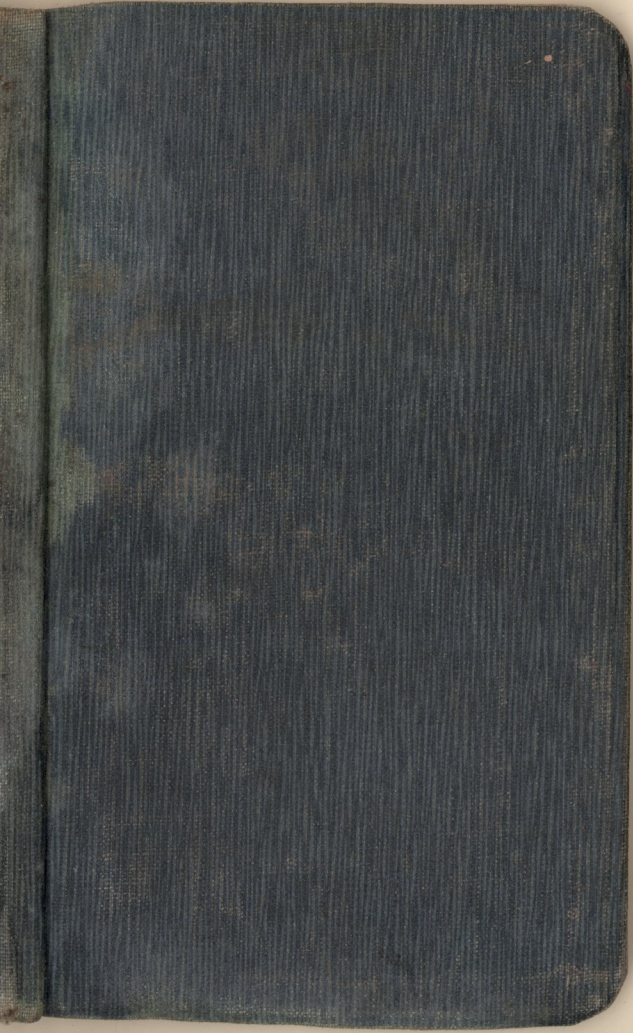




N^o 5533. Pk K K Loxby

3rd Battalion A.I.F.

May 12th Saturday 1917.

Here I am in Fairfield Court VAD Hospital where I was transferred 3-4 days ago from the Military Hospital Eastbourne. It is more free & easy here - not so strict - & we are looked after exceptionally well. I have been in England nearly a fortnight now & am getting along O.K. The wound itself is almost healed & hardly troubles me at all, although my chest is weak & will be for some time.

Eastbourne is a big high class town on the

sea shore (Pop. 70,000) & is a very popular high class sea side resort. The sea front Parade is magnificent. The shops & houses are all, big & well built, the streets wide & well made & well kept. I have been driving round the town a couple of times & I am now allowed up to walk about - the weather being perfect. I am enjoying myself immensely. Yesterday I received about a month's mail - more from France re-directed by Eric. Oh! didn't I have a time reading them. It was O.K. after waiting so long.

Poor old Eric & the rest are
having a very rough
time just now. I wish
he were here with me!

This hospital is in a fine
big old private house.

It is a lovely place & the
grounds are very nice
too. It was in France
it would be quite a
respectable Chateau.
This town is full of
such places!

Wednesday May 16th 1917

Yesterday a lot of us were
shifted from Fairfield
to Kempton, another V.A.
hospital not far away
(only a few minutes walk)

It is not nearly so nice as
Fairfield but is not too
bad all the same. There
is not the system or
convenience here that
we had at Fairfield.

I suppose I will only be
here for a week or so at
the most, perhaps less
than a week. It appears
I should not have come
here as this is an "A" class
hospital i.e. for operations
& other bad cases. So probably
we will all be moved
on again shortly to a B
class hospital. We are
all getting sick of this
continual moving. It
doesn't give a fellow a
chance to settle down.

The weather continues fine, although we have had a few dull days, which are alright as we want rain.

I am still getting on alright.

Lately my leg has been troubling me though, where I hurt it in France about 8 months ago. It has been getting better very slowly & was almost right. Now it appears to be getting worse. I think I will see the Doc about it. I don't know whether to hope it gets better or worse. If I had only known it, I could have got to Blyth with it when it was first done. Our old Doc kept me back though.

Monday 28th May 1917. Tomorrow I am leaving here. I will report back to the Military Hosp. They will tell me when I am going, probably to an Aus. Conv. Camp nearer London. I hope so anyway. I am just getting to like this place now. This Hosp. is a VAD in a large private house. I and another chap (a Tommy) share a small room together. We can go out almost any time from 9.30 am to 7.30 pm (9.30 am Thursdays & 8.30 am Sundays with a pass) except for having to be a for meals betw. 7.15. Dinner, 12.30, Tea 5.00 pm. The meals now a days with the shortage of meat, sugar

etc. are very funny. The
cook must have a
wonderful imagination
for she turns out all
sorts of mysteries made
out of any old thing to
hand. Some of them are
good too, but others -!!
However we are never
hungry so we can't
complain. We are left
pretty much to ourselves
now. The sea front is
lovely during the
beautiful weather we
are having. The town itself
is very nice too, although
there is very little to
do. If I get nearer
London I will visit
M^{rs} Primmer & Mr Jennings

If I can, I have been two
or three times to a ladies
place here for tea & music.
I have enjoyed myself.
Miss Goldfinch, 5 Hamp-
den Terrace. They are Australian
& invite all the Aussies in
Hosp. to tea. They are
the only people I have
visited here.

Thursday 31st May. Here I
am at M^{rs} Jennings at
Golders Green. I am on
my 14 days furlow. A party
of us were sent from
Eastbourne Tuesday
afternoon to report to
Starke Ferry Rd. Hd Qs. We
thought from what the
Doctor told us that we

were being sent to a
Convalescent Camp &
when we got there we
found we were to go
on furlow. I was a
bit of a shock & I am
only just now beginning
to realise it. By rights
I should be in a Con-
Camp as my chest is
weak yet. One of the
party had a evening
that was still dis-
charging.

First thing after getting
our passes & pay packet
(which took hours owing
to all the red tape) I
popped my things into
the W.C. cloak room
& tied me hence to

Mrs. Pinner's. They did
get a shock & we had
a real nice evening.
I slept there & next
morning went off &
had a Turkish bath.
I lost about 5 lbs if
I did there according
to the weighing machine
so I ought to be clearer.
I feel much better for it.
After dinner, I sent a
telegram to C. Midgley
telling them to prepare
to see me on Friday.
Sent a few letters to
notify my change of
address & took a bus
to here. They were greatly
surprised to see me &
it is alright. Both

Let's at efforts summer's
they do their level best
to make me feel at
home. They are O.K.
I intend to enjoy
myself this time. I
will do London
properly & I have a
first railway pass to
Edinburgh where I
will stay a few days.
I will also visit
Aunt Jot Beeby at
Farnham Surrey. I
have had a letter from
her. She is in a Hosp.
there.

The weather is glorious
& the country is lovely.
I have to report back

to Hurdock on the 13th
June so I have a
clear 14 days.

I am quite spandy
again & worn my
new clothes & gold chain
with a nice little SB
bracelet on my arm.
I haven't had to buy any
clothes at all yet, I have
had it all issued so
that is O.K. I have £11
to carry on with, so I
ought to be alright
especially as I have
bought all I want
already at the Hosp.
in the way of brushes
etc razor & soap etc.
So now I am off on
the giddy wheel. If

only Eric were here
it would be OK. Poor
old fellow. He gets all
the bad luck!

Thursday 31st May 1917. 11/2

Friday 1st June 9am.
I am now in the train
en route for Suffolk
Walden. The country is
lovely & green & fresh.
Yesterday I left Golden
Green about 11am.
Had dinner at W.C. &
wrote a few letters.
During the afternoon I
went through Westminster
Abbey, St Pauls Cathedral
& the London Tower. They
were all very interesting.

The Abbey & St Pauls are
very impressive. It is
interesting to see all the
tombs, monuments & busts
etc. of all of England's
best & noblest & well-
known men - from ordinary
clerics to Dukes & Lords
& Kings. Facts etc. of
the buildings themselves
are very fine & grand.
The tower with its
Crown Jewels, Armoury,
Traitors Gate & Towers &
Bastions of all sort, &
a long time to go through
but was worth the
trouble. The best part of
it to me was the Armoury
with arms & armour
for horse & man, from the

married daughter at Arzow
Brankwaite were there &
we were great friends.
The little boy's Robby
was birds & bird nesting.
He took me round & 9.
shamed me all his
special nests with the
young ones in it etc.

On Sat. morning I then
took me off to Cambridge
to see the colleges. They
were fine all through &
very interesting. They
were all so nice that
I didn't like to leave
but I had to because
I had promised to be
here for today so I
am going to visit

them next Saturday &
stay till the Sunday.
Think I will be OK.
I wish I had a month
as so to put in there.
I fixed up their lawn-
mower while I was there
& they were very grateful.
It is nearly impossible
now to get a simple
job like that done.
I will spend today
here & bought a lot of
Kummers. Tomorrow I
am off to Farnham to
see Auntie Tot Beeby &
will come back Sunday
leaving again that night
or afternoon for Scotland.
I am having a fine
time & am keeping on home

Tuesday 5th Here I am sitting
in the lovely sun on the
lawn in front of French
Militairy Hosp. I
arrived here yesterday
at 11.30 am & have had a
good time. Auntie Sab
was very pleased to see
me & I was pleased to
see her too. I had dinner
with about 200 nurses
& after dinner Auntie
& I went for a long drive
around the country. It
was simply magnific.
we had tea at a little
shop by the way & got
home about 7 pm. She
showed me all over the
hospital & grounds &
took a couple of snaps

of me & took one of her.
This hosp. is a very large
& beautiful private
residence, given by the
empire as a Military
Hospital. It is a capital
place & the scenery round
about is gorgeous. The
weather yesterday was
simply perfect & today
promises the same. I
slept at the cottage of
one of the Landstoppers &
think she was & had
breakfast there as I
didn't relish the idea
of facing a battery of
about a hundred lads
for breakfast as I did
for dinner & supper which
I had in the Sister's dining hall

I am leaving by the
12.30 pm train from Farnham
some 4 miles from here
which has to be done
by taxi (£5 each way)
The drive is lovely & easy
so makes it worth it.
I will catch the first
convenient train to
Edinburgh after I arrive
in London.

Auntie told me the
news about poor Alan
killed of wounds from
the other day. It is very
sad & Auntie just
will feel it. I wonder
when some of our
own relatives are
taken that the full
realization comes to

you, of what war means.
The carnage is simply awful!
England is certainly
worth seeing at its best
in Spring time. Everywhere
you go are lovely flowers
& green trees, lawns &
big flocks of birds singing
away everywhere. It is
not too hot just now &
warm with a gentle breeze.
I hope it keeps like this now!

Wednesday 6th 8 am Here I
am high up on a rocky
rugged hill called Carlton
Hill just outside Edinburgh.
The view of the old town is
beautiful. I have been
through Edinburgh Castle
admitted & it is very interesting

with its battlements, towers,
watchtowers loopholes,
cannon, dungeons etc etc
It is a very fine old castle
& is built on the top of a
high precipitous rocky
hill like this one & in its
day was impregnable.
It held out for 5 years once.
Old folks still speak
cannon & speak
about it as in there was a
regular curiosity. The
castle commands fine
view especially east-
wards over the modern
town which is very
fine from an architectu-
ral point of view. There are
plenty of large monuments
& squares parks & other

buildings. Streets ^{in the} ~~in the~~
well kept. Stams have
very antiquated. old cable
system & several that a
poor specimen of its type
when the Holyrood Palace
opens at 10 am I am
going through that. It
is just on the outside
of the town at the foot of
this hill on the west side
from here you can see the
sea & on fine days the
North Sea is visible they
say. It is cloudy today.
If possible to-morrow
I will take a round
trip into the Highlands
a bit & round through
Glasgow. They say it is a
fine trip. I will make

enquiries at the Station.
We left Kingscross last
night at 7¹⁵ & arrived
at Waverley Str at 4.30 am.
The other big str here is
Princes St Station. Princes
St is the main street of
Edinburgh.

The old town dates back
into 14-15 centuries &
parts are very quaint &
other parts grand. There are
still lots of stone houses
built after the style of
small castles. Probably
the residence of nobility.
The ~~Castle~~ Palace from the
outside is something of
the same style.
The new town is quite
modern being only since

the last ~~few~~ centuries.
The first half of the journey
up was by day & the country
was beautiful. It was
dark however by the time
we got to York our first
stop. We passed through
Peterboro'. After York we
slept till about 3.30 am
when it was light again.
There is only 5-6 hrs. dark
here now.

My chest isn't as tight
as it should be but
doesn't worry me much.
I have an idea though
it will be a trouble when
heavy work starts again
if it does so before another
month or so.
Country round about seems
pretty hilly & wooded.

2 of now 6-30 pm. The
Palace was very interesting
full of old historical
rooms connected with
Mary Queen of Scots,
Darnley etc, with all
the tombs of the nobility.
The rooms were all
full of pictures of old
well known Scottish
Chieftains & noblemen.
I also visited the Museum
& the Art Gallery which
were both very good &
interesting. I took a
drive in a charabanc
round to the North
Bridge & enjoyed the
scenery. Immediately
you get out of Edinburgh
you are in the country.

almost I also visited
the Zoo but didn't
think much of it.
Tomorrow I leave
by the 9.7 am for Glasgow
& am by bus a trip
up Loch Lomond &
back. It ought to be
O.K. I am thinking of
stopping the night in
Glasgow & seeing a
bit of the town.
The weather here is not
so good as when I was
in London. It is colder & cloudy
but not too bad.
altogether Edinburgh
has impressed me
very favorably. I like
the Scotch people more
than ever now.

Thursday 6th June 1917

2.30 pm

Here I am cutting on a big rock right up at the head almost of Loch Lomond - It is a great pity that the day turned out such. I haven't seen one-

twentieth of the beauty & grandeur of the trip but even with the weather as it is the scenery is great & you can imagine how much better it would be in clear sun - shine just below me is Rob Roy's Cave. The banks are very steep & rocky & beautifully wooded, firs, pines, ferns etc. I stop nearly & look on a fast paddle

steamer & the trip was very good. I left Edinburgh at 9 am & arrived in Glasgow at 10.15. The trip was good. Changed at Glasgow & took another train to Dumbarton & then still another to Ballin^{garry} where at the pier we got the steamer. The go back the same way. The steamer leaving here at 5.15 pm. I have spent the 3 hrs walking through the Highlands. They are very grand & pretty. Somewhat like the Blue Mountains scenery. We saw the big dam which forms a small lake where

Isle of Arran is connected
to Loch Katrine about
3 miles distant, & contains
its capacity as it is the
the water supply of
Glasgow & the finest
in the world.

One can understand
how the Scotch get their
character somewhat
from viewing the
country they live in.

The trip back up the
Loch (which is 90 miles long)
was much better as the
rain cleared off, things
were brighter. The scenery
was beautiful. The water
was like a mirror with
pretty little islands dotted

here & there, with coques &
headlands, little bays &
atmos swimming everywhere.
This supposed to be one of
the finest pieces of scenery
in the world & I quite believe
it.

This now 10.30 pm &
I am in my room at
the Grand Hotel, Chain
Cross Glasgow. Things
good. I have a lovely
room & bed all to
myself for 3/6 ~~per~~
including breakfast.
It has been taken over
as a club for overseas
troops & is quite a
swell place. I wish
I was here for a month.
I have already had

a couple of long rides
on the trams which
are very fine one of
the best systems in
the world & nearly
as good as that in
Sydney I have seen
Queens Park which
is now half converted
into a huge vegetable
garden. From the main
entrance to the park centre you
can get a grand view
of the city. It is a fine
place although it
is more of an
industrial centre
than Edinburgh &
not so much so as
The buildings are good

streets wide & clean
Plenty of parks etc
I have viewed the Union
of the Museum & Art
Gallery from the outside
they are very fine
Tomorrow I will see
them inside also the
Cathedral which is
supposed to be good
Don't forget in the park
who showed me
round a bit & told me
all about Glasgow.
He was very nice & we
exchanged addresses
I am leaving by the 4.15
from Queen's St Station
for Edinburgh tomorrow
& will catch the 10.15
from there for London.

I inspected the Cathedral,
Museum art Gallery &
University. They were
all OK or about the
same style as those of
Sydney. On a journey
in Edinburgh I had
a run out about 10
miles to a village
called Penicuik via
Roslyn, where is the
ancient Castle of Roslyn.
It was a real nice run

Tuesday 12 June. 7³⁰pm
Here I am again at
Golders Green. I have
just come here from
Saffron Walden
where I have been for

3 days, leaving London
for there last Saturday
at 1.30pm & catching the
3.30pm from there this
afternoon. I had a
simply grand time &
it was just like home.
They were so good to me.
They are a lovely family
& I enjoyed myself
immensely. If possible
I will visit them again
before leaving for
France.

They have an exquisite
garden which is mostly
all attended by the
Mildred himself helped
by one man. It is beautiful
and out of flowers.
& bees & bushes trained

into various shapes of
birds & beasts and
all wonderfully. The
married daughter
Mary Ann Braithwaite
is staying there with
her 3 children. They
are the most charming
children I have ever
met. A little boy about
4 is a little girl about
3 younger & a baby.
They & we had quite
a good time together
& were good friends.
I went for two or three
times around about
the district & having
pleasure with business.
I saw various old
historic towns & houses

Dick Turpin's place etc
& enjoyed them greatly.
They seemed displeased
to have me there as I was
to be there & I was very
sorry when I had to
come away. The country
all around about is
beautiful & so is the
weather. I attended his
Quaker meetings on
Sunday & enjoyed them
very much although
they were a bit peculiar.
The whole family are
Quakers & good Christian
people & it was nice
to be in a Christian
home once more.

June 14th Thursday 4pm Here
2am about umpteen
miles from nowhere in
No 3 Command Depot AIF
Hindcott, 12 miles from
Salisbury. I am feeling
very sorry for myself.
It is a terrible change
after the good times I
have been having but
I suppose I will get over
it in a few days. It
doesn't seem at all a
bad place only very
quiet. It consists of rows
of nice huts with every
convenience possible
for a military camp
so things could be
much worse. We only

arrived this evening.
Have been allotted our
huts & drawn blankets
& tomorrow we are to
interview the Doctor to
see whether we are fit to
start training again. This
is only a light duty
camp but still I feel
very homesick & lonely
& I guess I will be so for
a few days but that
will wear off. I don't
think there is much to be
granted from here
worse luck.

Last night after leaving
Mess Jennings in the morning
& sending a parcel of
views my dearest home
- doing a few things I
visited Mr. Primier

→ stayed the night.
This morning I visited
Madame Tussaud's
Wax Works. They are
not nearly so good as
they used to be & were
only passable. I
went back to Mr.
Pumers for dinner &
met Bob Lee as
arranged. He is to
report to Pertham Down
next Thursday. I said
Goodbye & he came
down to Waterloo Stn
to see me off by the 11th
train. I am a soldier
once again & it is
not pleasant coming
back to it.

June 15th Friday. Today
we were issued with
all shortages in the way
of clothing. We also were
examined by the dentist
(whom I have to see later
to get a tooth filled) &
afterwards the Doctor
whose verdict will
not be known till
to-morrow. Some of us
were also inoculated
once again & I have
been very sick ever
since. I lost all my
dinner & couldn't stop
vomiting until long
after tea. I have quiet-
ed down a bit now &
feel much better thank
goodness. Inoculation

always did play up
with me. My arm is
terribly sore yet, but
ought to be pretty right
tomorrow.

This camp is a sort
of semi-convalescent
camp & from here you
have to be sent to
a real training camp
before going to France.
So if I stop here a
month or so, my
wounds will be
righted, but I doubt
it very much. The
Doc this morning was
in a little good
humour & besides I look too
well & healthy to expect
much sympathy worse luck

~~Tuesday~~ Wednesday June 30th 9 am
now settling down. I have
had two shifts to new
huts, attended parades
(which consist of physical
drill & route marches)
etc. Last night I came
off 24 hrs duty. The first
I had done in the A.V. By
rights I shouldn't have
done it, being an S.B. but
I didn't like to make fuss.
Next time I will point
it out though that I am
a non-combatant. They
are very strict regimental
here & I was very lucky
in not making any
mistakes or I would
have been laid up for
it. I did a few guards

in the Athletics at home +
have seen it done of
course often so I
knew a little about it
The Doctor marked us
D1A3 which means
France again so on
The Corporal said that
it meant, one foot in
England + one in
France + the one leg
is on a banana skin
arm still stiff from
immobilization. Chest
still a bit sore + leg
still a bit of trouble
but nothing is bad
enough to keep me here
long now that they are
sending them off so
quick to make up for

The heavy Casualties in
the AIF lately.

Sunday was a good
day. Had two good
services. Padre is a
good fellow but new
to the game.

Had a debating
society meeting last
night. Subject was
co-operation. Very good
+ lively debate.

Majority were for it.
Treated in industrial
+ agricultural aspects.
Weather cooled off a
bit with rain.

Tonight we had a visit
from an American YMCA
man + a Canadian
Captain. We had a real

jolly sing sang in the
1st cabaret - then a talk
by D. T. Rice the American
ethy! he could talk &
funny! He started off
lightly & then got a
bit serious & then
deeper still & getting
grander all the time
ending up with an
appeal to the me to
talk live & fight
clean. It was a real
men's talk & very
forcible. Many had
not heard the Gospel
preached in that form
before & were interested.
Everybody knew he
was right in what
he said & lots

determined to live up
to it signifying their
decision by signing one
of his pledge cards. He
was great & evidently
is having a great
influence wherever he
goes. He is touring
round the camps on
Salisbury Plains. It
only our Chaplains
were more his way
than ~~most~~ of them
are. Things would
be ever so much better
if we gave a chap a
lot of bucking-up
to keep going to
hear an address
like that. It is now
9.30 & will be light till 11pm

Saturday 23rd June 1917
This afternoon I saw
Link Primer & we had
a very pleasant
afternoon talking. He
is in the 16th Field Amb.
now, which was the
new 6th Div. I also
saw Beechey one of
our old friends in the
3rd Bn. S.B.'s. He is with
the 61st Bn. also in
the 6th Div. They
marched to here from
Wareham a 3 days
march starting here
yesterday. The R.N. Div.
is taking over there.
The new division is
composed practically
all of old hands. I

Today I had my teeth
fixed up at the army
Dentist. I had two old
stumps drawn & my
jaws very sore now
in consequence. The other
day I had a couple
filled so now, thank
goodness, my teeth are
fixed up alright.
The weather lately has
been cool & rainy
again. They had a
terrible "drought" here
last week so we need
it badly so the natives
say. I would like to
see a real good sheld
of real Australian
weather.
I have had no mail

new, except for a
stray one here & there
for about 6 weeks
I don't know what
can be the matter.
It is no good at all!

Saturday 7th July 1917

Here I am at No 1 Command
Depot Perham Downs.
I have been here just one
week today.

The Wednesday before
I left Hurdscott I
had seen the Doctor
who had given me
another week. Next
day however we
had a visit from
the A.D.M.S who inspected

everybody in the Camp
& a lot of us (about $\frac{1}{2}$)
were sent out, so
make room for a
big draft coming
from Heymouth.

On Friday I was put
into the Draft Company
& Sat. morning we
left. It took us all
day to get here although
it is only about 30
miles by rail. When
we got here we were
fixed up with a
bunk & blankets.
Had our numbers
names & rank etc etc
taken about a dozen
times as usual
before we were finally

Next morning we
saw the Doctors.
Dentist once again
& then we were settled.
Here we have mess-
huts & permanent
mess orderlies so that
is better.

In this camp you
are supposed to be
fit for France in
3 weeks. You get
one week drill
physical drill, stacc
one week of guards
prelim. fatigues &
one week of type
training, reflex bagging
wringing, bandaging etc.
after that you go out

the draft ready to
move off at any minute.
This morning I with
the others that came
with me were trans-
ferred to the next
camp (Medium Camp)
leaving the "Soft" camp
behind. We have been
having 7 hrs drill
a day, one before
breakfast 3 each during
the morning & afternoon.
Everybody was pretty
suff at first & felt
it pretty bad, but we
are feeling better now
that the first week is
gone & I expect we
do not so bad. We
have 2 route marches

a week to relieve the
monatony. Sat & Sun
afternoons off

There is a real good
Y M C A here with two
first class men running
it. I have joined the
Soldiers Christian
Fellowship here & it
is a real good idea
we have 3 meetings
a week where we
have discussion
on a subject chosen
previously. These
meetings are very
interesting & helpful.
We also organize a
Fellowship Tea on
Sunday afternoon
held in the Y M C A

everybody welcome.
Then we have the evening
service afterwards.
There are two fair-
sized towns within
a mile or two of the
camp, so it is a bit
better than Hurdle
in that respect.

I have had no mail
yet. It is getting a bit
thick. I reckon
I can't think how it is.

Last Wednesday we
were once more
issued with packs &
equipment etc so
we are soldiers once
more. It feels very
funny to have a pack
on one's back again.

funny & not too
pleasant, but we will
get used to that
as a stretched Bear
I may be exempted
from Guards etc
but it is not certain
I want to see camp
burn anyway.
Handling a rifle here
so long as I can
do it at all. I get
over to France

with regard to the
war. things look a
bit more promising
for us. but you
can't tell how long
it may last yet.
I predict however it
will end this autumn.

Monday 9th Things seem
to happen pretty sudden
round here. Saturday
we were transferred
to this camp & this morning
we were warned for
draft. I wish leave
I am afraid. We
move up to the next
camp (Hard Camp)
on Wednesday. I
don't suppose we will
be here long before
we are packed off to
France. I expect to
see the boys again in
a fortnight.

The weather is quite
wintry although it is
supposed to be mid-
summer. It is no bar!

Monday 16th July 1917. My
estimate last week that
I would see Mesopotamia
in a fortnight was
far out for today here
we are on the wharf
at Southampton waiting
for the boat to take us
to Le Havre. It may
be a few days or a few
weeks before we actually
reach our Battalion
it all depends whether
they want us or not
at present I hear they
are pretty full strength
so I suppose we will
be some little time at
Le Havre.

Last Saturday morning
we were transferred

to the Hard Camp & as
a draft was going &
wanted men in the
afternoon we were
sent straight into the
Draft Camp & on
Sunday waited for
the draft leaving
this morning. Since
last Saturday it
has been one long
nightmare of kit
inspections, dental
medical inspections
& all the rest of the rest
take that the military
seem to think necessary
but which is the thing
that is accountable for
such things as the
Mesopotamia & Gallipoli stunts

For a bit inspection we
have to pack up full
marching order, march
out to the parade ground
stand around for the
waiting for the officer.
Then unpack all unit
things, lay them out
out on our ground.
Sheet in rows & very
methodically everything
dressed by the right
even to such articles
as book cases, tooth
brushes, piece of soap,
little tube of ointment,
first aid dressing,
knife & gun & so on & so
all have to be laid out
& if absent you cannot
be taken over but the

receiving Company Clerk
because your list is not
correct. Then every officer
- NCO on parade
almost, calls the roll
& checks it until you
are all absolutely
sick of it all. Then
you pack up & go back
to your hut & have
some other sort of
inspection. We had 3
bit inspections in two
days besides all the
other sorts. It is absurd
I expect we will have a
couple more yet too
before we get to our unit
one on arriving at Le
Havre & another when
we leave.

The only thing that
made up for it all for
me was the real good
helpful services I
was able to attend on
the Sunday. Church
Parade & the Communion
service before dinner
then the Fellowship
meeting in the YMCA
in the afternoon with
the social tea organized
by the association
which was a fall-out
by the song service at
night when we had
the Secretary of the
Australian YMCA's to
talk to us & my
word he was good!

It was my last evening
there & the best of many
good ones including
the other two Sundays.
I was sorry to leave
in account of all the
good friends I had
made there but it
can't be helped & no
good worrying. I will
never forget them
though of any others
of the many good
friends I have made
in England, including
the Midgleys & the Pinner
of the Jennings I have
had a most blessed &
good time the last 10
weeks & have something
to take back to France

with me in the way of
memories

I am sitting on the
boat pressing against
my kit, soon to be
a real soldier once
more. It is only about
12:30 & the boat doesn't
leave till tonight
so unless they take
us into the harbor
which is improbable
we have a weary
wait before we have
a rest at 9 am. This
morning breakfast
at 5:30, fell in at 6:15
& after the final
inspections, each call
we left about 8:15.

& caught the 9 am
train from Sidmouth
about 1 mile away
arriving here about
11 am. It is a 7 hrs
journey in the boat
to Havre.

Wednesday 18th July

Here I am at the Base
Camp near Rouelles a
village about 5 miles
from Havre & about $1\frac{1}{2}$
miles from Harfleur.
We had an uneventful
voyage, although we
were very cramped &
slept anywhere we
could find sitting room.
Boat didn't leave till
about 10 pm & arrived
at Havre about 5 am.

we disembarked at
7am. We had 24 hys-
trations issued. Bully
- biscuits our first
re. introduction. 7
mile route march, not
too bad into Camp.
The Australian Davis-
sonal Base Depot where
we will put in approx.
days training before
joining a draft on
the line. We go through
the "Bull Ring" as it is
called where we get
instruction in training
in all subjects, i.e. gas
training, bombing,
Bayonet fighting,
wiring, skitmilking
etc. It won't be much

use to me except
in the way of physical
training, all of which
I need for my job so
I am carrying on. It
is interesting too!

To day we had gas
all about the respiratory
gas attacks, warning
signals, etc. & had
a couple of actual
mimature gas
attacks right in
accustomed to getting
our helmets on quickly.
The instructors are
good & make things
interesting. It won't
be hard to do what we
need.
We rise at 5:30 am.

breakfast at 6:15 am
fall in 7:30, & get
rations for dinner (4
(bully) & bread)
get inspected & then
set off for the pull-
ring about 22 miles
away, where we stay
all day & have a hot
tea when we come
back at 5 pm. The
lucker is pretty good
here which is one
thing to help us along.
As soon as we got
here they made us
into "dunkum" soldiers
in about 5 minutes.
They have a good
system here no
wasting time of doing

about. We got here about
11 & by dinner time we
were divided out
according to our
battalions, put in
tents, drawn our
French equipment
got our two gas
helmets tested in
actual gas & fixed
up generally. In the
afternoon we had
the usual dental &
medical inspection
& then got our blankets
& were finished.
French gear is waterproof,
shot rifle & bayonet
pull through. Bread
cover complete. Two gas
helmets (PH. SBR), tin

had a few odd rounds
when we leave we will
also be issued with
150 rounds ammunition
so what with the fact
we came with we will
have some load as
soon as I reach the
battalion I will
hand in my rifle.
bayonet & ammunition
I will rejoin the S.B.
Perhaps I won't have
to carry the rifle
from here if I speak
about it.
There is a good
Y.M.C.A. here too
also with a Fellowship
association so I
won't lose there.

meeting for a few days
yet. Last night "Piper
Smith" the evangelist
was here & gave a
stirring address.
many of the boys
made the good decision.
He may be back
again on Sunday.
I hope so.

Tonight there was
concert on but I
can't get a look in
as the hall is already
crowded out even
the window sills.
doorways are full.

Monday July 23rd 1917
Last Thursday & Friday
we had Bowling.
Boxing fighting &
chess etc., interspersed
with physical drill.
Pretty strenuous
training but good &
fairly interesting.
Saturday was only
a half day. I did
washing etc. Sunday
was good with a
sort of picnic held
in a beautiful cool
old beech forest
by the Padre about
1 mile from the camp.
We had competitions
with prizes from

The Am. Comforts fund
with reading & poetry
& various other stunts
as the Padre calls
them thought out
by himself. It was
just OK & we all
enjoyed ourselves.
We had one also
Friday evening.
There have been
several good concerts
at the YMCA lately too.
Today we had a
route march in the
morning & a bathing
parade this afternoon.
We were also paid.
Pretty easy day but
start work again at
the bull-ring tomorrow.

Sunday 29th July 1917

Rouen. Military Rest
Sheds near station
waiting for train to
take us on the next
stage of our journey
to the line where big
things are imminent.
Warned for draft
at the 1st A D B D House
on Saturday morning
after kit inspection
etc. left at 6 pm &
marched 7 miles to
Le Havre for train
Full pack up with
ammunition Rifle
baggage rations etc etc
weighing about 80
lbs. Did it alright

though, rather to my
surprise, not being
quite broken in to
such weight then. It
is about twice what
we brought with us
from England.
Last week at the Bull
Ring we had musketry
on the range & a mine
night stunt in the
trenches here with
attacks, patrols, dummy
ammunition & bombs
flare light gas & smoke
bombs etc etc a regular
firework display all
night very realistic.
Carried in cattle truck
last night. so didn't
have a good night

but had a sleep &
wash the eye, this
morning. Rouen is
only about 40 miles
from the Havre
both far & near place
haven't seen much
of them though
getting quite used
to being in France
again now.

I guess there is
something pretty high
waiting for us up
the line. No use worrying
though or getting the
wind up, you know. I am
just taking things as
they come. "The Lord is
my Shepherd etc"
Hope Eric is alright.

I ought to just about
get there on my 21st birthday
(Aug¹¹) which I had
hoped to spend in Blyth.
Monday 30th Morning early.
Passed a rotten night. Cold
& cramped - no room in cattle
trucks. Left Rouen about 5¹⁵
Passed Amiens, Abbeville &
we are now at Etaples.

Passed through Boulogne,
Calais & then on to
Hazebrouch. Detained
marched 3 miles to P. W.
Reinforcements reported
set off for Battalion
at Leckieffe about 5 miles
away, through Eblingham
in the same district
that we came to on
first arriving in France
last year.

very tired indeed
when we arrived at
Ba Hs Lo. then had
to report to Coy Hs Lo
about another 2 miles
dropped in half way
at AMC saw Eric great
reception & got all the
letters I had been waiting
for a great big bundle
trishunk for soldiers.
could hardly drag
myself away but
did so eventually
No blanket bought
slept pretty cold in
billet.

Tuesday 31st Route
march full marching
order this morning

drill this afternoon.
visited Eric again
before dinner & then
go after tea. He is Campen
about a mile away
I will be in the S.B.'s
again. Work pretty
hard here but am
used to that & will
soon settle down.

Bullets & Buckets possible
Weather, rainy. It is
a terrible country I don't
think it ever stops raining
here. The weather is
miserable although it
is supposed to be mid-
summer.

Aug. 4th Sat. 3 years
today since war
started. Had my

21st Birthday last Wednesday
no rumors of our next
move yet.

German using a
new gas which is
very severe. Enough to
put the wind up anyone.
This no war. But it
has to be put up with. We
will have to change to
luck whether we strike
or not. He generally
puts it over in artillery
barrages so is independent
of the wind etc.

Thursday 9th. Here
we are on the move again.
We left Le Cateau about
7 am this morning &
marched about 11-12

miles. We are now in a
farm about 4 miles
the other side of Halzebrauch
from Le Cateau & will
continue our march
tomorrow probably.
Weather has cleared
up considerably so
that makes it better.
Last Sunday after
a few of us visited the
apodrome not far
from our billets. Had
a very interesting
time going around
& seeing all the machinery
& learning all we could
about them. It was
especially interesting for
me as it was my line.

I am now out in the middle of a nice cool green paddock. The sun is shining brightly & altogether the day

could not be much better. It was a pretty stiff march but after a wash & rest & dinner we feel alright. Most of the chaps are wandering around the paddock or lanes, enjoying the rest. It is a decent sized fagg & nice people. Plenty of fruit trees, apple & pear but unfortunately the fruit is not ripe enough yet for even soldiers to tackle. The usual big pigs

a few cows & horses are roaming around too. On the horizon are a line of 'sausages' or observation balloons showing where the line is about 20 miles from here' or perhaps a bit more. We don't know yet whether we are making for the trenches or whether it is just a few days. I think we are going but I expect we will know soon. It is possible we will stay here a couple of days. If so it will be O.K. provided the weather keeps fine which seems a bit of an impossibility in this country. A week's fine weather is almost unheard of

Thursday August 16th

Been having long route
marches all this week.
Pretty tough but good
training generally about
8-9 miles in the morning
& then gas drill etc in
the afternoon. This
morning we did 16
miles full pack up
200. Starting at 7:30 am
or arriving back about
2 pm. Some march!
Most of us did it alright.
We are in the same dish
here as we were when
we first came to France
about 16 months ago.
All the old places
such as Strozec, Poulanc

Merville La Mothe & Ofchre
creek we pass yesterday
afternoon I visited
Ofchre creek but there is
not much to see although
it is a fairly settled place.
Lots of the shops are
shut up now. Irish shells
are occasionally now
I think that a lot of the
inhabitants "have the
wind up them".
Weather fine with
occasional showers.
Some of our men are
doing farming here now
on account of shortage
of French male labour.
I think we will be here a
few days yet.

Sunday 19th Yesterday
we had the 3^d anniversary
of the inauguration
of the 3rd Battalion. We held
a commemoration
service in the morning
with speeches by the Colonel
& the Padre & the rest of
the day off. a special
dinner was also provided
which went down well.
In the evening as if
to end up the day well.
Tracy treated us to a
fine fireworks display
in the shape of an air
raid. It was exciting
while it lasted, but we
had no casualties.
Luckily we have had

Several of these lately.
The weather continued fine.
Monday 20th We had a
swimming parade in the
River Kys this afternoon.
If Smith comes over again
tonight in an air raid
he will get a warm
reception. All the Battalion
machine guns are rigged
up & a lot of extra anti
aircraft batteries are
taken up positions
round about.
They are starting football
again now. We had a
good match after parade
this afternoon between B
& D companies. I won by
6 to 5 points

Wednesday 22nd Aug. Today
we had a march past
past Birdie. We went
about 9-10 miles along
Very hot & muggy.

Yesterday we ^{the} Blanched
all our equipment &
polished all the brass-
work until we looked
like a new pin. We
thought it was to be
King Albert of Belgium
& it was only Birdie
again. It was a bit of
a come-down.

Today I attended
a court of enquiry as a
witness to give evidence
about a missing
man Tacket who was
with me the morning
was hit. There were a

lot of others with me to
tell what they knew about
other chaps who are
missing. Tacket is now
a prisoner in Germany
we have had a card
from him.

Saturday 1st Sept. 1917.
Had a march past
yesterday. Written
a good few letters lately.
Had plenty of rain & long
route marches lately but
no air raids.

We are probably moving
up the line in a few days
now. Last night we
had a stand-to about
midnight & pack up
full marching order
ready to move straight

up into the line we were
naturally excited as the
guns were going like mad
in the distance, but nothing
came of it & we laid down
to sleep, ready to move
off if needed, but here
we still are.

... Rumors about us
going to the East after
this stunt. Hardly
think there is anything
in it. It is never safe
to believe anything you
here in the Army.
Had a couple more
marches past Army
Commander Gen. Hunter
& Brigade, Bird etc.
Weather getting colder
looks like winter
coming back worse than

Tuesday 4th Left
The advance party returned
from the line yesterday
so our move is postponed
probably for about a week.
The weather has cleared
so there will be something
doing up the line shortly
in all probability.
Last two days I
have been to the dentist
as I had an abscess
forming in one of my
front teeth. One that
had been filled years
ago & the nerve had died
& gone septic. Not my
fault but will take
some time to get better. It
has been drilled & cleaned
out & has to have antiseptic

Dressings every other
day for some time now.
Had more car & auto
the last couple of nights
I think must have
something parietal
to want, maybe an
explosive dump or
perhaps it is the railway.
Few casualties so far
hickily.

Yesterday & today
have been just perfect.
Hope it keeps like this.

Sunday Sept 9th

Morning Monday & Tuesday
most likely.

Eric is in Paris on 4
days leave having a
lovely time I suppose. It

is only a month since I
came back so I couldn't go.
I might be able to work it
however, later - after the
next stint - there won't be
so many to go then.
This section it is something
pretty stiff we are up
against this time.
Weather still fine.
Thursday Sept 13th Left
Sec Base this morning &
marched 6 miles to
Metereu, a nice big
village with good bullebs
& shops & a YMCA hut.
Probably only stopping
the night however, as
we are on our way to the
line. Reveille was at 5 am
Breakfast at 5:30, parade 7 pm

we left at 8 am. after
cleaning up all the
billetts etc.

Everywhere now you
see the French people ^{at}
picking as it is the season.
Potato crops are being
dug. Wheat is being
harvested everywhere,
all the work being
done by women, children,
old men - a few soldiers
on leave. Some of our
men have given them
a hand!

The SP's still have their
rifles but are getting
rid of them now. Not too
soon either. We are
the only Battalion who
is carrying them.

Eric came back yesterday
& is quite entranced
with Paris. He said he
had a lovely time. I
bet it is hard to come
back.

We had a bonfire by
Australian mail
yesterday, & had a
great fire-reading
then. Letters dated
June 2nd & July 8th wrote
a couple in reply, but
others will have to wait
now till we get out
of line as mail is
closed!

I am leaving this behind
when we go in as it would
be of value to ^{the enemy} if
he captured it.

Hon Sec. F.A.F.

c/o 36. Royal Exchange

18 Henrietta St.

London W.C.2

Miss J. M. Lean

45

Walsgrave Road

High Beech

Essex

$$\begin{array}{r} 225 - 2\frac{1}{2} \\ 94 \\ \hline 130 \\ 48 \end{array}$$

1914

Tons

Arkansas 26000, — 12 in guns

1914-1917

Texas

New York } 27000 12, 14 in guns

Nevada

Oklahoma } 27500 12, 14 "

Pennsylvania

Arizona

31400 12, 14 in guns



Horlogerie - Bijouterie
Orfèvrerie - Lunetterie

Delattre-Turpin

9 Grande Place

Armentières

M

Observation

.....

.....

.....

.....

Réparations en tous genres.
Achat d'Or et d'Argent.

BADGES OF HONOR.

This is the badge that will shortly be issued by the Defence Department to the mothers or wives of Australian soldiers who have died on service in the war. The two bars are of silver



and the ribbon is of black silk. The sprays of wattle-bloom, the words "For Australia," and the rays and outlines of the military crest filling the centre of the ribbon are of gold.

One star similar to those on the lower bar will be attached to the badge for each son or brother who has died in the war.



For the nearest female relatives of each soldier. The badges are being sent out at the rate of about 500 a day, under registered cover, to the post office nearest to the recipient's residence.

ANZAC DASH INTO POZIERES.

THEIR GREATEST TEST.

From Captain BEAN,
OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENT WITH THE
AUSTRALIANS IN FRANCE.
BRITISH HEADQUARTERS, FRANCE,
Saturday.

I have just returned from watching a great bombardment. In front of us, some hundred yards away, was a line of ragged, shell-stripped trees behind the remains of a battered hedge. Along that hedge run the German trenches which defend the village of Pozieres. A few tumbled walls behind trees and a low sandhill of brick-red dust, with the skeleton of one roof, are all that can be seen of the village.

To the left beyond that ash-heap is another small wood, probably once an orchard. Our line curves round to that orchard. To-night an Australian force will charge over this front in an attack which I fancy is a greater test than Lone Pine, perhaps even greater than the landing at Anzac.

In that village, as far as I know, are some of the cream of German troops—a reserve division of the Prussian Guard. Huge shells have been tearing out the heart of Pozieres village for many days.

There was no difficulty in holding up one's head and watching where one wished, because no man would expose himself to shoot in those ruins unless to meet actual onslaught. Yet men who were observing there told me that yesterday they clearly could see small parties of Germans moving in those trees and running across an open ash-heap on some necessary fatigue. The bombardment has never yet been so intense. Our men in the trenches reminded me of many scenes at Anzac and Helles. They go forward in great heart.

"I believe we are going to hop over to see Fritz to-night," said one of the men, looking up. They know well what sort of a job is ahead of them.

MIDNIGHT ATTACK.

Sunday.

job is ahead of them.

MIDNIGHT ATTACK.

Sunday.

Shortly after midnight, by a splendid night attack the Australians took the greater portion of Pozieres.

The attack was a complicated one, and was carried out in several stages. After several days of steady, slow bombardment our artillery shortly after dark increased to very heavy fire. Others were attacking besides the Australians, and the bombardment was spread over a fairly large front. I had never before seen such a spectacle. A large sector of the horizon was lit up, not by single flashes but by a continuous band of quivering light.

Towards the end of the time a torrent of artillery fire was suddenly turned on to the lines in front of Pozieres village, and almost immediately afterwards the Australians went over the parapet.

The first trench across the wide stretch of grassy flat was taken immediately; the line went straight through the German shrapnel as if the pellets were raindrops. Even at this stage, in spite of all the bombardment, the machine guns were sweeping the ground. The first line consisted of a miserable trench, much of it recently dug. Few live Germans were found in it, and they were mostly cowed.

The fire was coming from the farther trenches. The line dropped into the first trench, digging furiously, while our shrapnel continued to rain overhead. Presently the fire lifted still farther, and the Australians swept on to the second trench. This was very different, being deep and well-built but in parts so smashed by the bombardment that some of the men have told me they went past it not knowing it to be a trench at all.

This line in general seems to have been just beyond the tramway which runs under the fringe of the village. In many parts of this line the Germans were fairly numerous; they were mostly bayoneted or taken prisoners. The Australians again started rapidly to improve this trench, and after another short interval swept onward through small woods at the back of the village street and into the heart of the village itself.

CARELESS OF DANGER.

As they passed through the trees they saw against the shell glare the outline of two mounds which they recognised as gun emplacements. Beside one gun could be seen the figures of four men shooting with rifles. These were quickly killed or wounded. The line swept past the guns, which when last I heard were still in our hands.

The British troops, who attacked at the same time against a switch line east of Pozieres, took a portion of the switch, but were forced later to withdraw. There were continual bomb encounters at the switch-line junction between the Australians and Germans. That was the position at the time when I left the battlefield.

The troops drove during a wild night through shrapnel, shell, and machine-gun fire, and fought around difficult angles and through complicated stages with extraordinary coolness and success. They had a famous corps in front of them, but these Australian troops showed discipline and capacity for being controlled intelligently amid the awful surroundings of a night attack, which only those who saw them in tight places in Gallipoli would have suspected.

Australian officers sacrificed themselves with sheer carelessness of anything but duty. The battle is still very fierce. The Australians will undoubtedly have to withstand a tremendous shelling during the day and a quite certain counter-attack. The shelling was fierce from the first, and probably fiercer at dawn. If any men could withstand that trial these troops will. The Army Commander has already thanked them for their "splendid" attack.