

all had leave from Saturday
morning 9 am - 2 pm Saturday
afternoon. Went ashore in
2nd return. Wandered round Fremantle
till about 10.30, train to Perth.
Looked round Perth, had dinner,
went out to sports ground. Sports
off so went to Zoo. Good Zoo but
small. Had swim in Swan River
went to pictures at night. Caught
train back to Fremantle & got
aboard late that night left
Fremantle Harbour Sunday 17th Oct
afternoon 2 pm. 3 weeks run
across Indian Ocean to Suva.
Weather beautiful & calm. Sea like
glass most of way. Very hot clothes
mostly. Put boots skid trousers
identification discs & wrist
watches. Moustache growing fever.
Everybody tired but most left
off pretty quick. All included
flying fishes, porpoises, ^{occasional} seals.

3. Tanks Staircase
new phosphorescent green jelly
fishes look like big bright lamps.
Most enjoyable trip, altogether.
Canteen, aboard where one could get
anned fruit, biscuits chocolate &
drinks etc. Forecastle deck great
favorite. Lie nearly all day in
water sun & read or sleep or
do anything you liked. After
tea I used to repair to a little
seat under ladder leading from
fore well deck to officers deck
& enjoy the fine night, often
there during day also. Officers
deck open to us (one) so long as
we didn't make the face to mud
of a welker. Good place during
rough weather, when all forward
was under about a foot of water.
Mess orderly a great game in
rough weather. Sliding torpedo
along narrow twisted corridors
with empty desks & then shooting

sliding back down stairs every
with a dash of seawater and
another bucket of sea or keether.
very precarious occupation.
Several mistakes.

During hot weather used to sleep
on deck. Slung hammocks from rail
to ventilator. Lovely cool after
stuffyness down below. Slept on deck
nearly all way from Fremantle to
Suva. Usual procedure upon
crossing line. all officers went
through the whole ceremony but men
just ducked.

Passed very few ships on way.
Arrived at Suva Nov. 6th. First glimpse
of natives. I disembarked March
& entrained. 2nd class good accommodation.
Lovely country all along canal.
Stopped at several villages where
we bought oranges, watermelons etc
from natives. First introduction
to "bakshesh". Children learnt

told our men hard + say that these
almost before they can walk. Nations
fearedly diseases.

Carav 90 miles long. Left Suzy 2:30
pm 8th Nov + arrived Zertoun station
10:30 pm. Eric + I told off as baggage
guard + had to find the kits of our
10 men amongst about 300 kits.
Found them at last except one never
heard of since. Marched to Zertoun
Camp (about 2 miles). Had some tea
+ camped on desert that night.
Didn't get tents till 2 days after. Left
in open till then. I preferred it + never
slept in tent even when they came.
Reveille! 5:30 am. Parade 6-7 (physical
drill) Breakfast in 2 spasms (we were
second spasm) Parade 9-12. Shave
brush up every morning. Very strict
discipline. Lecture in morning. Dinner
(also in 2 spasms) Parade 2 pm to 4:30
pm. Route march through desert. Army
drees. Mostly shorts used. Off duty
from 4:30 till 10:30 pm. Supper

soofterly for leave + get a pass but
very furdid Cairo about 7 miles off.
Get train at Zeitoun or Helmet station
fare 4 piasres return. cheap for soldiers
2nd class. 3rd class for natives very
dirty + crawly.

arrived at Cairo station. get out of
train. walk through entrance
right into a crowd of dirty Arab
boys shouting "boots a clean. boots a
clean" or endeavouring to see you
canes one of which we promptly
bought + proceeded to clear them
away. Very effective method
Shouting "imchee" or growling have
no effect. While you are talking to one
another will creep up + clean your
boots. They will do it while you are
not looking. Harace had one boot
cleared before he discovered it.
walked round town with one
clean + one dirty boot. In Cairo

2 nights. Shims start straight off
main street. Very up-to-date city in
main streets. Shims very narrow
& smelly. You have to cut your
way through with a knife. It's so
thick. At first it's easy for gypsies
to cheat you with the pastries. But
you soon get used to it. (100 pts = 1/10 lb)
1 pt = 2 1/2 about) Bought a native phrase
book. Learnt a few.

Tertour Camp. - no water, plenty
sun & sand. Sand everywhere. Clean
in mess shed. Route march to water taps
& then half hour wait at end of queue
& then the water gives out for half an hour
wait till it comes back. Then wash
dixie (mess tin) & knife & fork, wipe
& put away. All belongings had to be
placed in row outside tent during
day. Everything gets covered with
sand & especially mess tin. Having
every morning under such conditions
not nice. 4 days after arriving
given out on parade for not to be

ready to move off to front next morning
great excitement. Packed up & moved
off after early breakfast, at 8:30 am ^{13th Nov}
from to Alexandria. Went aboard
SS Argyllshire ^{8,000 tons} to Tripoli & Bardanelle
Food not too good, likewise posy. Dirty
boat. Only canteen. Consoled ourselves
with thought that it was only for a few
days. Life belts worn everywhere an
account of ten fish. Picked up
crew of torpedoed Orange Prince
& his after disaster arrived
Mudros Harbour Lemnos Island
Early morning. Fouled torpedo
nets across harbour with our
torpedoes. ^{lots of} ^{torpedoes} ^{carried}
^{away} ^{when} ^{cleared} ^{away} ^{one} ^{torpedoed} ^{crew} ^{arrived}
^{at} ^{the} ^{harbour}
Weather ships, cruisers transports
hospital boats, subs, destroyers
torpedo boats tugs lighters & all
Big Harbour - fairly calm. Next
day packed up to go & stopped instead
In fact stopped 3 weeks. Rumours
rife all sorts. Fair raising.

ares sometimes. Furphies ~~to~~
~~to~~ originate from nowhere
always on first class authority
Enough to send one mad if he listened
to them all. Then food ran out, tobacco
station rations. Presently hully
with occasional bits of ~~dehydrated~~
plum duff ^{from the} ~~choppers~~ ^{vegetables} ~~association~~
Turned very cold. Snow on Penn ^{side}
Royal Latrine Flushers, Mess
orderly. very crowded. Slept on
deck. very cold. Olympic hospital ship
aquitania. ~~chaire~~ ^{hospital ship} ~~in~~ ^{barrow}
allance. Big ships. Oydes came to
pack up. Furphies fly. Some blood
curdlings. Landed on Lemnos
Island. Taken to Stalt's camp. Had
to pitch tent on side of rocky slope
some work & then some feed. Slept
that night with my feet about 2 ft
above head & 15 to a tent. Next day
parades. Route march again to wells.
No water. Thirsted nearest creek well up
& spent some money on figs, etc.

while an Argentine spent time during
fatigues & mess orderly & occasional
parades. They rest of time to oneself.
Boat deck frequented by me freely
often for walk & think. For last fortnight
in afternoons we had a Bible class
which started with about 40-50
ended with about 24-25. Very
careful & enjoyable meetings. One
joined us & made several friends.

Leaves Island Dec 5th - Dec 6th
Marched from Deputy camp about
2 miles to wharf where we were taken
by SS Osmanieh in the morning with
the military launch for a short trip
to the Peninsula.

Left Hudros Harbour about 4:30 pm
6th Dec. per SS Osmanieh about 4000 tons.
We were crowded on Boof deck. Had tea of
bully & biscuits, bought some tea from cooks.
Had last meeting of Argentine Bible
class. Arrived at Peninsula just after

dark. Looked like a big city. at last
with light. afterwards found out there
were lights in dugouts on side of
hill looking out to sea. occasional
stray bullets. 6 unlucky sneaky
gang ashore all lights out
occasional artillery flashes & star
shells. Machine guns & rifles heard
now & then not very noisy. Early
morning (4 am) started to disembark.

Taken off in lighters. We landed at
Williams Pier about 7 am. on Dec 7th
Found out unit (1st Fgt mb) was at
Lemmas island resting & was afraid
we were to be sent back. But not so
carrying our packs took the soft white
gully where we had breakfast. Hard
climb. Stayed here till afternoon.

Had dinner - more bullets & bursts.
Selected old dugouts to rest in. First
heard Beachy Bill. One or two shells flung
into our gully. Nobody hurt. First
heard unexplained explosion over top
of ridge like rifles going off.

Some say it is the Turkish bullets
exploding. Never heard proper explanation.
After dinner set off again & marched ^{back}
back to Anzac gully to the ADMS for
orders. Here we were split up & the
1st Field Amb Co. were marched
off to Victoria gully right along
to Anzac cave & Brighton beach to
the 2nd LH Co. Good food, tea &
hungry & tried Rice & Prunes & Bully
beef skew, very acceptable. Slept in
hospital dug out that night. Next
morning set to work to dig dug
outs for ourselves. Eric & I got a
one man affair & proceeded to
make it big enough for two.
Hard work. It was on side of gully
looking north. Nice little dug out when
finished. Water carrying in afternoon
from Shrapnel gully, past Indian
camp & cemetery, via Safford beach
Beachy hill commanded all the beach
so that way wasn't safe.

For 5 days, we were digging hospital
dugout, carrying water from
round Casualty Coy. Cans weighing
95 lbs. Sniper Gaba Jefe commanded
beach about 2000 yds away. He did
lot of damage. Had telescopic sight etc.
Just night, we had swim in water
off Dawnmoft. Very cold but
acceptable. Also visited Chatham's
post along beach towards Gaba Jefe
collected necessities for our dugout
from next gully & from beach
Stane jar left by fellow who was
filling it when Sniper nearly gotten.
He ran for his life & left his water
jar. We got it that night. Also got
sand bags, old Bayonet, entrenching
tool, fire tin, ^{grenade} & some other old things
to rig up our dugout with. Visited
trenches to see friend in 4th Water
Signalers. Went up to shell gran
couple of times on duty, on night of
Dec 11th about 11 pm when we were
asleep, waked up & Eric bundled

offer most mysterious manner by the
Sergeant with all his packs & blankets
Heid to pull the roof off dugout together
ground sheet affixed rods had to put
another old one back as orders were to
leave roofs on dugouts. He was on
travelling party. I had just got to sleep
again when I was hauled out for
a fatigue party to pack burpees
& go round to pens with it. Along beach
taken in Indian transport carts.
Came back went round reading
to relief the 1st party. On morning
of 13th Dec. Embarked on lighters taken
to Princess Cr. Chatted for baggage
party again. Loading stores all
night into hold of ship. Took out of
Anzac Cove early morning &
arrived back at Lemnos that morning.
More unloading & more work.
Marched to Sarty Camp where we
left the 2nd L.P.S. & joined our own

Unit the 1st Field Ambulance.
(Instead of going straight to the front from
Victoria Gully we went through Saff. up
Shoafel Gully along Walker's ridge &
down West Gully to Williams pier. (No
Casualties) Reville 6:30

Duties at Saipy Camp. Early morning
parade 7-8 Breakfast. Parade 9-12
route march afternoon roll call
& Men finish for afternoon. Rest Camp
visited all indigenous vicinity.

Hospital with influenza 4 days
Christmas bellies & some (first) mail
Saipy Camp Dec 19th to Jan 3rd 1916

Emma's island very monotonous.
Deadly hole. Glad when packed up
Jan 3rd & embarked on RMS Empress
of Britain 1600 tons. 5000 troops aboard.
Left Jan 3rd. Real good bunks. 1st class
saloon fitted up with bunks for 1st F. B.
Decent tucker but very little aft.

always hungry. As an Argylshire
Eric & I smelt out officers bath rooms
& had a couple of hot baths. Some

class. Live stock first made their appearance
here. Most annoying but unavoidable.
Baggage party again when we reached
Alexandria after uneventful
voyage. Entrained to el-el-Kebr
station. I went ahead & marched about
2 miles. Encamped in desert. In
morning marched back about a mile
& pitched camp. Party went to station
& packed gear in waggons another
party unloaded the load. Settled
down to life at el-el-Kebr
Battle of el-el-Kebr, 1882. Visited
old trenches & battle ground. Visited
Village across line couple of times
very prosperous. 70 miles from
Cairo, no leave. Monthly relieved
by big mail & parcels. Appeased
my weeks old hunger at last from
contents of parcels. Food improved
½ day allowance of Egyptian
gov. after war the war stopped

& food consequently went down
in quantity & quality. Training
hard again. Physical jerks
before breakfast. Route marches,
skills, manoeuvres & all sorts of
work mornings & afternoons.

Chet Alan Aspin in 2nd F.A.B. 6th
Batt. had long talk. Also met Will
West. Rumours of going to France
more frequent. Tel el Helwan 3rd
line of defence can. Turks
expected to attack canal.

Transport arrived Jan 15th

Influenza again. Hospital Jan 20-24
got leave for 15 hrs on Feb 3rd. Eve.
I visited Cairo. Caught 7.30 train
from Tel el Helwan station & caught
9.30 pm train back. Ate a breakfast
in train. ^{lunch} Had dinner in Cairo & had
a bust up for tea in a restaurant in
Cairo. During day we went to Ham
& saw Pyramids. Dined Darkeys &
rads round Sphinx & Pyramids &
had photos taken. Rode back &

Look tram into Cairo again. Took
electric tram to Helipolis to 1st stop
& saw Horace & Er Harrison who
left us one at Amnossineat Galuppi
with Enteric fever. Try to see
us as we were to see them. Had good
talk. Searched Cairo for technical
books but couldn't get any. Got home
tired but well pleased with day's work.
Feb 11th Big consignment of Red Cross
goods 70 cases for 1st Field Amb
Sunday 3/2/16. night. Went to office
but to car service. When returned
found our lot starting to pack. Worked
all night & packed up. Couple of hrs
sleep then breakfast & moved off 7:30
next morning. Orders had been delayed
hence rush. Lived in Marquetants
(at Feld Fleher was last time bugles
were blown. After that whistles were
used). Entrained on cattle trucks
at station 8:30am. Thought we were

going to Suez to embark for France.

but ended up at Serapeum on the Canal. More work unloading gear & then march through soft sand to Canal bank. Dunes. Crossed canal & couple of miles march to camping site. Put up tents. Kadda went to sleep. Next day had great game of draughts putting up tents & pulling them down about half a dozen times. A couple of days before camp was ready. Then desert etc had to be dug in sand. Soft sand no water. route marches, step drill as at Tel-el-Kebir as first. Then face slackened. Signalling & lectures in morning. Swim in afternoon. Hardest work was QM fatigue in afternoon. Missed swim then.

Serapeum 2nd line of defense. 2 miles about 14 miles out in desert. B section went to Rail head (about 5 miles)

Had pretty easy time. Very hot &
dusty. Dust storms. Some pretty
long route marches. Good news
in Canal. Sugar good & bad. Bad
when we had to defend ourselves
& good when we got some red cross
goods. Lived in tents

(at Tel-el-Kheh, amb. was divided into
sections. A, B, C. I was in A) B soon
went to Rail head & C section went
off to Tel-el-Kheh again to form 14th
Full Amb 5th Aus Divⁿ. Horace
Norman, Morrison joined up again
Morrison had gone sick on the Argyle line
at Lemnos Harbour.

General Birdwood gave troops an address
& told us we were going to France, Hurrah!
Serapeum 14/2/16 - 23/3/16. Eric left
us a day before with the Transport.
Kit reduced. Carried a blanket &

Waterproof in pack with overcoat rolled
over top. Very little room for anything
else. Packed up & left camp afternoon of 22/3/16
Marched to station. Slept in sand hills
midnight very cold. Boarded the
trucks & moved out at 12.30 am 23/3/16
Slept in trucks all night & each other
nearly got froze stiff. Arrived at alex
about 11 am. Detained & embarked
on SS Simla about 7.500 tons. Thawed
our passys, dumped our kits & went off
again for a walk. Finally landed
up in alex. where we had a good
cook & saved (Horace Bert & Co)
alex seems better than Cairo came
back. Just missed getting jabbed by
picket for being out of the boat without
leave. We passed a picket with a mat
of twenty or so. He had collected & sold
fast quickly & nicked for our line
narrow shave. Some of our men
missed the boat & got left. We it was
back in time for tea. Were thinking
of staying till later but luckily

we didn't. Boat left about 8pm
that night.

Touched at Malpa 27/3/16 for
riders but didn't stay. Malpa very
weezy. Passed Sicily 5-6pm

28/3/16 6am passed Ardara
Larica. Slept on deck. Boat very
crowded. No fresh meat. Food not too
good. Impossible to sleep below for
crowd. Slept atop on forecabin deck
Pretty cold. Made bed in little corner
& managed to get warm about 5:30
waked up each morning with
wash a deck Johnny. The jiggers wanted
to wash the deck some had to get up &
spray about it too if you didn't want
to get diseased. No subs sighted.
on voyage but the Sunla was
topped bed in way back. Only 18 natives
lost however. It a good thing she was
sunk. She won't bother any more

troops I'll never forget mess orderly
in the Simla. It was an long night
only one kitchen & one store for the
1600 on board. I had just been in ^{at} 100
+ it was raining as well. We had
two days each aft. Up at 5:30 to get a
decent place in the queue for rations
then just all together breakfast with
another wait upon days for that. Some
breakfast was a bit of a mess. I
table & floor for inspection. Inspection
finished. Sea off for a dreary pass
wait in the rain outside cockpit
then a final rush & servants for
the dinner. Some dinner & wash up.
Draw more rations at 3:30 & tea
at 5:30 similar operations to
rations & breakfast wash up
after tea. rolling to bed & sleep the
sleep of the just. Thank goodness
mess orderly down ever. It was
the worst mess orderly experience I
have ever had & that is saying a
good deal!

arrived at Marseille 8:30pm 29/3/16
Pretty cold. Packed up next morning
Disembarked. Marched through town
to station. People very friendly.
Left Marseille 2:30pm in 3rd class
carriages. People cheering all along
line. Bought some bread & had dinner.
Bought a dictionary first chance.
Came in very useful.

8pm arrived at Orange. Had a
long talk with a French Lt Colonel
Gala good insight into the French
character. Very simple, straightforward.
French officers & men just comrades.
Had tea. Changed my money into
French money. Left at 10pm. Slept in
train very uncomfortable & cold.
Beautiful weather next day. Lovely
country. Lovely people. Very friendly
& enthusiastic. 31/3/16 Passed
through Dijon, Chalon-sur-Loire & then
Lyon - 4am.

6:30 am. 1/4/16 Passed round Paris
& through Versailles. Passed Greil
at 1:30 pm. at this place in passing
I saw from the train window on the
side of a brick wall of a factory the
inscription John Sacht & Sons
Engineers et Contracteurs. at 3 pm
we arrived at Amiens. at each ^{stop}
the train stopped, we used to
get out & talk to the people & buy
anything we wanted to replenish our
ladder or have a wash. Amiens is
a pretty big place. Found it getting
easier to talk French. The French
soldiers are great talkers. Found it
pretty easy to understand them. They
are quite delighted if you speak to
them in French. They are real down
fellows & much bigger than I had
I expected. some of them were real
giants. The people were real good
& at several places were giving
bread & drink to the troops. We
passed trainload after trainload.

of troops sometimes French sometimes
British. We were the 2nd lot of Australia
to pass that way so were not quite
a novelty. Standing camps, aerodromes,
munition factories could also be seen,
seen all along the line. Sometimes
one would see a train load of
75's or other artillery or perhaps
some aeroplanes, new or damaged
often trucks & trucks of metal
fittings from the munition
factories. The country is lovely
& the next best thing to home after
Egypt. Women & men boys work
in the fields of which there are plenty.
The south of France seems to be much
more fertile than the north.
On 2/4/16 (Sunday) 4 am we reached
Nasebrouck. Detained put our packs in
a lorry and marched 10 miles to
Strazeele. Soles of feet soft after Egypt
& we felt that marching the road

cobbles. Bulleted and a fat m house
just outside the town. 34 to 15
miles from Ypres. Our bill was in a
bottle as a baton which was used as the
C.M.S. Duty at Strazelle. March before
breakfast. Route march before dinner
& lecture in afternoon. After tea take
stroll to village walk to people.

9/4/16 we had our gas training
went through a trench full of cl
gas with helmets on. Then through
a trench without helmets full
of weeping gas. This was to give us
confidence in our helmets to get
us used to the effect of gas.

Strazelle 2/4/16 - 40/4/16. <sup>Picture in
YMCA twice</sup> La Lorgue
left Strazelle 10/4/16 8:30 am

marched to Outkersteene. 4 miles on
towards line. arrived 10 am. Placed
in billets. We were in an old school
house in a little room up the
stairs. We had a fireplace and was
pretty cold here yet. Had bit of
snow here couple of times & plenty

of rain & mud. Chuddyland
12/4/16 Met Paul Duncan in the
YMCA but where we used to go at
night. Had two concerts there got
up by Capt-Chap. W. McKenzie & ^{4th} ^{Co}
13/4/16 Walked to Hlire 3 miles past
all Hazle. visited Sgt Lambert of
the D.A.C. Glad to see him.

14/4/16. Visited Daulieu a fairly big
town 3 miles from Dufferin
15/4/16 Visited Daulieu again & went
through R.C. church. These churches
are most gorgeous inside although
nothing much to look at outside.
A lot of them have been destroyed
by the Germans as those at Daulieu
Lavantie & Saily.

Went to Pictures at YMCA but that
night & walked home. When I got home
I found Eric had arrived with
the transport. I was glad to see him

back again & we had a good outfit
day. We did a good bit of route
marching here also & saw a lot of
the surrounding country.

The next morning 19/4/16 we left
outfitters & marched to Le Khue
thanh a small village between
Estours & Lully-sur-Los & took
up our field ambulance duties here.
Blection went on to the ADS & some
took over the bath at Lully our
ambulance was right on the bank
of the river Los up & down which
frequently passed motorboats &
strings of barges laden with
stores for the trenches, towed by
one little tug. The first day we worked
we had a rush of wounded
from the 9th Batta which had been
killed in their billets we saw the place
afterwards, mostly patients going
to & from our work in building
outposts. There were shell holes all
round it, in the fields & on the road

but it appeared to be one shell that
did all the damage. It came
right through the roof & exploded
right over the doorway in the
airway. Many were hurt by the
falling bricks etc. There were 70
-80 casualties altogether, many
losing legs & arms etc. Some died
after they got here. It was high explosive.
Probably the work of spies who are
thick all round here. You can't
trust anybody. Part of the time spent
here I was detailed to supply hot water,
for the operations, dressing shed &
dispensary, besides baths. Then I
worked the incinerator for a couple of
days & then started the dugout building.
It was 5 miles from our billets & was
a gas proof bomb proof & shell proof
affair, I was wounded. I was on the job
week 3 nights 2 days & then 2 nights
Pretty heavy work. The road me

went along to our work was full of
shell holes especially one place where
there must have been at least 100
shell holes on the road & adjacent
fields in about 50 yds space. The
shell craters were about 6 ft wide
& 1 ft deep probably 9 or 2 shells a
jack Johnson (wren) makes one
about 10 ft wide & 6 ft deep across.
The place are artillery positions & old
tranches & knocked about farm
houses. The last week at Antwerp
I was an I.M. Fatigue. We looked
after the stores etc.

26/4/16 visited Etaves on leave
saw church. medium sized
town

4/5/16 visited Sully & Laventie
two towns about 1/2 mile from
us. Sully church is knocked about
& some of the houses, but Laventie
is knocked about a good bit. Lots of
houses gutted & the church is absolutely
ruined. It is being continually

stilled suffers accordingly. We had several gas alarms although the gas attack never eventuated. Once we had a slight attack of waving gas. An unexploded aeroplane shell fell into the garden in front of the sergeant's mess. Aeroplanes are very common. We see about a dozen a day, mostly our own, although we get an occasional visit from a Zeppelin & a few bombs.

15/5/16. 4 shells (77's) came over into our hospital. No damage done luckily. Don't know what Germans were firing at. They must have been straps. One burst just outside the mess room. We were all at dinner. Two bursts on the riverbank & one on the road. We all wondered what it was at first. Last night there is a pretty lively bombardment. There were batteries

all around the dugout we were making. you thought it was a Jack Johnson boxing when one day 18 pds went off about 100 yds behind you & all around you. you can hear the guns at night for 10 miles behind the line & sometimes 15 or 20. also the machine guns. we get great sport sometimes watching the anti-aircraft guns firing at a machine. They fire hundreds of shells at him, all around him & still he escapes. It is marvellous. a plane must be exceedingly hard to hit.

Tucker is not bad, usual army camp issue, bread, jam, cheese & some meat & vegetables now & then. we like to eat considerably by occasional visits to the food shop & chip shop. Eggs & chips are the only thing you can buy here for a meal. On 16/5/16 some of us visited.

The front line trenches at the Lavanic
post held by the RWF. I have one of
their badges we were escorted by
a Lt. after the West Pipers
we went straight through Lavanic
into the communication trench
past the reserve trenches & in fact
destroyed a desolate farm houses
till we came to the front line. There
was nothing doing save a casing of
shells & bullets. The Germans were
about 50-100 yds off. I had a deep view
the parapet & we had a look down
the mine. In Gallipoli the trenches
were trenches & the dugouts dugouts
but here the trenches are built up of
sandbags & the dugouts should be
called built-ups. The trenches
seem like a sand bag city.
The Mining Engineers are ^{very} ~~very~~
interesting. They let us ^{look} down one
of their mines & listening galleries.

It is all explained in various articles
in magazines so I want explain it
here. This has safes in the trenches
than equip them, except of course
when there is an attack on a trench.
There is no protection & you may be
shelled any minute, but in the
trenches there is ample protection
against shells. The work seems
very fine to be here. So are the
Canadians & Scotians. The Tommies
are much better than those we
saw at Amiens, Egypt. They were
not up to much at all.

In the trenches they have streets.
They name them after well known
places, such as Waterloo, South Sea
Streets, Rother Row, Reading, etc.

Usual days we only had about
6 rats a day. The last night we
were here we had another, just
but not as big as the first they
had been caught in the same

place as the others, poor traps.
We got a good out of mail here
& parcels. Parcels are very acceptable.
Had a superb bullet so burnt
sw. A.C. on floor of billet with powder.
Le Nouyeau Monde was one of the
best places we were ever in & I for one
was sorry to leave it. We return
to the Rest Camp at Doulien, which
we did next day. 20/5/16. Doulien
is about 4 miles from Le N. Monde
we passed through it on our
route marches from Oukherstere.

21st May 1916 Saturday. It's just a week
since we came here to the Rest Camp at
Doulien. A Rest Camp in the military
sense is a place where a soldier
has a change of work, & instead of
fighting he does training. He knicks
off work to carry bricks. The 3rd Field
Amb, who took over our passy & whom

we relieve here said this place was
a home. They couldn't have been
used to very good places, for after
a week here we pronounce it a home
indeed, but for dogs or pigs. The 3rd
must be delighted with the place they
are in now & Leckford. It was
a decent place.

This place is a farm house stables
& farm. The fields have been
changed by building rows of sheds
for a convalescent hospital, as well as
officers huts, mess huts, cook
houses orderly room, bath room
dispensary & lots of other places
to turn it into a permanent camp.
But there is very little water & what
there is is so bad that by the time
it is boiled & chlorinated it is unfit
to drink from a palatable sense
although safe. To get enough
water for a wash one has to pump
practically for five minutes at
the one & only pump available

which is out of order & defies all the
combined efforts of the corps to repair
it. So much for the water. Then our
billet which was stable on the ground
floor, ~~covered~~ paved with bricks & very
cold & damp. Also it is right next to the
pig sty from which we get some
odors which remind me of the
shims of Cairo. By the way, the 1st July
ambulance is thinking of taking the
life of Divisional Billet cleaning
coops in future. Every billet we
have come to so far has been dirty
& we have left it clean. Some have
been mediumly dirty & some very
dirty but this place was fearful
so. The pig sty smell enough as it
is but when we came here I don't
think it had been cleaned for a month
& it stunk. Also the usual method
of building farms in France seems
to be to build your house round a

Courtyard sort of place which is used for a manure pit & scrap leaf ~~pit~~ accumulates filth & emits odours to its heart's content. The French farmers seem to thrive on it, but it wouldn't suit us.

The town of Doullieu is about 300 yds up the road & has probably been killed by the smell of the farm houses around it for it is dead! There is nothing to do for it but be patient & to think we are here for 6 weeks they say. Guesses are being made again as to where we are going next year. La Bassée or Armentières. Nobody knows but they all have their opinion.

Eric and I were the incinerator kings up till yesterday. We burnt all the refuse of the camp. The first day as usual there was about a month's collection of refuse but afterwards it was alright. Yesterday I was taken

off the incinerator & put a messenger
to the orderly room. There is not
much to do. I started this diary
this morning writing up from notes
taken since leaving Sydney.
We got a parcel yesterday from
Auntie Nell & some letters from
some friends before.

bombardment pretty free all night
lately. Papers say British front is being
attacked. I suppose that is it.
we got our Arabic book ordered
at Serapeum yesterday. It is some
class & a good student of Arabic
at Leconteau. Monde we had
in all our leather equipment & received
web equipments packs instead. It
is not bad.

a line of trenches, called the Nouveau
Mogde post, ran along just at the
back of our passy there.
Since our here we have had

motor transport ambulance
cars & motorbike dispatch riders
attached to corps. The drivers were
Tommy B.S.C. but yesterday they
were dismissed & men out of his
corps took the jobs that would
have been a good job for me only
I wanted to stick to stretcher bearing
& so let it go. Same as with Eric
and the Horse Transport. He would
have liked to join that only he wanted
to do stretcher bearing.

Getting on well with French. The
people round here being Flemish it
is not so convenient for learning
French, but they nearly all know
it & will talk to you. Had good
practice with a lady next door to
the place where we were billeted at
Claudeau chateau. She was a good friend
to us & we often went in there for a
chat.

Nothing much happened today.
I suppose this will be so most days.

while on Salpette we used to watch the
warships bombarding the Turkish positions
It was great & so was the noise.

at Tel-el-Kebir we got our pay books
back which we had given in at Teltain
to be stamped in Cairo & hadn't seen
since. Very glad to get them.

at Monreah el-Morde. I had my watch
repaired for 3 francs. It had been
out of order since ss arqytte fire Mus^{no}
Harbour. also saw alan ashburn. Was
full corporal.

Douben. Rows. Set up for breakfast.
Do your work. Have dinner. Carry on
full beatime 'o then off. Very free
& easy.

28th Day Sunday. Morning. Afternoon walked to Clief-Berquin 3 miles to visit D.A.P. Found D.S. instead & had to walk to Veux-Berquin 4 miles further to D.A.P. Saw Hugh Lambert. Had good afternoon talking over old times. Had tea, left about 7pm walked home. Saw Charlie Mills yesterday.

29th - Monday. Afternoon. Eric Parcell & I went for walk to Bailleul - 5 1/2 miles left 1-30 arrived 3pm (about). Bought "Fragments from France" brown paper cardboard etc to wrap up Anzac Books. Visited YMCA, where we had tea. Went to pictures & saw Bessie Chaplin. Bought Rising sun badge, bullet souvenir. Wandered round town. Left about 8pm & arrived home 9.30. Had supper & went to bed.

30th. Tues. - Posted Anzac books & "Fragments of France". Cleared tubs & started steam typing. Suffered concert at night which failed to eventuate.

31st Wednesday. Supply arrived today that
we are to be here 6 months! A Komer
I think we will be all dead by then. It is
said to have originated from the G.O.C.
who inspected our camp last Saturday.
He told the Colonel, the Colonel told the
officers who told the W.O. who told the
orderly room sergeants who told the
orderly room privates who told
someone at mess who promptly
spread the report. Hence this
damning farphy.

Big bombardment last night
Germans attacked around atment lines
400 ans. casualties. wonder how
many Germans? a 2nd DAPCpl
(Mills) told me that they took 40000
rounds of 18 lb shells to the trenches
last night. Rumours of the big advance
starting soon. Hope it does! We
may shift then to scenes of more

excitement!

Some of our fellows are transferring to other units. Moran is probably transferring to the Artillery soon. We are tired of this corps. There are not enough other opportunities to do good work - what we came out to do. If it is possible Eric & I will get a position as Regimental stretcher-bearers to some Battalion. Will try the 9th Battalion tomorrow. Am doing all sort of jobs in the orderly room.

Many Scotsmen in the town. Good band! Rendered several selections tonight

1st June Thursday. To-day we marched to a parade about 3 miles away to see Billy Hughes. Gen. Birdwood & Andy Baker & a lot of other nobles were there besides a lot of reporters. Billy made a big speech & we ended up with 3 cheers for Australia & one for Birdwood! Parade ground

was about 1 mile from Sally so
even I got a pass in the morning
after the affair was over & packed
off. We had dinner & then visited
the 4th Bn. Saw the M.O. capt
Drummond but no vacancies &
none of the AME details would
change. Likewise the 2nd Bn.
on way home saw M.O. of 3rd Bn
who luckily wanted one man &
we got another man to change
with us. We got a note from
the M.O. to our O.C. to that effect
will parade for transfer tomorrow
morning.

Ifn have been watching an observation
balloon which appears to be a prisoner
being bombarded. Shells burst
all round him in dozens & you
see flash very vividly. Don't
seem to be hit. Several flares
looming round. Nothing doing

however
Billy Hughes rather disappointing
in my opinion. Speech poor & little
man. However he must be alright
to do what he has done!

Horace has not got his transfer
yet.

2nd June Friday. Sent in transfer but
Colonel wouldn't consent. Very
disappointed but will have to
stay down. Nothing doing today.

Tonight we went up town. Scotchies
had a pipe & drum band. Very good.
The Scotchies here (or "jocks" as they
call them) are a very fine lot. I feel
quite proud of my! Grandpa is
Scotch! I think there was a lot of Scotch in
me.

3rd June Sat. ^{Eye} Paraded before Colonel
& pleaded our case. As the Colonel
consented to Eric going in place of the
one man if that man paraded & the
Colonel approved of him. Eric went to
3rd Barr this afternoon. The man

is departing to-morrow, if Eric
gets away he will then claim
me as an older brother can
claim a younger if the latter is
under 21. Some strategists. I
hope the ruse succeeds.

To night there was to be a concert
- this afternoon the Camerons marched
past. They are a very fine lot.
Indeed. - The concert ought to report

4th June Sunday. The concert last night
was very good. We ended up with an
exhibition of hypnotism by a Corporal
Dawson of the 14th. It was truly the paper
marvellous & quite "dinkum". He did
physically impossible (for him) feats
while under the "flu", besides mentally
impossible things as well. He described
places that neither he nor the hypnotist
had ever seen, upon being asked

questions by a third person. He described
parts of Sydney & also one of our 5 Sgt
Thornes quite correctly. He had never
seen either, also hosts of other things which
would take a dozen pages to record all
if it was "dinkum" absolutely all our
doctors were present & they thought too.
The whole evening was a distinct
success.

It is light here till 9 o'clock now
easily. During summer they say
the twilight lasts till 10 pm.

The man from the 3rd Battr. Ensign
charging with, came along just before
dinner & interviewed the Colonel who
was satisfied & the change is to
be effected. It will probably take a
week yet & there is still a chance
it is not going through but we
hope for the best. News of Naval battle
5th Monday. Paid this afternoon (Gof)
concert got up by YMCA in mess hall
to night. Very good indeed.

6th Tuesday. Nothing. Wet weather cold
Cue lost his pocket book.

7th Wed. Went for ride in ambulance
Cue heard nothing of wallet. Finish

8th Thurs. Went for a walk ^{in afternoon} to Cherville
(about 5 miles) through New Berquin
Town about size of Estares small
than Baillenc's pretty shrew. Caught
20th solist mistle. Walked around
had tea & walked home. Kitchen ^{in evening}

9th Friday. Nothing doing. Chaul in afternoon
4 letters 2 from home. Went for walk
after tea. Heard noises in bullets while
reading. Everybody else ^{in separate} away at about

10th Saturday. This morning discovery
several thefts (7) had taken place
Gave evidence before Colonel as to
whispering & see & saw I heard last

night. My belief is French boys
Larrewho took Eric's wallet probably
Russians victorious against Austrians
10th Saturday. Our unit played 3rd
Old Amb Rugby football. & beat
them 12 to nil. Nothing doing.

Letter from home (2)

11 Sunday. Rainy weather. Service
by C.E. Chaplain at 7:30 in Mess. 3rd
Service for some time. Very enjoyable.
wrote home. 12 mths since enlisted at Vet. Office.

12th Monday. Wet & muddy weather.
Big mail but - none for us.

Tuesday 13th Mail closed for us.
more fair & mud. Transfer has
gone through to A.D.M.S. but
nothing has been heard of it for
some time. Patience is a virtue!
The 3rd Battalion are now at Fleurbaey
where they were before, doing their
second shift in trenches. We ought
to be there for the next shift anyway.
Fleurbaey is near the dugout where we had

Wed. 14th Still with smiddy
ethiddy 3landers has a real meaning
to us now. I have a good bit to do with
it as I am continually running
on messages up to the hospital or
up to the M.T. or officers hospital
down the road.

Mr. Transfer has gone through to
the ADM'S. Hope he furries up with
it. I am sick of staying here
doing nothing & am dying to get
out of it. Love Eric.

Last night at 11 pm all the watches
& clocks in France were advanced
one hour in accordance with the
Daylight saving scheme which
has already been taken up in England.
Formerly it was light here at
9 o'clock. Now it will be light
till 10 pm & in the mid summer

when it is narrowly light all of m
it will now be left all p.m.
we will have to start going to bed
in the daylight soon, in fact
we do now as there is nothing
to do of a night unless there is a
concert and except walk up the street
which is impossible in wet weather.
There are no books to read either.
I wish I could get some technical
books - do a bit of fog but if I
sent for them - now they would
arrive too late if they came at all.

Thurs 15th June 1916. Last year
at this time we were wending our
way along with about 100 other
"marmalades" up to Liverpool
Camp.

Friday 16th. This morning Eric's
transfer came through Hurral!
He is going to be 3rd Gun to morrow

They are at Fleurbaix, ^{10 miles away} now, in the
support lines. The do 16 days in
support & 16 days in trenches when
out for rest, so I am told. Eric is
going in the patient wagon which
leaves here at 5-30 a.m. He will
have to get up pretty early! As soon
as he gets there he is going to claim
me! I guess the Colonel will go
mad when he gets the notice. I
ought to be with Eric by the time the
battalion goes into the trenches.

^{9th} Just come in from an after tea
walk of about 5 miles. The sun
has not quite set yet. It will be
light for another hour, but I am
going to bed soon. The weather has
cleared & so it is much lighter than
it has been for some time. ^{poohoo.}
Eric lost his arjae tube.

Saturday 17th at 5:30 am this morning
Eric left by the ration wagon
with his blankets, pack & put bag all
his equipment he looked like a
pack horse.

I got a pass for Atmentieres
today made out for tomorrow
when Horace & I are going to
take the day off & visit Atmentieres
which is on the firing line ^{on} about
10 miles or more from here.
The weather has been beautiful
today, hope has the same tomorrow.
Our unit is playing 5th Flg Amb
party headquarters at Stenwood
about 4 miles from here on the
way to Atmentieres.

Sunday 18th Horace finished his work
soon after breakfast & after clearing up
putting on our belts & gasometers & cleaning
boots & leggings we set off at 10 am for Atmentieres.

Just in Dunker we met Elaidment
man who changed Eric (place) & heard
that Eric reached the 3rd Bn. Thru yesterday
afternoon. I wonder how he is getting
on now.

We walked on to Steenwerck (4 miles)
& straight through about a mile further
or we stopped & had something to drink
then on to the Grand Route Nationale. To
left was Balleul & to right ^{to} ~~to~~
Turned to right & walked along road
made of pavé all by roads are pavé round
here. Red good roads in South of France
about 3 miles on we entered Elleppe
pretty big town. Before arriving here
we passed road going to left to Phlegstreet
(Phlegstreet the Sommes call it) there was
some very heavy fighting there & since
is. Passed over Pont de Elleppe & into
Amentures It was about 10 miles ~~along~~
& we walked about 2 miles round the
town so we did about 22 miles ~~altogether~~.

Ammentiers is a pretty big town, about
30,000 inhabitants in peacetime. Very
few there now. Place is knocked about
a lot. The streets are all sand bagged
for street fighting like Laventie. There
was a lot of street fighting at Laventie.
The Germans were driven out of that at
the point of the bayonet. Laventie is
knocked about & all sand bagged too.
Visited the railway station, which is
wrecked & dilapidated, all grass grown
over. Picked up a bit of shell ammunition.
There are 6 canteens in the town, with
reading rooms & games etc. We visited
3 of them. Saw all the shops, bought a
few things, including big map of district
& had two big feeds, one in canteen for
dinner & one in Ammentiers for tea.
Cost us 1 1/2 francs each for each meal.
Eggs & chips & salad, bread & butter, coffee.
Old Electric Trans (not running)
Left about 6 pm. Watched some glow
anti aircraft guns firing at a Raube.

from below Ponte Vecchio. Nothing
happened however as he was too far

If we walked back the same way we came
stopping at 2 or 3 places for a refreshment
Our feet were getting a bit sore now
but they were nothing to speak of
we hopped on a horse which we thought
would give us a good lift but it
turned off about a mile down the road
& we were disappointed. We arrived
home in good style at 9pm with
the sun still shining. We soaped
our feet in Pot. Permang. soln. before
retiring which hardens them
Armentieres is right on the line & is
being continually shelled. Nothing
happened however while we were
there. We had a very enjoyable &
profitable day. Just out of the window
we had our photos taken (Snapshots)
in a private house. 6 for 3 francs. 2 for 1 franc

They are to be ready in 2 days time.
Monday 19th Early this morning B
section got up & packed & at 12 noon
set off for Plogstert on the way to
St. Elina near Upres. We will probably
be following in a couple of days.
Nothing heard yet about Eric's claim for
me.

Since the B section is "in slaying"
we (A sec) have to "carry on" alone.
I got a new job as wardman.
Then after breakfast got another job
as Liner Steward (Temporary)
Hosce & I are now installed in the
store where we shifted our belongings
from down in the stable. It is a
damp & cold there.

Looks as if something is going
to happen soon, with all this shifting.
They say the 6th Jld Amb. whom
we're relieving lost to her recently
in one fell swoop. Sounds cheerful!
Left the sleep of the jail with ps of pyjamas
& plenty of blankets from the store.

Tuesday 20th Nothing happened in
morning. Wrote 2 letters, one home
one to Eric. In afternoon Horace & I
went to Steiner's & got our
photos. They are very good. Thank
for a snapshot.

Tonight we had a concert
given by a party of professionals.
They were very good indeed & everybody
enjoyed the show immensely. I
know I did. I am going to bed soon
although it is yet quite light. It is
just 9 pm. The sun is just sinking.
Went to bed 10 pm. Still light.

Wednesday 21st Nothing.

Didn't get to sleep till about 2:30 am on
Thursday morning. Horace & I were
talking all the time about all sorts of things.
Horace saw 3rd Lt Battery C.O. & got
him to ask our Colonel for him a wireless
operator.

Thursday 22nd Colonel promised
to ease Horace's transfer up & he is
very glad so am I. This a beautiful
summer's day today. Warm
bright with just a gentle wind
blowing.

Friday 23rd Depressing muggy
weather. Sharp tan squall about
tea time. Had 2 letters from home
dated April 9th. Pretty late.

My claim has gone to Divisional
Headquarters. It ought to be through
soon. Horace's transfer is also going
through. Rained hard this afternoon.

Saturday 24th Rained all night & is
raining now (midday)

Sunday 25th — — — — — Notes.

Monday 26th —

Tuesday 27th: Wrote to George. In afternoon visited Estames. Had another photo taken with Horace. Bought new identification disc. More rain.

Wednesday 28th: Lecture on Las Vegas Scramble Hut. Haven't heard any more about transfers yet. This taking a long time.

Thursday 29th: Went to Estames again & got photos. Horace's no good so cut his out. ^{got another taken} Passed 6 ambulances full of wounded from 3rd Bn. I guess Eric must

Have had a busy time last night.
Wish I had been with him!

Got 3 letters from home after tea.
Friday 30th Cold & Raining again.
Big bomb bombardment last night. I wonder
where abouts. It sounded as if it
may have been at Fleurbaix.
Am going to Bal d'Anvers this afternoon
in car to get some more clean
linen for shore.

This afternoon after tea about
40 British aeroplanes flew over
us, pretty high. Looks like a big
raid. This news afterwards confirmed.

Saturday July 1st Beautiful
day of ice & water with a slight
cool breeze. Just the day for a
picnic on Sydney Harbour. Two
letters from home.

In afternoon I trace & I walked
by Eskeris again & had yet another
photo taken. If this one doesn't

turn out all right we will give
it up as a bad job. We are going
to collect them on the way back
from Bac St Chau in the car
to morrow afternoon when I
go to the laundry for clean linen
Last night about 9 pm a
big bombardment started at our
Oleibarac or Saily way (emitted)
& kept up in a well into the
night. The 18 lbs gave out one
long continuous rumble like
a giant machine gun punctuated
at frequent intervals by .4" 7 in &
60 pounders. Some sounded
even bigger & shook the hut although
we were probably 7 miles off
It is the biggest bombardment we
have heard yet. I think although
we frequently get pretty lively ones

Sunday July 2nd Another good day
collected photos. Not too good but
they will have to do.

After tea: The usual aeroplane
exhibitions & shooting. The sky
is all covered with little white
puffs of smoke hundreds of them,
with several little black
dots that move & circle in & out
of the white puffs. It seems
a pretty risky game. Any
clear afternoon if you like
to look you can see half a
doz - planes kicking about
and hundreds of shells bursting
all over the sky. Sometimes
a fleet of planes go over & then
the fun is brisk.

Lot of slightly wounded
arrived here from the 9th Path
during a big raid (by us &
successful too). Raids are

pretty frequent just now. I
bet Smith doesn't like them.
I haven't heard from him
lately. Wonder how he is
getting on? My transfer is
taking a long time. I wish
they would get a hustle on.

Monday 3rd Some more aeroplane
exhibitions again this morning.
A couple of planes brought down
a bit of an aerial duel. Lots of
shooting. Cool today.

Big British & French "push" on
the River Somme yesterday gained
2 miles and a front of 25 miles.
Hope they keep it up. I start a "push"
here.

A couple of unexploded aeroplane
shells fell not far from the camp.

They don't sound as nice coming
down as they do going up. The
sound was rather irregular so
they may have been strapped nose
caps. You couldn't guess where they
were going from the sound. Lots
of fellows ducked for ledge for their
lives. The ledge wouldn't stop much.

Rumour we are going tomorrow
either to Outterstere or Neuf Eglise
where B section are. Rumour
confirmed.

Breaking up feed in scramble
but. Very good

Tuesday 4th. Packing up
gives an apace. Just finished
my work in store, inventory etc.
11am.

9pm. We are now at Neuf Eglise in
Belgium. We packed up & left

I pulled out about 2:30 & marched
here with all packs up about
8 miles off. It rained most of the
way but soil wasn't too good.
We got here about 4:30 pm &
got our "possies" in marquee
tents, this time, the first tents
we have been in since Egypt.
We unloaded the waggons & dumped
our kits & then Storaker & I unloaded
& had eggs for tea down the road
& then we went on to the V.I.C.A.
It was big tent at the bottom of the
hill & is A.I. We heard a very
good lecture by Prof. Atkins M.A.
on "The Balkan Jangle" it was
the history of the origin of the war
& was very interesting & instructive
indeed & very entertaining as well.

This is a pretty lively place for a

reports. There are 7 12" guns
across the road, hidden by two
cardboard houses which are
very deceptive. Both eyes all round
us & snippets of a big attack
coming off soon. They are
improving considerably.

We are about 1 mile the side
of the town which is prohibited
to troops. It is very much knocked
about.

Colonel Welch, one of our old
majors, is in charge of the 13th ^{and} ^{amb}
which took over the Post station.

Horace's transfer is fixed
up except for the ADMS which
might not take long now.

I wonder how Eric is getting
on.

The Belgian people round here are
not as good as the French. There are
two races in Belgium French &
Flemish. The latter are in favour
of us & are not afraid to say so.

They speak a totally different language & are really more German than French. Lots of them are spies too & one cannot be too careful in mentioning military matters in public. However, I am very glad we are here as things are more lively.

Wednesday 5th. Drill started again. Did stretcher drill & squad drill all the morning (9.30 - 12) & then stretcher drill & signalling in afternoon. Went to YMCA after. Had eggs & tea at little shop. Met Alan Bond one of our ^{own} Bible class on the Anglesey anchorage. Harbour. Very glad to see each other & had a good old talk. He is in 27th Bn. & just came out of trenches last night. He says I

is not stop here, as a matter
still where they are going and
Great remnants everywhere of
the "great push" coming off. I
hope I am with Eric by the
time it starts. 27th Battalion
lost 117 men in the 8 days they
were in these trenches. Aerial
torpedoes & spinnewipers are
the worst things.

Remains A sec. I'd probably
going to miss Cas. Cleary's son
at Baitoul for the big push.
Am glad I am getting out of it.

Had a very nice little
meeting at the YM tonight.

Thursday 6th Hours 6:30 - 7:30
am. Physical jerks. 9:30 - 12:30
drill. 2-4 pm. Drill.

Inches getting back to bully & biscuits
Tonight while in YMCA we had a
bit of a bombardment (5.9m high
explosive) after the big 12 meters.

We got our first casualties since
coming to France. One killed
& a couple scratched. A few
other units suffered a bit.

Friday 7th Ruck march in morning
Big night this afternoon, 10 letters
mostly from home.

Saturday 8th Went to Bull's funeral
this morning near Ceppe. Alan Bond
came up to say goodbye. He is
going & they think he is going
to the Somme where he. French &
English big push is in progress.
Horace's transfer came through
he is off tomorrow. Wonder how
long I will be here yet.

Horace is going tomorrow
morning. He found out the Batteries
were still round Fleurbanc & is

... all the way.

getting a lift most of the way.
Another move is in the air
our boys says Pleegsteert, He
Somme, Verdun & Arras. It
can't be them all, but any one
would do me.

Sunday 9th July. This morning
Harace left and I was left lamenting.
I got a lift in a Frenchman's dog
cart on the main road as far
as Daultent. He will probably get
a waggan from here to Dully,
from there another one to his unit.
I wrote 4 letters this morning & am
going to write some more this
afternoon so as to get well ahead.
Probably when operations start I
won't be able to write much at all.

There was a requiem service at the mess
last night, the first I have been able
to attend for some time & I enjoyed it.
We are probably moving tomorrow to
the Somme. Some more.

Monday 10th Route march in morning
Nothing eventful

Tuesday ^{11th July} 11th July
Packed down tents & packed up &
left 8:30 am. Marched with pack
& blankets to Colliery station (6 miles)
loaded our waggons on trucks

Tram left 1:30 pm. Had dinner in
tram (Bully's currier here too)
Arrived Doullens 6:30 pm (Doullens)
Had some coffee & left at 7 pm

Tea by roadside at 8 pm. left
8:30 & marched till 3 am next
morning with about 1 hrs spell
altogether. Same march!
everybody was done - like a time!
I was aching all over & felt as if
I had no back, just one big ache
& I felt as if my feet were worn
away & I was walking on the

stumps. Doxeyama was full
of straw & slept like the dead till
10:30 am when we were pulled
out, had breakfast, tea biscuits
& bully (I ate a raw egg from
the farm house) & left again about
12. They say we still have 9 miles
to go. Yesterday we did almost
20 miles the last stretch & with the 6
miles in the morning makes at least
25 miles for the day - with packs &
blankets which is not bad going.
Everybody feels like marching today
but we will have to do it. I am
sure my pack weighs at least
three tons. It was only about
50 lbs when I started but it increases
in weight the farther you go.
Lots of fellows dropped out & others
put their packs on the waggons but I
am going to carry mine till I drop.
(Written just before leaving on
Wednesday, 12th at noon.)

Passed through Saint-Ouen and
Wagnacourt & belleted (bevoiced)
for the time being in a farm out in
a paddock. Itarch was about 10 miles
we still have farther to go to our
destination. Passed 3rd Batta in
Wagnacourt but didn't see Eric
also passed DAPT saw J & Lambert

8:30 Eric arrived on a visit. Was
very glad to see him. We swapped
news & I gave him the mail &
rest of the parcels that came

He has been laying a hot time
with the 3rd Batta. Plenty of work
P-ranget not fixed up yet. Hope
to goodness if no sibil. I am
eathering my head off to get there.
Left in about 3 or 4 as far
battalion will see he moving.

Thursday 13th Waked at the
Blencourt Chateau, about a mile
outside Vignacourt until 3:30,
for orders when we moved off.
During the day we had a look
over the Chateau. It's a big old
place, built of white stone
with orchards & forests (little
ones) all around it. There are
dogs & horses (pines) & rabbits
& all sorts of things. The grounds
were lovely but neglected.
After leaving the Chateau
we passed through Flesselles
and Bertangles & arrived
at Allenville about 7:45,
with about 80-40 minutes
spelling. We did about 10 miles
Bulleter in an old barn in the town.
Ie whole of the 1st Bde is here
but I haven't seen one yet. Had
tea - bear bread & jam & glass of
& went to bed. Bed pretty hard but
slept well.

Friday 14th. Aroused at 6:15
got up - very stiff but this worked
off later. Dried up our packs,
had breakfast. Expected to
move very soon but no
orders came in yet so we don't
know when we are moving yet.
Letters from home (May 20 - 28th).

Tonight after tea I went along &
saw Eric & gave him the letters & had
a talk.

Saturday 15th. Went for route march
with packs (4 miles) in morning
& have a cold in the head & a sore throat
the result of a "mouse"-hole right
above my head in the hill where I sleep.
We can see Amiens from here. It
is about 8 miles. Some of our fellows
visited it. Eric did. It is a pretty
big town & ought to be interesting.

Sunday 16th. Last night we had a
raid from a Ju 88 or some other
"all-ways" aircraft which dropped
a few bombs & our anti-aircraft
guns let fly & we had a little
excitement.

We are leaving today sometime
Left at 1 pm & marched to here.
Tadencourt, 8 miles passing
through Beaucourt - S.H. &
Cambry, 8 miles from line. 16th
big bombardment last night.

Monday 17th. I don't think we are
moving today. Albert where
nearly everybody thinks we are
going is about 10 miles from here.
We are stationed in sleds something
like those at Dohem, in a bit of a
wood. The ground is very hard &
bumpy & cold and the best of
beds but we make the best of it.

all the places we stop at are
filthy dirty when we arrive &
we clean them up & leave them
clean. We have done the same
in almost every village we have
been in in France which is a
good few now about 8. We
have called ourselves the Army
Bullet Cleaning Corps and
Army Mobile Corps (AMC)
owing to our cleaning abilities
and long marches respectively
we have done much more
foot-slogging than the Infantry
this time. We left after them,
detained before them (farther
up the line) & have passed them.
We did 45 miles marching the
first 3 days.

Paid this afternoon 20 francs
& had tea at the village.

Tuesday 18th July another big bombardment last night. Big guns too. It has been pretty continuous ever since we have been here, but heavy at night. They say Albert is knocked down where we are going.

We are moving today probably this afternoon. NCO's & numbers are getting instructions now so it looks as if we are going into something.

I don't suppose my trunks will come through until we go into rest again in a week. That will be some time now I suppose. This "strafe" is going to be a long one. I wish I was with Cug but it can't be helped. It won't be so bad if we get into something which seems very probable indeed.

Tonight at bedtime I saw a larva
Ashburn & Horace. Both were getting
an well, looked it. Horace has had
plenty of work lately like us.
We haven't gone yet but they say
we may go to night. Hope we do.

Wednesday 19th Not gone yet. Had
a route march this morning about
6 miles. Doulens is only 25 miles
from here & we have walked
about 80. For training I suppose
all the Infantry have dumped
their packs, blankets & have
pink papers about a foot square
on their backs for identification
purposes for the artillery. I
suppose we will get them too.

Horrible purple came through. We are
not going into it, but are running a
rest station. Oh horror, I think I
will run away. . . . (written later)

Thursday 20th Left 1:30 marched to
Warley 2 Kilos off, where we took up a
Rest Station. 3rd Jld Amb is working
the 1st Brigade. We are disgusted with
the war & everything connected with
it

.

Monday 24th Been very busy
Stretchers Squad. on duty for 24 hrs
then off to trenches 1st stop Albert &
then to Dressing Station & then to
dump & then stretchers bearing 3rdly
shelling like fun up & down roads
Carries for 2 1/2 miles with 2 to a stretcher
Went on worked all day pretty hot
work. Had rotten luck. Went over an
ankle in morning. Strapped it up & it
went over again in afternoon. Finish
Went back to Dressing Station. Then
at head of stretchers Basal weight you
see where he is going. No path. no
square foot where there is not a big

spell hole. 5 or 6 high explosives everywhere
had many narrow escapes. Eric
went right up to 4pm 23rd inst.
This morning they say the 3rd Bn
has been getting very hot. Hope
Eric is alright.

Wednesday 26th Here we are back
again in Wadby after doing our
work in the trenches. Strickland
I went back as soon as I could
walk, acted the free lance,
helping whom I could. The
doctor ordered me back as I
wouldn't be here yet. We were
working over the ground where
the advance was a bit dangerous
& awful. I don't want to
remember so I won't put it
down. I will try to forget instead
we are lucky to be back here alive.
I heard Eric is alright so that's

alright. Just had a wash, shave,
feed and feel a new man.
We had 27 casualties out of 80 who went up.

Thursday 27th. Had a good sleep
last night & feel better. My
ankle is still sore & a bit weak.
But I am glad I went back again
to trenches after the night's rest.
Our work was from the Jordan
ditch to casualty carrier & then
across valley to 11th Battalion Dressing
Station with Cantalmasson on
right. It is deserted & barren & a
wreck. Long carry & bad road
any. Plenty of shells another 4
of us was found left of corner
towards Pigeons. Got a chalk
pit. I went right on to support
trenches looking for cover & could
get back for a long time owing
to the shelling. Front line had
disappeared blown out & the
men were holding a line of shell

Lobs. It is awful out there; Dead
men keep lying there for days
blown to bits & smelling like
fury. Trenches blown in &
indiscribable confusion. Every
I had a bit of something to eat
the trenches & then went back
quite not strong enough for
bearing just that so I worked as
a fire - lance helping down
walking cases who were after
were stretchers cases before the
long walk to the dump was
finished.

at night the guns around as
spoke. 18 pdr 60 pdr & big naval
guns all joined in to the noise
was one long roar & crash with
the shriek of the shells was continuous
poor old Fritz. He is getting it
The German prisoners (of whom we

saw a lot) say that it is hell.
Verdun was nothing to it they
say & I can quite believe it.

Now it is all over & we are
back here in peace & safety it
is difficult to imagine that
such a place as the trenches
exists. It just seems like a dream
but we may be out there again
soon although the 1st Division
was withdrawn badly cut up &
the 2nd Division sent in we are
temporarily attached to them
may be doing more digging.
I don't mind doing another bit
if they need all the stretcher
bearers they can get badly.

The night work is the worst as
you can't see what you are doing.
The flares & star shells & gun flashes
only help to blind you & make the
darkness blacker than before.
Instead of keeping darkly the way
is not so wicked as by day most

of the casualties having been
got from them. They are brought to
the dump & put in horse waggon
who take them about 2 miles
to an Dressing Station where they
are put in cots & taken to the
next Dressing Station then
to the Ambulance Train to the
Base & then across to England.
Some of the poor boys lie out
for days before they can be
got in but they all take it
well & want to get back again
before it is all over to be
with their "coppers". It is very
touching & they are grand fellows
& will come every time although
they are rough outside.

It seems hard to realize but this
is just a little bit of the "big
push" so much talked about
our boys did well, better than

expected. The Germans I saw are
would never take the fancy
but they did & more, but that.
The 2nd Division are now to try
this matter.

The German (are time) dugouts
are wonderful. Doubtless
30ft deep. Pillars & walls painted.
Electric lights, full length
mattress beds & even franks
are paid here. They have to be
seen, so believe that it is possible.
Our boys enjoy a sleep more
when off duty. Not all the guns
in the world can wake you,
unless one hits you. I was
in one for a while but didn't
get a chance for a sleep. I slept
a couple of hours on the ground
with just my great coat & hat
of all sizes all round me & some
thin kites. I was never a sleep
at all, but I did close a few hours.

There is hardly a square foot
that is not a shell hole. Holes
vary from "whiff bang" holes
about 3 ft diam by 2 ft deep to
coal holes, 15 ft x 6 ft & more
craters of course much bigger.
German dead helmets, rifle
artillery & other things as well as
our own are strewn everywhere.
Bombs, rifle & artillery ammunition
(1941 live shells by series) &
unexploded whiff bangs & 12 in
shells lying all ground (not too
many big ones, but one here & there)
It is a curious sensation to be
crouching in a bit of a hole while
the big shells scream over & then
bang right on top of you & then
the dark bits of shell fly heaven
& you get covered with dirt.
Somehow I never had any fear
that I would be hit. - hard I mean

I was hit by hits but not hard enough
to hurt - got hit by hits of ¹⁹1918
but nothing more. We lost about
5 of our men nearly all the first
two days too. I quietened off
towards the end.

The steel hats are a nuisance
sometimes but when a big shell
burst near they are a blessing they
have saved many lives. The shell
basters have an exception when
there is nothing doing but my
ward when a burst is on they do
work. It is killing work for
no body can stand it for long. All
the boys say they ought all to have
V.C.'s. But of course that is easy
they only do their bit like the boys
in the trenches, only it is different
sort.

all along the route we used to
carry we passed infantrymen &
others all taking cover in the dugouts

but we have to go an Assembly
I didn't mind especially when
you have a patient. You think
of him all the time & help yourself
& you don't notice the shells
but when you are coming back
for more. Try yourself & do not
be good.

all the while I was up there I
packed a charity bag & when I
left all my things behind. Even
my gas helmet I had to borrow
one at Albert from one of our
moral drivers. They had one
puttees are bad, the day I
sprained my ankle & am now
wearing an odd pair of boots
an odd pair of puttees. There is
plenty of stuff to choose from

Saw the 1st Brigade marching through
Westover (warley) back from the trenches
I could not help thinking of the lines,
Back from the jaws of death
Back from the mouth of Hell
- - All that was left of them.
On the average there were about
300-400 left out of a battalion
of about 1100. One could not help
but feel proud of them as they
marched along. Cheerful, joking
& singing with German helmets &
other souvenirs ostentatiously
displayed. They are fine there
is no doubt.

Saw Eric with the 3rd Battalion
& walked with him a good way
gave him the home letters & swap
news etc. We were both glad to
see each other well & healthy
after the push. I hope to go
with him for the next stint.

Sunday 28th Worked all day
yesterday on Samtany & squad
& all last night was ward full
of operation cases (open minus
arms & legs etc). Feel very
tired & ankle not feeling too
good.

To night they wanted me to
go on the ward again, but as
it was voluntary & my ankle
was sore I refused.

Heard Alan Bond was wounded
I smashed arm. ^{quite comfortable}
"Blighly". He is lucky.

I haven't seen one of Fritz's planes
round this part ever since we
came here. It's just as well because
if he had caught a glimpse of the ^{cause}
he would have finished us off ^{the dump}
about 1/2 hr. It was bad enough

an Casualty Carer & Suicide
Valley & around the road to the
Chalk pit but it would have been
100% worse if he had got the range
of the dump. He did put up a
balloon for about $\frac{1}{2}$ hr which
was promptly skinned by some
of our planes. You can count
your planes ~~by the~~ & balloons
by the dozen but rarely a one
of Fritz' can you see.

Saturday 29th July ankle a
bit sore, so am resting & writing
letters. I haven't written any since
leaving Belgium.

We are leaving tomorrow
destination unknown, probably
Belgium again, after re-organisation
for another stunt.

Sunday 30th July. Beavers stopping
behind. Put an account of my weak
ankle. I am going with the "Sisters"
I don't want that at all, but am made
to. I suppose it's best after all as
beavers would only damage my ankle
left at 9.30 am. marched back
through Vadencourt + Cantay +
Ostissat + Ribempré. Talmas
at court, Wagnies, Havesnas +
stopped at Halloy, near Canisles
arrived there about 6 pm. I
walked part of the way, but my
ankle got sore, so I rode the
rest of the way.

Monday 31st. Nothing doing. Put up
some tents. Got 3 letters from home
dated June 12th.

August 1st. Nothing eventful. My
30th Birthday. Wish I was home to
celebrate it. However, I will be here
for the next one, surely, my 31st.
Heard that beavers left behind, contrary
to expectations are not doing much
work. I am doing far more here and
I am supposed to be here for a rest.
Saw Eric just now & had long
talk. Glad to see him. Gave him
letters. He has been offered a
commission but intends to refuse
it. It is a big sacrifice for principle.
He has seen about my transfer &
it ought to be in any day now.
Hurrah! Things seem to point to
us going back to Atmentiere
& starting another "push" there
as soon as we are re-organized.
Eric doesn't say much, but from
what he told me I reckon he ought
to get the job. They all did well &
it seems to have done extra well but
wish would have been with him.

Just saw Stacie & her walright they
doesn't seem to be enjoying themselves
I suppose he's tired. Reading just
some out of action.

Wednesday Aug 2nd — nil

Thursday Aug 3rd Got "staff" job
in G.M.S. Saw Eric again. Got 3
letters, dated June 18th.

Friday 4th Wrote Fletchers. In
afternoon went for walk with Eric.
Saw M^o & if seems as if the first
claim had been forgotten & Eric had
to put in another one. I am beginning
to wonder if I will ever get with him.
However the M^o says it ought to go through
in a few days now so we will hope
for the best.

Had tea with Eric & the other AM^{er}
& walked home.

Saturday 5th

Monday 7th Lost staff got a good one
old job of bicycle order. Had a
lot of humming about. Went &
saw Cues transfers going
through alright

Tuesday 8th Moving tomorrow
Wednesday Aug. 9th Battalion
moved off this morning going
back to the trenches. Just my
rotten luck! Looks as if I am
here to stay. We were supposed
to move today but I don't
think we will! 3rd Batty just
went past. I saw Eric.

Thursday 10th Nil

Friday 11th Moving today at 2 pm
marched about 10 miles to Herford
Camped for night under trees Temp.
heavy. Saw Eric gave him ^{his} parcel. I
got a parcel from Jerry too
Sat. 12 August Transfers came
through tonight Herford will
join them up tomorrow

Sunday 13th Aug. 12:30 pm
Here I am attached with the 1st
regiment + HQ + a machine gun platoon
This morning went to church
Parade + Gen. Birdwood gave
out ribbons for Military Medal as
won at Beersheva

Monday 14th 9:30 pm marched
to Tadmor + camped in
same place as last time

Tuesday 15th Moved off 9 am marched
through Warley to Albert. Next day
moved off into trenches arrived ~~at~~ ^{at} 16th

Friday 18 Aug. 10 pm. Here we
are in a big German dugout which
we are using as a Dressing Station
waiting for the Casualties to start
coming off. There is a bit of a stunt
as to night + the bombardment is
heavy.

We passed the Jordan Dump + came
past Casualty Comms + up towards

valley arriving at new dump & cookers
about 2 am Wed. 16th things were
pretty quiet I was rained & the
drainage was a nightmare & going
was difficult. We slept till morning
in a delay rest dugout. Beavers
summed up to temporary of about 60
to 80th Batts coming out. Camp 9 - the
Camp set off at 9 pm that night to take
over an advanced dressing station
about 700 yds behind the line went up
ways had to come back & they got blocked
by beavers. Shelling all the time. Finally
after a lot of trouble we arrived here
at about 2:30 am Thursday morning
cleared out dugouts & carried on
with many casualties. about 40 for
24 hrs. The camp was situated in
what was originally the main street
of Pagans. The country was torn up
fearfully every square foot with
huge shell holes. Traversed by
trenches with the remains of a couple
of villages just a few flags of truce.

perhaps a bit of a wall left) &
one time swayed, now gaunt
tree trunks smashed & battered
over all equipment of all sorts from
knives to leg guns, setman & cuss
scattered everywhere. Also digd wrens
pits & smelling awfully & plus they
ones in thousands everywhere.
Maybe falling in flames. Great sight
at 2 pm this afternoon. The 2nd
moved onto our part of the line & the 3rd
2nd moved out to left & so we
had to shift. I was sent ahead to
the 1st. I was misdirected & got lost
& roamed all round France dodging
shells & finally landed here after 2 hrs
wandering over back right way in
twenty mins. & came back with others
in the glare & took over the dugout
which we cleared out. It has four
exits & is about 30 ft long. There is another
about 10 yds off like it, where Capt Taylor

was as 4th Battalion NCO. This afternoon
I had to go a couple of trips to Old Station to
get lost again, & had a rather lively time
I am a terror for taking the wrong turning
Pales just came from S.C. with lots of
descriptions for 3rd Battalion. Eric has got
the DCM & our doc. got the Military Cross
They were both well deserved. I guess
Mother & Father will be pleased.

Sunday 20th. Here I am sitting on the
doorstep of my bed in a berth. The bath
came out last night & Eric & I & the boys
have just arrived. There were not
so many casualties this time, but it
was worse in his way that we
were not working hard enough to
keep us busy & we took more
notice of the shells. I had a little
habit of losing my way & I had
several extensive bouts & and
the vicinity of the operations had
a pretty lively time generally.

I am very tired & dirty & hungry
There ought to be some mail for his
sister as the Doc & the padre got some
in the trenches.

Monday 21st Left Albert 8:30 am marched
to Warley. By working our ruts we got an
officer's billet & it is some class. No
mail for us although the others got a
lot. Only he here for one day

Left Warley 8:30 am, marched to Val-de-clair
Tuesday 22nd August. Big box of
camp kit arrived for us. The MC
3rd Battalion. There is enough for a
dozen men of all sorts of things
a big case takes 2 men to carry it.
It is some class & will keep us
going for some time.

Eric has lost his diary. It
is very bad luck indeed.

We are camped here in a big paddock
under canvas. It is a nice change
from dirty old barns although

last place was A1. only we were early
there one night. Had 3 letters, one
from home. Wrote some things
Thursday 24th Left Val de Chaudiere
9am marched 9 miles to St-James
Friday. Stopped here all day. Visited
Dauillers. Very few interesting
Saturday 26th Left 3am marched
to Station & embarked. Left at 6am
for train journey. Then detrained
at Steupatrec near Poperinghe, 4
miles behind Offres. marched to
Toronto camp (about 4 miles) just
vacated by Canadians.

Sunday 27th Aug. Nil.

Monday 28th. Walked about 5 miles
to bath & had a bath with the Battalion
at the Divisional Bath near Poperinghe.
In afternoon came down with the
farm to have one as they had to stop
the bus on account of a sick road.
We will get into see Poperinghe if possible.

Tuesday 29th August. Yesterday afternoon
we spent in Papermole. It is a fairly
big town + interesting. Looks as if there
was a bit of street fighting here. We
went to the Pictures + had tea there +
came home by a shorter route.

We are billeted here in an old
Camp formerly inhabited by
Canadians who have now
gone to the Service. It consists
of huts or is called Toronto Camp
+ is near village of Oudendrom.
It is raining a lot lately.

Tuesday 5th September. The work here
we are in the trenches + this is our 5th
day. We have 3 more to do here + 4 in
support.

I haven't been enjoying myself this
time. I don't think my stomach has
recovered from the Diet + Bully stew
we had at Poitiers. It is very much

upset. The weather is cold & wet & every
thing is muddy.

We moved off from Tarento camp
on the afternoon of 30th Aug. & marched
to railway about 4 miles & entrained
in armoured train to just outside
Ufres. Then we marched from there through
Ufres to an old railway embankment
on the side of which were lots of good
dugouts where we camped & the night
with our helmets as the alert.

Ufres is a city of the dead. It is a
very big city & once was very
beautiful. Streets & streets full of big
houses & shops & big public buildings
all knocked down & in total ruins.
It is a very interesting sight. From the
lights peeping from the level of the
pavements it looks as if it were
inhabited by soldiers living in cellars
& dugouts among the ruins. We marched
right through the city & out a road
to the railway embankment where we
stopped all day & moved up that night.

Thursday 31st Aug We arrived in the
trenches about 9 pm when we relieved
the Germans. This dugout is very good
& big & one of many dug into side of
same railway we were in last night.
Here it is a cutting & the front line is
straight ahead about 400 yds. Dugout
is about 10' x 40' x 6' high. It was half full
of water when we arrived, very unhygienic
as was everything else, as usual. We
baked out & cleared up. We now have
a pump & we pump bed dry & succeed day.
There is a bit of a spring under the floor.
There are not many casualties so far
but that may alter any minute. There
is a good bit of shelling goes on & this
cutting receives its share especially
H.Q. about 100 yds up & a corner about
 $\frac{1}{4}$ mile down. The two practical
new features of this place are
minnewerfers (minnie 'wouffers we
call them) & gas both largely used
here & especially unpleasant.

"Minnie" is a big canister bomb filled
with high explosive & about the size
of an oil drum with a fuse & rope
a bomb as a detonator. She does
make things funny when she goes
off. Spout as this detonator is lit
shakes & the candles go out whenever
one lands within a hundred yards
or so (more if anything) of it. This
we were told is about the same of
the gas attacks & although it is pretty
quiet now it has been the hottest
the line. It must have been some
all wounded have to be evacuated
at night. Snipers are pretty active.
The old tin lid is a boon & a blessing
we got a big mail the other day &
enjoyed ourselves immensely.

There is a lot of mining going on
here. It seems "sane" job, burrowing
like moles down into the earth (as much
as 100ft) & along & up & sideways digging
for forty all the time & never knowing

what minute he may blow you up.
They lay mines up to hundred depths
of explosive, blow them up then our
men & Fritz have a fight for the crater.
It's funny sort of warfare.
Some of the mines take 6 months to
dig & they all run well into the woods
three months. Just now there is one
"nearly finished" they say. Only about
another 6 weeks to go they have about
70 tons of explosive under now. ^{about}
The only fly in the ointment is that
they think Fritz is a bit ahead of
them & they may be blown up at
any time. The miners say that they
just want to be within 3 miles of it
when it goes up. It wouldn't either
new days war seems to consist
of throwing big shells, bombs, "waffis"
at each other & sending gas whenever
favorable. The rifle is used mainly
for sniping & the bayonet for loading

bread + cooking rats, opening tins +
 chopping wood. The men in the
 trenches serve as cannon fodder.
 An army consists of plenty of artillery
 with plenty of bombs of all sizes, rifle
 grenades, machine guns, snipers,
 gas, liquid fire + cannon fodder.
 This mere machinery + the effects are
 awful. Even the ground will take a
 long time to recover + humanity
 will take longer.

There are plenty of rats here,
 hundreds of them. Some as big as
 baby rabbits + you fear them ^{as if they} ^{are} ^{fighting}
 + squeaking in the dark. In the
 trenches they run over you + bite you
 although I have never had them off me.
 We have in water + sewage in the shape of a
 dirty stream of rain water running
 down the cutting.

The miners' saps are just big enough
 to crawl through the lands + the ^{are} ^{used}
 on man works at a time. They go for
 a couple of miles out under July

Supports behind that. One of them is
after a battery of big 17" seep blowflies.
Well 60 is plugging front of us.
Thursday 7th Sept. We are moving
out tonight to supports.

Friday 8th. In same dugout in
railway in reserve cleared out,
put new wire on bunks. It needed
it badly but is A1 now.

Sunday 10th Sept. Last night Eric
& I came back from the trenches
in an empty ration bucket to
the transport. An order from
the ADMS says that every water
cart must be accompanied by
an AME man to see that the
water is properly chlorinated.
Eric & I are taking first
go with our two water
carts. It is a very easy job
in fact it doesn't keep one

going for half a day & we have
practically nothing to do. It
what is called the softest
of soft jobs. The order will
probably be cancelled soon.
I think as we are practically
wasting time here I have
it will do me for a while, so
long as there is nothing else
going. We get our rations
from the transport & today
we had the feed of our hogs.
We had roast potatoes & meat
and flap jacks for dinner
as much as we could eat &
to night we are having
blanc-mange. We found a tin
of corn flour & I boiled water
in my mess tin over a candle
with rag wrapped round it
added some condensed milk
& sugar & made the blanc-
mange. It is cooling now & we
are going to have it for tea.

Papiermache is not far away &
we will have plenty of time
to use it. I am going to
buy something as presents
for those at home and a
souvenir spoon for Vera's
add to her collection. Had
our photos taken
Tuesday 12th Sept. Yesterday
afternoon we visited Papiermache
& went to two picture shows &
had tea there. The shows were
good & we enjoyed the afternoon.
We got the souvenir spoon of pres^{ent}
Our duties here are to make
2 or 3 trips with the water cart
& full 20 odd 2 gall. petrol tins
with water. Then we are finished
We get fed real well & altogether
we have fallen right on our
feet.

Got letters from home (July 9th & 17th),
also from Auntie & Nell. Wrote Jean & Rose

...wrote Jan. 1890
Enea George, Major Colonel Grant Spa
shyne

Packed up & left about 9 pm. Came
with transport to new camp
about a mile the other side of
our old camp (Toronto).

The Battalion is springing out
tonight & will get here about
midnight. They arrived at 4 am on 13th

Friday 15th left. Weather very wet
& cold lately. We are camped in
same part of hub as before. The
49th have one to themselves as
kitchen Inspection Room & living
room. Nothing much doing
leave starts soon but we are
miles behind. We are sending
our souvenirs in a tin box
across with one of the 49th when
he goes on leave & he will send
it home by Cooks Agency.

Wednesday 20th Left. The last few days have been cold & wet & things are pretty dull. There is nothing doing except the usual sick parade & dressing. We had a route march ^{round} through Papermfg & back & a gas lecture to break the monotony. We have been issued with the new bare respirators which are the best we have yet had & the others were pretty good.

Friday 22nd Left. Yesterday we had sports which were very good & we finished up with combined concert & cinema show in the Y.M.C.A. but some distance away which was also very good. Weather is a bit drier & we are going into the line again in a couple of days.

3.30 pm Bit of excitement to break
the munitary. Two bombs exploded
accidentally at two different places.
Luckily only 2 men were hit & they
were not serious, but we thought
that there was a dozen injured
by the crystal SB's & a doctor
that went up. We were quite
surprised but real thankful
when it turned out that only
two were hit.

Sunday 24th Yesterday. Energy
of the card went into Papermills
the Daks, where we had a nice hot
bath & a clean change. Then we
went into the town, got our
photos which were pretty "no good"
went to the pictures, had eggs
chips for tea & set off home. Great
home we dropped into a V.I.C.
club & heard Capt. Chaplain Daniels
do a real great lecture on

Class of South Africa. I was
real good & enjoyed it. He
is a real scotchman & a real
man & his lecture was 91. We
came in & went to bed.

Today we attended a
Brigade Service & Andy
Gisher was present & Gen.
Birdwood gave out some
more medals. 3 of the 15th
amb. got Military medals.
I was a good service
tonight & we went to our mes-
sage hut to hear Capt. Ch. Street
again. He was to give his
farewell address as he was
going to Australia. We had
singing of hymns first which
were A. I. I enjoyed myself
immensely. Then the Capt. started
his talk. It was the best talk
I have ever been privileged
to hear & that is saying

something. It was a man's talk
for men & straight from the
shoulder & he had everybody's
rapt attention all the time.
It was simply great and at the
end he asked if anybody would
get up & make the Great Decision.
"Give Him a fair trial" he said
& many did so. I got up &
signed by affixing papers because
I knew it only needed one to
start for others to follow. There
were about a dozen altogether
which wasn't bad at all for
soldiers. Altogether it was an
evening very profitably spent
I wish there were but I don't
although the one we have is
pretty good.

Monday Sept 25th We are
now out of the night. The day
we have 32 days to do all things
in front line & supports.

Monday Sept. 25th 6 pm. Here we
are all fallen in on the Rattr
parade ground in full marching
order packs blankets etc looking
like a Human Camel Corps we
are marching to the station about
6 miles off escorted by the band
where we will entrain for about
2 hrs + then march through Gress
to the line another 3 or 4 miles
This a different part of the line this
time to the left of the old station
Lynk's Col are stopping with the
transport this time.

Tuesday 26th King didn't happen
just as we expected last night we
left. We left off about 6.30 pm &
marched about 3-4 miles to the
station (same one as last time) &
entrained. The train was packed
with 12 to a carriage & he was
still 12 men to put in somewhere

We took on

o I was one of them. We took our
carriage each & tried to squeeze
in. I tried 3 compartments before
I could find one where I could
squeeze in. It was very funny
the joggling & squirming to
get in the door & the Conf. behind
pushing & trying to get men
I made one attempt & failed &
then I took off my pack & without
it was able to be pushed inside
& then my pack pushed in on
top of me. The joggling done
by the rightful occupants
during the operation was
marvellous. During the ride,
which luckily only lasted
about 4 hrs. I was standing on
an leg, half in & half out of the
window, not able to move
when the train stopped we all
bundled out. It was pretty hard
& stars & halter saw before
we found ourselves again

Eric had had the same experience
when we were all sorted out.
we set off in the day, stumbling
along with our packs, single
file & kept going turning a
couple of times & getting lost
a couple of times & wishing
we could all lay down &
sleep. At last we arrived at
an old ruined Chateau
which was our destination.
A guide took us, (Eric, I think)
abandoned to our disgust & we
turned in & slept the sleep of the
just but about 9 am this
morning. We were very
thankful to find nice
wire covered bunks here made
by the previous occupants.
There are guns all around us,
and all last night & this
morning off & on. Faith
has been shelling around

for the guns

here searching for the guns
luckily, the mosty burst some
couple of hundred yds from us
If zigging must be annoying
to him because he has already
expended a vast amount of
ammunition on them to
no effect, although there are
plenty of bits lying around
We have a little "elephant"
dugout underneath the
ruins of one of the out-houses
of the chateau. It is constructed
from semicircular steel
plating corrugated & is about
6 ft high & 12 ft long by about
4 ft wide. It is a nice comfortable
little place. all around
are the ruins of old fatigues
& trees broken-down
They say we are here for 17 days
it will dome. We ought to be
comfortable here with such a
nice little dugout, we have

a wire cover for the doors
keep the rats out at night (they
are very bad + very big around
here) also a Russian cover for
the doors keep the light from
shining out at night which would
be seen by the enemy + would
result in shelling. The door is
about 4' high by 2'6" wide
was alert w/o + suppose it will
be so most of the time here. The
new helmets are much better
than the old ones. All uniforms
the Chakan + they are dugouts
+ cellars, + they are all over the
grounds as well.

Thurs. Here we are sitting in our
dugout, after tea, reading, writing
+ playing chess (I've bought a
leather chess board (pocket variety)
+ chess is all the go). It is about
11.30 + we are getting drunk. The

guns are still going strong
at intervals. They seem to be
pretty lively - sound here
after a while. I will turn
in. We haven't had much to
do today.

Thursday 28th Sept. It has been
pretty quiet so far. We haven't
had much work to do. Two
sick parades, one with A+B
eyes up the line a bit + one with C+D
eyes not far from here.

Friday 29th

Saturday 30th. This morning I took
a sick man to Hospital to the 2nd
Flt ant which is in the street about
200 yds up street across the main
flats is right East of us about a
mile direct but has 2 miles to
the ambulance by road. All
along the road in are shell

Holes & destroyed buildings &
Dangers notices. The town itself
is utterly destroyed. This is
a great pity.

Every afternoon our guns
have about a bombardment.
The guns seem to be going all
day but Fritz gets more than
he gives. Sturdee tonight quitted
us yesterday & he said that it
has a Principal order
for the artillery to fire 20 shells
to every one that Fritz sends
over in order to keep our
position inviolate. There are
great runouts in the air & they
seem pretty sure that the
Germans will shortly fall
back along the entire front.
In fact he has already
started to do so. Things are
going very well on the Somme
front latest reports. We will

probably have another go there
before we have finished.

Sunday 1st October. 1916

Yesterday afternoon Storage
dropped in again & stayed
to tea, also to sleep & then to
breakfast. This morning we
were very pleased to have
him & had a good time.
We have to fill the water cart
each night now by pumping
it from the well into the tank.
It takes about 2 hrs pumping
& then we electrolyse it.

This morning I went with the
Doctor up to the other Company
to hold sick parades there.
We left here about 10 am.

On my way to East Hill we got
to main road. Myself left
at about 11 am. Bedford House
where the other company is
had sick parade & returned

Visited two strong posts
when A & B says on the Upper
Canal. Their posts are on
bank of canal just near a
lock. The canal is dry & full
of weeds. All along the first
part of the way, but as they
were dropping all round
us from the aeroplane
shells bursting right above
us we had sick parade at the
lock then came back. The
doctor stopped at Bedford
House for dinner & the men
here feed me up with
something to eat at the
same time. I was about
2.30pm when we arrived
back.

The name of this house is
Swan Chateau
at night went to Bedford
House for a reply to a

parcel sent from

message the doctor sent from
there that afternoon. The way
was rough & twisty & it
was pitch dark & I didn't
have a very pleasant time,
but got back with no
mishaps. Wrote home dated

Tuesday 3rd October

We whitewashed our dugout
this morning while Cur was
up the line. We used

used of carbide mixed
with water. But it doesn't
work a great success. Such
a splashing & slap dashing
that we had too & such a
mess we succeeded in getting
ourselves in too. We had our
benches etc covered with sand
bags so they came out alright.
I am afraid it is not much of
a success. We did it to make
the place brighter & more
cheerful. It was & still is too

large extent) black & very
dark inside even by the
brightest daylight.
Wednesday Oct 4th Weather
morning with cold ant. frost like
spray in great evidence.
No trouble with water.
There are 2 wells, one is no
good on account of bad
water. The pump is generally
out of order in the after.
So we are having a lot of
trouble with it. We have
had to have a cart brought
up from the transport
line of 3 times to tide
us over.

There is nothing much
doing. Hess is still going
strong.

7 pm. The usual nightly
bombardment is on, all the
guns around us are firing.

to see who can make them
raise. Poor old Fritz doesn't
seem to have a look - in his
shells are few & far between.
We get a few rounds here
each day some close some
far away & a few at
night in reply to our
bombardments but that is
all. I don't think he has
many guns or his front
at all now.

Saturday 9th Oct. Last night the
Captain left on leave for England
Slightly. Today we have Capt
Stack of 1st Aid Amb, and a MO
& a Daffin as our MO fell for
our own Doctor comes back.
This afternoon we are moving
up the line. We have an awful
amount of gear to carry. I
don't know how we will do it.
There are several voices & a drum of the same extra.

Alexandria - Marseille
SS Simla. An unforgetable
old sub, stanned beyond the
all human possibilities
endurance. She was torpedoed
on return voyage. Good idea
they don't worry any more sailing
Tucker medium no malaria
except a very a nightmare
Innoculation leaves unpleasant
memories. Hospital quarters
real good but unlikely of
no interest to us. Sleep on
deck in little nook very cold
but I used to be warm
Wash a deck Johnny at 5am
very morning. Cold rain
very glad when voyage ended.

Trains

Egyptian train cattle truck
French " 3rd class carriage

Bullets in France

Generally spare basins of
a farm house. Earthen
floors. Couch walls for a couple
of feet & rest, lath & plaster
& then sticks plastered with
mud. Sometimes we get
sheds & sometimes real camps
with rows of huts. Once we
had tents & once a roomy
house.

French for the
and the
and the

~~Monday, June 1st 1915~~
~~Spent the day in the
country for a day
to come down from the
at the same time the wood
of the house. He wanted me
to do to let the other boys
to do to let the other boys
to do to let the other boys
to do to let the other boys~~

Lemnos - Peninsula

SS Osmanek, 4000 tons.
Very fast lined. Packed
very close, cheap bully &
biscuits. Fast meeting of
Sibley class on poop deck in
dark. Left all night on
deck & landed on Peninsula
in morning in barges.

Peninsula - Lemnos

SS. Princess Era. Small
boat, awfully crowded couldn't
move. I was baggage guard
awful mix up everywhere
luggage away at last just
at day break. We all had
about twice as much gear
to look after as we ought to
have had to, to make it worse.

Lemnos - Alexandria

RMS Empress of Britain

16000 tons. accommodation 5300
Bunks lovely, tucky, quality
good, quantity taken.

mess table & bad job. Feeds
in two spasms. Baths (hot &
shower) in officers' hall only.

NO lights. No smoking. Submarine
danger & life belts always stand by.

Physical work on deck. Daily
inspection rest of time for ourselves.

First discovery of lice or chafers
as they are called. A few of
friends but very unwelcome
also insect vermin & unglad
of at all. NO pay for soldiers
Comps? Trick voyage.

Good well armed. Several
machine guns & other bigger gun
other a big 6" gun on deck
or a son for submarines!

occasional heavy shelling
& always some gas on. Must
kill casualties. Plenty of
gas planes, few of them
gas alarms very frequent.
Thurs heard of gas attacks
since we had the gas using
we fired at it satisfactorily.
Our guns predominant case.
Lantern in flares about equal
Canadians ^{were} found here but
now Australians & Belgians
I have seen few French soldiers
except down south during
train journey. Replace
speak pidgin English & vice
speak pidgin French & vice
understand one another.
For miles each side of actual
front line desolation &
furnish prizes supreme.
Outside this, people still live

Sydney - Suey

HMAA Warilda. Agg. Very nice
clean like boat. Good quarters.
nice company. Good trucker.
Coast point. Nothing much to
do. 1 day a week in hospital
care day in five mess/daily.
Rest of time read + lie on deck
in sun. Sleep on deck at night
in hammocks. Very nice by
altogether. Good weather, blue
sea flying fish, sharks, whale
jelly fish, phytoplankton at
night. Concerts, good time.

SS Argylshire - Alexandria
to London. Big boat but very
dirty. Submarine danger.
No books, no stores, no wacky
for the smokers, no nothing, no
books, no food. Very cold, wet,
windy. Naval fuelless job
freezing. Cold at night. Needs
aboard. Behavioural. Battle class

France.

Toain side: - White roads
winding over gentle green
covered slopes all shades of
green. Country very pretty
fertile. Many villages & some
big towns. People very friendly
& hospitable. Cold at night
but beautiful weather by day
charming country & scenery
Passed through about 12 tunnels
some very long. Lovely French
bread.

Flanders

~~Flanders~~! - cold wet with
splashes of lovely sunshine
thud & rut marks. Little villages
trees hedges fields cattle manure
heaps smells bad water
abundance of coffee & cigarettes
little shops everywhere. People

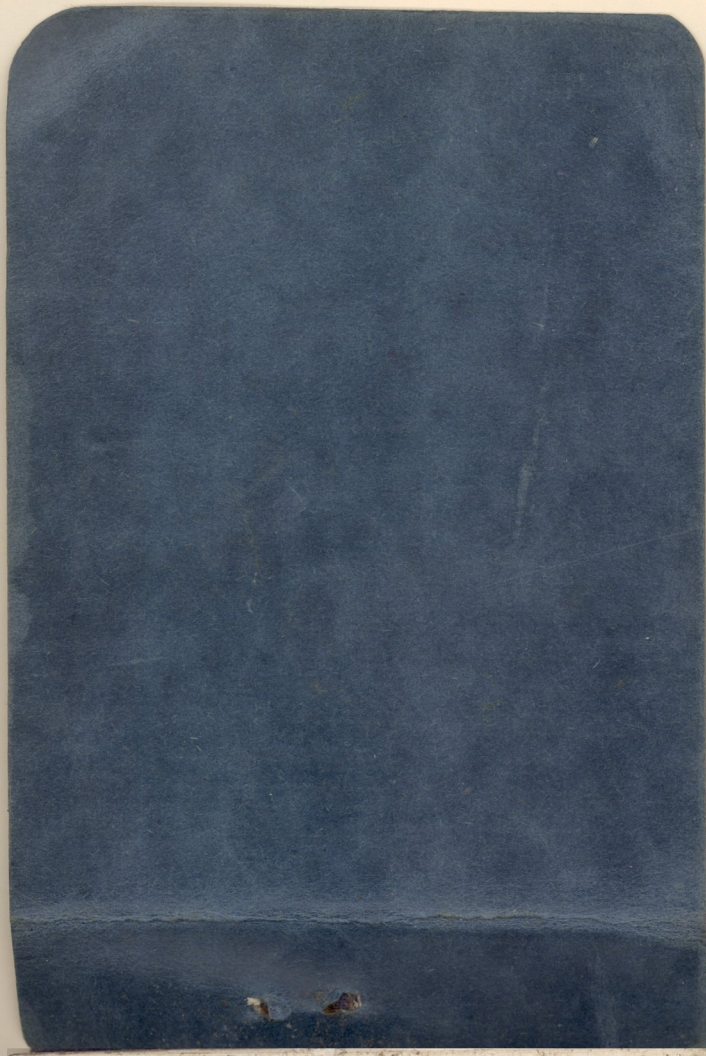
meet friendly but poor & are
uneducated & foolish. Thought
we were Austrians & half saw
Route marches, physical jobs, &
lectures. Got shot in the
arm. Fairly quiet & uneventful life
some. Long weary marches,
full packs, acting as mess & vet
good sleep on hard floor,
bad trucks, Poles, shells in
ground, shells at head end
great excitement, hard work
great satisfaction in evening
of peace in the camp. Great life
Anglo etc. Plenty of our officers of the
Belgium. Old farmhouse old
shell holes, old destroyed farms
& villages, of our cities of dead
lots of night work, taking over
lots of mud, mud, mud &
rats, rats, rats & cats &
destroyed craters & trees
Big well built dugouts

Lennox

First impression of Lennox was a
big harbour filled with war shipping
& the island bleak & bare with
several big military camps in
tents in the distance. On the island
we took several long walks
visiting little Greek villages
perched among the rocks with
their farms land below them
Used to buy oranges figs chickadee
etc. Oranges very plentiful here
as in Gylt Island covered
with soldiers. White tent
rails & rails everywhere. 2 parades
a day. afternoon free as we
were resting. Work very scarce.
Lucker medium. Christ was day
not much chef. Weather cool
& wet generally. Some good days
Greeks dress in funny flannel
pants & short coats & sheepskin
Velvet clothe popular.

Gallipoli

Barren scrub covered ridges
& valleys with strip of beach.
Everywhere you are if you had
to climb. Little rabbit burrows
of digouts. Good riches
only no bread. Hard biscuits
bully beef & tins, scanty
clothing. Hard work digging
digouts, filling sandbags &
& carrying water. Few
casualties. Bullets exploding
overhead. Beachy gull firing
often on beach. Several
bombardments by warships
by days & night transport.
Trenches very deep & very narrow
dug in hard earth. Little dugouts
on side of trench former, trench
cemetries, two dugouts & 150 ft. for
graves. Hard work packing up
& carrying gear round for beach
to be loaded on barges & taken away.



Egypt
Land of the "Gypos"
Impressions

Sun, Sand, Dirty ruggies mud houses
native villages, fields, bullock ploughs
wooden machinery, wells, donkeys & bullocks
"Gypos" corruption of Egyptian means
the Arabs really & not the Egyptians.
Egyptians are mostly better class Arabs
low class, diseased mainly dirty
beggars. I ressed in any old clothes they
can get, European, native or military.
The true native dress is a long loose
robe belted round the middle.

Life in Egypt; - Camp life. 3 pards
a day. Quivered tents, nothing
much to do. Visiting native
villages, taking walks mostly
our time off duty was spent in
visiting tents. We had big marquees
at Tel-el-Khawi & bell tents at
Scorapum, where we also had
swimming canal, Drills, exercises
patrol fatigue, mess & drills etc.



Oct 19th

342nd CASUALTY LIST.

The 342nd list of casualties, containing 912 names, was issued yesterday. Details are:—

	Officers.	Others.
Killed in action	14	35
Died of wounds	—	38
Wounded	80	598
Missing	—	1
Sick	4	92
Injured	2	23
Prisoners of war	—	9
Total casualties	100	796
Returned to duty	1	15

NEW SOUTH WALES.

KILLED.

- Lieut. FRANCIS HENRY HAYLEN, N. Sydney, 21/9/17.
- Lieut. PERCY IRVINE HAYLOCK OWEN, Bellambi, 22/9/17.
- Pte. LESLIE BREASLEY, Marrar, 20/9/17.
- Pte. DAVID ARMSTRONG, Ireland, 20/9/17.
- Pte. ARTHUR HARRISON BUSHLEY, Marrickville, 20/9/17.
- Pte. PATK. JOS. O'LOUGHLIN, Ireland, 18/9/17.
- Pte. JOHN WELDON, Ireland, 18/9/17.
- Pte. LOUIS WOODS, Chippendale, 21/9/17.
- Pte. KENNETH KNOWLTON SAXBY, East Maitland, 20/9/17 (p. r. wnd.).
- Pte. WILLIAM CLARKE, Warwick, Q., 20/9/17.
- Pte. JAS. BEVERIDGE STINSON, Wagga, 20/9/17.
- Pte. ERNEST WM. WERNER, Mascot, 20/9/17.
- Cpl. WANE CHERRIE, Arncliffe, 19/9/17.
- Spr. PERCY FIRTH, New Zealand, 20/9/17.
- Spr. ALEX. AUGUSTUS MUNRO, Redfern, 20/9/17.
- Pte. GEO. SYDNEY MOPPETT, Thirlmere, 11/4/17 (p. r. missing).
- Cpl. FREDK. CHAS. TAYLER, Dumaresq, 9/6/17 (p. r. k. in action, 7/6/17).
- Pte. JOS. MORRIS, Leichhardt, 20/9/17.
- Pte. JOHN PATRICK SCULLIN, Rozelle, 20/9/17, p. r. wnd.).
- Pte. WALTER LIVERMORE, Lavington, 20/9/17.
- Pte. HENRY WM. COMPOW, Nth. Killarney, Q., 20/9/17.
- Pte. LEO. LAURENCE CULLEN, Lowther, 20/9/17.
- Pte. FREDK. SIMPSON CLEVELAND, Greenwich 20/9/17.
- Pte. CHARLES GAPES, Granville, 20/9/17.
- Pte. CYRIL CLAUDE HILL, Paddington, 21/9/17.
- Pte. ROBERT STEWART, Mt. Morgan, Q., 20/9/17.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

- Pte. SIDNEY ARTHUR BRADFORD, England, 19/9/17.
- Pte. JAS. O'NEILL, Hay, 19/9/17.
- Pte. FREDK. HARGRAVE, Port Kembla, 19/9/17.
- Pte. FRANK BENNETT RANDALL, Tamworth, 19/9/17.
- L.-cpl. HERBERT MAURICE PAGE, Leichhardt, 24/9/17 (p. r. s. wnd.).
- Pte. WM. ALBT. SLADE, Enfield, 20/9/17.
- Pte. FREDK. DODSON, Darlinghurst, 20/9/17.
- C.S.M. JOS. WM. WATSON, S. Queenstown, T., 21/9/17.
- Pte. HUGH M'BRIDE, Scotland, 23/9/17.
- Pte. H. BENNETTS, Brunswick, V., 28/9/17 (p. r. ill).
- T.-cpl. DONALD JAMES STRANG, Gulargambone, 20/9/17.
- Pte. CHRISTIAN NIELSON, Denmark, 19/9/17.
- Sgt. ARTHUR BASIL TANNER, Parkes, 20/9/17.
- Spr. THORNE NORTH, Balgownie, 1/9/17.
- Pte. VICTOR SEBASTIAN CROSS, East Sydney, 24/9/17.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

- Pte. WM. IRWIN, Orange (bel. pris. of war).
- Spr. JAS. YOUNG WESTWOOD, Leichhardt (p. r. miss.).

MISSING.

- Pte. TIMOTHY O'RIORDAN, Ireland (bel. killed 30/9/17 to 1/10/17).

WOUNDED