**CORPRAL THOMAS FREDRICK SCHOFIELD 4339 COY. 16TH BATTALION. 4TH INFANTRY BRIGADE**

**ENTERED BLACKBOY HILL CAMP SEPT 27TH 1915.** (added to diary for explanation) (Blackboy Hill Camp is now known as Greenmount it is also now St Anthony’s Primary School and Church. Greenmount Primary School. It was used to house large numbers of Australian Imperial Force Troops)

**EMBARKED ON TRANSPORT A54 JAN’Y 29TH 1916**(FREMANTLE ON THE HMAT RUNIC)

**DISEMBARKED AT ALEXANDRIA. EGYPT FEBY 29TH 1916**

**ENTAINED FOR CAIRO FEBY 29TH 1916 –MARCH 1ST 1916**

**ENTRAINED FOR ALEXANRIA FROM SERAPEUM 31ST MAY 1916**

**DETRAINED JUNE 1ST 1916**

**EMBARKED FOR MARSEILLES JUNE 1ST 1916 “S.S. CANADA”**

**DISEMBARKED JUNE 8TH 1916**

**ENTRAINED FOR BAILLEUL 9TH JUNE 1916**

**DETRAINED JUNE 12TH 1916**

**ENTRAINED AT GODWAERSVELDE OCT 26TH 1916**

**DETRAINED AT BOULOGNE 27TH OCT 1916**

**EMBARKED ON “S.S. ONWARD” 28TH OCT 1916**

**DISEMBARKED ON FOLKSTONE OCT 28TH 1916**

**ENTRAINED FOR LONDON OCT 28TH 1916**

**DETRAINED OCT 28TH 1916**

**EMBARKED FOR LeHavre JULY 23RD 1917**

**DISEMBARKED JULY 24TH 1917**

**REJOINED BATTALION AUG 12TH 1917**

**WOUNDED SEPT 26TH 1917**

**ADMITTED NO 1 A.G.H. ROUEN 27TH SEPT 1917**(A.G.H. abbreviation for Australian General Hospital)

**EVACUATED TO ENGLAND NOV 10TH 1917**

**TRANSFERRED TO SOUTHALL DEC 31ST 1917**

**EMBARKED FOR AUSTRALIA FEBY 19TH 1918**

**DISEMBARKED AT FREMANTLE APRIL 1918** (ADMITTED TO A.G.H.)

**DISCHARGED FROM A.I.F. OCT 6TH 1918**

**DISCHARGED FROM NO. 8 A.G.H. MAY 21ST 1920**

**A.I.F. BADGE NO. 76442**

**SILVER BADGE NO. 47299**

**DISCHARGE NO. 24421**

**PENSION CERTIFICATE NO. 350727**

**1916**

**JAN 29TH**

Left Australia Jany’ 29th 1916 on the transport A.54 S.S.”Runic”, Saturday at 2.30pm the Runic belongs to the White Star Line. Had a good time on board.

**FEBY 9TH**

Arrive at Colombo. being the first port of call.

**FEBY 10TH**

Remained on board during the day, and went ashore next day, and marched through the streets to the Military Base, where we stayed for about an hour. Took on board coal and tea and sailed again at 7pm on the 11th.

**FEBY 11TH**

Had good sailing for another 11 days, when we arrived at’ Port Suez’ on the 22nd Feby.

**FEBY 22ND**

Did not go ashore, but lay outside for 36 hours, coaling and awaiting our turn to proceed up the Canal.

**FEBY 23RD**

Left ‘Suez’ which took between 18 and 19 hours to steam before arriving at ‘Port Said’. The trip through the Canal was a grand sight. We passed many ships at the places set apart for passing, including Indian transports. Saw thousands of English troops who were stationed the full length of the Canal – on Garrison Duty(Troops on duty in a fortified place) – guarding the Canal which position we took over later on.

**FEBY 24TH**

We arrived at ‘Port Said’, about midday Feby 24th. Had instruction at this place not to go ashore without special permission. Our curiosity was at it’s zenith by this time so many of us broke ship and went ashore. However after dark I was one of a part of eight who arranged with one of the ‘Port Said’ natives to come to the ship at about 8 o’clock to row us ashore. The natives did not fail. It cost us a shilling each for the trip from the ship. By crawling down the chain hole through which the anchor is dropped. Landed on shore safely and did the town, after passing a number of sentrys who asked the usual questions, after being challenged. Had a very enjoyable time driving about in motors, carriages. Horse trams etc. Until 9.20. At this time we decided to return to our ship, like good soldiers. Secured another native to row us back. Half way between the wharf and our ship our nigger was halted by the native police who covered us with revolvers and ordered him to row us not to the bow where we had escaped from but to the gangway of the vessel where the O/C troops Adjutant and several other officers were awaiting us to take our names, units etc. No Pleasure without Pain is an old adage which we about 250 in all found to being only too true as the reader will see.

**FEBY 25TH**

We all appeared before the Colonel, O/C troops on a charge of breaking ship. Now for the pain. We were each fined 5 pounds. A very light touch, as some of the boys thought. We thought it was rather heavy for the first offence, so we all signed a petition to have the find reduced. This was granted and reduced to 2 pounds – quite enough too. In the afternoon those who did not break ship on the previous night were taken ashore and marched through the town and were formed up for rest at the Statue of Delesseppes. We who had previously been punished were not allowed ashore on that march but that was really doing us a good turn. We enjoyed ourselves on board much better than marching the streets in the sun. A native conjuror came aboard during the afternoon and showed us some very wonderful tricks.

**FEBY 26TH**

Left ‘Port Said’ at about 8pm under the cover of darkness – no visible lights at all, as we were in the submarine zone. Nothing untoward happened during this trip.

**FEBY 29th**

Arrived at ‘Alexandria’ after a 31 days trip. Some of the ship’s crew said they had not had such a smooth trip before. The “Runic” is a vessel of a capacity of 12,500 tons. Our troops were commanded by Col. Markwell with Lt. W.G.L. Bain his adjutant, while Lt. J.S. Kerr who after became Scouting Officer of the 16th Bn. Was the O/C of my unit. (Lt. Kerr, now Capt. Gained the M.C. and Bar). During the trip from Australia to ‘Alexandria’ we had all kinds of sport, including inter Coy. Boxing and wrestling contests, tugs f war, singing competitions etc. The amusements were organised by Mr Jas Donnelly of the Y.M.C.A. who was on his way to take over work in ‘Egypt’ with the Association.

**MCH 1st 1916**

We disembarked at ‘Alexandria’ at 10pm and entrained for ‘Zeitoun’ on the morning of 1 st March at 2o’clock. This journey took from 2am till 9.30am. Seven and half hours of fairly good interest, opening up altogether new scenes to us. We saw very few horses during the run most of the work being done by donkeys, camels and bullocks. The camels and donkeys particularly carry enormous loads and one can hardly see the animal under the load but can easily see a big lazy Arab seated on top. Our train took us right into ‘Cairo’, at which place we transferred to another train which took us to our camp at ‘Zeitoun’ or about a mile from ‘Zeitoun – Helmich’.

**MCH 2ND**

Commenced our training again in a foreign land.

**MCH 3RD**

Sultans palace, Egyptian bazaars, abelisks, citadel.

**MCH 5TH**

Made a trip through and around ‘Zietoun’ ‘Helmich’, ‘Matarich’ were we saw the ‘Virgins Well also the ‘Holy Tree’ from which Ted(My Brother) managed to get a piece of the bark. The natives take that as a great crime if anyone even touches this tree.

**MCH 6th**

Went all over a big ostrich farm at ‘Matarich’ where I secured the feathers. I sent home later.

**MCH 7TH**

After parade had a trip to ‘Heliopolis’. The place shows some very fine buildings and is very clean – much different from the biggest part of Cairo. Among the buildings is what is claimed to be one of the largest hotels in the world. War broke out at about the time of it’s completion therefore instead of being used as an hotel it was taken over by the Govt. And used as a hospital – No A.G.H. (Australian General Hospital) It contains 1600 bedrooms. ‘Heliopolis’ is connected to Cairo by the fast train service, electric and very up to date. All the trains are controlled by the French Railway Coy.

**MCH 8th**

Went to ‘Gzerih’ across the ‘Kasr-el-nil Bridge’ which spans the ‘River Nile’. After passing the big military barracks we came to Lord Kitchener’s palace on the bank of the Nile. This is a very fine building. We engaged a gharry (buggy and pair)and drove to the Gezrih Zoological Gardens – a very fine place which goes to show the developments of old Egyptians industry. The gardens are particularly well laid out.

**MCH 9th**

Made a visit to Cairo to the Erzbekich Gardens which is a great resort for soldiers from all parts of the world. The Y.M.C.A. have a spacious reading and writing rooms here also skating rink and post office. A big buffet is also a great feature of these gardens same being under the control of a party of New Zealand ladies. At the counters one can purchase almost anything eatable including ices, and jellies, fruit salads trifles etc. It’s a grand institution and much appreciated by all ranks. During our stay in Egypt we went to several picture theatres and a few times to the Kursaal music hall where a delightful variety programme is staged in English and French.

**MCH 26th**

Had a trip to ‘Telel-kebir’ where I met Ted(my brother) This was not the first time I met him. He came to ‘Zeitoun’ on the 18th March when first saw him, from the time he left Australia. On that day I got leave and went to Cairo and spent a very enjoyable day together. Met Stan Higgs on the 12th Mch. While at ‘Telel-Kebir’ I met several I knew, Capt Albert Mcleod (since killed) Eric Tregurtha, Jim Lucas, Jasp Stone, Will Stockton, Stan Spouse.

**Apr 2nd 1916**

Shifted camp from ‘Zeitoun’ to ‘Serapeum’ on the canal to a position called the inner line of defence. This was a very interesting place as we were camped right on the Canal and we could see all the shipping and exchange messages with the passengers. We had plenty of swimming here, spring boards were put in for us. Had any amount of aquatic sports. Our duty here was to guard the canal and patrol work. We often came across the dead bodies of Turks and Germans who were killed during the raid on the Canal in 1915. Two of us were out one day when we found the decomposed body of a Turk after going through his pockets we buried him. We salvaged several Turkish coins and bullets from this find. From this time on we were engaged in various kinds of duties and training.

**Apr 25th**

Anzac Day. This was a day off duty. After a service in the morning when several Padre’s spoke we had sports of all kinds – Swimming and boating events. About 20 thousand troops lined the Canal in the afternoon, ranks from Generals down to mess orderlies.

**MAY 9th 1916**

Transferred from A to C Coy. After moving camp further out on the desert about a mile from the Canal. Here I met again Alby Mcleod, who was the O/C of my Coy. Knowing that I had done all of the units clerical work from the time I left Australia he handed over to me the job of Coy Clerk under C.S.M.(Company Sergeant Major) H. Bliman (afterwards killed) I used to go out on some of the night manoeuvres although I was not obliged to.

**MAY 20th**

Inspected by O/C Battalion Col. Drake-Brockman Brigadier General Monash and the G.O.C. (General Officer Commanding) The division after several tiring rehearsals.

**MAY 31st**

Entrained at ‘Serapeum’ at 9pm for ‘Alexandria’ arriving there at 7am next day. This was a very rough trip travelling all night in open trucks.

**JUNE 1st 1916**

Arrived at ‘Alexandria’ and embarked the S.S. Canad (Dominion Line) 9,500 tons. Spent two days on board before leaving port.

**JUNE 3rd**

Steamed from ‘Alexandria’ and arrived at ‘Marseilles’ on the 8th March During the trip we were chased for two nights by submarines. Fortunately we were not harmed. It was suggested by some of the boys that FRITZ (what they called the Germans in the first person). Must have known we were Australian otherwise they would have fired on us. They knew such a thing would make us cross and we would not forget it when we met them in France. We stayed on board until morning.

**JUNE 9th**

Disembarked at about 10am and entrained from ‘Balleul’ during which trip we passed through many large cities where we received a great welcome. Some of the largest places were ‘Orange Sans’, ‘Amiens’, ‘Versailles’, ‘Abbevile’, ‘Boulogne’, ‘Picquigny’, ‘Etaples’. This was a very long trip 63 hours and full of experiences some of the tunnels were 3 miles long. Passing several ammunition factories also many villages that were demolished by German bombardments.

**JUNE 12th**

Arrived at ‘Bailleul’ at 1am and bivouacked until daylight on the grass in pouring rain under no shelter against a potato patch. The country grows tons of potatoes. It rained almost the whole time we were halted. At daylight we had a dixie of tea(Laced with rum etc) and pushed off to our billet – soaking wet was nothing – about 2 miles from ‘Bailleul’. The billets were small huts to hold upwards of 20 men erected in the farm yards. Some camped in barns, stables or any where accommodation was very short.

**JUNE 19th**

After putting in a week at this place we moved to the next billets at ‘L’Hallobeau’ and stayed there for 12 days. We were paid at this place receiving 40 Francs ( 1/18/-) First pay in French money.

**JUNE 30th**

Moved to our present billet about one mile from the front line and about 31/2 miles from ‘L’Hallobeau’. To get to this place it necessitates travelling by night as no traffic is allowed on the roads during daylight. It is light here from 4am till 10pm – twilight from about 7 till 10pm. Enemy aeroplanes are very busy during the day with their bombs which makes manoeuvring very difficult and unsafe. We passed through ‘Irquigham’ en route which is terribly shattered by enemy shells.

**JULY 1st 1916**

“Stra(unreadable).......”(strafing is attacking ground targets from low flying aircraft with machine guns or cannon fire)recommenced by Frits and continued for some time many shell dropping within a hundred yards of our huts. This was our first time in the shelling area and it was not really a pleasure resort. One shell set fire to a building about 300 yards from us and we saw one hit a fine church which brought the building to a mere heap of masonry. At 2am on this date our Coy. Sent a working party out to repair trenches but they soon compelled to return to billets on account of Fritz opening a very serve bombardment. Our job at this place is chiefly night fatigues – trench repairing etc. We are now in the Armentieres Sector.

**JULY 2nd**

Fairly quiet today. Only a few shells coming over at intervals of which our artillery never failed to reply. Last night our artillery opened up a bombardment which gave Fritz a little to think about for two hours. This was done to assist a party in the front line who were making a raid. The raiding party were men from the 14th battn.

**JULY 3rd**

Practically nothing doing today so far merely to let us know he was about Fritz sent over an occasional shell lyddite(gas) chiefly. This country is a great place for beer, wine and champagne. Beer (French) 1’pr. Glass. Beer (special) 2 glasses, Vin Blanc(white wine) 1’2’3’ glasses or 2 frances(1/8) pr bottle. Champagne is sold from 5 to 10 Francs a bottle. Almost every farm house sells these drinks between the hour of 11 and 1 and 6 and 8pm. These places are called Estaminets. Coffee can be had at a penny a cup. Eggs at present are 2/6 dozen(3 francs). They are very dear as the French people said that when the Germans evacuated this sector and on invading the place they destroyed everything on the farms. Cake , biscuits, sweets etc are comparatively cheap. Nestles milk at 1/- tin seems expensive but not so dear considering we are buying it just behind the firing line. We get very little sleep at night so we so our best to get al little in during the day. Most of the bombardments are carried out at night and when a dozen batteries or more are speaking at the same time and almost up against one’s head sleep is really out of the question. At ten thirty tonight our artillery will open up a terrific bombardment and while I write this we can hardly hear ourselves speak with the noise of the guns and the whistling of our shells going over to German Territory.

**JULY 4th**

Comparatively quiet save a few salvos from our guns which Fritz replied to with shrapnel and lyddite. We sent out our usual fatigue party. I was in bed early and had for a change a good night’s sleep although it’s pay day. It is very wet and muddy here – black clay everywhere which makes it impossible to keep our drawing rooms clean.

**JULY 5th**

Very good news to hand from the Somme Dist. Allies advanced 91/2 miles taking 5000 prisoners and capturing many guns. Afternoon news (official) states that a further 1500 prisoners and 100 guns captured. Operations on our sector very quiet. Our fatigue party to go out tonight. – 100 men – trench repairing etc. Just had a bottle of dinkum champagne which the C.S.M(.Company Sergeant Major), R.S.M.(Regimental Sergeant Major) and I drank. It was tre’s bon I can tell you, It is very easy to take since the same stuff cost a pound a bottle in Australia and we get it for 8 francs. Had the usual visit from the French girls with their cakes, biscuits, chocolates etc.

**JULY 6th**

Last night at about midnight a heavy bombardment started when the Germans used gas. We got the alarm in good time and all stood to a ... good breeze was blowing which favoured us so nothing came out of his gas attack. He was tricked this time by providence. Today we are sending over a few iron rations to Fritz just to let him know that we were not all gassed by his midnight attack. He replied but very tamely.

**JULY 7th**

As on the night of the 5th, he gave us more gas. Our alarm again came in good time we heard the siren from the trenches before we received the alarm. Had our gas masks in readiness but did not use them as no gas reached us. Very quiet during the day just the usual shell for shell, had a very nice “dixie” of coffee brought to me this morning by one of the French girls who brings the cakes etc. Wrote to Maudie and to a French lady whom I met at Etaples who lives in Paris. After tea went for a long walk with our Armourer Sgt. (Chas Laming) Had some supper at a coffee shop, fried eggs and chips. Our artillery opened on Fritz last night lasting till midnight. Got a parcel of cigarettes from Wog Brice very acceptable too.

**JULY 8th**

The usual barrage was put up at intervals during the day. Went for a walk and had dinner at an estaminet, eggs, ham and chips for 140. Our fatigue part went out at one this morning and returned with one casualty. This is our first casualty from our Coy. Wounded on the head.

**JULY 9th**

Sunday...... A very fine morning. Our anti aircraft guns are busy with a Taube who is present right overhead, our artillery is replying so German shells which have been dropping around our “home” all morning. We supplied guards for ‘Irquigham’ and ‘Armemtieres’ today. These towns on account of continual bombardments are out of bounds to all British Troops.

**JULY 10th**

Getting ready for a move. Fritz is sending scores of shells over to us many are bursting only a short distance from our huts. All fatigue parties were cancelled last night on account of our artillery opening up a severe ‘Strafe’ on Fritz. The shells at present are playing tunes, just now, like a second rate German band. During the afternoon orders came for us to be ready to move off at 9.45pm so we had to get packed up.

**JULY 11th**

Instead of leaving at 9.45 last night we moved off at 1 this morning. I with the C.Q.M.L.( Chief Quartermaster Clerk) and his assistant preceded the Coy at 10pm with full packs up to our previous billets at ‘L’Hallobeau’ a distance of about 5 miles, Arrived there soon after midnight. Very tied, so after unloading the limbers we turned in but were awake soon after 3am. The Coy had arrived weary and ready for the blankets. Got up at 10 this morning. Breakfast was ready. Awaiting orders now to move again. Just returned from a walk. Wrote to Ted to see if he would transfer to the 16th Battn. Dinner was on at 4.30pm after which orders came to be ready to move off at 5.30. Got away from here in due course and arrived at our first billet in France, when we got off the train at ‘Bailleul’ from ‘Marseilles’ – ‘Steenwerck’. This was a march of 31/2 mls full packs, blankets (2) rifles, ammunition etc. We are now awaiting orders to move again to entrain at ‘Bailluel’. It is now 6.30pm everyone is”knocked “up and trying to rest. We were issued with Iron rations before leaving. “Iron Rations” consist of 1 tin bully each tea and sugar. 1 tin to last 24 hours a few cakes of beef extract and a dozen armour plates (biscuits). Also before leaving we had a two course meal – tea and stew, no bread

**JULY 12th**

Last night Will Stockton and I went to the Y.M.C.A hut near our billets and had cocoa and cakes and after which we had some piano music which drew a small crowd. The enthusiastic Y.M.C.A official took advantage of this little gathering and held a prayer meeting. This wound up at 8.45pm. Had a rifle and gas inspection this morning at 9.30am after which we went again to the Y.M.C.A and had more tea and cakes. 1’ for tea, 11/2 for cake. We are getting ready for the move which order may come at any minute. Received my ‘Lance Jack stripe on the 10th also did Will Stockton.

**JULY 13th**

Left ‘L’Halloeau’ at 4 am and marched to Bailleul siding where we entrained at 8.30am. Had about 6 hours of discomfort, - 42 of us to one covered truck with our full equipment with us. A very cold and miserable ride. Travelled through very pretty country, fertile with intense culture, cereals etc. We detrained at ‘Doullens’ where we stayed for about two hours. Had time to walk into town and buy coffee and bread for dinner. After this we started for out next billets fifteen miles distant.

**JULY 14th**

12.5am arrived at our billets ‘St Ouen’. Tired out after carrying our worldly belongings on our backs for 15 miles.

**JULY 15th**

Had a good look around the city rather a pretty place. Business places every were, factories etc. Had several good feeds here. Steak roast potato chips etc. Had another 10mile route march here then did the rounds of the town again,

**JULY 16th**

Sunday...... up at 8am and paraded to church after which we went into town for dinner. Returned to billets soon after and found the Coy. Ready to fall in which caused us to hurry to be ready with the others to move again. Received 3 letters one from Bro White who is a padre 44th Btn one from home and Edie Phillips.(Jock’s cousin). Moved off from ‘St Quen’ at 1pm and arrived at this place. ‘Naours’ where we are at present. Was late for dinner on account of having work to do in orderly room, so carried on without for awhile when I enjoyed a good blow out on bully and raw onions with bread. We marched at ease of course seven miles to this place. Had walked through the village going through large cemeteries in the cathedral yards. Went inside one cathedral and spent half an hour looking round and watching the sextons pulling the ropes for the chimes. Seems like hard work too. Back in billets again ready to turn in. My bed is some straw on a stone floor oil sheet and one blanket. This is a very comfortable bed when one is tired. Had several blisters after the last two marches caused through ill fitting boots. The French roads are mostly of cobble stones which play up with the feet terribly.

**JULY 17th**

Up at 7.30 had breakfast. The company begun work at 9.30 bayonet fighting. Saw a French funeral here a great ceremony is gone through at these funerals. The majority of the French people are R.C’s (Roman Catholics) At intervals along the roads and a main intersections crucifixes are erected and small brick buildings within which are miniature crucifixes etc where people go and worship while passing. We are billeted opposite a big cathedral where the bells are chiming at intervals all day and half the night. Tonight they caused a lot of remarks to be passed when everyone is trying to go to sleep. We’d just doze off and the bells would start again. Then there is a general uproar and the usual army objection. We have a small bell on our billet gate and during the night one chap got up and started to ring it to harmonize with the church bells. He was soon challenged and compelled to desist.

**JULY 18th**

Same work as yesterday with the Coy. Was on payroll this morning. Everyone is out of money and it is always a good sign when the Acquittance rolls are being complied. There is money about. Received nine letters yesterday from home, Maggie, Dan, Maudie, Miss Linchan, Phillips , Brittain, Bro. White. Went to see the catacombs this afternoon. This is a great sight. We were led in by a French girl who carries a lamp from the front entrance and for half a franc we were shown all over the place. On entering this weird looking place we commenced to travel down hill through a very narrow cutting and were led in and of rooms which seemed to be cut out of solid rock or chalk mixed with flint. We went as low as 2 kilo(5 – 3 miles) below the earth surface. The place is the ruins of a town which was originally lying in a hollow but now, since it’s burial an enormous hill sits on the top of the town. The catacomb is what is being shown during the process of unearthing the town. At recesses along these lanes are to be seen iron barred rooms in which are skeletons and human remains generally. All kinds of things have been found during the unearthing such as keys, horse hooks, bolts from door etc. In the different dug aways are crucifixes. It’s a sight well worth the time to see. Went for a walk last night after tea and finished the evening letter writing.

**JULY 19th**

Paid out during the morning. This afternoon wrote more letters. Turned in at 10pm after a quiet day.

**JULY 20th**

Worked till dinner time and had Coy recreation during the afternoon. Went to the 51st Bn. Billets after tea 41/2 miles to see if I could find Ted at a place called ‘St Leger’. Found where he was billeted but he was not there. He was with a party on a job at Amiens being instructed in pigeon flying. Had a long walk for nothing and returned to our billets at 11pm.

**JULY 21st**

Ted came to see me at about 3 this afternoon and we exchanged letter , after which I secured a pass and went to tea at his billet partaking of bully, bread , raw onions and water – awfully extravagant repast. Had a walk around St Leger during the evening and left him at about 8.30 and arrived back at my place of abode at about 11pm. – some walking. Saw McCrackan, Trequartha, Jasp. Stone and other W.A, boys.

**JULY 22nd**

Carried on with the usual parades and training.

**JULY 23rd**

Church parade and training, although it was Sunday. Football match in the afternoon. A team from the 14th battn. Played us resulting in a win for our team. 51pts to 5. It was good and filled in the afternoon very nicely,

**JULY 24th**

Usual parades. After tea went for a walk to ‘Wargnies’ where I met several more W.A. boys including Jimmy Mann , Richard Holmes & Co of the 4th field Ambulance

**JULY 25th**

Left ‘Naours’ at 9am today and marched 10 miles to where we are now arriving at about 1pm. Tired as usual after the cobble stones. Have just been into the village. Went to the military canteen and had tea. Had a little music for a while then returned to camp. Saw scores of car loads of wounded Australians coming in from the Somme where they were well tickled up by Fritz.

**JULY 26th**

Worked till dinner time after which we had the afternoon off when ‘C’ coy had an easy win 9.5 to 5.11. Went for a walk in the evening.

**JULY 27th**

Left ‘Toutencourt’ at 9.30am and marched towards our next billets marching about 3 miles where we bivouaced until after dinner, as we are nit due to arrive at the next place until late in the afternoon. Very nice weather today for marching – bivouac at 2pm and arrived here at 4. This is Warley. In the afternoon we helped the stretcher bearers unloading wounded at the casualty clearing stn. Went to bed at about 9.30pm after doing the town.

**JULY 28th**

On parade from 9.30 till 11.00am . Walked the town during the evening and turned in early after and exciting day. Received letters from home Lall, Henry, Ida Cornwall and Miss Phillips. Paid out at 7pm - 30 francs each.

**JULY 29th**

Received two letters – Maude and Miss Sturke. Wrote letters during the afternoon during which we received orders to prepare to move. All ready packed up at 6pm ready to march out at a five minute notice. 6.30pm, awaiting orders.

**JULY 30th**

Sunday...... church parade in the morning played the return match (football) with the 14th Bn. in the afternoon resulting in another win for us – 31: 72

**JULY 31st**

Still in ‘Warley’ 1.15pm

**Aug 2nd 1916**

No further order to move 1pm. Ted came over in the evening after a walk in town I went to his billet with him and returned at 10pm. He was then at a wood outside ‘Vardencourt’.

**Aug 3rd**

Live bomb throwing until dinner time. Had the afternoon off and went to Ted’s camp after tea he and I went into town. He left me a 9pm. We had a night manoeuvre which let us to bed at about 1am. The cooks had hot tea ready for us when we returned. It was very decent as we were all tired. Turned in soon after.

**AUG 4th**

Up at 7.30 and had breakfast. At 9pm we had a Brigade manoeuvre. Left Warley at 9pm and arrived at Albert at 12.15am. Met fellows from the West. Shells were dropping in Albert all the morning.

**Aug 5th**

After reaching here we bivouacked in the open and under shell fire till later morning. We are now nearly two miles from the line. Met what was left of the 28th Bn. Saw Lt . Sexty and Joe Harris 13/16. During the afternoon went through ‘Albert’ and saw some of the greatest destructions, wrought by German Bombardments. The Albert Cathedral is really a heap of masonry etc only the steeple remaining on the top which is a solid bronze statue of the
Virgin Mary clasping the child Jesus. This was half fallen during the shelling and appears to be ready to fall straight into the street, some 200 feet below. It however has been made secure from falling by the French Engineers. The weight of this statue is about 8 tons. Among the ruins maybe seen broken marble statues lead worked doors etc. The massive pipe organ is a mere heap of wood iron, wires etc. ‘Albert’ apparently has been a wonderful city but now is a heap of ruins. – result of terrific bombardments. Met Stan Higgs in the evening. At about 7.30pm Fritz started on us again with shrapnel. Six of us were playing cards on the grass near our bivvy and a shell burst less then 20 yards from us – none were hit gave us a bit of a shock though. After a while we continued our game but shelling was so continuous that we were compelled to seek cover. We shifted out bivvy through ‘Albert’ and out of the town about half a mile where we settled down for the night ready to move off at a moments notice to support our front line. Had not been here long before Germany started an attack on us with gas and tear shells, shrapnel and high explosives. Again we are compelled to take cover in emergency trenches. Here we stayed for the night huddled up together, without sleep.

**Aug 6th**

Sunday.......Watched German Aircraft being engaged with our airmen. This is an everyday occurrence. Later in the morning we moved 4 miles to just behind our front line. ‘Put Up’ at a place called ‘Chalf Pits’ and started on a fatigue job straight away. This job is worse than being in the front line. We were carrying Stokes Shells to the trench mortar batteries. The only means of reaching the front line is cross county and through short lengths of destroyed trenches. During our first trip up we had a very ‘warm’ welcome from Fritz who greeted us with heavy barrage of high explosives and shrapnel. Our first party – we were detailed off in parties of 10 & 12, got the worst of the lot – 5 wounded 1 killed, 4 or 5 have not turned up since. Had another narrow escape. We got just beyond half way up when he continued his barrage. We were ordered by and English Officer to drop our loads and returned to ‘Chalk Pits’. This we did without an overdue amount of telling or reluctance. At about 5pm we started off again, picking up our bundles and managed to get to the dump, running from hole to hole. Then from the dump we had to take the shells after being cleaned and fused, to the mortar batteries in the front line, through a small track called ‘Tom’s Cut’. This was a lovely business. Several of our boys were killed here but my party escaped unhurt, - as this time there were five of us. Sgt. Charles, Sgt Head, Stockton, Noon and self. We started on our return trip to Chalk Pit at 6.30pm and inadvertently struck the wrong sap from the front line. This sap took us about four miles out of our way. We, however had an idea where we were so we left the sap and took the risk cross country. We found our “Home” at 9.30pm. After having a drop of tea we ‘turned in’ but not for sleep, as we were close up to our artillery batteries, who continued and all night bombardment.

**Aug 7th**

No work so 10.45am, Moved from here at about noon and stopped at a group of trenches called ‘Dinkum Ally’ (a very appropriate name too.) near sausage gully and had lunch on the road side, under heavy shell fire. After lunch we moved further on to some old German trenches. We are supposed to stay here for the night and take over the front tomorrow. Am in a fairly good dugout, writing this. Slept well on the night of the 7th although about a dozen batteries blazed at Fritz all night.

**Aug 8th**

Got up from my sleeping apartment – a hole in the parapet 3’x3’ - when breakfast, bacon, bread and tea, - was ready. Did a little fatigue during the morning and afternoon. Now 4pm awaiting orders to move. Out next move as near as we know is the front line. Have been comparatively safe so far today, but yesterday won’t be forgotten for a while. At 8.45 tonight, I was detailed with 24 others to go on a water fatigue – carrying water to the front line in petrol tines. Were told to return to our dugouts, returning there at 11pm hot tired and then did not do our job. The boys in the line got no water that night. Our artillery carries on a terrific bombardment through out the night, the 15th Bn, were doing a ‘stunt’ on ‘Pozaieres’ – A & D Coy of 16th were supporting the Advance.

**Aug 9th**

Breakfast at 7.30am and got orders to move at once. Good news – I don’t think. We got about 500 yards towards the front when we were ordered back to our dug outs reaching there at 10.30pm. had time for a small meal when we got orders to go to Sausage Valley. Got there in good time under server fire. Left the Valley and slowly winded our way to the front line, in time for our first “hop over” which took place at midnight, after a heavy bombardment by the Artillery supporting our advance. A lovely business it was too. However we gained our objective. – the German front line taking about 40 prisoners in our sector of the captured trench.

**Aug 10th**

8am ... Just had a small snack in a dug out, in support trenches at rear of what we took last night. We were too strong in the captured trench, so a good number of us had to return to the support lines and to our old line from where we “went over”, this was worse than the night’s stunt as we had to go over open country and in daylight under machine gun fire. Up to time of writing our casualties are unknown. A slow fine rain started this morning which made things more miserable. Alby Mcleod (Capt. O/C) was taken from the line with shell shock – a very light attack brought on by his previous shock on Gallipoli. He was back with us next day. After breakfast I was detailed with 19 others from ‘C’ Coy to carry rations and water for the term of our Battalions tour of duty in the line. The distance was about 21/2 miles from our cookers to the front line – through saps. This job was and is always known as the worse than holding off a front line. Up to date have only had two casualties in our party.

**AUG 11th**

Usual fatigue, had a little rest last night and a couple of hours sleep last night, or early this morning. 2pm Going ‘up’ again at about 4pm. Started out and were hung up for 4 hours on account of Fritz opening up on us, then we had to return to our cookers. Did not go up that night but managed to get a decent sleep instead. Saw Alby Mcl, this morning going strong. We expect to be relieved tonight in this tour, we did two ‘hops over’ and repelled one counter attack. Got several more prisoners last night. We were relieved before night by the 50th Bn, - I did not see Ted(brother) when I came out this time but some of the boys of his battalion, whom I saw said they would let him know that I got out of it O.K. Had a good tea in Albert, where we are resting. Met several W.A, boys including Les Morrison. Spent the evening with them and retired for the night under a rug. It rained heavily during the night but soon moved – too tired to get out of the rain. – really there was no cover anywhere.

**Aug 14th**

Got from the rug at breakfast time and were free until 3.30pm – roll call 4pm. Church parade and were addressed by Genl, Birdwood who gave us the Kings congratulations on the fine work we did at ‘Pozieres’ – more of the usual ‘softsoap’. Most of our wounded were of a slight nature. Many went out with shell shock but they are returning in two’s and three’s. Not certain to date of the number killed – fortunately not as many as we thought at first. Had a letter from Josie last night, but have not had a chance to do any letter writing lately, only a few field cards.

**Aug 14th**

Left Albert at 3pm making toward ‘Warley’ – ‘Bailleul’ arriving there at 6.30pm Had a good night’s rest after the long march. And pay.

**Aug 15th**

Left ‘Warley’ at 9am but only went about 3 miles and had to return. Just had a good blow out or coffee and eggs.

**AUG 16th**

Still at Warley – no parades – doing it heavy.

**Aug 17th**

Left ‘Warley’ at 9am and arrived at Lavicogne at 4.45pm about 9 miles. Heavy rains caused us to take a long time on this march. Received 2 letters from home 2 Maude, 1 G.Cornwell,

**Aug 18th**

Left ‘Lavicogne’ at 10am and arrived at ‘Halloy-1-Pernois’ at 1pm. Had lunch and walked around the town.

**Aug 19th**

Went to ‘Bonneville’ and found Ted (brother)and had tea with him at his billet. Saw Hy. Haynes, Stan Hedley, Eric Tregurtha. , McCrackan was wounded at this time – about the 13th Aug,. Had a lift back to Halley in a W.D. Wagon.

**Aug 20th**

Church parade, as usual and distributions of M.M. Certificates.

**Aug 21st**

Received letters from Mrs Thomas and Bor. White. Wrote letters in the afternoon. Ted came during the afternoon and had tea with me, after which we went for a walk through Halley. Had supper at about 9pm and turned in.

**Aug 22nd**

Out on a brigade stunt at 9am and were waiting operations to commence, when a despatch rider brought a message stating that we had to move at once and be at ‘Talmas’ at 4pm. Got to our billets, had lunch and left at once. 1.45pm and arrived here. – ‘Talmas’ at 4.30pm. 8pm have had tea and awaiting our pay. Had a good stead, 5 eggs, bread, jam and tea. Passed through ‘Naours’ and ‘Punchevillers’ on this march.

**Aug 23rd**

Left ‘Talmas’ at 11am on another 8 mile march. Had dinner on the road and arrived at ‘Vandencour’t at 4.30pm. Went into ‘Warley’ in the evening and returned for bed at 8.30pm under the trees. It rained all night but the thick trees gave us fairly good shelter.

**Aug 24th**

Were to leave here at 10am but the order was cancelled for 24 hours so we camped within a mile of ‘Warley’. Played cards and read for the rest of the day. Dumped our packs at ‘Vandencourt’ this morning. Did no work this day merely waiting orders.

**Aug 25th**

Out near ‘Warley’ on another Brigade stunt, training for a further ‘dinkum stunt’Camped under the trees again last night. Received a parcel on the 24th. Posted letters home and to Mrs Thomas.

**Aug 26th**

Left ‘Vandencourt’ at 10am and marched to ‘Albert’ – 8 miles bivouacked about a mile out of town and later on took over in the trenches for the night – rain has fallen very heavily for two days.

**Aug 27th**

Left ‘Albert’ at 11am after church parade during which it rained heavily the whole time. Marched to where we are now, in rain, just now are waiting to move up further. Our trenches are filled with deep we clay, and very unpleasant to stand in. Everything is wet. Got to ‘Chalk Pits’ at 3.30pm and left for a place nearer the front line, almost straight away, in charge of a party of 5 men, in an ammunition dump. To get there we had to go through open country which was just a jass of shell holes, and we were shelled the whole time. None of us were hurt. We soon got to work and dug ourselves in on a bankside. Shell flying all around us. The nearest came within 30 yards of our building site. It is now 7.15pm and our artillery and the Germans are engaging each other in a terrific bombardment. The noise is awful. A very pleasant way to spend Sunday evening???

**Aug 28th**

Still in our damp dug out. They shelled us the whole night and we got no sleep. I got a piece of shell in the right knee, but it was not serious. 9.45am..... Out breakfast has just arrived – ½ a loaf for 6 of us and some bacon. This was our first since yesterday noon. 2 o’clock now and no lunch has come forward so far. The shelling is still going strong.

**Aug 29th**

Were relieved from this dump at 11am and joined the Coy in the front line, and waited all the afternoon and evening in the trenches in torrents of rain. Were knee deep in water and clay. At 11pm we made our attack on ‘Mouquet Farm’. We got the position and were there about five minutes when we were ordered to retire, on account of heavy shell fire, machine gun, and lucid fire. We got back to our lines eventually and remained there for further orders.

**Aug 30th**

Detailed for fatigue again. After breakfast, some biscuit and beef, two of us had to go to ‘Chalk Pit’s for a ration of tea. It is raining heavily the whole time. Returned at 1.30 then had to go to Battalion H’Quarters for rum issue. We were greeted with the usual answer. ‘Not arrived yet’. Rather than go back to the front line without it we got shelter in a dug out belonging to an officer of the 4th. M.G. Coy, waited there. He (Lt. Sykes treated us to very nice stale bread and jam of which we partook freely- filling us up – a feed for a king.

**Aug 31st**

We were relieved from our position at 3am by the 47th Bn. We travelled open country thro ‘ La Basselle’, to a bivouac between ‘Sausage Valley’ and ‘ Albert ‘. Stayed the rest of the wee small hours in a dug out and slept till 8am breakfast time. We found a big biscuit tin and we made a fire in to warm our bedroom. It was good too. After getting it going well despite the wet wood we boiled a tin of water and made some tea. We were soaking wet and mud from head to feet. We left this bivvy at 11am for the ‘Brickfields in ‘ Albert ‘

**SEPT 1st**

Met Ted (brother)here with his Battalion on their way to the trenches. Had dinner at ‘Albert’ and moved off at 2pm. Arrived at ‘Warley’ at 5pm and stayed the night. At 11.30 when all was quiet I was called out by the Coy’ S.M(Sergeant Major) to write up the acquittance rolls as an order came that the pay was to be made before morning. It was a lovely job too, in candle light in a draughty barn. We accomplished the work alright and set off from ‘Warley ‘ at 9am.

**Sept 2nd**

Marched to ‘Rubenpre’ where we are now. Had a very good concert where English, Canadian and our boy’s contributed. In the afternoon Genl. Birdwood presented the distinctive badges to those of our brigade who won them at ‘Pozieres’ and ‘Mouquet Farm’. Of 58 – 23 came to our brigade. Received two letters from home and two from Maud.

**Sept 3rd**

Had a church parade at 9.30am Parading this afternoon – Sunday – with gas helmets at 3pm. Then we got what we urgently needed – an issue of new clothing. It was time too, as what we wore had not been washed for a month. Went to church in the evening in nice clean clothes.

**Sept 4th**

Left ‘Rubempre’ at 9.30am and arrived at ‘Feiffes’ at 4pm. Had tea and walked around the town. It rained almost the whole time during the march – 15miles

**Sept 5th**

Did a few parades after which we marched to ’Bonneville’ for our packs which were dumped before going into ‘Mouquet ‘Farm.

**Sept 6th**

Left ‘Feiffes near ‘Montrelet’ at 8.30am with full packs up and marched to ‘Gezaincourt’ arriving there at about noon. Paraded all the afternoon.Had a washing parade in the morning.

**SEPT 7th**

Went to a Gas School in the afternoon and spent the evening with some French people who invited two of us over for a while. They spoke English, sufficient to be understood. On arrival back there was a parcel from Josie.

**Sept 8th**

Left ‘Gezaincourt’ at 12.30pm and marched to ‘Doullens. Entrained at this place where I first had news that Ted(Brother)was missing after the 13th Bgd charge on Sept 1. Arrived at ‘Promperprie’ and went to the 13th Bdge H.Q.to try and get news of Ted. This was after 10pm. We are in a camp now leaving ‘Promperprie’ at about 11pm. Had to march 61/2 miles with full packs and blankets very nice too. Arrived here at about 2am

**Sept 9th**

On guard all day.

**Sept 10th**

Relieved from guard at 9.30am and missed church parade. We are now in ‘Belgium’ and do not find things so good as in France.

**Sept 11th**

Parades all day, awaiting order to go to the trenched in the ‘Ypres Salient’

**Sept 12th**

Gas helmet practices with new helmets – box respirators. Had games before dinner and parades in the afternoon.

**Sept 13th**

Our Battalion joined the Bgde. To meet Gen. Cox in the morning and those who were to receive decorations were presented with a card. Got back from the Bgde. Parade for dinner. Praise was given to the 4th Brigade with honours to the 16th Bn.

**SEPT 14th**

Applied for leave to go and make enquires about Ted but they were too far away from us, so I wrote to the 13th Bgde. H.Q. We are now in ‘Renninghelst’ for dinner. (Chippewa)

**Sept 15th**

Have no reply from my letter, so wrote again. Saw Tom and Jim Heggarty this morning also Roy Houghton(Ngn)

**Sept 16th**

Parades as usual. The latest order is that we go up to the trenches tomorrow.

**Sept 17th**

Sunday.... Left our camp at 8am and started for the front line. Got half way up the communication sap, and were told that we had to wait there till night. This we did and gained the front line at 9pm and took over from the Canadians. We were soon posted to Sentry and listening posts, for the night. I had a section of 5 men, engaged in digging and filling sand bags to make up defective parts in the trench. We worked all night without sleep.

**Sept 18th**

Same work again and deepening the trench.

**Sept 19th**

Same again.

**Sept 20th**

Had a good nights rest last night being relieved by another Corporal. Just received a letter from the Adjutant(officer who assists senior officers with correspondence) 51st Bn, who stated Ted was missing from the 3rd Sept. but was of opinion that he had been taken prisoner with many others of D Coy. 51st Bn. This was the reply to my letters to the O/C on the 14th Sept.

**SEPT 21st**

Patrol and observation duty up till 10am this morning and then turned into sleep. It was fairly quiet during the night. Received a letter from home, two from Maude while in the dugout.

**Sept 22nd**

Patrols and observation duty as usual. Had a letter from Josie in the morning. It was rather quiet up to 4pm. Since Sunday we have had one casualty. ‘Snow’ Chivers was caught by a sniper, shot through the forehead – sudden death.

**Sept 23rd**

Same work as usual.

**Sept 24th**

Sunday in the trenches no news of relief 8.30am awaiting breakfast. Our artillery engaged Fritz in the afternoon for about two hours.

**Sept 25th**

Expecting to be relieved some time today. On listening post last night, could hear a sniper working between 3 & 6am. but could not locate him. Was near enough to him to hear his rifle bolt working. It was awfully cold all night. I was well armed, Had a rifle, revolver and a dozen bombs.

**Sept 26th**

Still listening.... – We went out of the line eventually and are now ration carrying. We are in an old house about 400 yards behind the line. We do the 3 trips a day. Wrote letters in the afternoon.

 **Sept 27th**

Fatigues as usual.

**Sept 28th**

Same Work.

**SEPT 29th**

At 4.30pm I was detailed to escort a prisoner to ‘Etaples’. Had a splendid trip calling at many big French towns including ‘Calais’, where I spent a couple of hours waiting for another train connection. Had 7 days away from the Battn. And out of the line. Which was a good spell.

**Sept 30th**

Left ‘Popperinghe’ at 1.25pm with my ward by troop train. Changed (unreadable) and caught a passenger train to ‘Calais’ where we changed again for ‘Estaples’ where the A.D.B.D, is (Australian Divisional Base Details). Arrived there at 11.30pm and was lucky to find an empty tent in the 16th lines, where I and my prisoner camped for the night.

**Oct 1st 1916**

Handed my prisoner over on Sunday morning and spent till dinner time in camp. Went to ‘Paris-Plage’ in the afternoon and had a good time. This place is 4 miles from ‘Estaples’ by train and ½ franc return. Got back to camp at 9pm.

**Oct 2nd**

Stayed in camp with some boys that I know.

**Oct 3rd**

Went to ‘Paris-Plage’ again.

**Oct 4th**

Went to ‘Paris-Plage’ again.

**Oct 5th**

Left ‘Estaples’ at 2am and got back to ‘Ypres’ to the trenches again.

**Oct 6th**

Fritz put up a very heavy bombardment last night and we reported several killed.

**Oct 7th**

Relieved from the trenches and marched past Gen’l . Plummer who wanted to see the Australians, on our way to our present camp at ‘Chippewa’. Received 6 letters, home, Min, Geo, Maggie and others. Going to bed now we are all knocked up after a 7 mile march.

**Oct 8th**

Church parade.

**Oct 9th**

Usual parade

**Oct 10th**

Usual parade and fatigues

**Oct 11th**

Inspected by Gen’l. Plummer in the morning.

**Oct 12th**

After dinner we packed up and went into the reserve trenches to the left of our last position, near hill 60. Got to our dugouts at about 10.30pm all hand very tired after the march with full packs and blankets.

**Oct 13th**

Went with rations to one of our platoons on a strong point after breakfast. Just back and spelling now 10.30am. Received a packet of cigarettes from Josie last night, just when they were wanted, didn’t have any at all for the trenches also received a letter from Josie. Went to bed about 8pm and had a good nights rest.

**Oct 14th**

Got up at 8am had breakfast and did some washing. Had notice all to be ready to move at 1pm to a position about ¼ mile from front line.

**OCT 15th**

Slept in good dugouts last night. Just before going to bed we sat at the inlet to the dugout and watched our batteries open out. The noise was awful and outside is almost line day, with the flames and flashed from the guns. Up at 7 am this morning had breakfast and went about a mile away and we worked all day building dugout(permanent ones) not a bad job, and we were lucky enough to do the day without shells, where we were the only shells we could see were fired at our planes overhead. Haven’t seen any planes come down this last week. Got letters today, sent to me from Ted’s Battalion addressed to him. I told them to send me his letters.

**Oct 16th**

Monday, built dugouts all day and rested at night,

**Oct 17th**

Same as Monday. At night had to report at 7pm to engineers for fatigue. Finished at about 9pm after having a cocoa or nestcote house. Had a good nights rest. No work today so as to be ready for the same fatigue at night.

**Oct 18th**

Did nothing today but layed off in our dugouts. Got to bed early and had a good rest.

**Oct 19th**

Left our position at 8.30am and moved out. Only went about 11/2miles when we were ordered back. Raining heavily all night. Took shelter in Artilla dugouts where some of us are now. The other went back to where we had come from.

**OCT 20th**

Were relieved at 10pm the 19th and walked to ‘Chippewa’ camp arriving here about 2am. Voting parade this morning (Conscription) Being paid this afternoon,

**Oct 21st**

Stayed at ‘Chippewa for the day.

**OCT 22nd**

Left there at 8am and had dinner on the road.

**OCT 23rd**

Arrived at our new billets near ‘Steenwoode’ at about 4pm on the 22nd and stayed at a farmhouse.

**OCT 24th**

Raining today no parades, had a good time in ‘Steewoode’ on Sunday evening. Played billiards with Pat O’Brien and a French man. Expect to leave. Had several letters on the 21st from home and others.

**OCT 25th**

Still on the farm, in the mud and amongst the pigs. Moving tomorrow.

**OCT 26th**

At 3pm yesterday got orders to report to B.H.O. (Brigade Head Quarters) at 9am today, enroute to England....... Sgt. O’neill and myself to report there for duty at the training camp to relieve others. Left billet this morning after breakfast at 8.30am and walked to ‘Godwaersuelde’ to entrain there. Left ‘Godwaersuelde’ at 2pm and arrived at ‘Boulogne’ at 8am next morning after being shunted around all night.

**OCT 27th**

Arrived ‘Boulogne’ at 8am and went to a billet for breakfast. Washed and now waiting on the quay for the boat. We went on board at 11am and had not been there above a half hour when a wireless message came through that a submarine had been sighted in the channel so we were all sent ashore again and marched to ‘St Martin’s’ camp about 2 miles away with full packs. Now waiting to see if we are getting any lunch.

**OCT 28th**

After putting in an evening at army hut on the piano and the whole crowd singing, went to bed and had a fair nights rest. It rained and blew a hurricane all night. It’s still raining heavily and we are waiting to hear whether we sail today or not. It’s very miserable and very cold. In my tent there is a Canadian one Tommy asc. A flying corps. Mechanic, a Tommy Infect, man and myself a good.......(un readable ) left rest camp at 11am and boarded for the second time. Got away from the quay and arrived ........(unreadable) rough passage across the channel but not sick like many others. Got on the train for London arriving there at 6.30pm. Victoria. Went to our H.Q.(Head Quarters) and cloaked our kits. Went and had a good tea at the A.I.F. war........(unreadable) clubrooms and booked bed..........(unreadable) until about 12 midnight, walking the city.

**OCT 29th**

Sunday. Now having breakfast 9am. After 1 hour walked round the town then caught a train to ‘Catford’ to ........ (unreadable) place. Had dinner, spent the afternoon with her and went to church after tea..........(unreadable) church. Left ‘Catford’ at 10pm. and returned to ‘Victoria’. Had a good supper and went to bed.

**OCT 30th**

Waiting to go out to the 11th 2B to commence duties. There caught the train from ‘Waterloo St’ for ‘Salisbury’. Had dinner at ‘Waterloo’ and a good look around. Changed trains at ‘Salisbury’ for ‘Catford. Left ‘Salisbury at 8pm and found the camp at 9.30. Got off the train at ‘Wylie and walked about 11/2 miles to the camp.

**OCT 31st**

Met McFarlane who was with Hewitt (the baker from Williams) at the camp. Reported this morning, but not yet on any definite work. Trying to arrange for some leave before stating duties. McFarlane is OR clerk. Saw Liken and spent a few minutes with him, being paid tomorrow or the next day. Weather very cold and showery but not as cold as France. Camped in huts here. Spent the afternoon with Frank Lucas.........(unreadable) waiting four days now, up expecting to go ‘Yorkshire. From Nov 1 to 3...........doing no duties. From 3 Nov. 6th Nov on leave to London. Stayed at Kenn........(unreadable) at McNeaves home. Had grand time. Left ‘Waterloo’ today 6th Nov. For camp to commence duties in orderly room. Much better than France.