

No 5533 Pte H M Lamb

799
AME 3rd Battalion

1st Inf Brigade

AIF

Travy etc.

Oct 8th 1916. This time last year we were just leaving France & now we are on the front of the Western Front. We were last time in Perpetes here are in a quick letter condition than the last place we were in. As usual we had a ahead of the sick of all the units around about. We used to hold sick parades each day in the trenches going the rounds of the companies. The dugouts we were in was crumbling down so they built us a good new one just behind us but we moved out of the line the night before the day it was completed. The other one had to be propped up with beams of wood which pulled out most of the digout. Things were not too comfortable altogether. This part of the line was called "The Cliff". Our battalion had a raid while we were in the trenches which was pretty successful. There were raids all along the line that night. One of the boys went up the line to an advanced out post in the trenches. Harry & I were left behind. I promptly to come and a fellow opened up on the boys.

Here for 10 minutes they lifted
and up supports. They then
put boys behind a 60 ft. of
bombers, barbed wire, etc.
Signaller, engineers, etc. (complete)
That night sat outside in
trench & watched our
bombardment in the dark. It
was great but we were in
when the first of Fritz shells
screamed over head our
artillery gave our fellows
20 minutes the people began
to do their work. I got all
information possible then
switched back again to the
front line. By 10:30 some of
our men were back. We had
5 casualties, including one
missing. Fritz had about 20
of our men. I got some information
it was a lot of things. I
wounded everyone of the night
was all separate. I got
then later. Cards placed
which had to be cleaned up.
Their wounds could be attended
to. The missing man turned up a long time after.
I've lost our dog which we
had several days. We had
lost it & got the dog
spotted. I brought it back
then when we got busy in
the wounded the night
but side never came back.
Day after he said we left
we had about 30 casualties.

Thursday 19th Oct. 1916.

At present we are billeted
in an old chateau that was once
a German millionaire's residence.
Lately it was a hospital & now
it is used for billeting troops. It
has a large lawn grounds in
or was a fine old place like
many others. We have been
here three days now & are
probably making tomorrow.
We have been to St. Omer
twice which is about 7-8 miles
away. We went by car & a
motor, to go in which was
away. St. Omer is out of
It is a big place a real city
with shops etc. we had a
good breakfast. The
to dinner but I am not
his brother. He was the
me & has been in France 19 months.
He was attached to my
for 5 days for training
to get them to go back home
to the ammunition park
to his mother. I had several
pairs on the way. What
one day I went to meet
saw a French. It was
was so much better when he went back.

The night we came out, I went
ahead with our gear, taking
it down to the Thompson in
a truck on a light railway
which runs from way back
of the camp up to the bridge.
The transport detaches about
5 miles behind the line & we
transferred our belongings to
the wagon & walked behind
that to the camp. Somewhere
out where we left camp, I
had some about 8 miles. There
was a VMA Kuling
farm. It was a very good
one. We stopped at
Sammor Camp where we
gave in our tent & had
beds. We then marched
to the forward where we
stopped some way offside
the main for the night. The
day went on to dance
about 14-15 miles. It was
the day I went just riding
round dance in Dakam
lorry, instead of marching
nearly got punctured but
rested by just riding
till was attacked tonight
sometime. We were killed
in a fair amount of road
just we marched some 15 miles
passing through several villages
& a pretty big town called
Watten where all the inhabitants

& school children turned out to
see us. Attracted by our band
who were blowing their band
we made great fun. The side
drum player played so hard
he put his sticks through his
drum. We didn't mind that
part of the march but the rest
was pretty rough. Clearly
everybody was done. Clearly
sick parades the next few days
averaged about 90 (we usually
get 20-30) most were really
feet & legs etc. as we were
left busy from 7 am till
10:11 and having a breakfast
dinner sampled. Our
doctor came back from camp
was missing instantly the
numbers of sick dropped to 20.
He was on the road & for the
symptoms to all their tails
it was about mysterious
aches & pains all over. He
knew them too well. He
said that was too symmetrical
for a R.M. in the field here
we were pure at 7 am & the AM
got on the fair but very
dark & small & straight
but after the night we shifted
to the new Chateau but the
low the pavement. It's pretty
dark & cold but better than a
dirty fowl barn.

Friday 20th Oct. We are going
into action again sharply
we are moving off tonight
at midnight.

Sunday 22nd We arrived here
yesterday afternoon. It is a
little town resting at the foot
of a green hill. Several hills
has rather pretty pastures
village. There can't have been
many troops through here
lately as we can buy all
sorts of things even bread
we had a good sea port
right off which speak of
years. It went down quite
feasibly. We have two little
rooms in a house one for
sleeping & one for a
sitting room & one for a
sitting room was very well
off. They wanted to do a bus
with about 20 persons for
space not much larger at first
but we found this place out
for ourselves.

We left the station at 2 am
& marched to the river station
(5 miles) where we entrained
& left at 5:30 am. We were
crowded into 40 fairly quick
about 3 or 4 hours. It was
fairly cold & we were hungry
as well as our rations had
been left in the last by mistake.

We passed through Boulogne,
Staples, St. Valentine & de la
at Langre. When we started
the sea, all Boulogne we all
raised a cheer & everyone has
rosy cheeks of Shaky which
were shattered & covered as the
train went on. It was a full
sell. We all knew then that it was
the same again for us. We
marched about 3 miles from
Langre to here, called of this
so far we have had the same
up our marches which are
very helpful.

The transport packed up & left
this morning. The day we are
going to happen by motor
buses. Same class.

Monday 23rd We packed up
& started about 2 miles to the
buses which were French ones.
We were all laden with baggage
glass on account of the transport
having gone & besides that
we carried a sick man & a
as well as we were pretty well
laden. The 2 miles seemed more
like 20 as we got there.
We had a lovely ride, 30 for
myself & had a lovely ride to
Albert. Passing through
Amiens & a lot of other towns
The country was lovely & a
great sight to see. We passed
The whole Division transport

on the road. Saw some big
quose etc. Saw no tanks yet
Tuesday 21st Oct. Here we are
about 40 of us sitting day in a
little tent. Big enough for 20
all packed up waiting for the
word to move. We ate cement
in France & I think we are
also somewhere near. I recollect
it has been raining ever since
last night & everything is
covered with mud. It is cold & wet & dreary
but luckily we can see the
humorous side of our names
to keep cheerful. We had an
awful march last night &
will never forget it. After dawn
the bugs are here all across
the country for an unknown
distance in an unknown
direction away. We were
packing our sticker box when
started etc & was well packed
we were just about to start
when my stomach cut from
which had left a day before
us & we promptly dumped
our supplies & had a wagon
I was left to guard it. I followed
the wagon. This just as it
was at the moment I was
if all. The chet had a bad time
but I guess I was worse. After
I started following the wagon
we struck an awful road.

It was in parts knee deep in
mud (we dodged here) but
all eyes, ankle deep in mud
all humps & ripples & puddle
holes & wings. Pitch dark & the
wagons bumped over them
all so every now then
something bumped off. I had
no gun bracket left. Then
gallop ahead after the wagon
to put it on again. A couple
of times I fell absolutely
dead but kept on as
the stuff we had at the wagon
was really important (it included
our paper bag which I included
several times). Halfway
along I had a bit of an
accident which made things
harder still. In the dark the
following wagon ran into
the one I was behind & jammed
my leg between the back of
the first wagon & the pole of
the next. At the time my leg
was sore for 48 hours but
nothing serious happened
although it was very sore.
Still I had to walk. It is
worse now & I am not looking
forward to this next march.
I hope it is a short one.
I was just about done
when we arrived at our destination
& I found out where the AM units
were camped. Carried the gear
over there. My leg was feeling

very stiff & sore. There was very little movement about it. It was some time (and a very unpleasant time too) before I found myself in bed. I didn't pass a very nice night & we were routed out at 6:30 am this morning (it was about 9:00 am when we were in). We had a breakfast like the last 2 or 3 meals. We were also fixed to have tea so missed that.

The whole of our Australian divisions are on the move together. Their transport conveyance is 6 miles long & the men were all brought along in motor buses. I wish they had brought us on but nearly our destination. We had about 8 miles last night which seemed more like 18.

This place is where the "push" started from. The line is miles away & we can hardly hear the guns. I imagine the men have fallen. I hope they are. They began and by 4:00 am they were at, but we don't know for certain.

The march last night was only as bad as the one we had from Doullens last game. It was only not quite that was the limit & absolutely.

Thursday 26th Oct. Barker 310,
Time 7:30 pm
Dyzenon Circus. Scene 1,
A heap of shovels in a winter rain swept hill top, amid a wade of mud. There could be spotted red spiny, dirty hairy huzzars & very much frozen soldiers with fear strength for thirty or a like condition to be afraid and so they (battering the huzzars & huzzars) (emphasizing the muddy) trying to find a little warmth sheltered in the lee of the above mentioned heap of shovels. Lots of colds in a similar plight & conditions show the scenery. Enter Cooker March actively to a long wait for appearance of tea & stay. Let a good which doesn't last. Exit stew. Enter several people with several portable effectives by the yard of cold. Progamme for night & huzzars plus a dose followed by huzzars how a little foot operation to generate a little warmth. To the long dream night passes & dawn appears with no change in the landscape. Breakfast & then sick parades, employing the open air treatment, also little colds & treatment. Work a further a new posse to next night to be in and accomplished. Try to transport through mud a foot deep or dirty.

Leone's Dugout formed by
5x4 cavity dug on side of bank
with overhead cover of water
skins. Same weather, lance of
soldiers, 4000 lbs. unloading
soldiers no longer used, dugout
up still frozen muddy dirt
was all, but di. Passed a
week night, getting members very
cramped. He doctor's name
joined us as we are very short
of food, making a fourth
there was just open enough for
me to sit to jump on side of
edge of dugout, lying on my side
I was had to sleep like that all
night, not being able to move
The cramps added considerable
to our discomfort, but as we
could not get at them, I was
fornny hard, we all got into
Kare Crawlers, going to
ground sheets & put blanket, stuff
of dry herbs, covered them, giving
them a crawl in form of my
boots, laid down behind digout
we laid my blanket on top, then
put a peacoat & we were hot, then
the other two followed suit, then
we were in bed. The operation
took at least half an hour
we reversed the process to get
out in the morning.

I saw the Doc about miles
this morning. His very good.

He told me that I had burst a small
blood vessel & that there was a clot
of blood in my leg, that although
I wouldn't get worse, it would
take about 3 weeks to get better,
so I have something to look forward
to. The conditions were quite
hard enough as it is, but with a
sore leg it will not be nice.
I haven't felt like to carry
to make the best of it, my ankle is
still weak too.

The market here from 3 miles
was about 5 miles to me a
nightmare. The last part of my
ride as my leg had given out
I thought I would never get here.
The mud was the worst I have seen,
yet that is saying a lot. My
horses & men are quite weak,
getting ragged & they say that
they have been distressed in the
snowless Karesse before, had the
spot it is so bad. That is of the
line, it was not quite so bad here,
but quite bad enough. We are
about 7 miles from the line here
& when we go in it is for 40 hrs
only then 48 hours out here again.
We have loads of clay to carry & they
say it takes 4 hrs to get here, there
are no dugouts to speak of, the
wounded get an awful time
getting out. I don't see how
they are going to carry on winter.

step is the most important
of them here. The general opinion
that the first day's shell fire
there is going to be a negative
- they thought it attempted
we have dozens of planes up,
ballyhoo galore just here so that
forty want get a glimpse of
how things are going. Wood
old Earth is pushed right off
the earth just here as far as
aerial observation goes. This
just as well too.

all last night there was
a heavy bombardment. It's
hardly settled at all. It's firing
slightly less but day guns are still
abound round here. What the
bombardment stops, there won't
be much noise! oh no!

there are 60,000 horses water
round here twice a day. The ground
is very broken here as well as muddy.
It's a lovely place.

We have just finished another
operant sick parade. They are
totten. It's a full one, an hour
up to night. I think they will
be a long time for the next spell
of fine weather.

Friday 27th Oct. Colder & foggier,
Winds off than ever. But little
diligent is very unpleasant
to outside. I hope to see
the flying school soon.
Letter from Grandma. 28th Aug.
Saturday 28th Finer today
but still. Khawer's wind up.
Getting used to cold. It's going
for a couple of days yet then?
Say

Saw the Doc showed firm
my leg. This very painful the
scrap is a deformation or
something like that. Anyway
it is just as bad as the name
sounds. It's a rupture of
the muscles with a rupture of
bleeding. Doc says it's a
worse but will be better
time to speak something for
me to look forward to
especially the march up to
the line back but I will carry
on as possible. Got mail
from Swander. There is any
for us. It's about 4 weeks
five or six but any heavy
and 3 weeks now. Heavy
bombardment again early
this morning. It's going off
the time but it's at night.

Saturday 28th Had letters
from home dated Aug 27th
Very glad to get them. What's
me

Sunday 29th Oct. This morning
we pulled the raft off our camp
& pitched up. We left at noon
& started out through the mud
& slush for the support position
which we were to occupy. We
only went about 4 miles but
took us 4 hrs to do it. I had
a bad time but not as bad
as I had expected. Gustavell had
when we got here at last we
started to build our dugout
Eric & I had gone with the gear
to the coast & while Eric went
looking for the herbore which had
gone astray I helped Bob
bores with the gear & we started
in on the dugout. It took us
well into the night to finish it &
then after a hard day returned
in. Eric found the herbore &
I went scavenging for water & other
dugout necessities such as prairie
& covering for the roof etc. The dugout
is about 16 ft square with a week
getting ~~done~~ roof covered with
bags of bags, sticks & fern earth.
It is pretty dry but always a
dry but will do alright as a
shelter. Our alarm is in the
the things I noticed on the way
up into the predominance of
guns, hundreds & hundreds of
little every 25 yds & thousands
& thousands of shells pipe etc
& millions of men & tons of mud

we are situated here in a natural
defence like a big sack of
holly & the dugout is built on the
side. The rest of the details
occupy the hole. There are dozens
of big guns all round it. Near
in Tolones wood & passed through
Pargueval on the way. We were
near Chamele wood in the last
piece & I think wood is just
near us.

Monday 30th Oct. We fixed the
dugout a bit this morning &
started a piece of the program. We
are all busy writing ad for rail
classes to morrow. The O.C. is
with Bob about 3 miles away
suppose we will have a good
run to morrow.
The woods were more of several
woods with all the trees stripped
& shattered. all the ground is
churned up with shell holes. Shells
(old ones) run everywhere. Mud
is everywhere. old dugouts &
grey flagstones blown in and
a big thin 9 1/2 pounder
overturned & half buried. The
with its store of big yellow shells
scattered all round some smashed.
A dead man old grade here
with hundreds of yards of
grades strewn about old clothes
& equipment small. There are 3
dead Fox's still unburied in the woods.

Everywhere rain are men, horses
& impregnated dignity. To say
you at 500. Such is, sharp, then
discuss are say much dough after
discovered again of jam in the mid
unhappy. When honey it was
too. What a find. There are some
more letters for us somewhere.

We have had about 12 hrs dry
weather, so far all the rest of the
time it has rained. It is doing so
now & I don't think the old bugger
will keep it out for long. It is
coming for at the best very rainy.

Off to the Dactris batman have
left to join the local Beryll
So there are only 30 up there
now which is better. We have the
boxes inside. It is very smoky
but warm. The door of the hut
is not large & it is a pity we
couldn't take moving pictures of
all the contentions here goes
through getting in & out without
walking all over everybody &
everything. I am particularly
fussy with my camera. Let
everybody is taking pictures
& boys have caps. They look like
a lot of Darwin fathers pictures.
I can see us getting swamped
out here. The rain is coming
in on all sides bringing dirt
& mud with it. The boat is at
nearly gone out & we can't get it
to go again. Rain repelling

down & coming in faster, we have
one consolation, it can't last for ever

It has been dark sometime
we have been reading letters of some
time dated Sept 27th & 10th. We are
now going to bed. The dignity is
swamped & we (everything) is
soaked through, covered with mud
the redeeming feature is the weather
which has been induced to go again
we have laid one waterproof & a
blanket & are going to sit on them
orderly side with the other blanket
& waterproof over us. So we will
spend the night & sleep in it be our
good fortune. Goodnight everyone!!!

Tuesday 31st Oct. We passed a
week here night last night sat
amongst the general mild desolation
until midnight but it was no good
I went outside to get a bit of a
& present of one followed. We put
on the night standing in the wind
& rain round a big fire that way
light earlier in the evening. I was
about the worst night I have had
so far. Towards morning it cleared
up & today has been reasonably
fine. We took advantage of this
to build another dug out which
we did. It is the same size & type
as the one we had at Dactris
except we collected leaves for the
floor & then shifted all our gear down

When we were all our gear
stowed all about it seems a
marvel that three men could
ever lift all that alone carry
it for miles through mud, rain
in depth from ankle to knee
deep & get headed in the shell
holes. These latter are death traps
several men have been drowned
in them & lots of horses

We passed a fairly comfortable
night. We were warm & dry but
only rope but very cramped & the
same leg also a bad sore & is
very painful in the way. We
didn't wake up till 9 o'clock
this morning. (Wed. Nov 15)
and all the others had had
breakfast and were packed up
ready to leave & left soon after.
We had breakfast alone
in a state, pulled the roof off our
little tent which caused some
bags of gear all by water we put
in our pack up all our stuff
which took some time & set off
like three pack camels for Achy
padding from where we are leaving
for 3 hrs with the cow.

It is dull again today
and a bit rainy.
We left here about 3 o'clock
& arrived at our destination
a German dugout in Grass
Lane. We went via Fluss & it
is about a mile. The going

was very difficult & our
load was very heavy & we
were just about dead by the
time we got here. The Doc
wanted me to go back to the
transport to look after the wounded
part but I persuaded him to
let me stop. We had 3 casualties
during the night.

Thursday Nov 16 I was
on duty from 4-8 am but
had 2 cases & after breakfast I
went down to the Trs (about mile)
for our rations & water. On
the way I passed a "tank"
knocked down. Inside are the
remains of two men. They are
"huge things but not much good
now. They were a successful
first though.

It has been raining again
& everything is muddy about
we are about 400 yds from the line
here & if there is a drop over we
will move up. It is a good place
here. The Doc & Eric are now at

We have looking a ways for
a new pass to take up after
the advance if there is one
is not likely unless the weather
clears up. It would be sheer
murder to send the men over
with the ground as this. The
benches are high deep snow.
The dugout consists of a
bit of a sap with several beams
about 5 ft wide & about 40 ft
long in all with 2 or 3 frames. It is
about 6 ft deep high with some
off overhead.

Tuesday Nov 3rd we had about
half a dozen casualties &
last night. I did from 9-11 am
I am now getting in entrance
to the dugout. The line
the Det & I are doing the rounds
at high parade.

We are all busy filling sand
bags to build a parapet
either just outside the dugout
entrance for slightly wounded
in the casualty trench. I must
say for only 4 men and boys
that we have all our proper
work to do. Luckily I have
many casualties. We have had 1

wounded & 4 sick through water.
Our Colonel was among the wounded
today. A sniper got him through
the cheek & he is now had a way.
He was a first class man. I
wonder what sort of Colonel we
will get next.

We had a bit of shelling this afternoon
we were caught with of Fritz. I
it was a market we are not satisfied.
We are not in a good position.
I am praying this digout is as
he built it himself. He has a big
white wound on his arm
& he can't get well in working
about. I think he must be pretty
short of ammunition. I hope
we are in the beginning of the war
the ground round benches very shabby
shingles.

The fire was all along of a bit
Saturday 4th The Colonel died.
It is a great pity as he was a fine man.
There is a bit of a stunt coming off
tonight.

Our preliminary bombardment was
pretty intense. Then our boys stopped
quiet. They were to capture a skin strong
post forming a semicircle, by forming
a new line along the diam. parallel to
the old bench. Our battn and the 1st were
to take half the line each. Our fellows
got their half & made easily but they
met with strong opposition & failed to
take it. Fritz must have been waiting

fighting as five minutes after the ^{1st}
bomb went out. Half of them were
back again, wounded. It was a great
disappointment & of course our
fellows had to retire or be cut off.
Soon after the day over the wounded
started coming on. First the light
cases & later the serious cases.
In the middle of the operations with
our dugout full of wounded & the
shelter we built up on top of all around
was crowded so we had a misfortune
one bright specimen who had
volunteered to help us started to
make tea for the wounded. He carried
the nearest water tin which contained
Perrosene & put a dipperful on the
stove to boil. Not content with that
he would show us his patent way
of getting Perrosene out of the water
so he lit a match & applied it to
what he thought was water. Of course
it started blazing at once & one
seeing as he thought the Perrosene
on fire, thought the quickest way of
putting it out was to get rid of the
water first & knocked it through
then the band started & shed of flame
got out everywhere things started
blazing & we of once bungled to
wounded out & proceeded then all
on to the next Dressing Sn. about
3/4 mile further on & then put out the
fire by passing vasoline steel
helmets full of water from a shell
hole by a series of men down
onto the fire which fortunately
was put out without much trouble.

all my equipment was burnt my
overcoat & muffer felt & several
socks & several other things but practically
nothing very valuable. The things
came off because so not much
damage was done. Anyway it was
a record clearance of the Dig Post
we then tidied up & waited for the
stretchers cases these generally arrive
slowly so a couple of men could
carry on at the station. So I went
off with some field ambulance
& a field ambulance up to the hospital
hoping them in our party made
off for a dugout in old man's land
where there were several cases we
were not sure of our way so it was
rather a job. The conditions were
awful. It had rained & rain was
in the air & it was very dark. I
was now early Sunday morning
Nov 5th. We were always getting
bogged in shell mud up to our knees
was carrying the stretcher which
was always in the way. It was
pitch dark & the shell holes were
everywhere. There is just about
enough between them to get a
way. We got lost a couple of times &
at last a long trying journey we
reached by zigzag. We had to cross
the trench after a great deal of
frontier work & manning in all
directions. I was very tired & one
early start & night at last

nightly (Ft. Line) when we
arrived here we were not going
getting a case. We knew if we didn't
be a tough lot getting back some
back to peakers. I will never forget
that night, we went straight up
over the top, entrenching the firing
much of the night & wandered about
all roads (they all do this) were
re-directed & eventually got home
we carried the stretch like a
coffee can, shoulders & a
us it was the only way. The boy
wounded got a very tough job
getting out in spite of all we can
do. We were always getting
battered & wounded, shuffling
over barbed wire & falling into
shell holes etc. but we didn't
drop him once. When we rested
we pumped him down in the
middle & everything was covered
with it. Lying down we all
got shell when the flares go off but
coming back there is none of that
we have to keep on & take our
chance of getting seen. All
the time the usual Casual
bombardment was on & several
times we were uncomfortably
close to the "iron rations". It is
marvellous & sometimes hell
one day. Once there were about
3 of us near a point to be taken
up in a little of a way, a single
burst of light, only 4 of us and
two were hit & that were only

scratches. That was only an instance
when at last we got the case down
after a bit of a rest we took another
case down to get an ambulance. By
this time we had a host of people
working & they got them all
battering a few who had to be left.
till the next night. One ambulance
squad tried to get one of them using
a New York flag but were sniped & the
being killed. One wounded
got about 9:30 in the morning
of night started on our left. The
bombardment was let up for general
of our 55th Division went over the
top in real fine style. Rose's
saw it say & did good work
after cleaning & mending of the
aircraft & ourselves ready to carry on
again we turned in for a bit of a
rest, after a bit of a feed. We all needed
it too.
Tonight (Sunday) just now was
getting dark some bearers came
up to get the wounded & from the
dugout where they had been left that
day. They didn't know the way so
I had to take them. I was a bit of
responsibility as I wasn't sure
of the way either & I didn't want
to lead them into danger. We
started off me leading, ploughing
through the mud slick & dipping
the water to check & we got safely at
last at some distance along the
road from which we were to start
off, following a communication.

French along the best to the front line
of from hence to the dugout some
old gun positions they were what
lay about 100 yds in front of
new machine gunners & about
30-40 yds from Fritz's well, on
this summer road on a S.B. road
is to where he said he knew we
were going & took us astray then
left us there we were nobody
knew where stranded so I
left the beggars in a trench went
following the way. Luckily we
found the machine gunners &
I nicked ahead to see if I could
locate the dugout which I did
then dived back & brought the
beggars across. They got all the
wounded safely.

on the way there we would
be ahead & then when a flare
went up down we would go
a big shell at once. The shells
in Darius's father's picture spot
exploding that shell. They were
off again. If I hadn't been
there the French we would
have walked over to Fritz's
then once I had to report back
straight away once, I & another fellow
started off some stripping air for
the front line but nothing
battering slightly different people
we struck a well known way
were just digging & then I saw it
was the old trench I started

following the communication
French down but were stopped
by one of the men who told us that we
were walking right into Fritz's
so under his direction we about
turned & got home safely after a
bit of wandering about in the dark
land. It was exciting while it
lasted as there was considerable
shelling going on & I never knew
what was going to happen next
to my wandering. I have a lovely
bustle on my feet & suppose my feet
are soft after rubbing all that
grease into them but they frost like
to Fritz's feet & my boots were a
bit & a bit with pure gun powder
your foot out of the mud they got
worked up & burnt on the feet.

I was very lame when I got home
so instead of guiding the night party
I gave them the best directions I could
& sent them off they found it alright
I am glad that I was a first class
face to find & treat what was getting
there & back & am glad now that
I persuaded the Doctor to keep me
here as that are the first points I
have had in the chain & I would say
I have missed the experience of a lot
I suppose now we will be going
up again only there is a rumour
of another big shell burst. They are
waiting for the fog to clear which
doesn't seem to be coming at all.

Monday Nov 6th
Wednesday was about 3 am. I am
for a while in the morning. Everything
is fairly quiet. I suppose
we have had about 100 cases
through the long sofa. There were a
lot last night.

I don't know how well
at the mid of any things when
at all. I will want clear pictures
of the case. I have a grandly
can't tell about getting things
out. I don't know how to
manage to feel from something
is out. I haven't had a walk
coming here but I managed to
a robot to have a walk
was very unpleasant coming off
too. My legs are still sore but much
better. I will be able to walk
is a very good thing.

Last night, Eric, yesterday
to the transport with a sample
to get out. I suppose the
James back today. I will have
something nice to eat from the
barber. I will be there that will
be alright.

Tuesday 7th We left this afternoon
I came here to 3 feet. I am
I came first leaving the
Doe + also taking a picture. We
had a real good camp in the
but were shumped out of it
make a place for the doctor to do

Friday Nov 10th This is the 4th
day we have been here. We have
a house in a cellar underneath
ruined house. The villagers will
to ruins. But there is still a
lot left. It is not like the
we get stepped considerably
but down here we are OK. I
they send over something unusual
like a bin or an arm or a piece
spells. The weather is a bit
but the grounds are nearly as bad
are way it is worse. I suppose
I is much longer to get
Every day we told the
A. C. are the days. God
I take things to go there. The
we are having an easy time
God say are at work with a
even off. A. C. are not
would not so far.

We have mattresses to sleep
here. We put a stone under
the same. We are not
The beds are too soft. The
has muggy with the fire
to get out into the open
hard beds again. Although we
glad to be out of the net. We
want to get anything of that
I suppose we will have to
I don't seem to be getting
punch back. I suppose
I am getting faint. I
refuse to stay here. I think
about time he was taught an
lesson.

Saturday 11th Nov. started home
at 5 pm was informed that
Eric I was to report to
that night go, water, duties, etc.
The pack horses left at dusk
we were to get on our feet
we packed up on a cart
had a bit of heat & left. The
pack saddles are very wide
to uncomfortable. My legs
were aching by bedtime
had got half way but I hung
on. My side leg was a trouble
too. It was dark & misty &
the road was very muddy
covered with steel holes &
bumps of all sorts.
In parts up to the horses
before a mud. We were one
of a long line of pack mules
going out & we passed hundreds
of mules coming in on
waggons, huge motor trucks
and many waggons & campers
etc. We passed a couple of parks
on the way down & lots of
caterpillars & insects for
years, which were all a great
notice, some had been by
the way too. I hope I
would not be killed by
which often happens. We arrived
here at last & turned into our

by a dog, which barked
the empty. We were very
lucky especially as there were
extra blankets in it.

Sunday 12th Nov. We have had
a very quiet day today. We
are only here for form. I'll
stay. We have nothing today.
We fixed up the dog a bit
& were looking for a shell
to put in but were unsuccessful.
So had to remain dirty. We
managed to secure a couple
of clean shirts however, which were
very welcome.

Today two friends arrived
from home along with 2 letters.
The parcels were of goods that
we had been told they had
come back & were for the
house. They came quickly but we
didn't mind as we were just
in a nice state of emptiness
for a parcel. They weren't
the best but they were
been eating all day
but haven't gotten into the
stomach stuff yet.

Monday 13th. Water can't
away to the bank but we
are staying to keep the
up tomorrow we are leaving
at 8.30

Tuesday 14th 1945 5:30 at
breakfast. Packed up & helped
transport men a bit. One
left about 8 am riding the D's
Henry leading another I was
to follow. We had the cart.
Left a bit late getting to
difficultly in packing 2
extra waggons load on
the remaining waggons. In
night of waggons I hope we
might be the last of the last
one got bogged early &
stopped behind to help it out
& the others left me behind
I thought I would contact
them here through the
trucks for the road.
Waited for 2 hrs. no transport
went back along road &
spelling transport. Finally
transport ~~via a friend's~~
(afterwards learnt they went
another way). Sat down on
side of road by way the D's
which was 200 yds out of the
D's. Waited 2 hrs. no transport
I must have had too
I had a good idea where they
were so set off. It was about
6 miles and I arrived there

in about 4 hrs. what a long
ride! I was a foot sore sick.
Had had no dinner (tea)
found out that they had gone
very sad. Reported to traffic
control who gave me a traffic
& told me to report to 1500
stragglers post. Walked for about
another 3 miles but couldn't
find anywhere to report to.
Just about dead beat & beginning
to get sick. At last I found
the commandant's area. Reported
to get some kitcherated
cups of beer & put in for night
which I did. Very cold. I
blanket & only 2 and 3 cups
other had killed in fire. I
passed night somehow. Reported
to commandant & got some kitcherated
& bread & cheese for breakfast
& set off. I was told to go to 5000
& ask my way there. Struck a
1A motor. I had a staff aboard &
pode right through 5000
to the Amn Park. Got down &
found B. had left there only
2 hrs previously. Had about 45
miles to walk through Derna
to here, a fair sized village

Wed. 15th 1945 10 am

called Buire (sous-loche)
departed. all well & camp
billed in a big, fairly new
barr, very cold. Packed from
Amesbury. letters from home
arrived this morning
Thursday 16th Nov very
cold & frosty. Nothing doing
transport moved this morning.

Friday 17th Packed up &
left about 10 am. Marched
about a mile & got into buire
again & had a good ride down
to a village called Fresselles
a fair ride not far from
Amiens, & very cold again
sharp frost. 2" deep water
at night. I regret with
no clothes. very dirty & in
need of clothes.
Had a bath in afternoon
- very nice.

Saturday 18th This morning
we woke up & had a dump
outside & about an inch or so
of snow - all covering everything
there was pretty cold & stopping
there all day but disappeared
the next day when it rained
we all all writing Christmas
cards now, which are accurate

in great quantities here. We are
sending about 2 doz each
a box of clothes & more for
us from the Amiens post office
& we are not set up well.
We are billed in a small
barr where there are some
wire bunks made. We have
plenty of straw from Chadane
if we have & are pretty warm.

Sunday 19th Nov. Not
so cold today but dull. Nothing
doing much. Writing letters all
the day. We are sending some
some pretty handkerchiefs & patches
home which we bought near by.
The parade from 8-9 is about
all the work we do now.
They say we are here for 10 days.

Friday 24th. Been here just 1 week
pretty cold. Nothing much doing.
Bob went on leave to Amiens this
morning.
I have had a bad cold & very
troublesome cough & sore throat for
several days but it is getting better
now than goodness. Only my
leg is getting bad again. Hope it
Chang's if my leg gets better soon.
We shall be here long now before
we move up for another place.

Sat 25th Nov Packed
up early this morning left
at 7:30. Marched about 1 mile
to some English boxes packed
in 25 each very tightly packed
& were taken back again
though Amiens to Bune
Pulled up tents but ours
was leaky & "no bon" generally
so we huddled around &
found ourselves a bit wet
to be in. We are nice &
empty here now in spite
of the rain. They say we
are here for some time, the
Battalion is doing fatigues.
Instead of going out being
It is raining continuously

Sunday 26th Had sick
parade then a communion
service here

This afternoon we had the
HQ officer's rack installed in
our home. It is very annoying
our home is not our own now

as besides the cook there will
the 4 men & other targets on
we had nice little place here
now. It is of soft. There was
camp for a living room
another for each parade down
The place doesn't belong to us
at all.

Monday 27th This morning Eric
departed to go to 2 weeks
I take up his shade tent
I was of the rain & some
up here & it is too far to
go from here every time
It will be handy all by itself
They are building another
cookhouse for the cook outside
so we may love them soon
I hope so anyway

We had a fire in the gun
today a couple of shells
were burst just down the
street & a few people smoking
we can hear high bombardments
occasionally & sometimes we
see a flare or two but other
wise we are far from the "mad
prowd."

Monday, Dec 4th We have had an uneventful week fairly large sick parades plenty of work. Bob went on leave to Blighty. We should not be long now for our leave. We are pretty comfy here. We take a rack up to the coal dump everyday & get some coal. As we can have a good fire going constantly. Men are in pretty bad condition.

Today I set off to relieve Eric at Frecaut. Rode empty lumber to our transport just near Albert & took the ration lumber from there arriving there about 3pm & took over from Eric.

I am camped in an old cellar along with the two CS M's. Later on the orderly sergeant came here too. We have a fire going mostly but can only keep it down stairs when the wind is blowing the right way for the smoke to go up the chimney. It has been very cold & wet lately & miserable. Coal is my only hope of a fire.

I "fed" with the officers & have not any worry about rations.

The first night I burnt my hand with petrol thinking it was benzene & lighting the fire with it. It was very painful but the thumb alone was bad.

Monday Dec 11th Here I still
am. Have been here quite a
week. Very busy week too!
I have dressings, inhalations etc
at 10 am, 4 pm & 7 pm. Sick
parade (where I act as doctor
& fix up all common cases
reserving the bad cases for the
Doc's visit) at 12. In the evening
sick parade with the Doc at
3 pm. meals 8:30, 1:30 & 6:30
Generally going strong all
day from 8:30 - about 7 pm
Doc comes up each afternoon
holds sick parade, gives me
news & letters if any & stores
& then goes back. Except for
that I am the Doctor & I get
on very well considering.

My thumb is bad & was a bit
septic. I never had symptoms
of poisoning one time but I
soon soaked that with hot
water & fomented, but this
still very painful & a terrible
nursance in my work.

Fat Lambert is just across the
road with his lorry. He was
loading stone for the road &
works at night. Last night
I got over for tea & a chat &
the last couple of nights
went for a couple of trips with
him & got back home about 1:30
We talk about old Joe's times
& all sorts of things. He is a very
decent old chap.
The last two days out

Doe has not come up but the
1st Dr Doe holds sick parade
instead. He lives close by. I
got a lot of stamps on his fire
this afternoon.

Men live here in huts, & lots
about. Very crowded but by
lot of sickness & lameness, etc.
influenza. Temp up to 103°
Very wet & muddy roads.

Tuesday Dec 12th This
morning it snowed again. It
was real pretty but the men
came after. I thawed it. It
very muddy everywhere.

We ought to be going on
leave very shortly now. Have
tablets come for \$10 each.

Sunday Dec 17th Have
been back here at Dr Hds for
for a day now. Doe ordered
me to return as leave was
imminent. One of the S.R.'s
is carrying on there, with
a little, but can from me
given before I left. I rested
though before I left, got the
overcoat & several letters
topost arranged for. I
came down here here afternoon
got two lifts on motor
waggons. Found them
shifted bit of out of place
into where the packhouse was
little place & very cramped.
Plenty of work. Leave put off
till 20th Jan. return which
will not be for some days yet.
Got Jean's Christmas cake.

city! This "some" cake. We
also got letters & wrote some

Dec. 25th 1916. Christmas day

& here we are - no not in the
- tent in the trenches. "Oh
great was the fall thereof my
Countrymen!" Bob came back

the morning we moved out of
our billets in Buise for the
trenches. On the 20th inst. Leave
was cancelled temporarily &
now that it has started again
we are in the trenches & cannot
be spared. Bob is up the line
with Aeg & Eric in their
chlorinating water. I relieve
him tonight

We left Buise about 8 am &
Eric & I, after packing the
chickie cart, we marched
with it to La Belle for a train
where we dumped the panniers
& a few unnecessary items

off the cart & then proceeded
to Melbourne Camp near
T-junction & Namely. We spent
the night here in round
birch sheds which are now
springing up everywhere like
mushrooms. They are round
like Baffin hoods & are
commonly called "Haffer" huts.
They are lined inside with
spare fairly warm. Built to
hold 30. They generally have
40 or 50 crammed into them.
We held such a parade a special
number & were in for time
to get a little breakfast when
we moved off again about
10 am when we marched about
9 miles to Bernafay Wood
where we spent the night in more
huts like the others. Here we
packed up the gear for the trenches
from the cart about 12 sand bags
full & next morning after a
parade up delay had the
camels for the trenches. The
weather was very fair & the
mud was where it possible

than even last time. It was
awful & we were moving
mountains of mud by the
time we arrived at our
destination which was the
same one as we had last
found in Grass Lane. We
found it this time well stocked
with dressings, food, drugs
& wounded etc. There is really
no need to have brought anything
with us at all. It appears
casualties are few this time but
French feet abound, which is
worse than actual wounds if
you get a good attack. The
trenches are worse than ever
unless we have a storm we
oughtn't to have a bad time.
There is just enough work at
the place to keep us busy. We
take shifts on duty all night
as last time. We have one
temporary man attached to us
in place of Jim Anderson who
is in hospital. There are only
two of us to do the shifts &
we get fairly long hours. The total

number inhabiting the dugout
is a little over 12, including Doc.
The padre, with his father &
3 or 4 slightly sick who are in
hospital here. We have been
winning a regular haul at
some time. New orders for
slab slightly sick etc up to 15
in number can be kept at Palm
and eat. We give to feed them on
corn flour & beans & take their
temp's & administer medicine
etc. Looking after them generally
with shells about the same.
would be as he did last time
get Christmas dinner with
a bit different present at
was expecting a week ago
we have soaked & made up the
to make a meal out of them
we are making soup from
bones & scraps of meat & bones
we have made a bit of blanc
mange from corn flour as sweet
We may get some fresh meat &
Christmas puddings if the ration
issues bring them up. They
have not arrived so far but
will make the best of it & enjoy
our Christmas dinner in the trenches.

Dec 26th Tuesday Christmas
day is over & it was the worst
Christmas I ever spent. It was
impossible to be merry for
besides the ordinary French
Conditions I was afflicted
with awful pains in the
stomach and diarrhoea was
after all the cooking &
preparations I had done I
couldn't eat a thing all
day. Took oil & feel better
today. Yesterday was very
wet & cold & blawy & in
the afternoon I had to go
up to 3 lers to relieve Eric
who was on the job of
chlorinating water. Just
before I went we all had a
Christmas Communion Service
with the Padre in the little
dugout and all the while
outside the guns were
thundering they Christmas
tree was 25 feet high. There

was no hull in the bombardment
rather the reverse all day
I suppose it was for a reply
to the German peace offers.
Few casualties this time.
Mostly sick men & trench foot
well after the service I
packed up & set off for lers to
find Eric. I was feeling very
groggy & it was very cold &
very windy. I walked to lers
about 1 1/2 miles. Looked in all
the old dumps & searched the well
but couldn't find him. Cooks
didn't know either so I had
to go back to the B. H. H. H.
to find out where he was about
another mile. They told me
I came back & found his
dugout. He was out of lers
down & rested very latched
with. Eyes big & some back
& told me all about the job.
Lars got the dugout up & do
& then he packed up & left. I
got up & packed & left. Belt
snitch better next morning
Dugout just big enough for
the rest the gear very low
Built of sandbags with wooden
roof & 3 sheets of tin (purchased by

to keep the rain out of
lengths of duck board side by
side upon the floor. It is
but cold but dry & fairly
cozy.

Got up about 10 am &
visited well & Gooks (got
Tommy Lopez from there &
a pair of bulley & an animal)
Got a tin of water from well
came home made up solution
by adding 2 measures of Chlorine
of lime ^{also got a 1/2 pint measure of} stretch by a big

notice outside for 3 or 4
fellows to calculate their
water here & then had dinner
of pork & beans (cold) & a
little coffee & bread. Can't eat
much yet.

after dinner collected some
sugarcane interests eg couple of
old bayonet & piece of board for
a shelf, wash scraper, water
fun & soap tin, scrubbing
brush, bucket & wood. Eric had these
last 3 already.

went down to Pt. Hd. Judge
the pad about 3 miles & posted
a friend's letter. He had given me
to post in England when I went on
leave. Our leave is postponed

so as it was urgent, I packed
got a tin of beans & a tin of bully
from the canteen & came home
Good job here nothing much to
do. Bed consists of water
proof sheet on duck boards. One
blanket under me & 2 over me
Eric "iron" the extra blanket
as there would only be two. I
am glad as it is cold enough
with three.

Eric left me bread & jam &
coffee, cartridges & watched when he
went on along with the other
things I got set up. I feel much
better today than I did yesterday.
I wish I were in Blighty all the
same, I guess I would remember
still there. Wet feet & mud
"part out" cold & shells don't
help to make you happy.

There are guns all round here
hundreds of them & they make
my head ache with their ever-
lasting infernal racket. When
they are all going it is like Bedlam.
Let loose, I wish planes were
cocky! There have been several hits

I haven't seen a paper for days.
I wonder how the war is going.
I don't think it will finish for
some time yet. There is nothing
much doing here now just
incessant bombardments. The
mud & cold are the worst things

My leg which the Doct. gave
3 weeks to get better is still
sore & it is 2 months since it
happened. There is a big hard
bump there now & I suppose it
will take another couple of
months to go down. It was a
nasty bump I got. My ankle
is alright again now. I
had a pair of Tommy boots
which nearly did me in
& would certainly have done
so only I found an old boot
which fitted & threw the bad
one away. They are very badly
shaped & made boots & are
causing a lot of trouble. I
will buy a good pair of Australian
boots when I get to England.

Wednesday Dec 14 1918
The dugout is on the right bank
of the stream road leading from
Br. Ho. 2 to Ho. 3. Since I have
been here Fozzy has shelled it
almost continuously day or night
there are a lot of gas shells.

It is a beautiful day today
Fozzy but clear & sunshiny.
It is a pity they wouldn't stop
the war so we could enjoy it.

The men are getting an awful
time this time. Trench feet are
common & it is a very painful
& dangerous complaint. The men
can't stand much more & it is
pitiable to see them, many of them
the line already with an order
that all light cases were to be kept
on the line & treated there has added
a lot to our work. The fragments
discomfort. Other that they have
treated here are now not treated
& men that should be sent away are
kept here & examined a little but
not fast enough. There are some
bad cases of trench feet.

This afternoon the change machine
me about bringing the good news that
leave was today & we were to
report at Br. Ho. 3 tomorrow
morning. It is not very wet & muddy.

again getting back to the subject
as the way was bad & it was dark.
I washed up to midnight then
turned in. I am disgusted with
the Doc. He is so hot & arrogant
& runs sympathy with the men
blaming them for getting trench feet.
Thursday's Doc. Rose Tam.
I had a little trouble, was in
11 am & then a staff. Found Eric
repacked to 140 lbs. Pass not ready.
Very cold, heavy frost night before.
waited about 2 hrs. then made
up to little dugout in S. camp
dinner. Boiled some water, ate
dixie in a little dugout out of the
wind, some some candle grease
paper & biscuits fire, & made a
soup (?) from a packet we got
out of Auntie's parcel which
arrived a day or two ago. Great
(+ dirt mud etc) & soup (?) was our
dinner! we got warm. Repacked!
Repacked at 140 lbs again & got our
passes. Set off along duckboards
last back to the 1st through Delaney
wood onto Chantabun, where they
told us the transport was. Couldn't
find it, so set off for Belemue
Barr (just outside Albert) making
& riding in ladders, alternately.

we arrived there about 7:30 pm
Squad Lurgay where we got a lot
of a feed some blankets & a stove
Hamm with some of the bandages
in their digout. We left again
& will be long, at least day. Eric says
we get our packs (I got mine Eric
couldn't find his amongst the others.
So had to leave it) had a stove, went
to purchase stove got clean
clothes inside out, went up to
Sommy's back, had a lot of
perfumery, clean things &
I prepared blankets & bedding.
What a transformation here!
Squad stand now. Check up on
soldiers in the place of the heavy
duty, heavy, muddy, lumpy
humanity, clothes & lumps
dirt & muddy, soggy called
clothes. It was about 4 pm
we then had some tea & cakes
at a canteen & went to the pictures
bought some provisions for train
journey, went up to station
repacked to 140 lbs about 6 pm
I put my very nice cargo, cold water
6 hrs for train. Set guard & left
Albert at 2 am on Saturday 30th.
Train journey very weary
slow & seats very hard. Delaney
he gave me a Amigo & Rouer
some 24 hrs should have been 10
side tracked & stunted & left continually

about tea time we arrived at small
station with a carben. Great
luck. We were among the first so
managed to secure some heat a big
burn for tea. about a 100 m. or so
all the way to get served at once in a
little kitchen about 10 yds long.
get canfeers here are the same
here. This new pump.

Arrived Le Havre about 1:30
marched about 3 miles to Popot.
Camp got blankets & some heat
drifted down by sea in about 4 days
Sunday 31st
Got up about 7 am went for
walk. Visited big hills hill &
field. Baked whole wheat bread
feed of good meat & flour
Dipping the fellows 5 for
back. Lake of nearly 1000 lakes
our pass stamped for tonight
boat which leaves at midnight
we will arrive in slight for
their fears aftering. Want me
have a glass of wine. To get
back to civilization after 15
months of soldier's life.

Got our pass stamped & left in
about 7 pm with the others &
marched about 3 m. or so
to the boat. We had a lot of
waiting about which was very
tiring & then a final grand

rush for the boat. I was only
a small boat (about 3000 ft)
& all of us couldn't get on so
the unlucky remainder had to
wait for the next boat which
went next day. We were among
the first to & stayed ourselves
out of below & forward part
packed & left about 11:30 pm
Dined fitfully until morning
when we arrived at Southampton
about 6 am. getting off at 6 am
& catching train for London at
8:45 am on the 1st Jan. 1918 (Wed)
Train very comfortable but
although pay 3rd class carriage
Country lovely & open & nice
hurst about 11:15 where we got
out & took a taxi to Grosvenor
Rd where our 1200 were where
we reported. Eric was paid
Then we ducked across to the
March Club & took beds
for the night. put our things
in lockers & had a feed. The club
is a real good concern
where you can get the best of
every attention (meats, beds
bath, clean up etc) & very
moderate charges. After showing
our feet we went to barber &
had a shave have cut & stamped
then to a clothes store for a pair
of trousers each. We only had
penny slacks & no Australian
would wear them in London.

We walked around a bit
made a few purchases. I had
a list about 1 mile long of
things I had to get for other people
and myself.
We had a band concert
at the club after tea & having
had no paper sleep for 4 hrs
we jumped in early & slept
like tops. Soft beds & pillows
& clean sheets!!!! I slept
upon nothing!! I didn't
know where I was. I thought
that all the previous part
had been a dream but I
soon woke up.

Friday Jan 2nd 1916
Rose about 8:30 had a bath
bath breakfast & then set to
work. I had to go to Soldiers
Spur to a coffee gunning to get
the money. I might remember that
me so we decided to go there
in the morning & do all our
shopping in the afternoon. We
went to Victoria St & took a
bus right out there. I was
lucky in the top of the bus -
the porter was west thought
were level & clean now.
I thought the environments
are of the semi-slum order.
We were real disappointed in
it at first but after the
this side we saw a bit of it
the other parts were like that.

a very agreeable surprise. I took
about an hour in the bus to get
 $\frac{1}{2}$ hr to find the gunning. The
is a very nice lady & she
stopped to dinner. She invited us
to call again & she promised to
do so. Tasty boat starting to
hurt so I determined to get a
good pair of boots that should
cause no blisters give perfect
let me wash as the others did so
I got a pair for 35/- if they are
up to expectations they will be
worth every penny & more.
We came back but bus to the
strand & saw some of the busy
parts & had a look at what
London traffic was like.
Then we stopped on our
purchases. Oh I saw the money
I saw. It seemed to melt away.
These seemed to be such a lot
of things we wanted. I got
mostly books mostly engineering
Gardner knows how to tell
every early then in France.
I suppose I will have to do it.
Next some of the we also
had our photos taken & are
together & are each separate & take
of each position. Total cost of
them about 5/- but when we buy
I was surprised to have made trading
for the club & tea & other trades
means asking the proprietors after
where to get the right ones or dirt.

We are going to the pictures tonight
I have just had tea am getting
the job done

London is a big place & we
are enjoying ourselves. We
are just beginning to realize
what the front is & nearly realize
that we have got away from it
for a while. The thing that
surprised me most at first was
the great number of soldiers who
have soft, and often unnecessary
jobs in London & seem to have
nothing to do, but swank round
in lovely clothes. Some big chaps
too, who are needed in the ranks.
It is funny that these are the men
who voted for conscription & that
the men with the benches voted
against it. It is enough to break
your heart & to make me wretched
for a while. When you see all
these fellows, during the time
of their life here, you can't
help picturing to yourself the
lot of some of the poor fellows
at the front. We had some
straight from there & so
saw the difference.

To see now how you wouldn't
know us for the same men as
we were 1 week ago. Then you
saw clothes were absolutely full
now we have a new regulation full
head to foot & hot baths & we
we want them. You will see
how swanky we are when you

get the photos. Still we are nothing
compared to these other chaps & I
spoke about

Eric has had two letters & a
telegram from the Strudleys.
Tommy & I are going to
visit two of our old pals, Frank
& Tommie & Bob Moore who are
here in a hospital working. One
was wounded & one sick. The
day after we will visit the
Strudleys & probably stop a day or
two. After that we will go to see
Mrs Jennings again. She was
real kind. Made us a most
welcome. It was the first home
we had been in since leaving
home, so you can imagine that
we felt. The Tommies are very
wicked to be able to get home on
their leave!

All the people at the shop & office
are a little bewildering at first
to make me very homesick.
It is curious to see every one's
men's jobs being done by boys
& women
went to pictures

Wed. Jan 3rd Went out to look
at the Hospital to see Frank & Bob
I found Frank was home sleeping
as he was on night work
Had dinner then went home
with Bob for a while. Then he
came back with us to Victoria
& took us to Frank's place where
he stayed a while & then went

As the bad appointment
Lark's mother was there
made us very welcome. Lark
came home later & his two
sisters whom he had told
w. about they are very nice
family. Lark was very surprised
& pleased to see us. We
had some music etc. then
went home.

Thursday Jun 4th Rose 6:30
had bath & breakfast
share etc. Caught train at
Liverpool Stn at 8:40 for
Laffoon Walden. Beautiful
day & had nice ride out.
Took about 2 hrs. off in
at Stn to meet us. Bessie
came later. Walked home
about 10 mins to their home.
Very fine old house & ch.
Maggie is very nice lady
indeed & garden quite
home. Garden very nice
with all funny shaped
little shrubs, peacocks,
owls, quaffs, deer etc etc
very nicely laid out. Went
for two walks round
Saw museum & old castle
Layen very pretty & grand
old Coombeham dwelling
but very slow. Ethel etc
Maggie also very nice.
Had dinner & afternoon tea.
Nothing to do so caught

5:30 pm train back to London.
Went to movie pictures after
tea. Got out 20 from ch. ch.
Friday Jun 5th Rose 8:30
Had breakfast & share face
massage, etc. Did some shopping.
Went out to St. Stephens House
on the Embankment, by Tashteni
Maggie at address. Eric got
from after Maggie. When
he called back in 1/2 hr. He
was in & stayed an afternoon
off so we set off together.
She is also very nice. I must
speak with the family. Had a
look at the Home office
Westminster. St. Wans (from
the outside). Hyde Park &
Rotten Row where all the nobles
go. Piccadilly Circus
& the Serpentine etc etc. Had
dinner at Lyons. In afternoon
we went to St. Georges Hall
to see Devants performing
& magical performance
which was very good.
After tea, paid another visit
to the Pinner. Lark met
in. But off to Pinner & the girls
wife & had a nice time till
9:30 when we went to the
Paladium with them. Came
home with them & then went
to bed ourselves about 1:30 am.
& had a job to get a bed but

managed it at last.

Sat. 6th Jan. Rose 9 am
Same more business in the
morning. Got watch & glasses.
Watch not much good. Had
another walk in Hyde Park &
had dinner at a small restaurant.
Then made our way to Queen's
Hall in Regent St where we went
to a Concert. It was very good
& we enjoyed ourselves very
3 hrs about 6 pm. Mostly singing
& orchestra pieces & a couple
of pianoforte solos. Very good.
Went home to tea then out again
to pictures, got sick of them &
came home to bed.

I feel as if I were only just
awaking to the fact that
I am here. Just beginning
to get used to the nice food
& soft beds & cleanliness &
comfort & soon we will be
going back again. At first
I had no appetite, couldn't
sleep - wasn't happy but
that is gone now. The only
thing that worries me is
the thought of having to go
back again so soon.

Sunday 7th Jan. After breakfast
set off for Sweden's Green again
arrived about 10 am at the
Jennings. Went to church
with Her (Presbyterian Sect)
almost identical with our
service. Very enjoyable.
One of the hymns was what
Father calls the "Boys Hymn" &
"Heavenly Father in Thy mercy
hear our anxious prayer" etc etc
This is the third time I have
had this hymn at different
services. This time it was just
about the same time as they
would be singing it at home
on Sunday evening. We had
a fine address in the evening
given by a
visiting Army Chaplain.
Went back to dinner, then
(a munition worker, one of the
heads) was at home & welcomed
us warmly. They have 3 days
the little girl, such a dear
little thing she is 4 or 5 she
quite talks to us as we did to
her. She is about 5 or 6 years old
& very pretty nice. It's very
good to get a little bit of home
life after being away so long.
After dinner we went for a
walk on Hampstead Heath
which is close by, arriving
home about 6 pm. when we
had tea. About 7.30 pm we
left, not before being made

Not possible to come back again
on Tuesday night. It's very
nice, all his & everybody's
very kind but it makes one
hopeless & besides you can't
keep thinking of the days out
of order where we will be again
in a few days now.

Monday 8th Jan. We intended
this morning visiting the Zoo,
but started some business &
purchases again & there was
such a lot of running about
that it was dinnertime before
we were finished & so it was
too late for the Zoo. Then, after
dinner we went to collect
our photos & while we waited
for them we put in the time
at an adjacent picture show.

We got the photos about 5 pm.
They were very good & were
quite worth the money we
paid for the negatives as well
for 2/6 each. After getting the
photos we came back for tea.
Was chert chert for tea.

& after tea, took a bus up
the street to Victoria Stn
& from there a train to
5 Garden St Mrs Pinner's.
Lark was there but Bob Moore
didn't come although we very
wished him. We had another
very pleasant evening with
music games etc & said
goodbye about 11 pm for
the last time probably
although we will try to
see you or them again first
before we leave.

Tomorrow we will see the
Zoo in morning & meet the
Misses Medgley as prearranged
in the afternoon & at night
visit Mrs Jennings of Golden
Green for the last time.
Wednesday morning we will
send souvenirs home on

The afternoon we report
factual Waterloo Str. at 3/4
for France. Boo hee hee!!!

Wednesday Jan 10th 1917

Had a good time yesterday
Law Capt. Scott's South Polar
Expedition on the pictures.

It was magnificent.

Arrived home about 12:30
am from Golden Green

Last night. This morning

I went + bought a big tin
box, some string + some
paper + am now packing
the box to send through

Cook's Agency. After dinner

we will get say goodbye

to Mr. & Mrs. Summer + then

high to for France. I hope

they don't stunt us around
going back as they did coming

We have had a glorious
time + if I should go
back but I suppose we
will settle down soon
after.

AB

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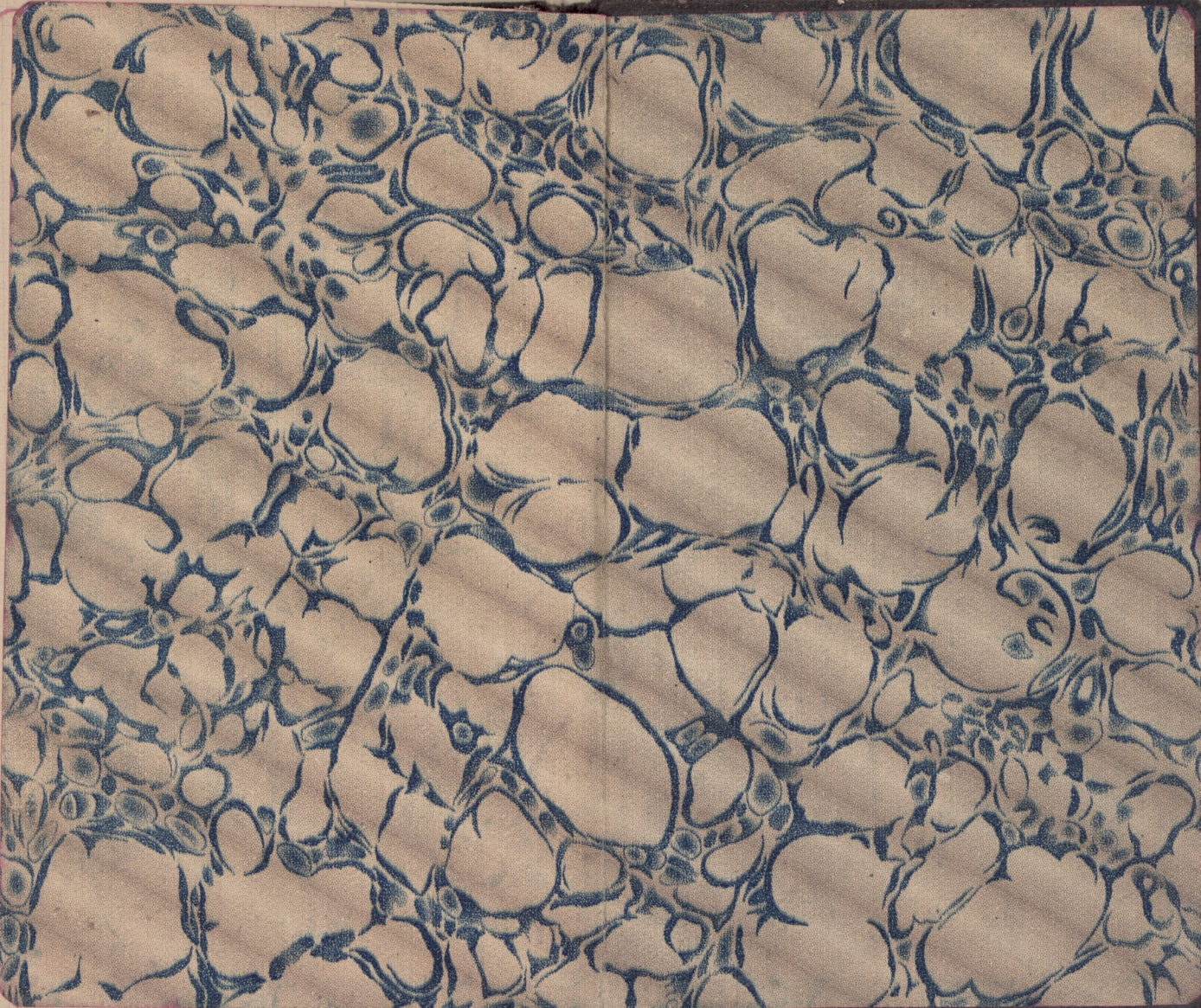
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Oct 8th 1916. Today is the anniversary
of the day we left Australia, 12 months & 21
days, abroad.

Last night Eric & I packed up & came
here & took over from the 1st Bn AMC.
Harry arrived later with the rest of the
supplies. We were sorry to leave our
last place it was very comfortable.
There are no bunks here & the dugout
is not very deep or substantial. We are about
 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the front line here, which is
too far so we may shift up if we can
find another dugout. This is far from
Regimental stretcher bearers to carry.

Things are pretty quiet in this part of the
line. This morning I accompanied the
Doctor & went the various Companies of
Bn holding sick parades. There were
few sick & all I had to do was to take
a few temps. & administer some pills.
But we had a good walk. There are

four companies, each one in a different
position & went out round the lot. I
left right after breakfast & didn't
get back till some time after tea.
We went right through supports trenches
communication trenches, front line
trench and all. This part of the line is
real good & pretty quiet. The firing line is
not dug in trenches, but a built up
breastwork of sandbags with a parapet
parade. Saw an old catapult for
throwing bombs & several other interesting
things. Had a look at Fritz's trenches
about 40 yds away with a periscope.
Saw them firing rifle grenades, which
Gutty replied to with a few whizz bangs.
The trenches run through an old wood, which
is now nothing but the bare tree trunks. The ground
is all torn up & desolate. We had a good
walk around & saw a lot too.
This finishes diary for 12 months active service abroad.

