be taken on bulb, giving each a 1 second's exposure. We exposed the whole spool & I brought it home to develop.

September 20. Friday

Spent most of the day making a couple of chart boards for the office. After tea I developed Harry Eddy's film which we exposed yesterday. At about 10pm we heard a lot of cheering so rushed outside just in time to see another Fritz plane bite the dust.

September 21. Saturday

Fixed tailboard on 27012 **(Lorry)**, finished chart boards for office, painted one sign. Printed off a few prints from Harry Eddy's film.

September 22. Sunday – 17th after Trinity.

On guard last night, last shift 2.30am till 6am so had a sleep in this morning. Put up a shelter over the bench this afternoon. Wrote a bit more to Mother's letter.

September 23. Monday. Sun rises 5.48am sets 5.57pm

Harry came in tonight at 9pm & said that probably he wouldn't have another chance for a while as they were expecting to go into the line for a bit of a hop-over. He is in the band but expects to go as stretcher bearer on account of the Battalion being so low in strength, 270 all told out of over 1,000.

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September 24. Tuesday. Sun rises 5.49am sets 5.55pm

Rather warm day. The wind dropped & the sun came out good. Painted a few signs. Mail came in after tea Nos. 17 & 17a, 7th & 14 July from Mother, Janie 7 & 14 July, Ern Harris 27 June, Lil Goldsworthy 14 July, Kitty 17 Sept, May & Bertha 16 Sept.

September 25. Wednesday. Sun rises 5.51am sets 5.53pm

Started to make door for cookhouse. Put in most of the day on it. Also fixed up the floor on 27053 **Lorry**). News came through that I had been promoted to driver & would be transferred to the 1st D.M.T. (**Divisional Mechanical Transport**) Company. Expected to go today but later was told to wait until tomorrow. Four of us were promoted. Our books were fixed up before we left & made out from the 24th. Paid 10 francs.

September 26. Sun rises 5.53am sets 5.51am

Left the 12th A.B.A.F.A.P.S. (**Army Brigade Australian Field Artillery Park Section**) this morning & marched into the 1st D.M.T. (**Divisional Mechanical Transport**) Company. The other three were fixed up but my lorry, 59, is out on detachment & I have to wait until it comes in. Every available lorry is being brought in to commission now carrying up ammunition in preparation of the big stunt on Sunday morning. It is expected to be the biggest affair yet tackled. Our 3rd & 5th Divvies (**Divisions**) are going in the first wave, the Yanks in the second & our 2nd in the 3rd.

September 27. Friday. Sun rises 5.54am sets 5.48pm

Wrote to Kitty, B.P.O. (**Base Post Office**) & posted to Mother, Janie, & Ivy Davis. Put on 59 (**Lorry**), with Jack Keegan.

September 28. Saturday. Sun rises 5.56am sets 5.46pm TEMPLEUX-LA-FOSSE

Took a load of 9.2 inch (**Howitzer**) to a position near by. 18 pounders (**Long range gun**) ready for the big guns to move up tomorrow near St. Emilie from Tincourt, came back & took a load of 6 inch up to near the same place. 20 x 9.2's to a load, 60 x 6 inch. During our absence the park moved from Mont Saint-Quentin to Templeux-la-Fosse, a rotten place for getting in & out of in hot weather as we are having now. We had to take a load of our reserve ammunition from the old park to the new. A Gotha (**German heavy bomber plane**) came over at 10pm & dropped his load a few hundred yards away from the lorry as we were in park, but on that side of the road a bank rises up nearly 30ft so that saved us. The Gotha went back again although a scout made a plucky attempt to get him.

September 29. Sunday – 18th after Trinity.

Left park this morning at 12pm & picked up a load of 18 pounders from Wyuna dump near Le Catelet & took them to Hargicourt. Heavy shelling going on. Half a minute before we reached the rail cross-roads at Templeux-la-Guerard a shell fell on the edge of the road & killed 3 horses & a man. As we went further up, more similar sights met our eyes. Horses were lying everywhere at the dump but while we were there no shells fell. On our way back we were turned back twice on different roads because they were continually blown up in front of us. At one point a H.E. (**High explosive**) fell only 20 yards from our tailboard and we felt the concussion. G.S. (**General Service**) waggons, horses & men were lying everywhere. A lorry was hit behind us.

September 30. Monday. Sun rises 5.59am sets 5.41pm

Took a load of 18 pounders to Hargicourt this morning at 6am. Not so much shelling but warm nevertheless. Came back to Tincourt railhead & put on load of 45's & brought them home to park.

OCTOBER 1. Tuesday. Sun rises 6.01am sets 5.39pm

Up at 6am and took our overnight load to Hargicourt to the 5th D.A.C. (*Divisional Ammunition Column*), slight shelling in the vicinity. Came back to Tincourt, took load up to Hargicourt again & came back again to Tincourt, picked up 50 x 18 pounders & brought them home. Heavy traffic on the road all day...Infantry, horses & motor traffic are in one long line, from Peronne in the front line, more or less, & only moving at a walking pace.

October 2. Wednesday. Sun rises 6.03am sets 5.37pm

Left park at 8am, took overnight load to 3rd Division dump at St. Emilie. No shelling. Saw a gruesome sight as we pulled into the dump. Three American pillboxes with limbers pulled into the new cemetery full of dead just thrown into the carts anyhow. Believe the casualties were very heavy for the Australians & Americans. Good news from all fronts in the past 3 days' papers. After leaving St. Emilie we came back to Tincourt & loaded up with 4.5's to take back to park. The Americans here gave us a good warm bath & clean change tonight.

October 3. Thursday. Sun rises 6.04am sets 5.35pm

Took load of 45's to 3rd Divvy (*Division*) dump at St. Emilie, then came back to Tincourt & took load of 250 boxes of Mills bombs to 4th Divvy H.Q. (*Headquarters*) at Cavillon 15 miles through Amiens. Got back to park at 9.30pm.

October 4. Friday. Sun rises 6.06am sets 5.32pm

In workshop all day for new steering gear.

October 5. Saturday. Sun rises 6.08am sets 5.30pm

On supplies today from Roisel railhead to Clery-sur-Somme for 1st Division Artillery who are going out. The whole Corps is supposed to be moving back somewhere & we expect to go in a day or two down towards Dieppe. Paid 60frcs. Received invitation from 3rd Field Ambulance to attend a unit dinner to be given on 7th.

October 6. Sunday – 19th after Trinity.

Took a load of 18 pounders up to the 2nd D.A.C. (*Divisional Ammunition Column*) at Bellicourt. Home at 5pm. Central Powers ask for armistice today. Wrote reply to 3rd Field Ambulance regretting that I couldn't attend their Unit Dinner. Letters from Mother & Janie.

October 7. Monday. Sun rises 6.11am sets 5.24pm

Went out on store job first thing this morning from Templeax-le-Guerard to Bellicourt. Carried two loads & were loading up the third when we received orders for 4 lorries to return to park. We were one of them. Got back at 3pm. At 5pm we four were told to go down to the workshops at Peronne to shift them to Longpre. It was dark & raining when we got there so stayed for the night.

October 8. Tuesday. Sun rises 6.13am sets 5.22pm

Loaded up with workshop spares & moved out at 10am. Passed through Clery-sur-Somme, Becordel-Becourt, Albert, Amiens, Ailly-sur-Somme, Conde-Folie & stopped at Longpre. Kept the load on all night as we slept in the cookhouse billet. Albert has suffered severely. Not a house standing intact. Got the cathedral tower with the gun.

October 9. Wednesday. Sun rises 6.14am sets 5.20pm

Bad wheels so stopped here. Went into Abbeville to the tyre press.

October 10. Thursday. Sun rises 6.16am sets 5.18pm

Carried 3rd Field Ambulance football team to the 3rd A.G.H. (**Australian General Hospital**) at Abbeville.

October 11. Friday. Sun rises 6.18am sets 5.16pm

Did nothing till tea time then had to go to Abbeville for comforts. Parcel from Janie (9 May).

October 12. Saturday. Sun rises 6.20am sets 5.14pm

Left Longpre at 1pm today with 30 other lorries to report to Villers-Carbonnel just outside Peronne. I drove all the way. Arrived at 7.30pm. Parked up for the night. The rumour has it that the Yanks & English are advancing so fast that they can't keep up the supplies & ammunition so we have been called up to take ammunition up.

October 13. Sunday – 20th after Trinity.

When we got up this morning we found that there were about 30 lorries from each of the other four divvies. (**Divisions**) Had a bite of breakfast then went in column early this morning for the railhead at Epehy & loaded up with 60 cases 18 pounders to be delivered to the 18th Division A.C. (**Ammunition Column**) at Bertry, through Honnecourt, Villers-Otreux, Elincourt, Clary. We were greatly surprised & pleased when we saw the villages on the other side of Le Catelet intact & even with civilians in them. They were very pleased to see us. Each house had its tri-colour flying, the first time for 4 years. Cavalry horses were lying dead in great numbers, so also were Fritzes (**Germans**) & 'Tommies' (**British soldiers**). Tanks, whippets & armoured cars were also lying about in great numbers. Last three villages evacuated by Fritz in good order, numerous civilians being left behind by him. Only one load but it was 9pm before we came back to Epehy.

October 14. Monday. Sun rises 6.22am rises 5.10pm

Picked up another load today & took it to Bertry, coming back to Mont-St. Martin & parking up there. Two Germans are lying within 50yds off the bus accompanied by several dead horses.

October 15. Tuesday. Sun rises 6.24am sets 5.27pm

Went to Epehy again for another load. On account of the long trip the day has gone by the time we get back to park.

October 16. Wednesday. Sun rises 6.26am sets 5.6pm

Up at 3.30am, for ammunition (gas 'at the touts', (**Immediately**) from Corps Reserve at Lieramont to 18th R.A.C. (**Royal Armoured Corps**) at Bertry. We were travelling all the time from 4am till 7pm & we only carried one load. On our way home we were behind a lorry load of civvies (**Civilians**) who were being taken from Elincourt to a place of safety. They were struggling with hard Army biscuits so they were greatly delighted when my mate ran up to them with a loaf of bread.

October 17. Thursday. Sun rises 6.28am sets 5.4pm

Left Mont-St. Martin at 9am & went as far as Villers-Bretonneux, there we had lunch on the road. We picked up a 'Froggy' (**French**) soldier at Villers-Carbonnel & he was good company. He told us a good many things about the treatment which the civilians received at the hands of the Germans. We stopped at Amiens for a quarter of an hour or so & while there we found Dick O'Carroll, used to be a Sergeant in the 3rd Field Ambulance now a Lieutenant in the 44th Battalion. He told me that Frank Carson went out to bring in two prisoners who were giving themselves up, & one of them shot him in the stomach. Came in Longpre at 4.30pm. Large mail for me. No. 18, 28 July Mother, Janie 2 & 28 July, Clem 19 July, Aunty Amy 4 Aug, Marie Hamilton 17 July, Harrison 19 & 22 July, Ethel Cock 1 Aug,

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May Smith 3 July. Also from Frank. He expects to go home to Aussie shortly.

October 18. Friday. Sun rises 6.29am sets 5.01pm

Woke up with bad throat this morning, felt crook all day. We stayed in & fixed on new trays under the engine & and new starting handle. Just as well, too as I didn't feel inclined to go out. Lille, Douai & Ostend captured yesterday. Advancing everywhere. Wrote to Frank.

October 19. Saturday. Sun rises 6.31am sets 4.59pm

Throat a little better this morning. No detail in for us until 4pm, so we set to & cleaned the mud off the chassis & cleaned the body. That is the first chance we have had to do anything to her, except keep the grease caps full. At 4 o'clock we had to go to Montdidier to the 1st Field Company Engineers to pick up a load of sappers & take them to the 'Sentimental Blokes' (**Australian Concert Party of comedy, songs, dance & sketches**) at Pont Remy. We - 'the camion conducteurs' (**Chauffeurs**) - had free seats given us. The show was excellent. A little disappointment prevailed half an hour before the show started by the lights going out but the Aussies were there & as usual made the best of the time with impromptus. One gink (**Fellow**) blew three blasts on a whistle (enemy aircraft), up went the searchlights (electric torches) & stark shells (matches) & the effect brought down the house. Got home at 11pm. Letters from Mother & Janie 26 Aug.

October 20. Sunday – 21st after Trinity.

Went out at 2pm to the Supply depot at Gorenflos for load of oats to Longpre railhead. Home at 5pm. Wrote to Mother, Stan Dunstan & Will Cosgrove.

October 21. Monday. Sun rises 6.35am sets 4.55pm

Detail came in this morning for 5 lorries to go to Le Havre for Y.M.C.A (**Young Men's Christian Association**) stuff. Left here at 11am after being paid 40frcs. Passed through for Airains, Oisemont, Blangy & stopped at Neufchatel for dinner at 2pm (56 klms). Stopped at the best restaurant & dined 'table d'hote' (**The host's table**) at the expenses of the Y.M.C.A. First class. Left again at 3pm & passed through Saint-Saens, Totes, Yerville, & stopped at Yvetot for tea at 7.30pm. It was dark when we arrived here so we couldn't pick out a decent looking place so we all dropped into the Hotel Aigle d'Or which didn't look very inviting but they dished us up a very decent meal. Had a great night until 11pm then we all turned into bed in our lorries.

October 22. Tuesday. Sun rises 6.37am sets 4.53pm

Up at 6am, had breakfast at the Hotel Aigle d'Or & left 8am arriving in Le Havre at 11am, 53klms. Pulled up at the Y.M.C.A. (**Young Men's Christian Association**) headquarters in the centre of the city & received a warm welcome by the girls, then we took the lorries to the stores & had dinner. Loaded up after dinner. We had to go for petrol & couldn't find the depot. We went from one end of the city to the other & didn't find until 5pm. By that time all the others had been fixed up & were in the city. We arrived in at 6.30pm, had dinner at the Hotel de la Concorde, a fashionable place, then went in to look for a decent hotel to sleep in. Were recommended to several but were too low class so we pushed off. Found it very difficult to secure a decent, respectable place to stop at until about 9pm. After we had settled on a place & were shown our rooms we thought to just take another stroll before turning in but hadn't gone far before we were stopped by a 'Tommy in khaki' without badges & demanded our passes. He turned out to be a detective & had been following us for over an hour, mentioning the different places to which we had been, etc. Had passes issued by A.P.M. (**Assistant Provost Marshal**) so everything was right though & he apologised & let us go. Eventually we got to bed & had a good night's sleep.

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October 23. Wednesday. Sun rises 6.38am sets 4.50pm

Got up this morning at 7am, breakfast at Hotel Hamon where we stayed the night & made our way back to the lorries by 9am. Bought pair of gloves 27frcs plus 2.90 tax & pair of braces 7.50 plus 0.75 tax. Put on our load of Y.M.C.A. (*Young Men's Christian Association*) stuff & left at 11am. A lovely day for driving. Went as far as Bolbec & had dinner. Then went to Yvetot where we arrived at 5pm & stopped for the night. Managed to get a bed in the Hotel Aigle d'Or. Had tea at 7pm & turned in at 10pm. It has been one long holiday so far & it is quite a novelty to be under civil circumstances again.

October 24. Thursday. Sun rises 6.40am sets 4.48pm

Up this morning at 7am, had breakfast & pushed off at 10 am. I took the wheel from here & we travelled some. From Yvetot to Neufchatel it was nearly all downhill & for a kilometre or so we would sail down at well over 20 mph. (A good pace with a lorry loaded). On one stretch we covered 28kms in the hours. Stopped at Blangy-Tronville for dinner at a small joint then finished the trip to Longpre at 4.30pm in good time. Unloaded & parked up feeling fairly tired & relieved although it had been a great trip. No mail. Successful trip & all returned. Cost me 70frcs but was worth it. First Aussies in most of the villages & were mistaken for Yanks. Got a great welcome everywhere.

October 25. Friday. Sun rises 6.41am sets 4.47pm

Went to 1st Area laundry at Abbeville with load of blankets from 1st Brigade to be fumigated. Germans are washing the laundry. At 4pm, went to 6th Battalion at Ailly-le-Haut-Clocher & took a load of men to Pont Remy to the 'Sentimental Blokes'. (*Australian Concert Party of comedy, songs, dance & sketches*) 5frcs from the officers. Home at 11pm.

October 26. Saturday. Sun rises 6.43am sets 4.45pm

Up at 6am & went to Flixecourt with 5 others on R.E. (*Royal Engineers...provided manual labour to work on docks, railways, roads, delivering supplies etc*) from Franconville to Flixecourt, duckboards. (*A wooden frame about five feet long and 18" wide, on which are nailed crosswise, short pieces of wood in the form of a grating*) Back to park at 4pm. On guard tonight. Letter from Stan Dunstan, in England trained & operational.

October 27. Sunday – 22nd after Trinity

Called at 6am to go to Ailly-le-Haut-Clocher for petrol. Then to Gorenflos for hay. Got back to park in time for dinner. After dinner went to a place near Airaines for hay & delivered it to 1st Brigade at Pont Remy. Home at 5pm. On guard last night & should have got up at 2am till 6am but wasn't called.

October 28. Monday

As I drew out my pen tonight to fill in my diary I discovered it to be broken. My mate went on leave to England today so I have the bus on my own. It is hard work especially just now because we get such a lot of running about. I was on supplies today. Parcel came from Mother, pair of socks & a tin of lollies. Wrote to Janie tonight (8 pages). Issued with winter clothing & colours.

October 29. Tuesday Sun rises 6.49am sets 4.39pm

Went out on supplies this morning at 7.30am & finished at 12 noon. Out again at 1.30pm to Gorenflos for more supplies to L'Etoile finishing at 4.30pm. By the time I have filled up with petrol & oil, reported in, made out the running slip, had tea & cleaned up a bit, the night has gone. Wrote to Kitty, Bertha.

October 30. Wednesday Sun rises 6.51am sets 4.37pm

On R.E. work (*Royal Engineers...provided manual labour to work on docks, railways, roads, delivering supplies etc*) from Australian Corps Dump to 364 Forestry Corps at St. Ouen. There is one

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advantage in working back here in these areas. All the loading & unloading is done by either Germans or Chinese. The Germans work the better. In today's & yesterday's papers we have been reading, that Austria is turning the game in. One Officer and 52 O.R. (**Other Ranks**) are returning to Australia tomorrow from this column.

October 31. Thursday Sun rises 6.52am sets 4.36pm

Out on detail this morning again on R.E. work (**Royal Engineers...provided manual labour to work on docks, railways, roads, delivering supplies etc**) at Flixecourt. Two trips to St. Ouen, one for firewood from the 364 Sawmill & one to the 2nd Division Engineers dump with 56 canned stores. Then took a load of huts to the 4 C.R.E. (**Constructional Royal Engineers**) at Saisseval towards Amiens. Left Flixecourt at 2pm got back to park at 6.30pm. During the morning I found one of my chains almost worn through so changed it with a spare from 49 to see the day out. When I got back I reported it. An Australian shot a civvy (**Civilian**) tonight & killed him. Several murders & robberies have taken place lately by a gang of escaped Australian 'birds'.

NOVEMBER 1. Friday. Sun rises 6.54am sets 4.34pm

Not on detail this morning as I have only one chain. Told to get 2 new ones from the store. Reported broken spring this morning. I broke two leaves on the front spring a couple of days ago but didn't bother reporting it so as I was in today I told them about it. Got a new one from Smiths Shop. It took me nearly all day to put the two chains & spring on, & I was working hard all the time. Of course I had to do it all myself & on my own. Austria turned the game in at midday today & Turkey yesterday. Germany, I hope, tomorrow (?) Letter from Mr Harrison with the snaps of Red & Doug in Brisbane. Issued with new Pay Book £8/16/8 credit.

November 2. Saturday. Sun rises 6.56am sets 4.32pm

Went out on Supplies this morning to the railhead at Longpre & carried to the R.S.O.'s (**Railway Supply Officer**) dump. Finished at 2pm but stayed at the dump until 3.45pm so as not to be back too early in case a night job was waiting. From 11.30pm last night until 11.30am this morning all roads leading from the village were closed at a certain distance & picquets were searching the village for deserters. Several were caught.

November 3. Sunday – 23rd after Trinity

Carried the blankets of the 11th Battalion from L'Etoile to 1st Area Laundry Abbeville to be fumigated & then took them back again. While at the Battalion I made inquiries about Harry Wandsborough & learned that he was bandmaster so dug him up. He was very surprised & pleased to see me. I also met Charlie Thielman from York.

November 4. Monday. Sun rises 7.00am sets 4.28pm

Austria signed an armistice with the Allies at 3pm. today. On detail at the R.S.O. (**Railway Supply Officer**) Letters arrived from Mother No. 20, 18 Aug, Janie 11 & 18 Aug, Aggy Gray 9 Aug, & Ern Harris 6 Aug. Wrote Annie & part to Janie.

November 5. Tuesday. Sun rises 7.02am sets 4.26pm

Out on R.E. (**Royal Engineers...provided manual labour to work on docks, railways, roads, delivering supplies etc**) this morning before I had gone far the old bus began to hop along on 3 lungs only so I pulled up & had a 'decko' (**Slang for a peek**) at the plugs & found that one wasn't firing at all. I had a spare one so replaced the crook one, then went all right. Finally I reached the 1st Australian Corps R.E. dump at Flixecourt & there received orders with another lorry to pick up a load of 1" boarding from the 364th Forestry Corps & take it to the 5th Division C.R.E. (**Constructional Royal**

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Engineers) at Oisemont. Arrived there at 1.30pm & was told that the C.R.E. was at Bouillancourt another 10kms further on. Before going further the C.S.M. (**Company Sergeant Major**) invited me down to the Sergeant's Mess for dinner. Delivered the load by 5pm then came home. It is dark now at 5.30pm so I had a rotten trip home as I only have oil lamps. When I got in they staggered me by telling me that I was on guard.

November 6. Wednesday. Sun rises 7.03am sets 4.25pm

On guard last night from 2-6pm & I didn't get to bed until 12 midnight. The column moved today & my detail was to pick up the Y.M.C.A. (**Young Men's Christian Association**) detraining party & take them to the 3rd Brigade to Tincourt & the 1st to Roisel. We arrived at Roisel at 6pm leaving the other party at Tincourt. The troop train was expected in tomorrow but the R.T.O. (**Railway Transport Officer**) says it has been postponed 24 hours. On the way out the engine behaved very badly. I couldn't locate the trouble for some time. She'd pull on all four cylinders for 10 yards or so then fizzle out & hop on one or two. At first I thought it was the mixture, then after a while I 'jerried' (**Slang for realised**) that she wasn't getting enough juice as the tap wasn't open enough at the tank. Fixed that up then made up lost time on the good roads. Raining all the time. I think I put the wind up the Y.M.C.A. Rep.

November 7. Thursday. Sun rises 7.05am sets 4.23pm

Train expected in at 4am tomorrow so we have nothing to do today. Did a bit of greasing to the bus & fixed things up then after dinner, when the Rep had selected a possie for his coffee stands I took the gear around for him & left the bus there. He is going to sleep in it so as to be on the spot so I am sleeping with the P.B. (**Permanent Base**) men who are attached to the Y.M.C.A. (**Young Men's Christian Association**) in a marquee.

November 8. Friday. Sun rises 7.06am sets 4.22pm

Train was again cancelled from 4am to 10am then cancelled again. Heard that Germany had signed the armistice terms at 12 o'clock last night. Wrote to Mother, Stan Dunstan & Janie.

November 9. Saturday. Sun rises 7.08am sets 4.20pm

Did nothing all this morning. This afternoon I took a stroll around the Aussie cemetery here & took a few snaps. After tea I had to bring three loads of Y.M.C.A. (**Young Men's Christian Association**) stores from the station to the marquee here.

November 10. Sunday – 24th after Trinity.

Armistice was signed today I believe at 11pm. Hope it is true. It is supposed to be official. Last Friday's rumour wasn't correct.

November 11. Monday. Sun rises 7.12am sets 4.16pm

At 8am went for the 3rd Brigade at Tincourt & brought them back to Roisel. Here I was loaded with Divisional staff, three other lorries being requisitioned to carry the brigade lots. Then we moved off. Had dinner at Joncourt. At Saint-Souplet we received fresh orders. One lorry went to Le Cateau, one to Grand-Fayt & the 2nd Brigade & I had to go to Avesnes. Just as we got within 4kms of the place we were coming down a very steep hill & the lorry in front pulled up halfway down. I was coming down about 30yds behind & applied all my brakes but the weight forced her to skid & she slid down from about 15yds & didn't stop until we crashed. I thought everything was smashed to pieces. Shut the engine off but it was too dark to see what had happened. The other lorry towed me down the hill & up the next but it was too much for her so I stopped there for the night.

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November 12. Tuesday. Sun rises 7.14,am sets 4.14pm

Fixed the bus up alright, nothing broken. Got to Avesnes at 9am. Just before leaving we went in to a house just opposite & they made us very welcome. Avesnes is a very decent sized place, much the same size as Albert. All the streets and houses are decorated with flags. Took a photo of one street. Mines are continually going up on the outskirts of the village. Three went up this afternoon. At tea time Mr Charlesworth came in & told us to get the lorry unloaded as I had to go to Grand-Fayt to the 3rd Brigade Y.M.C.A. (**Young Men's Christian Association**) & take them back to Mazinghien. Left Avesnes at 4pm for Mazinghien. On the way out, I had two 3rd Brigade officers on board, one was the O.C. (**Officer Commanding**) We tried several roads to get to Grand-Fayt but were turned back each time on account of the roads being impassable & in the end we lost our way, so struck to the main road to Mazinghien. Arrived 9pm. Parked up for the night.

November 13. Wednesday. Sun rises 7.15, sets 4.13.

Left Mazinghien at 6am, picked up petrol at 44th M.A.C. (**Motor Ambulance Convoy**) 18 galls, 2 galls oil. Arrived at Grand-Fayt at 10am after a lot of bother with traffic en route. Loaded up with 3rd Brigade stores & took them to Mazinghien via Maroilles. I thought I would be able to get to Avesnes tonight but Mr Manning learned at 3rd H.Q. (**Headquarters**) that the Brigade would be moving to Bohain tomorrow so we decided that our best plan would be to take the stuff to Bohain this afternoon. So off we went leaving at 4pm. Had a to Harry Wandsborough theme. At Le Cateau I called into the Transport Office & reported broken spring & asked them to send another lorry to Avesnes. Eventually we arrived at Bohain at 7.30pm & slept at the Town Mayor's office.

November 14. Thursday. Sun rises 7.17am sets 4.11pm (BOHAIN)

It was nearly twelve o'clock before a place was finally settled for their canteen so I stayed with them for dinner. Left soon after & arrived at the park at 3pm. As soon as I pulled in the Staff Sergeant of workshops had a look at the bus & told me to take it down to the shops & get the job done. A couple of mechanics gave me a hand but we soon saw that it was a big job & yet the bus had to be on the roads for tomorrow, so the O.C. (**Officer Commanding**) said. Anyhow, we worked until 9.15pm. then knocked off.

November 15. Friday. Sun rises 7.19am sets 4.10pm

Got to work on the springs this morning & made a bit of a show. Jack, my mate, came back at 1pm but of course didn't do any work this afternoon. By 4pm we had her in running order again. Slipped a note into Mother's, Janie's & Annie's letters & wrote one to Jim & Ern. Paid 60frcs.

November 16. Saturday. Sun rises 7.21am sets 4.09pm

5.30am detail this morning to pick up 20 galls petrol & oil & go in convoy with 10 other lorries to 5th C.C.S. at Mazinghien near Saint-Quentin to carry C.C.S. to Maubeuge near the Belgium Border. Got a lot of canned stores etc. We had to come back through Le Cateau & it was nearly dark when we reached here so we decided to stop for the night. Our lorries were loaded too full to sleep in so we all hopped into a maison (**House**) opposite, lit a good fire, used the hospital mattress & turned in early. It is very chilly now & every morning sees a frost. Letter from Kitty.

November 17. Sunday – 25th after Trinity.

Started off this morning at 7.30am & after a very successful trip reached Maubeuge at 12 noon. Delivered our load, had dinner & started off home again. As we went through the Square we were mobbed by refugees wanting to go back to their homes. We couldn't take them all so chose a pretty looking Mademoiselle (**Unmarried woman**) with apparently her mother. Called around to her home & while we were putting her gear on, the people next door suddenly decided to go too. They were all

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going to Le Cateau. Just as we had put on the baggage of the two parties the aforesaid Madame turned up with a cartload of stuff so we had a fair load of baggage, 2 Madames, two Messieurs & 7 kids besides the Mademoiselle who accompanied me on the front seat. Reached Le Cateau at 7pm.

November 18. Monday. Sun rises 7.24am sets 4.06pm

Had a day in today so slept on until 9.30am. Made some porridge for breakfast & fried bread. Very cold so didn't do much to the bus. At 11am we had our first shower of snow, very slight, lasting for a few minutes only. It is good to see all the war material coming back this way instead of going the other way. Maubeuge is a large city, about the size of Rouen & used to be on Belgian Front.

November 19. Tuesday. Sun rises 7.26am sets 4.05pm

Fixed gas headlights on the bus & took a front wheel off to be re-tyred. Mail arrived 8 letters, No. 22 7-16 Sept. from Mother with snaps, Annie 11 Sept with snaps (but it was Frank's letter), Janie 1, 8 & 15 Sept, Doris Davis 15 Sept, Jim 15 Sept, & Don 15. Started a letter to Doris after tea & had written two pages when I heard that Frank Bell had arrived at the column from England so went down to him. He is going to the 3rd Field Ambulance on one of the cars so I am going to try to get there also.

November 20. Wednesday. Sun rises 7.28am sets 4.04pm

Had another quiet day in park today so I settled down to a few letters. Wrote to Annie, Don, Mr Harrison, Daisy Davis & Jim. Front wheel came back after tea & our front mudguards were also finished so we put them on ready for tomorrow.

November 21. Thursday. Sun rises 7.30am sets 4.02pm

Detail in this morning for us at 6.30am to call at the French Mission to carry any refugees who might be waiting to go to Busigny. No trouble in getting a load. At Busigny we reported to the 1st Brigade H.Q. (**Headquarters**) & picked up a load of gear & blankets to go to Bohain. Came back from Bohain at 12 o'clock & loaded up with all their blankets & followed the Brigade to Mazinghien. Finished before it was dark. Wrote to Mother & Janie & enclosed today's and yesterday's issue in a 'green'.

(NB: "Green Envelope"...The letter writer had to sign a declaration on the outside of the green envelope, swearing that the contents within were only personal or family matters. The premise was to allow soldiers to write home without concern of their private matters being read by their superiors within the battalion)

November 22. Friday. Sun rises 7.31am sets 4.01pm

Left Mazinghien at 8.30am this morning with the blankets & distributed them at Prisches, where we arrived at midday. Had nothing to do this afternoon. Wrote to May Maddocks & Auntie Amy.

November 23. Saturday. Sun rises 7.33am sets 4.00pm

Left Prisches & took the road through Petit-Fayt & Grand-Fayt, Maroilles to Avesnes & then on to Flaumont where we left the Brigade details & then took the trench mortars & Engineers to Semeries. Just by chance we picked up an old couple who wanted a lift; they said that they had a daughter who had been to Australia & invited us around to the house, so went, & were well rewarded as we found a most charming thing to welcome us. She spoke English fairly well & from what we could gather through what she said & the photos she showed they were fairly wealthy. This girl's husband is French, but goes to Australia wool-buying. He is in Lille somewhere, they were separated through the war. They live in Fresnoy-le-Grand near Bohain.

November 24. Sunday – 26th after Trinity.

Left Flaumont this morning, instead of 8am, 11am as a chain came off & gave a lot of trouble & it was

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very cold too. Eventually we got away & arrived at Bohain at 1.30pm & discovered that the E.F.C. (**Expeditionary Force Canteen**) also closed at 1pm on Sundays. We were trying to get Brigade stores for the canteen. We expected to find the 1st Division canteen there also but got a knock back from them as they had left this morning for Cartignies. So we made for Cartignies, arriving at 7.30pm. Got a lead from them & then made off for Flaumont, delivering each Battalion's stores in their respective Canteens. Arrived at our possie at 10pm.

November 25. Monday. Sun rises 7.36am sets 3.58pm

Left early this morning after picking up A.L.T.M. (**Australian Light Trench Mortar**) Battery Engineers blankets for Solre-Le-Chateau. Delivered the blankets & then returned to Flaumont for a party who couldn't march & took them to Solre-Le-Chateau. As soon as possible afterwards we left to report back at Le Cateau to the park. Arrived 7.30pm.

November 26. Tuesday. Sun rises 7.37am sets 3.57pm

At 11am this morning I was told to take charge of 32 until its driver came back from leave, at the same time to go on detail, as Q.M.S. (**Quartermaster Sergeant**) lorry to the railhead at Honnechy. Arrived at Honnechy in the afternoon but the train has not been sighted yet & it is now 9pm. Shall turn in for as long as possible. Wrote to Frank & Mother. 31 (**Lorry**) is on the same job as myself, just the two of us.

November 27. Wednesday. Sun rises 7.39am sets 3.57pm

Train came in at 8am. Had a bit of breakfast & then slid down to the train. Picked up 600 gallons of petrol & 40 oil & took it to the park at Le Cateau, then brought back a load of empties to the railhead & then went back to park. Left park again at 8pm & am now waiting for another train. Hope we are again lucky for a night's sleep.

November 28. Thursday. Sun rises 7.40am sets 3.56pm

Loaded up with 500 petrol & returned to park by 2pm. Train came in at 8am. In orders today all men who left Aussie before December 31st 1915 have to hand in their name & full particulars. Handed mine in 'at the touts'. (**Immediately**) Wrote to Janie.

November 29. Friday. Sun rises 7.42am Sets 3.55pm

Up at 7.30am out at 8.30am to Le Cateau railhead for 1,000 gallons of petrol. Finished at 2pm. Issued with jackboots.

November 30. Saturday. Sun rises 7.43am sets 3.55pm

Up at 5.30am, detail for supply duty to Divvy (**Division**) at Solre-le-Chateau. Took load of hay to Division Trains. Bit of trouble on the way home which delayed me about an hour. Home in park at 8.30pm.

(NB: Division Trains were a prime mechanism to ensure the Army could move and fight. The tasks of the trains and motorised columns varied. The basic tasks of train companies were to carry baggage and resupply food, forage and water for the headquarters and units of the division.)

DECEMBER 1. Sunday – 1st in Advent.

Late detail this morning. Slept in until 9am. As I was having breakfast Les English from the 12th A.B.A.F.A.P.S. (**Army Brigade Australian Field Artillery Park Section**) came in. They are up in Le Cateau, came in yesterday. Detail came at 9.30am. Supply Duty. Two ton of coal to Division Trains at Solre-le-Cateau. Back in park at 8pm. Saw the King flash past me up near Avesnes. Rotten pains in the shoulders & left arm tonight.

December 2. Monday. Sun rises 7.45am sets 3.53pm

Had to report to tyre-press to have one of my rear wheels repacked. An all day job. Missed the night supply job.

December 3. Tuesday. Sun rises 7.47am sets 3.53pm

Railhead at 7.30pm, load of hay for 1st Brigade at Solre-le-Chateau. Arrived there at about 1.30am. When I was unloaded I put down my bunk & turned in. I was supposed to return to Le Cateau the same night but it was too much for one man.

December 4. Wednesday. Sun rises 7.48am sets 3.52pm

Arrived back in at midday. After filling up & having a bit of lunch I had just put on a dish of water to have a bath when the train came in & we had to go to the railhead again. That was at 3.30pm. Told to get a load of coal. Later I was told that probably I wouldn't get a load as there was no coal. Then they discovered that there was a truck of wood on in lieu of coal so I had to take 2½ tons of it. Pulled up at the park for tea, & as I was having it, was told that one of the lorries had gone off without his full load of groceries & I had to go back to railhead & pick them up. Arrived at Division Trains eventually at 2am. Back in park at 4.30am.

December 5. Thursday. Sun rises 7.49am sets 3.51pm

Back in park this morning at 4.30am. Slept in today until about 2pm then filled up with petrol & oil, fixed the generator up ready for another trip. Later the train is not expected until 4am tomorrow, so shall turn in. Regardless of how late it was when I got into park last night I heated up some water & had a bath before turning in.

December 6. Friday. Sun rises 7.51am sets 3.51pm

Instead of 4am the train arrived at 8am. Got to the railhead by 9am & found that two trains had arrived, viz. **(Namely)** yesterday's (the 4am one) & today's which means that we will have to do two trips today. Left the railhead at 11am with a load of hay (50 bales) for 1st Brigade, arrived Solre-le-Chateau about 3.30pm. Had a hot dinner from the column cookhouse, filled up with petrol & moved out again at about 5pm. On the way up one of my plugs broke, which delayed me some time, then I lost a device-pin from the steering. Got back to railhead again and picked up load of 65 bags of oats for 1st Brigade. Called in to the P.O. **(Post Office)** Got two parcels, one from Janie...homemade lollies & one from Victoria Street Church per Rev. A.G. Smith...plum pudding, tobacco, etc. Very decent.

December 7. Saturday. Sun rises 7.52am sets 3.50pm

Arrived first Brigade at 2am this morning. Felt done out so came back as far as Sars-Poteries & parked up for the rest of the night. Got out of bed at 11.15am had breakfast, bully & bread (dry). Gave an artillery Sergeant a lift to Le Cateau, going to Paris. Picked up load of civvies **(Civilians)** at Avesnes, also for Le Cateau. Slight drizzling rain falling. Block in the traffic at Maroilles. Arrived Le Cateau about 4pm. Filled up, etc., had tea. Got letter from Auntie Amy.

December 8. Sunday – 2nd in Advent.**December 9. Monday. Sun rises 7.55am sets 3.49pm****December 10. Tuesday. Sun rises 7.56am sets 3.49pm****December 11. Wednesday. Sun rises 7.57am sets 3.49pm**

December 12. Thursday. Sun rises 7.58am sets 3.49pm

December 13. Friday. Sun rises 7.59am sets 3.49pm

Today's ration run is the last from this railhead & tonight we park in Solre-le-Chateau.

December 14. Saturday. Sun rises 8.00am sets 3.49pm (CHATELET...BELGIUM)

Left Solre-le-Chateau at about 10am & came as far as Beaumont where I had to give a 'dud' a tow. The 'dud' was loaded so it was a heavy drag all the way which meant that I was in second gear most of the way. Eventually we arrived at our new park in Chatelet, 7kms from Charleroi, a decent place, electric lights in all streets & trams. At 8pm the W.O. (**Warrant Officer**) came round & said I had to change my wheel & be ready to go on detail back to Solre-le-Chateau where we arrived at 1am.

December 15. Sunday – 3rd in Advent.

Left Solre-le-Chateau at 8.30am & reported to H.T.M. (**Heavy Trench Mortar**) Battery. Loaded with trench mortars. Took them to a village 11kms from Charleroi, Beisme. By the time we arrived at Chatelet we had travelled almost 80kms. Left Chatelet again at 6pm but soon after starting up the fan gave trouble by coming loose. Couldn't secure it so went down to the workshops with the bus minus the fan & got a new one. By the time that was fixed up it was well after 8pm. Eventually we arrived at Solre-le-Chateau dog-tired.

December 16. Monday. Sun rises 8.01am sets 3.49pm

Up at 6am & went to the 8th Battalion Q.M. (**Quartermaster**) Stores for their gear. Came back to Solre-le-Chateau to wait for the rest. 12 o'clock before we left. Infantry on the move which meant several 'blocks' in the traffic & delayed us an hour or more. Delivered the 8th Battalion at Chatelet then came to park. Told in the office that my leave had been granted for the 21st.

December 17. Tuesday. Sun rises 8.02am sets 3.50pm

December 18. Wednesday. Sun rises 8.03am sets 3.50pm

Went to the railhead at Florennes at 10am after being called at 9am & when we got there we were detailed to take oats to the Division Trains. An hour later they discovered that there were no oats on the train & we had to come back to Charleroi railhead to get them & then go back to the Division Trains quite close to Florennes & then home again. Just outside Charleroi we ran short of petrol so had to stop to put a few gallons in. Put in just enough to see us home. Back at 10pm.

December 19. Thursday. Sun rises 8.04am sets 3.50pm (ON LEAVE TO ENGLAND)

This morning I was called at 7am to go on supplies. At 7.30am I was told not to go out as my leave had been granted. Had to bustle around & get ready. Left the column at 9am on leave to England, jumped a train into Charleroi, train left at 2.45pm. Arrived at Mons at 8pm & waited for train which didn't come. Very cold, no blankets. Stayed in a billet for the night after waiting on the station until midnight.

December 20. Friday. Sun rises 8.04am sets 3.50pm

Up at 4am freezing. Went down to the station at 7am. While having breakfast a train pulled in so after making enquiries, found that it was going to Calais via Boulogne. Jumped in 'tout-de-suite'. (**Immediately**) We got as far as Douai by 4pm. Got some rations from the R.T.O. (**Railway Transport Officer**) Moved out of the station at 6pm & stopped after going only a few kilometres. When it became dark I got down on the floor wherever I could & tried to go to sleep. On waking every half hour or so I discovered that the train was still motionless. It was 2am in the morning before we did move.

December 21. Saturday. Sun rises 8.05am sets 3.51pm

At 4am this morning we were still in the same position. After a rotten night we woke up & found ourselves crawling along sometimes no more than 8 m.p.h. until we arrived at St. Pol at 10am. Left St. Pol at 11.30am & found the lines clear all the way to Boulogne where we arrived at 7.30pm. Hung up outside until 10pm. When we did get off the train they marched us from one billet to the other & back again several times before we were finally installed in billets near the wharves where we were given a hot dinner & a couple of blankets. Turned in at about midnight.

December 22. Sunday – 4th in Advent

Up at 7am. Had a fairly good sleep on boards & two blankets. Before breakfast I slipped down for a bath & shave. Nearly missed breakfast. Marched to the boat at 8.30am & pushed off at 9.45am. Arrived Folkestone, train to Victoria Station at 3.45pm. Went to sleep on the trip. From there we were marched to the H.Q. (**Headquarters**) Horseferry Road by 6pm where I had another hot bath & a clean change. Paid £17 and changed £2/5/- of French money. Made enquiries about the trains, one leaves at 10pm. Waited at Paddington for it.

December 23. Monday. Sun rises 8.06am sets 3.52pm (ON LEAVE AT ST JUST...ENGLAND)

Arrived at Penzance this morning at 8am feeling very sleepy & tired. Had some breakfast in town then caught the motor bus to St. Just. Arrived at 24 Bosorne Street at 11.30am & discovered everything in turmoil, great preparations being made for Ada's wedding on Boxing Day. Can foresee a lively time ahead. Five girls & all as jolly as larks. No wonder Frank couldn't keep away.

December 24. Tuesday. Sun rises 8.06am sets 3.52pm (23RD BIRTHDAY)

Allowed to sleep in this morning until 12 noon. Feeling great.

December 25. Wednesday. Sun rises 8.07am sets 3.53pm

As far as a Christmas Day goes, we spent it very quietly, but as an ordinary day, it was one of the busiest for all the girls here as Ada is being married tomorrow & all sorts of preparations are being made & finishing touches put to everything. I am like a lost sheep trying to help a little, then getting in the way, so after dinner I took a stroll down to Cape Cornwall. Quiet Xmas but very nice.

December 26. Thursday. Sun rises 8.07am sets 3.53pm

At 11am this morning Ada married John Trezise in the St. Just Wesleyan Methodist Church. After the wedding they went to Plymouth for the honeymoon. John is a school teacher at St. Just & a very fine chap. During the rest of the day the guests made merry at Bosorne Street until late at night. Big affair, good time.

December 27. Friday. Sun rises 8.07am sets 3.54pm

Everyone tired out this morning. Although I wasn't very tired, I was allowed to sleep in until 11am. Bertha & I strolled down to the Cape after dinner.

December 28. Saturday. Sun rises 8.07am sets 3.55pm

May and I cycled to Perranwell this morning. Letter from W.H. Harrison 21/10/18.

December 29. Sunday – 1st after Christmas.**December 30. Monday. Sun rises 8.08am sets 3.57pm****December 31. Tuesday. Sun rises 8.08am sets 3.58pm**

1919 DIARY
OF
LESLIE DUNSTAN
2628

1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SUPPLY COLUMN 'K' CORPS
Driver

12th Army Brigade
Australian Field Artillery Park Section

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

JANUARY 1. Wednesday (ON LEAVE AT ST JUST...ENGLAND)

It was somewhere in the region of 3 or 4am when I finally dropped off to sleep. Applied for extension.

January 2. Thursday

January 3. Friday

January 4. Saturday

Extension not granted. Saw Dr Nesbit about my heart & lungs. Gave me certificate for Bronchial Catarrh.

January 5. Sunday

January 6. Monday

Last night I spent the happiest night of my life. Bertha promised to wait until I was able to come back for her in the near future. May was overjoyed this morning as we drove her to her school at Sennen. After leaving May at the school Tom & I drove on to Lands End where I took several photos. We returned home by dinner time.

January 7. Tuesday

January 8. Wednesday**January 9. Thursday****January 10. Friday****January 11. Saturday**

Left Bosorne Street at 8.20am with Bertha after a tearful farewell & caught the Greyhound for Penzance. First of all, after arriving at Penzance, we strolled down to the wharves trying to get into the submarine U101 but it was open to school children only so we went back to town & did some shopping. Bought a bracelet for Bertha [deletion] & Bertha bought me a cigarette case silver for [deletion]. Bought this diary and several other requisites including four films. Had dinner at a decent restaurant, then as it began to rain we went down to the gardens for shelter leaving there at 3.20pm & went to the station. Left at 4pm. Shall never forget it. Poor Bertha. Returned Liskeard at 7pm.

January 12. Sunday (ON LEAVE AT LISKEARD, CORNWALL...ENGLAND)

Letter from Harry Eddy first thing this morning. Went to church at 11am. After dinner posted to Bertha and Harry Eddy, then called around at the S.S. at 3.20pm for Kitty and visited Mrs Sweet who has been ill since last June. Florence Sweet is engaged to her Canadian boy.

January 13. Monday

After breakfast went around to Mr Coates and paid for photo order, then went around to Mrs Morcom to say farewell. Stayed there too long as I had to catch a train at 11.59am & it was 11.30am before I came away then I had to rush home, have a little lunch & push off. Said au revoir to Kitty on my way down to the station. Just caught the train which was crowded. Stood to Plymouth. Express to London arrived at 6.15pm. Tea at War Chest Club then secured bed at Buckingham Palace Hotel. Went to Victoria Theatre. In bed at 10pm.

January 14. Tuesday (EMBARKED ENGLAND AT FOLKESTONE...ARRIVED CALAIS FRANCE)

Aroused at 5am, had breakfast at Hotel, walked to Victoria Station. Left for Folkestone at 6.45am. Boat left shortly after arriving on board. Rough!! Met Harold Horn on board. Sergeant in 25th Battalion. Pulled into Calais. Put in a rest camp for the night. Strolled up the town before tea.

January 15. Wednesday

Reveille at 5am breakfast fell in & marched out by 6.30am. Put in trucks. Travelled at a fair pace considering. Tucker good, 4 to a loaf each meal, butter, jam, tea.

January 16. Thursday

Sneaked along slowly. Reached Mons (**Belgium**) at 4.15pm today but were hung up until 7pm.

January 17. Friday (CHATELET...BELGIUM)

Arrived at Charleroi (**Belgium**) this morning at 2am. As it was too late to go to the column I went with the rest to a rest camp. Put in a cold night. Caught a train at 9am & came up to Chatelet. (**Belgium**) Reported to H.Q. Went to P.O. for mail when I received a bundle of 20 letters from Mother, Nos 23, 24 & 25, Frank 9/12/18, Annie 25/10/18 and 11/11/18, Auntie Amy 3/11/18, Uncle Will Cock 10/10/18 from Siam, Kitty 23 Dec, Janie Oct 8, 14, 21, 28², Nov 3, 10, 18; Aggy 30 Oct. Card from May Maddcks. Told to report to 33 bus which is detached at the divvy (**Division**) baths. He was out when I arrived so after tea I walked down to the workshops & saw Fred Allen. Got my blankets from 32 & carried them to the baths. 33 was still out so I slept in the building.

1919

January 18. Saturday

33 hadn't made an appearance this morning so I went up to the column to report. Found it up there. Had a bit of an accident last night. Going into workshops today. After tea Fred Allen & I went into Charleroi to a picture show.

January 19. Sunday

Walked about all morning. Went to Charleroi after dinner. Came home for tea. Developed film. Wrote to Bertha & May. On picquet from 7pm till 7am.

January 20. Monday

This morning while filling in time on piquet I wrote to Mother, Kitty, Uncle Will Cock, Janie. Slept in after breakfast until 12 o'clock, then we took the bus out for a trial spin, came up to the park at 5pm.

January 21. Tuesday

This morning I walked down to the 3rd Field Ambulance & saw Shrewdy Bell about getting a transfer into Ambulance. They are full up for drivers so I'll have no chance. After dinner I was called to fill in my demobilisation papers. Will be about 5th or 6th on the list, next to Shrewd. At 4pm we got a detail to go to Presles (**Belgium**) with 4 other lorries.

January 22. Wednesday

Drove down to Le Roux (**Belgium**) for some 2nd Division Artillery gear & took it to Namur. The Artillery drivers rode their horses into Namur to be sold. When they handed the nags over we carried the drivers back to Thuin, (**Belgium**) 15klms past Charleroi. No mail. As I was going to bed I discovered that my pack was missing. I at once put the blame on to the troops we carried last night. It contains all my shaving gear, box of cigars, 4 spools, soup, matches, gloves & a host of other things which I wouldn't have lost.

January 23. Thursday

No detail for us today. Saw Lieutenant Vicary this morning about borrowing a motorcycle to go out to Thuin to get my pack. He said I could have one if I could find one. Asked several bike owners for a loan of their machine but they were all going out joy-riding as usual. Went down to 3rd Field Ambulance to get Shrewd to run out in his car but he was just starting off for Ostend. (**Belgium**) Tonight my mate has borrowed a motorcycle from a pal of his & gone out to Thuin. Doubt whether he will get the pack now as it is so late in the day. It will be divided up amongst them ere this. Wrote a letter on a book of views of Dinant (**Belgium**) to Bertha. Mate found the pack alright with everything in it.

January 24. Friday

Couple of short runs this morning – nothing much. Very cold. This afternoon 3 letters from Bertha 12, 14 & 17 Jan, & parcel of tobacco from Jim.

January 25. Saturday

Carried football team out this afternoon. Tonight I wrote to Bertha & am sending a book of views of Dinant, Mother, Auntie Annie Angwin, Auntie Amy.

January 26. Sunday

Wrote Clem, Jim, Bertha. Heavy fall of snow.

1919

January 27. Monday

Up at 7am had breakfast then went out on detail to carry repatriated French people to Charleroi Station. Five girls in one family & at the station they made us kiss them all. Going to Cambrai. Some girls! Finished that, we had to go on supplies. After dinner we were again sent out. Went about 20 miles out to a farm for load of cabbages. Returned at 9pm. Had tea, went to bed.

January 28. Tuesday

No detail all day. On guard tonight. At 6pm a meeting of all 1915 men was held. Delegates were elected to approach the O.C. (**Officer Commanding**) for an understanding regarding the demobilisation of the 1915 men. If no satisfaction, would strike. Letter from Bertha, 20 Jan. Wrote to Bertha on 3 views of Namur & Kitty Edgecumbe asking her to send my camera over.

January 29. Wednesday

On supplies this morning. A great number of infantry men were at the railhead on their way to Aussie. They are sending up to June 1916. Another meeting was held tonight after which I went skating. At the meeting one man, Tucker, volunteered to go to the workshops & get the sympathy of all there & their signatures, which, with the one we drew up, would be a guarantee that we would stick to Tucker in case he was dinked. We decided that if no satisfaction was given us, we would strike after 48 hours had elapsed.

January 30. Thursday

No detail today. During the day we were told that Tucker had been 'pinched' and was in the Hotel de Ville. At the meeting tonight it was decided to strike from tomorrow morning instead of 48 hours hence, as we wanted Tucker released & it would then hasten an interview with the heads.

January 31. Friday

Although several lorries were detailed for jobs this morning they all refused to go out. Last night I was warned for orderly room for signing the paper. At 11am the A.P.M. (**Assistant Provost Marshal**) came around & had a talk to us & he promised to free Tucker provided we stopped the strike. We promised, as that was all we were striking for. At 12 o'clock Colonel Tunbridge came around to us & spoke for half an hour or more but gave us no definite information, merely that we would all (1915) be out of France within a month. After dinner I had a bath at one of the mines & when I came back the bus had gone and so I had tea with the artificers & then skating in Marcienne.

FEBRUARY 1. Saturday

No detail this morning so I developed a film. Applied for pass to Brussels for tomorrow. At 3.30pm a detail came for 33 to go on a 48 hours stunt, so I retreated to the artificers billet for the night.

February 2. Sunday

Left Chatelet this morning at 6.30am in the 30cwt (**Hundredweight**) Daimler & got as far as Waterloo

(**Belgium**) by 10am. Took several photos there. One of the monument of the Lion overlooking the whole scene of battle & one from the top. Then one in the cyclorama, a huge circular painting of the battle. Reached Brussels (**Belgium**) at 11am. Took couple of photos of Palais de Justice, the only building on the continent with such a large floor area.

February 3. Monday

Arrived back at Chatelet at 1am this morning and found 33 had come in. Developed the film I used yesterday. Three letters from Bertha, 22, 24 & 26 Jan. After tea I printed off 'beaucoup de' (**A lot of**)

1919

photos. Wrote 9 pager to Bertha.

February 4. Tuesday

A detail today to go to reinforcement camp at Charleroi & take load of troops to Florennes. On the way out with the troops, going up a hill the bus in front of me lost control & slipped back. Before I could get out of the way he crashed and smashed the radiator fan, and dashboard. Had to be towed home. My first accident.

February 5. Wednesday

Put on a new radiator. Letter from Bertha 28th. Heavy fall of snow after tea. Printed more photos tonight. Wrote Bertha, Janie, Kitty, Clemmy Angwin.

February 6. Thursday

Still in workshops. Put on new dashboard & almost finished the repairs.

February 7. Friday

Tris froid. (**Very cold**) The snow has frozen, the air is frosty & a wind is blowing which makes it very cold indeed. The roads are very difficult to walk on, on account of the icy glaze. Out of shops this afternoon.

February 8. Saturday

Out on supplies today. Woke up this morning to find a heavy frost which had penetrated the tarpaulin over the bus and made us very cold inside. Took a bit of persuading to get the breakfast. About the coldest day we have had so far this winter. Much trouble to get the engine started. Wrote May.

February 9. Sunday

On detail to Charleroi to carry troops to Beaumont. (**Belgium**) Back at 4.30pm. Wrote Mother & enclosed snap of strike & 33...8 pages & Bertha 6 pages.

February 10. Monday

Out on Q.M. (**Quartermaster**) job today. Two letters from Bertha 30 Jan & 3 Feb. Went to a Ball tonight. Wrote to Bertha & sent an Aussie to Bertha also.

February 11. Tuesday

February 12. Wednesday

Detail this morning to go to Avesnes (**France**) but just before we were ready to go I was told by a mate that he heard there was a draft of 21 men going to Aussie at 6pm tonight. As I am 14th on the list I went around to H.Q. (**Headquarters**) office 'at the touts' (**Immediately**) to find out if it was dinkum. It is true alright & I am going so shall not go out on the bus. During the morning we were running from office to Q.M. store fixing up paper etc. At 5.30pm we were driven to Charleroi per lorry & stayed at a rest camp for the night. It was bitterly cold & I shivered all night. Letter from Bertha & Kitty.

February 13. Thursday (LEFT CHATELET, BELGIUM FOR RETURN TO AUSTRALIA)

After breakfast we went down to the train & left Charleroi at 9.20am. We drew rations before leaving the unit, but were given breakfast at the camp. Before the train left we had a bag of bread, cases of milk, bully, plum puddings, cocoa & milk, & butter and jam thrown into the truck. At dinner time we arrived at Mons & there we got more rations & a hot dinner.

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February 14. Friday

After receiving several more issues of rations we now have enough stuff to feed a battalion. After passing through Amiens at 10am, Poix, & Eyvetot we eventually arrived at Harfleur at 10.30pm tonight but were told to stay on board the train until morning. We had all rolled up our beds ready to jump off.

February 15. Saturday

Somewhere about 1 or 2 o'clock this morning we were awakened & told to get out. We were then marched to the base camps about 7 miles. Slept in this morning until 10am without breakfast. Wrote to Bertha, B.P.O. (**Base Post Office**), Mother.

February 16. Sunday

Church parade.

February 17. Monday

Went in Le Havre after dinner. Handed in all equipment issued with sea kitbag.

February 18. Tuesday

Wrote Bertha.

February 19. Wednesday

Very good concert party in the Y.M.C.A. (**Young Men's Christian Association**) hut tonight. Wattle Birds. Feeling crook with cold in head & chest.

February 20. Thursday

Big draft of 2nd Division Artillery & Mobile Artillery & L.H. (**Light Horse**) came in this morning.

February 21. Friday

Wrote Bertha, May, Jack Seery. No. 9 draft marched off today en route for England.

February 22. Saturday**February 23. Sunday**

Wrote Annie, Bertha.

February 24. Monday

Wrote Jim Charlton. Met Bill Spicer & Jervais Folly of Rockhampton. No. 10 draft took their departure today in lorries.

February 25. Tuesday**February 26. Wednesday**

No. 11 draft went tonight.

February 27. Thursday

Wrote Bertha.

February 28. Friday

No. 12 draft moved out tonight at 8.30pm.

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MARCH 1. Saturday

After breakfast Shrewd & I while strolling down the road through the camps met Bob Smith of Toowoomba. After dinner we caught the 1.30pm train to Le Havre. Took a couple of snaps of the city from the beach. Bought book of Chopin for Bertha 3pm. Two A.F.C. (**Australian Flying Corps**) squadrons came in tonight for demobilization.

March 2. Sunday

Church parade. Wrote Bertha.

March 3. Monday

On fatigues this morning but went down to the gym instead for dancing lessons. Went through waltzes, London Tap, Military twostep, & Destiny.

March 4. Tuesday**March 5. Wednesday**

Dancing this morning. After dinner went into Le Havre to an architectural lecture on French Gothic.

March 6. Thursday

Wrote Bertha.

March 7. Friday**March 8. Saturday**

Big draft of Nos 13 & 15 Quotas came in this morning. Dancing all morning.

March 9. Sunday

Last night another big draft came in for No. 15 Quota. We may get away this year yet!!!

March 10. Monday

Dancing 'ce matin'. (**This morning**) Wrote Bertha. Received Xmas parcel from Padre. Letter from Bertha 2nd March.

March 11. Tuesday**March 12. Wednesday**

Letter from Bertha & wrote one in answer this afternoon. No. 13 Quota leaving tonight.

March 13. Thursday**March 14. Friday**

Letter today from Bertha 11th March.

March 15. Saturday

Had a check parade this morning. Volunteers were called for to take on duties on board ship going home. Expect to leave on Monday. Walked to cemetery PM (**In the evening**) to see MacGregor's grave. Wrote Bertha. Issued with new breeches.

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March 16. Sunday

Church parade.

March 17. Monday (EMBARKED FOR ENGLAND)

At last our leaving day has arrived. Rolled blankets up after breakfast. Comforts Fund parade at 2pm. Fall in at 2.30pm, standing-to to move out. First half left at 7.00pm and we left at 9.30pm per lorries. The boat *Princess of Devonshire* pulled out at about 11pm.

March 18. Tuesday (CODFORD CAMP, SALISBURY PLAIN... ENGLAND)

Arrived Weymouth 9.30am and anchored outside until 9.30. Breakfast at N.A.C.B. (**Navy & Army Canteen Board**) Marched to station, given dinner in a bag, pastry, biscuits, cheese, & chocolate. Arrived Codford 3.30pm. Settled in No. 2 camp by 4.30pm. Wrote Bertha at 5.30pm. No blankets issued but old soldiers know how to scrounge. Got three new ones.

March 19. Wednesday**March 20. Thursday****March 21. Friday**

Innoculated against flu, paid £15. Tried to get our passes after tea in time to catch the 7.25pm train to London but the tickets hadn't arrived.

March 22. Saturday (ON LEAVE)

Caught 7.35am train to London. Slugged for 12/- excess fare from Codford to London. Made enquiries at Records Office about my backpay. Palladium afternoon. Left London 10pm.

March 23. Sunday (ON LEAVE AT ST JUST, CORNWALL...ENGLAND)

Arrived Penzance 8am. Breakfast at Railway Hotel. No bus to St. Just so had to walk. Nippy air, enjoyed walk. Found all well here. Church tonight. Caught cold in the train.

March 24. Monday

Visited Grandma, Auntie Clem, Auntie Annie. Yesterday I got several letters from Aussie. Two from Mother, six from Janie, Auntie Amy, Kitty, from Records Office saying that Frank omitted to advise Horseferry Rd re his mail so I cannot claim his letters from Jack Seery.

March 25. Tuesday

Went for walk with Ethel & Ada down the Cot Valley this afternoon.

March 26. Wednesday

Made out application to Records Office for back pay from April 17th until 22 September 18th. Walked to Penellen after school to blow the organ for Bertha while she practised a few pieces.

March 27. Thursday

Wrote Mother.

March 28. Friday**March 29. Saturday**

Spent the day in Penzance with Bertha & May. Drove in in Uncle's bus and came back by motorbus.

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Bought half dozen spools V.P.K. (*Vest Pocket Kodak...camera*) for Seery.

March 30. Sunday

Too late for church this morning. Slight snow storm & sleet this morning. Very cold. Warmer about 3 pm so walked down to the Cape with Bertha.

March 31. Monday

Wrote Jack Seery and Marie Hamilton. Bertha & I went to Aunt Annie's for tea & spent the evening.

APRIL 1. Tuesday

Wrote Annie.

April 2. Wednesday

Wrote Fred Allen, Daisy Davis.

April 3. Thursday

April 4. Friday

April 5. Saturday

April 6. Sunday

April 7. Monday

April 8. Tuesday

April 9. Wednesday

April 10. Thursday

April 11. Friday

April 12. Saturday

April 13. Sunday

April 14. Monday (CODFORD CAMP, SALISBURY PLAIN... ENGLAND)

Telegram came at 11.45am from Bertha asking me to come at once so I went round to the orderly room again & made out another application for four days. At 2pm the officer came in and I handed the application to him myself & he recommended it. I then had to take it to the H.Q. (*Headquarters*) to be finally approved. It was done immediately. Pass was made out from 8am tomorrow but I caught the 8.20pm train tonight and caught the 10.00pm from Paddington. At Bristol at 1.15am.

April 15. Tuesday. (ATTENDS FAMILY FUNERAL AT ST JUST, CORNWALL)

Arrived Penzance at 8am and hired car from Richards. Funeral this afternoon at 4.30pm. Went down to see Ada after dinner. Poor girl. She hardly knows what to do. (*NB: Ada married John Tresize on the 26th December 1918 so it may have been his funeral*)

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April 16. Wednesday

Went for a walk by myself to Cape Cornwall this morning.

April 17. Thursday**April 18. Friday**

Expected to go back this morning but the buses were not running so now I have to wait until Monday.

April 19. Saturday

Went for a walk with Bertha to Sennen??

April 20. Sunday**April 21. Monday**

Left at 10.30am on dray of holiday makers. Halfway to Penzance a telegram was handed to me. Wire pay book No. Come at once, as there must be some move on at the camp. All along the coast the towns were full of people out for a good time. At Bath an M.P. (**Military Police**) pinched my pass & handed me a marching in slip, putting me on open arrest. Arrived camp 11.30pm. 150 of our Quota have been transferred to No. 11 Quota. Expect to leave in a day or two.

April 22. Tuesday (CODFORD CAMP, SALISBURY PLAIN... ENGLAND)

Left No. 2 Camp for No. 15. Bill Cosgrove met me just as we were leaving the camp so I went down with him in his car to No. 15 camp, saving me a 2 mile walk, afterwards we took a spin into the country. Sent letter with £2 enclosed and spool to be developed to Bertha by registered post.

April 23. Wednesday

Letter from Bertha & Harry Eddy (at sea). Wrote Bertha this morning. Strike at Liverpool. All movements cancelled.

April 24. Thursday

Parade this morning. Told that we would be leaving here tomorrow midnight. Had a game of tennis this afternoon. Wrote Bertha. Letters from Mother & Janie 8 Feb.

April 25. Friday**April 26. Saturday**

Played two sets of tennis this afternoon. Handed in our kits at 4pm. Expect to leave 2.30am tomorrow.

April 27. Sunday (EMBARKED LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND FOR AUSTRALIA)

Left Codford this morning at 3.15am, arrived Liverpool at 12noon on the docks. Sailed by SS *Runic* at 6pm. Sent P.C. (**Postcard**) to Bertha.

April 28. Monday

Rough night last night. Majority sick. Had a bad time myself. Miserable all day today. Can't eat. Strained stomach last night. 178 miles up to midday today.

April 29. Tuesday

Passing across Bay of Biscay today. Fairly calm. Feeling much better. Enjoyed three good meals. Travelled 296 knots in last 24 hrs up till midday.

April 30. Wednesday

306 miles today.

MAY 1. Thursday

306 miles.

May 2. Friday

276 miles.

May 3. Saturday

313 miles. Passed Canary Is & Teneriffe at 10am.

May 4. Sunday

323 miles.

May 5. Monday

325 miles.

May 6. Tuesday

318 miles.

May 7. Wednesday

318 miles.

May 8. Thursday

This morning we ran into a strong sea and headwind. 322 miles.

May 9. Friday (CROSSED EQUATOR)

Crossed the Equator at midday today. Strong wind & sea still against us. Tonight we saw the Southern Cross for the first time for nearly four years. It may have been out last night but the sky was cloudy.
281 miles.

May 10. Saturday

Dreamt that I walked into Sennen School last night and met May. 277 miles.

May 11. Sunday

287 miles.

May 12. Monday

290 miles up to midday today.

May 13. Tuesday

300 miles.

May 14. Wednesday

303 miles.

May 15. Thursday

307 miles.

May 16. Friday

308 miles.

May 17. Saturday

Wrote Bertha this afternoon as we expect to reach Capetown tomorrow. 316 miles.

May 18. Sunday (CAPETOWN, SOUTH AFRICA)

About 120 miles. Arrived in outer harbour of Capetown early this morning. Got ashore at 11am. After dinner 6 of us took a car to Hout Bay 36 miles splendid run. Took many photos. After tea got ptomaine poisoning (**food poisoning**) from lobster. Returned to boat at 9pm & was put in hospital.

May 19. Monday

The *HMAT Ulysses* and *HMAT Ceramic* pulled in close to us this morning on their way to England from Aussie. I felt much better this morning so came out of hospital. Wrote Bertha this evening. Free tickets to 7/6 seats were given four of us so we went to the Opera House & spent a good evening.

May 20. Tuesday

At 7am this morning we woke up to find ourselves going out to sea. Big swell on.

May 21. Wednesday

Up to midday today we covered 301 miles. Southerly sea and northerly winds.

May 22. Thursday

302 miles. Very rough. Roughest day we have had so far. Seas breaking over the top decks. Very miserable.

May 23. Friday

299 miles. Seas much calmer. Almost normal again this afternoon.

May 24. Saturday

305 miles.

May 25. Sunday

341 miles.

May 26. Monday

305 miles.

May 27. Tuesday

303 miles.

May 28. Wednesday

300 miles.

May 29. Thursday

300 miles.

May 30. Friday

307 miles.

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May 31. Saturday

306 miles. An impromptu concert was held this evening by the diggers & turned out goodoh. Some real talent showed itself.

JUNE 1. Sunday

307 miles.

June 2. Monday

315 miles. Concert tonight by concert party.

June 3. Tuesday

306 miles. A farewell dinner was given this evening to all on board by the Comforts Fund which consisted of soup, fish fowl plum-duff, lollies, fruit, cigarettes etc. Dancing was indulged in during the evening in a drizzling rain.

June 4. Wednesday

Started letter to Mother & Bertha. 316 miles.

June 5. Thursday

320 miles.

June 6. Friday

294 miles.

June 7. Saturday

Sighted Kangaroo Island at 4pm. Bad attack of indigestion all day.

June 8. Sunday (ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA...AUSTRALIA)

At 12.10am the propellers stopped outside the harbour of the outer harbour Adelaide. Left Adelaide at 4pm. All South Australians disembarked on to a launch.

June 9. Monday

Weather fairly good on our track but wireless news says that all ships in the Bight returned to Adelaide for 18hrs on account of storms.

June 10. Tuesday (MELBOURNE, VICTORIA...AUSTRALIA)

I tip to arrive in Melbourne this afternoon about 3.30pm (8th May). Arrived at Quarantine Station at 2.30am. Medically inspected at 8am left for the Pier at 9.15am where we arrived at 1pm. After the Victorians had disembarked, Uncle Michael drove onto the pier in a car to carry away the men & had on the windscreen L.D. (**Les Dunstan**) in large red letters so as soon as he called my name I was ready. Couldn't get on to the wharf. Tried to start my leave from here. Saw the Rev. who took me to the O.C. troops then Adjutant Commandant, Staff Officer i/c (**In charge**) Returned Soldiers & Staff Captain i/c (**In charge**) train but was impossible to arrange. On the wharf met Uncle Dick & Maggie, Effie, Flora, Auntie Katie & Ethel & Harry Eddy. At Spencer Street (**Railway Station**) Auntie Annie & Doris Trembath came along. At Seymour a splendid tea was given us.

June 11. Wednesday

Arrived at Seymour (**Victoria**) for tea last night at 7pm. Everything splendidly laid out for us. At 11pm arrived at Albury (**New South Wales**) where we changed into Red + carriages and each man had a bed

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to sleep in. We kept these carriages until Wallangarra. (**Queensland**) Arrived Sydney at 1.30pm. Met Clem & Percy. (**Sister & brother-in-law**) Had dinner then chatted with C & P until 2.30pm when we pulled out again. Snack at Gosford. Glorious trip up the Hawkesbury.

June 12. Thursday (BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA...HOME!!)

Arrived Wallangarra 10am changed trains & left 11am. Had breakfast here. Snack at Wyreema. Arrived Toowoomba 4.30pm. Met Stan Stark, Maysie & Harry Cohoe, Mrs Elder & 'Bubs'. Left 5.30pm. Great ovation from Toowoomba all along the line. People came out in hundreds waving lanterns etc. Snack at Helidon. Arrived Central 9.40pm. Met by Jim, Albie, Dorothy, Mother & the girls. Mrs & Daisy Davis Nell. Finished at Kangaroo Point at 12am then taken home in Cosgrove's car by Joe, Janie & Ina.

June 13. Friday

Went down town this morning for clean up. Lay off all afternoon. Went out to Davis's after tea.

June 14. Saturday

June 15. Sunday

June 16. Monday

June 17. Tuesday

June 18. Wednesday

June 19. Thursday

June 20. Friday

June 21. Saturday

Wrote to Bertha for her birthday.

June 22. Sunday

June 23. Monday

June 24. Tuesday

Reynolds, 'Finsbury' 10 Union Street, Malvern, Melbourne.

June 25. Wednesday

June 26. Thursday

GAP IN DIARY

AUGUST 11. Monday

Returned from Sydney and Melbourne at 7.35pm. Annie & Frank met me at Central. At 9pm Mr Cosgrove rang me up & said he had a job waiting for me & would like me to look at it.

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August 12. Tuesday

Went to Cosgrove's factory this morning & found they wanted an extension 30ft long by 11ft wide on the side of the factory. Went into repat. later & got £7/12/6 worth of tools. Met Bob Smith.

August 13. Wednesday

Started on Cosgroves this morning.

August 14. Thursday**August 22. Friday**

Bertha's birthday. Mr Hobbs took me into the War Service Homes Department to get a job as draftsman. Have to go in on Monday. Little hope.

August 23. Saturday

Finish Cosgrove's job. Paid £6.

NOVEMBER 22. Saturday

Played tennis at B.G.H. Austral...Comp. to Archie Day with Albie.

November 23. Sunday**November 24. Monday**

At 9.30am started to fit the casements & at 12noon I had finished them, 4 singles & 4 doubles (12). Took all afternoon to do 4 fanlights above casements, rebatting 1/2" x 3/4" off top front section. Cosgrove's at night again with Janie, feel better towards her now after little explanation.

November 25. Thursday

Cut up lining & finish front gable.

November 26. Wednesday

Nailed up one panel of front fence & 30ft lining.

November 27. Thursday**November 28. Friday****November 29. Saturday****November 30. Sunday****DECEMBER 1. Monday****December 2. Tuesday****December 3. Wednesday**

Fixed 12 sashes, nailed up 18ft lining & cut & nailed down 2 lengths flooring & cut half strip of 30ft length.

December 4. Thursday

December 5. Friday

Cut in two rails, finished strip in floor & nailed up 24ft lining.

December 6. Saturday

20ft lining 4 x 1.

December 7. Sunday

Played Moorooka, lost by 17 games. My partner Ethel Beard 6-5, 6-3, 0-6.

December 8. Monday

Filled in between rafters on verandah 8.45am till 12noon, nailed down front verandah 12 x 8 from 12.30pm till 4 pm. Cut ceiling for back verandah 20 pieces & 46 short pieces for above vertical plates. Ripped piece to finish off dining room wall.

December 9. Tuesday**December 10. Wednesday**

Gave a hand with back steps, finished off verandah flooring & cut in two door sills.

December 11. Thursday

Cut up all mouldings to approx. lengths. Gave a hand with back steps.

December 12. Friday

Hung two doors, stops & lock to one. Cut ¼ round & cornice for front room.

December 13. Saturday

Hung front door fixed steps & put on Yale lock. Fixed stops to other door and put on lock till 11am. Played Ekibin on our court. Won by 25 games. My partner Violet Harris 6-2, 2-6, 6-5.

December 14. Sunday**December 15. Monday**

Fitted & hung 3 fanlights, fixed 3 sets architraves, scotia & ¼ round in bathroom & 5ft of lining. To cut fanlight fillers, fit fanlight and fix, cut & fix set of architraves 1¾ hrs.

December 16. Tuesday**December 17. Wednesday**

Fitted set arch. round loo & bath window. Fitted door & stops & lock on dining door, & hung kitchen-dining room. Fixed sink frame. Hung door in 40mins.

December 18. Thursday**END OF DIARY**

