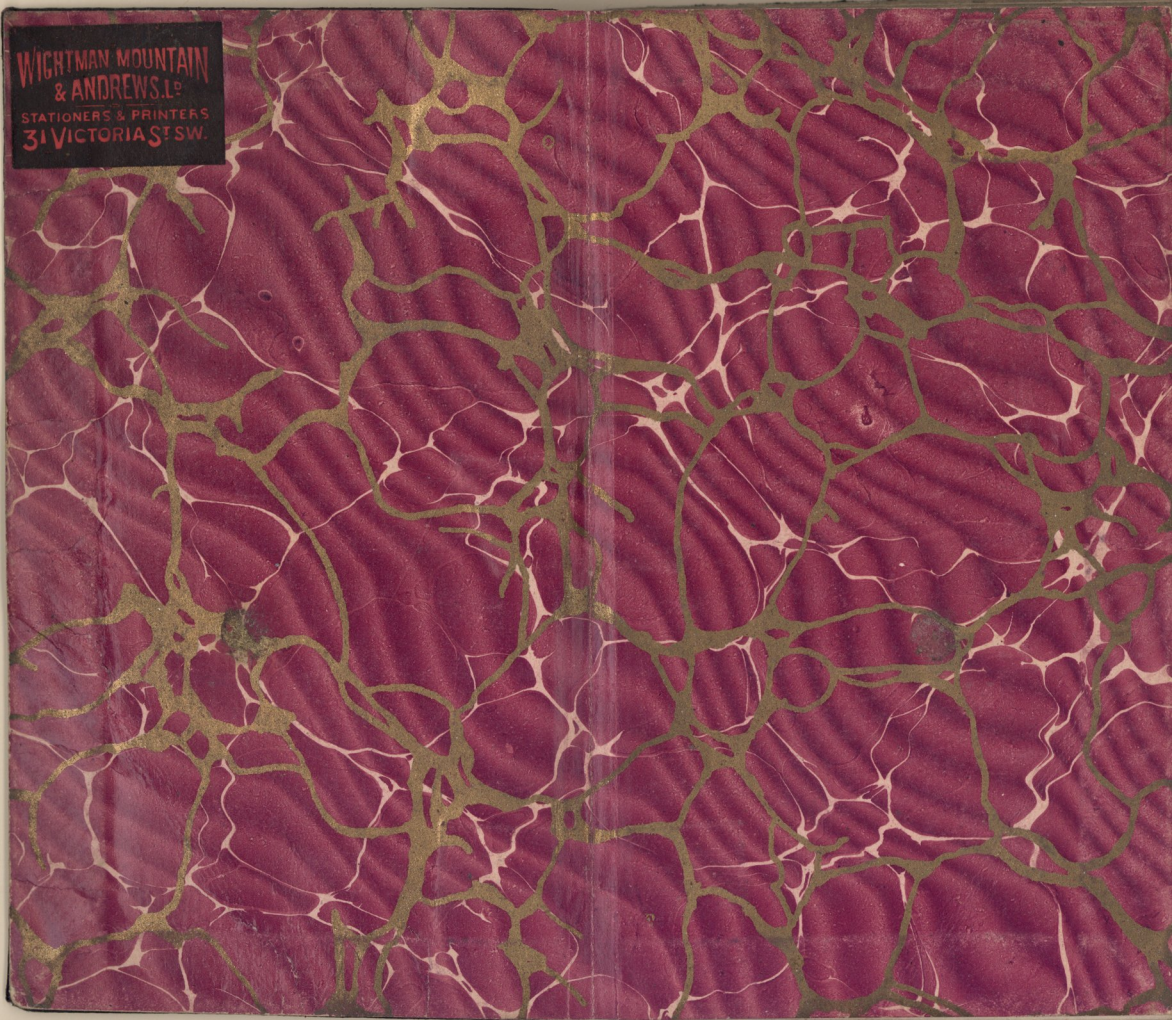




WIGHTMAN MOUNTAIN
& ANDREWS, L^{DS}
STATIONERS & PRINTERS
31 VICTORIA ST SW.



N^o 5533

K K Saxby.

3rd Ave. Boston

Jan 10th 1917. Wednesday. This morning we sent the parcels & souvenirs away. The big one we sent through Coats' agency. There was miles of Red Tape & it cost 2/6 to send. After dinner we packed up & left the W.C.C. about 2.30 pm & went to say goodbye to Mr. & Mrs. Primmer. We left there about 3.15 & took a bus to Waterloo Stn. getting there about 3.25. The Station was crowded with soldiers returning to France & their friends. Mr. Jennings' sister,

whom we met out there, promising
to see us off, but was unable
to come. We were feeling
very sad & just about 4pm
we got word that the
men returning today had
come over a day before
us, so we hurried off to
the R.T.O. (Railway Transport
officer) & interviewed him
with the result that he
marked our pass to re-join
at Waterloo at 4pm to-
morrow. As we left the
station we had smiles
all over us. A day extra
we had not thought of
to us it was a gift of the
Gods. We re-joined back

at 11¹⁵ Mr. Summerson & nearly gave
them all a fit & explained
things. Then back to the W.C.C.
to drink our glass & then I went
back to Mr. Summerson, as I
had made no arrangements
& they asked me to come. They
are very nice people & it
was the next best thing to
home to us. Since coming
on leave our writing list
has increased by two
Mr. Summerson & Mr. Jennings.
We had a pleasant evening
till about 11am (like the others
we had) & then went back
to the Club & turned in.

Jan 11th Thursday Rose & I
had a lot of bath (one of many
I have had here) & then breakfast
& went down to Cook's & sons
to finally fix up about the
parcel. It wasn't fixed up yesterday.

Then I went to South Kensington
in the tube to the Museum &
put in the morning there. The
Museum is wonderful,
especially the Science part
which comprises some 16
large rooms & has working
models of everything in the
scientific constructional
line. I could have put a
week in there if I had had
it, but I had to get back
to the Club for dinner.

It is now 1.15 pm & I am
in the recreation & reading ^{note}
room of the Club. I have
just had dinner of my
last "civilized" meal for
some time now I guess.

and am working up my diary.
I will also write a few letters.
London as a whole has
impressed me favorably. It
is exceedingly large &
bewildering. Only for the
policemen (who are marvellous)
we would be continually
getting lost. I am only
just beginning to get a
sense of direction & where
& what the main centres
& streets are. At first we
never knew where we were
or in what direction
"home" or any other place
lay. We just trusted the
coppers. Buses & tubes &
came out all right.

The immense traffic didn't
impress us as much, as you
had not seen the traffic
in France, which was much
heavier still & of course
under far worse conditions.

It was very nice to get
among ordinary people
instead of everlasting ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~
clad people. Except the very
big places, it struck me
that the shops & shopkeepers
were a good bit behind
the times. We had great
difficulty in getting
things that we would
get anywhere in Sydney
a simple little things
you may not get at all.

We have had very good weather
considering the season & the
sort of weather they had
been getting just before we
came. We have had drizzle
rain & sleet & snow & mist
along with occasional
bits of sunshine, but no
heavy snowing or fogs or
anything like that. It
doesn't seem cold much to
me, after having been
broken in, in France.

The London barbers are good.
We had some lovely stunts.
The concerts were good & we
saw Capt Scott's Expedition
at the pictures which was very
excellent. The ordinary pictures
were passable. Went to the theatre.

Caught train at Waterloo
at 4.30. arrived at South-
hampton about 7 pm went
straight aboard the boat which
left soon after. It was cold
& we didn't pass a very
good night. Arrived at home
about 8 am. Friday 12th Jan
I disembarked at 4.30 am
& marched to the Red Camp
arriving there about 9.30 am
I think we will be stopping
here for the night.

Saturday 13th Jan. Rose
8.30 am marched to
train about 3 miles. Luckily
this time we got 2nd class
carriages instead of 3rd the
seats were softer. We went

back the same route as we
came & arrived at Albert
about 9 am Sunday 14th
all along the way the
fields were covered with
snow. It was very pretty.
We had another "burn" just
as before at the same
place for tea. After
reporting at the Arzac
Reinforcement Camp in
Albert we were told to
report to Contay some
8 miles away. We caught
a motor lorry just outside
the town & were taken
right into Contay where
we found our bus. But
was some distance away

near Warley at a little
village called Baiscense.
We were directed a short
cut across country & had
a good sloppy sloppy
tiresome journey. There
nearly losing our way,
only we were re-directed.
We arrived here about
2 pm & found them in
a shed adjoining a
Gumby Field ambulance
Hospital & really part
of it, although not used.
Here we have a little
comfortment at the end
of the shed for ourselves
for eating sleeping etc.

The rest of the shed about
20 yds by 12 ft. is the
hospital, full now about
a dozen patients. Work
is very much in evidence.
Lick parades average about
a hundred. It is very
hard to come back & mine
are in the "blues" but I
suppose are well settled
down soon. It is cold &
wet & muddy. No Can!
Wednesday Jan 17th. Been
here 3 days now. Plenty of
snow & cold & wet & mud &
work. Otherwise nothing
doing. Snow very pretty.
Lick parades about 100. Hospital
full. Work - beaucoup.

Got a lot of mail. Wrote
a lot of letters

Monday 22nd Jan. Chilly
special doing this week.
Tonight we packed up for
we leave tomorrow
morning for Picouville.

In this village we
have fed like fighting
cocks. Plenty of meat
fresh vegetables, breads
ordinary rations. En
& I have been very
lucky in being broken
in so gently to active
service life again. We
are now settled down
& feeling contented again.

The weather is very cold
Snow has covered the
ground for a week.
Snow & all water frozen.
It is healthier here
than wet & we can
stand it. The men are
feeling in much better
health now than a
fortnight ago. I am
feeling A.O.

We left on Tuesday
23rd Jan. about 10 am
& marched via Hellenburg
& Millencourt through
Albert & onto Picouville
about 10 miles altogether.
It was very cold but we

did it in good time
& condition

Wednesday 24th Jan.

It is freezing. Everything
is frozen. Medicines
and bottles water bottles
frozen solid all water
things likewise and
last but not least, us.
It must be about 100
below zero. Longfibre
in about 5 minutes.

This morning none of
us could get our boots
on. They were all solid.
I am glad I have no
longer to wear army boots.
Our gloves & scarves are

now coming in very handy.
I wish I had the sheepskin
vest I left behind now
but it is no good writing
for it as it would not
get here till after the winter
ended. It will only last
another couple of months.
We are in the middle of
it now. It would be
too cold, in the tent.

We are in sheds here
like last time & happy but
we have none to ourselves
this time for a sick inspection
Room. Sick parade this
morning very large. Many
sore feet from the march
yesterday. They say

we are going into the
line in a couple of days
now. If the frost continues
it will be better than last
time, as there will be no
wet, although the cold
will be pretty awful!

Thursday 25th Jan. Still
as cold as ever. We have
a young hospital again
now & still going strong.
We are shifting tomorrow.

Friday 26th Jan. Moved
off this morning about
10 am. after packing up
etc. & marched to

Bazentin Camp about
4-5 miles away. It was
cold & real good marching

Bazentin Camp is very
similar to the others, is
huts in rows. We have
a hut here sharing it
with 11 machine gunners
with them, and all our
gear things are pretty
crowded when sick
parade arrives. We
had a crowded time
disposing of them during
the afternoon. Then we
unpacked the Macten
Cart which carries all
the medical gear & took
what we wanted, storing
the rest in the I.C.M. Store.
The S.B.'s collected their
stretches & unpacked up for

the line. We slept close
together that night as usual
also kept warm. It is
the only way. Next
morning there was the
usual frost & our hats
etc were frozen & had
to be thawed out & one
a fire before we could
get them on.

At 2nd Orders came
out for us to move
The Battalion as going
into reserves first & I
will be divided, two
companies taking one
position & two another.
Enc. I am to go with the
left hand lot, the Lt.

coming up later, when
one of us will join up
the right hand half with
the Doctor & one man.
The other two men are
staying here to look after
water supply & run a
bit of a hospital.

Fick parade was in
full swing when Enc
to I set out. We only had
 $\frac{1}{2}$ his notice to pack up
& get ready. So we missed
the advance party who
was to take us there &
so we had to get directions
& set off ourselves. The
directions turned out to
be a bit faulty & set us

on the wrong track.
We found ourselves
near Delville wood, en
route for Fless, instead
of High wood, on the
way to Le Laro. So
we set across country
for High wood which
was just at the horizon
& passed round it
safely reached Bge
Hill, where we inquired
for further directions.
After waiting a while
we got them & set
out but went astray
halfway & didn't
get onto the right way.

again for some time.
However we reached
"Home" safely at last, about
3pm & were shaved in to
our dugout still occupied
by the Cominies we were
relieving. They left about
6:30 when the Balm
arrived. The duck-
boards all the way are
frozen & slipping like
glass so everybody
wears sand bags round
their feet to stop slipping.
all around here is
very flat country
is all under observation
while we were coming,

every time we got out
of the trench, Fathly
saluted us with a few
whizz-bangs. Luckily
his shooting wasn't
very accurate.

The post here is a
small network of
trenches with dugouts
all in it. The other
companies have a
similar post. The
old post we have is
a little elephant dug-
out about $7' \times 8' \times 5'$
high with a narrow,
twisting entrance about
2 ft wide. There are 6 of

us sleeping in it, Sgt
Carruthers, myself & 3 others.
Eric left this ^{Monday} morning to
go to the left half, as he
was the one who lost the
loss-up. (Neither of us wants
to be with the Doc. We had
had enough of him last
time in.) The dugout is
practically no use as a
dressing station & it
will be awful if we
get many wounded.
However it is the best
we can get & we will
have to make the best of
it. Forty shells round
here considerably.

Harry arrived about
6:30 pm Sat. & the Germans
cleared out & the SB's
came in & we settled down
for the night. We were nice
& warm too. Being crowded
Sunday 26th Jan. This
morning Eric left soon
after. Tanber came
over, real low & our
fellows were working
on a small dugout
enlarging it. There was
considerable movement
besides & soon after
Fritz started shelling.
He was pretty wide
of the mark at first

but gradually got
right on us. He blew
several dugouts in,
including the Cook house
where all the cooks were
killed or wounded & he
made a big mess
altogether. Harry & I
were very busy all the
afternoon & the Doc, who
just popped over on a
visit, came just in
time to help us. It was
a terrible job getting
them into our dugout &
only those who had to
come in got in at all &
then we had a terrible job
getting them out. Most

of them, we dressed
outside & sent them
straight away to the
next dressing station
about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away
near by the 1st Aid Amb
& called Lever Elms
Dressing Station.

Altogether we had 4
killed & 12 wounded
8 of whom were splinter
cases & pretty bad.
I think Dooly has got
this place set now.
I hope he gives up a
rest. We will keep
low after this. We
were very handicapped
in our work, having

no room, no water & few
dressings, but within a
couple of hours of the end
of the shelling. They were
all away. Some of the
poor fellows were bad
too.

Doctors & water are
very scarce just now &
we are doing a bit of a
perish.

I have put in an
application for a transfer
to the S.B.'s from the A.M.C.
I think I can do more as
an S.B. than here, so I hope
it goes through. Eric
thinks he is doing more good

as he is, so is stepping
but we won't be separated
much as the 50's & AMC
are always closely
associated.

Monday 29th October
Today men keeping
well under cover. They
haven't their lesson
yesterday. Frost still on
water sent up each
night in sand bags of
ice. Put up a stunk on
tonight by the Jocks.
They are after the ^{Pink}
de Warlindouts at the
same time the Anzac
Heavy Artillery will

open up on the right. It
ought to be a pretty lively
little go.

Tuesday 30th Haven't
heard much about the
stunk. There was a bit of
a flutter about 1:30 am
but that is all. We had
a couple of successful
raids during the night
though. I think the other
was postponed. They
say we are moving up
tomorrow.

Wednesday 31st Jan.
Moving tonight 5:30 pm
up the line to Cay Hill
by myself. Harry is departing

to Bn Hd Qs. Have to
carry all the gear &
what 3 of us carried
up. I will have to get
a couple of SB's to
help.

Set off about 6 pm &
made our way up parties
of 10 at 40 yds apart single
file for our destination.
2-3 miles away the way
we came. It was a bright
moonlight night & you
could see everything for
miles against the snow.
It was very cold but
wasn't long before we were
sweating. We had such

load up & it was hard work
as the road was rough & slippery.
We followed a trench for
about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile & then out
across the top to another
trench where Bn Hd Qs
were to be in a deep (40 ft)
German dugout & then
we crossed over the
trench & kept on for
another mile to two &
three more dugouts in
group. One by one (the
that Bn Hd Qs were in) was
for the company & one for
the M. G. Co. & one small
one for Company Hd Qs.
I am in the last. There are

seventeen of us & we
haven't even lying down
room, just about enough
room to sit on. There
are Signallers, Scouts,
Runners, 2 S.B.'s & myself.
Zutty has all his country
for miles around under
observation by day &
no one is allowed to
leave his head outside
except at night & some
have to stoop down the
cramped & smelly little
dugout all day &
night, except for a while
at night, when I make
a round of the dugouts
& attend to any such

There are, if there are any
that I cannot attend owing
to stress of circumstances
I send down to the H.Q.
where the Doc & the Sargent
Eric are running an aid
post in a small dugout
nearly. The other 3 of our
men are back running
a small hospital & attending
to water duties (allowing
it, but I don't see how he
can do it as the water will
freeze & sent up in bags
often!). The other dugouts
are crowded even worse
than this so I have not
much chance of carrying
on my work, especially.

as it is freezing cold and
dark & all my gear has
to be left outside. Even the
men's personal gear has
to be left outside the dugout.

Thursday 1st Feb. Today
we have spent in the
dugout cramped & stiff
unable to move. Water
is finished & we all have
a terrible thirst. No
Rations arrived last night
so we are not hungry
luckily as we might be.
When dark came
I went my rounds but
found up each so I
trotsed down to see the

Doct Eric. When I got there
I found Eric had some of
a parcel from Mr. Midgley
with apples & pears & some
letters. They were both
very welcome & I stayed
awhile. While there we
bombarDED Fritz like
mad for about 2 hrs & of
course he replied. I was
a bit of a bad boy & not
later in the night he
replied to it but nothing
happened. Just as I
was leaving Eric I
had a look around &
there I could see the flashes
of a dozen bursting shells

right around C. H. Q. as
I stayed yet awhile but
it cooled off a bit when
I set off. I got across
all right & got down
inside the dugout again
where I read my letters
& sampled the contents
of my parcel with great
gusto.

I have all the gear
stacked outside the
mouth of the dugout
all in the weather, but
it can't be helped. It
gets covered with snow
freezing hard but that is
all. Luckily there is no

rain. Things are miles better
without it. This time is not
nearly so bad as last time.
The entrance to the dugout
is a duplicate one in case
one gets blown in, we can
escape by the other. The German
dugouts are all like that.
It is just big enough for
a small man to squeeze
down comfortably & consists
of steep slippery steps about
2 ft wide - 20 ft deep. Men
sleep on the stairs as there
is not enough room inside.

There is no actual firing
here this time, but a string
of posts & machine gun
positions, behind which

are the sufferthines, where
we are. This is A coy & B coy
are manning the posts. After
4 days here. A coy will
move up & B coy will come
here. We are about 500
yds from Fortly here. There
is a horse shoe at
night flames go up all
round you except
one small sector to
our left. It is just as
well that the Germans
are holding this little
bit or we would get a
rough time. They are
almost neutral, & always
have been since the

war started. They seldom
fight unless forced & appear
to be even friendly. They walk
about in view to our men
& make signs & try to talk
to them. Our boys are not
as deficient as the Germans
however & they are ^{looking} not tired
as well now as before. Our
chaps say that it is not
the way to run the war.
However we can't do
much as he holds they
for the better position. Even
at night he could do
us a lot of damage as
it is nearly as bright as
day & he must be able
to see us, but for some

reason refrains to fire.
we are not sorry, as you
may guess!

I think Eric is relieving
me tomorrow night
& we will do 2 days each
turn about up here &
expect we will get about
2 loads each & that is quite
enough here. It is better
down here as there is
more room.

Friday 2nd Feb. It
is now about 6 am &
I have been writing my
diary. I will answer
the letters I got last night,
today. There is nothing

to do. you can't sleep much
as the floor is very hard, even
the little spot you do get
is bumping.

The shells do much more
damage now than before
when the mud was on.
The earth now is hard
as iron & there are very
few duds & as soon as
the shell strikes almost
it bursts, scattering all
round. Before it used
to sink down & go into
the earth & lose half its
force.

This place is terribly
lousy & we feel it. I was

pretty free before, thanks
to a nice Belt. Some horses
I made me get in England,
but the effect of that is
wearing off now. Lice are
one of the petty horrors of
the war.

Saturday 3rd Feb. Last
night Cole arrived to
relieve me with the Doc,
but we came back together
as there were no sick & it was
useless staying down the
dugout each day doing
nothing. We will visit
them each night instead
as it is not far.

It has been clear & sunny

lately, but the frost is as hard
as ever. I am here, near On
Hd I'm with Eric & Harry. The 4th
Batt. AM came with us. We
have a dugout in the Hd I'm
trench, about 12' x 14' formed
of corrugated semi-circular
steel supports, covered with
sandbags. It is O.K. after
the dugout I have been in.
I slept like a log last
night & it is tries to be
able to move about by
day. I have just been
watching an air duel about
6 fms & 6 of Fort Zichada
battle. The maneuvering
was marvellous & very pretty.

One of Fritz's was brought
down & the rest made off
over their own lines as
hard as they could go.
They hovered about a
distance for some time &
in the end disappeared!
Our big double battle-
planes had proved too
much for them.

We have had very
few casualties so far.
I think we are going
out soon for a week or
so before coming back
to do another 8 days.
I wish they would finish
it all off at once.

From here we can see them
just to our sight. We are on
the Lezard front near factory
corner. Big H.D. is at Longchamps.

Wednesday 7th February '19
I am now in High Wood
Camp with one of our
companies along with
another of our men. Major
we are looking after the
3rd Bn men here with a
few of the 4th & 1st Bns.
I have been here 2 days
now & it is alright here.
Went down to see Eric
first night at Bazentin
stook him his parcel letter
sgt & some of Auntie Clara's.

parcel which had just
arrived. Also dropped into
1st Aid Ant. on the way &
got a requisition for
medical stores. The
Doc holds sick parade
each afternoon & we
look after the men.

Fritz shells very little
around here.

Frost still holds.
Getting used to it now.
We are in here for the
rest of the winter.

America rather neutral
broken off diplomatic
arrangements with
Germany on account
of her submarine policy.

I wonder what will happen
now? Some think the
war won't last long now.
I hope so anyway. I give
it until next summer at
the least!

My leg is still sore. I
have asked the Doc to
examine it but he keeps
putting it off. It doesn't
worry me much though.
The only thing is that I
am afraid it might
develop into something
worse. There was a break-
down of the muscle &
it isn't healing too fast.
It is 4 months since it happened
& the Doc gave it 3 weeks to heal.

city transfer want go
through till we come out
of the line again now so
the adjutant says. That
oughtn't to be long now.

Thursday 8th This
morning Fritz shelled
around the camp with
big big velocity high
explosive naval shells.
The made things lively
for a while but didn't
get anybody. We are
shifting out tonight.
We have had few
casualties this time
which is lucky and is
very difficult to get them out.

Thursday 15th We moved
out last Thursday &
repacked to Babylon Camp
No 5. I wasn't feeling too
good ever since morning
& by night I was bad &
turned in as soon as I
could & didn't get up for
over two days. I was
1034th the first night.
Haven't been at all good
since. I am recovering
now though & ought to
be quite alright in a
couple of days.

We are very busy here
& I had a bad time as the
work had to be done & I

wasnt feeling up to it
we have had a couple
of ~~little~~ parcels from
Mr & Mrs. Edgley & one
from Auntie Clara
one from E. Markland
Comforts Committee so
are doing alright
we have had several
letters also

Faith paid us a
few attentions here
one night here also but
nobody was hurt.

The thaw is starting
& mud is reappearing
soon we will be up to
our necks in it.

My transfer has gone
through to the ambulance
& I am to see the OC
tomorrow morning.

We are in sand pits
here & are just behind
the line. We will be here
another week or so yet
I think & then back we
go to the line. I hope the
frost starts before then.

Sunday 18th Feb. I am feeling
alright again now. Weather
continuous warmer & muddier.
Have had fair amount of
rain the last few days.
Weather like what we had
when we first came to France.

work going on as usual.
Fairly busy. Lickparade
in morning & treating
men nearly constantly
all day. Fatigue, &
cleaning up, washing up,
getting water etc. is all
extra.

Rumour that we are
not going into the line
now for some time. We
are supposed to be in
the Reserve army now
& if so will be belated
way back for some time
doing different sorts of
work - roads, railways
etc. 'We all hope so, as

by that time it will be
well into the Spring.
My transfer should be
through soon now.

Thursday Feb 22nd

Today I joined the
S.A.'s & forwarded work
to them. I am now up in
B. Coy's hut with the others.
It has been alright so far.
Mord is again in full swing.
The transfer came through
a couple of days ago.

Fitz sends a few
shells over here nearly
every night but has not
got anybody so far.

Poor old Fort must
be fired at our artillery -
at any time day or
night sometimes near
or sometimes far away
but always somewhere
on the front. If you
listen (if near by)
this is no effort you
can hear the guns
thundering away
puffs little. It must
be awful where they
are lobbing. There are
a couple of 8" How-
itzers just behind the
camp. They are always
going & when they

fire everything falls
off the shelves & nearly
deafens everybody.
I am now a private
in the 3rd Inf Battalion
No longer an AMC
man. Thank goodness.

The rumour about
going back is wrong.
We are going up the
line again shortly.
It will be a new
experience for me.

Sunday 25th Feb Remains
of all sorts are flying.
Yesterday we were told
No hand in our tin hats

& would probably
move off this morning
young backs. About 2 am
this morning we were
all wakened up & told
to dress quickly & arrange
our gear in battle order
ready to move off at a
minute's notice. The
Germans were evacuating
in front of Bafra. We
might be called upon
to advance. We lay
down in our clothes &
went to sleep again &
were not disturbed
till next morning.
We are now under
orders to move at any

minute. The parties who
were stationed at High Wood
who came back yesterday to
here, returned today.
The official account of
what was happening last
night was that our
men advanced 1000
yds & dug in, encountering
no resistance & seeing
none of the enemy. It is
believed that he is falling
back a considerable
distance. If so we can
expect some nice little
surprises like what we
left for Johnny Dusk on
the Peninsula, in the

shape of mines, pits, strong
bombs etc. We don't know
now at all what is
happening to us.

We took 3 cases away
this morning sick.
Carried them from their
bed to the road where the
car was.

I was mess orderly
today. It isn't any worse
than what I have been
doing & a good deal
better than some mess
orderly stunts I have done.
No mail yet. Something
must be wrong.

26th Sunday. Probably
making up today or to-
night. The old Trenches are new
in the old German trenches
called 'the Chazé'. We are
going into a big fight.
It will probably be fairly
open action, unlike
Polignac. There will be
plenty doing. The mud
will be a big drawback.
Fritz will very probably
use gas too which he
has had plenty of time
to prepare behind his
lines. Weather is wet,
fine by turns. Not too
cold but mud is bad.

Everybody seems in
good spirits which is
funny considering how
they growl at little
things. A skunt off his
hind. However, changes
things. I guess I will
know what hard work
is soon.

I will leave this
diary behind with
my pack as there is
a lot of information
in it of value to the
enemy if it were lost
or captured.

No blankets to be carried
only waterproof, gaiters.

No cooks will be able
to operate in all probability.
It will be bully biscuit
for us.

Wednesday March 4th.
Here we are in Mametz
camp. We were relieved
from the firing line last
night about 9.30 pm &
had a very long hard
march through the mud
etc. for about 5-6 miles
to Bazentin, Camp No 4
arriving there about 1 am.
We had some tea stew
which the cooks had ready
for us & which was very
acceptable indeed. We

were dead tired as well
as ravenous so after the
feed we rolled in &
slept like logs I was
particularly tired as
besides our gear & the
stretch I had a German
rifle & a haversack full
of souvenirs to carry
& besides we carried
a sick man's gear
a long way as well
as our own so you
can guess I was tired.
It was a great job
to get us up in the
morning but eventually
we got up had
breakfast, packed up &

left about 10 am &
marched a couple of miles
to here, namely camp.
We are probably leaving
here tomorrow.

It is now about 4 pm here
we had dinner, had a
parade & gas helmet inspection
& also had our feet treated
for trench feet by the new
French method. Whale
oil has proved a failure
but this new method is a
great success. You
wash your feet with
camphor soap & rub
talcum camphor powder
into them putting a little
into the socks as well. The

is done before going in &
after coming out of the
trenches.

We have had some
mail too & there is more
to come. Letters from
home dated early in
New Year.

This now eight days
since we left Berlin
for the line. The trip in
has not proved so
exciting as we expected
but it was good enough.
We arrived at Oak trench
after about 5 miles march,
about 7:30. We were very
tired & it was cold & muddy.

The battalion we relieved
left & we stayed there till
about 5 am next morning.
We carried out one of the
last British men whom
they had left for a start.
He was terribly heavy &
the carry was long, two
longer in fact, quite 2 miles
the going being atrocious.
The ground was quite as
mucky cut up as it was
at Reques. The Reg.
aid post was at Yarra
Bank which was our
old front line before
the advance. Before the
aid post was at Herlam
Road, about 1 mile behind

We left Oak Lane about
5 pm & marched about
 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Pyz trench
where we took charge.
It was one of 2nd old
trenches & so he paid it
a few attentions knowing
where it was, but although
he damaged the trench
considerably we had
no casualties as the
Germans had left a
couple of their big dugouts
intact. Having finally
used them up to the last
minute & we all got down
into them. We stopped
here all that day & the
next night & day & shifted
up into the line the next
night. While here, the
Doc. shifted his aid post
up into an old Bomb
store of 2nd's just near
us, in an old German
road called Blue Cut.
Another road, Yellow Cut
runs parallel to it
from it. Another S.B. & me
went to see the Doc &
struck them in the middle
of cleaning up so we
were called into a weak
band. We fought &
sweated for an hour or so
then went back there.

were boxes & boxes bags
bags of bombs of all
sorts. Pineapple bombs
egg bombs. Greenish
bombs, detonators etc.
but they got it cleared
last. About 1 hr. later
I popped back for my
scarf I had left &
found it with the
entrance all blown
in. Fritz had spotted
it & sent over about
6 5:9" HE & finished
it. They radioed for a
new urgent pack
up & relieved then it
was terribly bad luck.

The new post was in
Wheat French, a continuation
of Oak Lane across Blue
cut. They were in with
the 4th Bn M.O. just
at this time our own Doc
left & we got a new
one Major Beamish.
We are all pleased as
he's a first class fellow.
In fine weather all this
ground for miles around
is under observation &
often Fritz snipes with
white. Bags & even 5:9's
It is too far away for
the rifles. The ground is
terribly chopped up & muddy.

The 11th Battalion we
relieved. Left a lot of
rations & gear behind them
so I paid them trench
visit & got some beer
& cheese & a bottle of pickles.
We were very pleased to
take a German wife
which I wanted badly
& a lovely little radio
left by one of the 11th B.
We left Rye trench
about dusk & marched
single file through the
mud & round the skulls
from village of Le Buisson
to an old chalk quarry
where we stayed for an

hour or so & then went on.
There are trenches running
from this which is the
frontline trench. We were
to advance about 500
yds & dig in & consolidate.
We advanced the 500 yds
& met no opposition at
all. We then set to work
to dig in. The SB's got
to work too & by early
morning we had a
line of trenches about
4 ft deep with a bit of a
parapet. It was pretty
shallow for a frontline
trench but was the
most we could do at the time.

We were all dead beat
when we had finished as
digging is hard work.
Luckily we had no gas
or we would have had
hardly the strength to
carry them out. Just
as it began to get light
we lay down & slept in
the trench. It was terribly
cold & we were cramped
but felt better after the
sleep. The trench being
new was not sloppy
although the ground
was cold & damp. The
morning was very misty
& just as dawn broke,

Tritz started bombarding
we all kept low & then there
was a call for the S.O.'s we
topped up, grabbed our
respirators, dressing bags
& shrap & out of the trench
& along to the place where
the wounded were. There
were a couple of them, one
broken arm & one with
one ^{arm} ~~with~~ ^{bullet} ~~stuffed~~ ^{bullet} ~~through~~ ^{bullet} ~~the leg~~ ^{bullet} ~~the leg~~
We fixed them up & the
stretcher party started off
down the road. I followed
with the man with the
broken arm. We had gone
about 50 yds when I happened
to glance to the right, having

heard some bombs
exploding. There were
about 6 Thurs, leaving
bombs, firing as fast as
they could at our trenches.
They were behind us too.
The man with the bullet
in the leg gave a yell.
"They've pulled back us!"
a man for his life, gammy
leg & all. Why he did
go. It was very funny
seeing how fast a
wounded man could
go when necessary!
The stretcher party were
about 100 yds ahead
under cover, but the

bank of the road was low
just where I was. If I had
gone on they would have
spotted me so we ducked
in under the bank of the
trench. There I watched them with
my eyes just above the
bank & the wounded man
crouching underneath.
The Germans were standing
up to it well & firing as
if on parade. It was
like watching the pictures.
I could only see about
6 on account of the mist
but there was a big party
(about 80-100 weatherswards
least). As they fired, they

were edging towards
the road all the time. I
don't think they knew
it was there as they
never looked across.
Their attention being
fully occupied in
front where our
fellows were in the
trenches. They were
about 20 yds off the
bank & I was beginning
to think that in a
few days time I would
be in Berlin - a prisoner.
When I saw someone
of our fellows coming
from both ways out

the road. They were the 4th
Bathn support company.
He crept up & lived the
bank & started in on the
Zirk's. I must say
the Germans took it well.
They retreated once a
time keeping up the fire
until they were all in
a line of shell holes
curving & facing the
trenches & the road as
well which were at
right angles. I then
told the wounded man
to get on to the Aidpost
by himself & he started.
I then fired up a 4th

Br. Corporal who had
got a bullet through his
leg & broken it. Some
of his mates took him
off & I went back to
my own post. The
4th Br. were over the
top by this time
driving the Hun's in
front of them who were
retreating well taking
a lot of prisoners with
them. They had been
successful so far
but just as they probably
thought they were getting
away, they ran
right into the line of

trenches we had dug the
night before. They didn't
dream of their existence
& here they met their
fate. It lasted about $\frac{1}{2}$
hr & then those who were
not killed surrendered
being mostly wounded.
It is very improbable
any of them got away.
They were all big fellows,
picked men, every 2nd
man having some
decoration, a lot of Iron
Crosses amongst them.
They were men of the
Prussian Guards &
Grenadier Guards.

Our intelligence people
searched the dead &
wounded Germans for
papers etc. For the
everybody was busy
searching. I
got a couple of bayonet
knives & a rifle in
good condition & a
belt, buckle & a few
other little things including
a little German cap.
It was a great success
for us & we were all
jubilant. Our casualties
were about 5 killed
& 4 wounded. All the
fellows who were

captured were being
taken back by the Germans,
got away alright except
one who was killed. Some
of them had narrow
shaves. That same
morning however, another
German patrol surrounded
& captured one of our
advanced M.C. posts
also about 15 men of one
isolated post. However,
they are better prisoners
than dead. They say
Australian prisoners
get treated well in
Germany. About 2 hours
so after it was all over we

were all hurtled back
to our trenches, as the mist
began to clear. Evidently
the German patrol had
sneaked through the line
between the posts, bombed
the dugouts behind,
capturing a lot of prisoners
& were on their way back
when they bumped the
new line we had just
dug, which they knew
nothing about & so it
proved their undoing.
They fought well but our
chaps fought better. They
were splendid & were
congratulated by both

Divisions & Army HQs
on the work they did
that afternoon. Fritz
shelled but he didn't
know exactly where we
were & so couldn't get
right onto us much.
That night we deepened
the trench, built little
dugouts & consolidated
generally. Next day
was fine & we got more
shells but they were
unsuccessful. We had
to lie low as rabbits in
our burrows as Fritz
had snipers both with
machine guns posted
everywhere & he said us

plenty of attention to
the slightest movements.
Our chaps did the same to
Fritz. We were terribly
cold, it was rather
laughable sit still in a
cold trench all day &
we were very glad when
it got dark & we could
get about & get a hot
or a warm. We lived
on bully & biscuits &
the little bread & jam &
cheese arrived each
night. We made a little
leg on Tommy Cookers,
taken from the Germans.
We also had a little Primus

a bag of little kerosene
from the aid post once when
we went down with a case
some had some hot tea
& fried the bully beef
so didn't do so bad.
We did 3 days & 3 nights
in the front line & were
glad to be relieved &
went back to the chalk
pit into supports. The
night we left they
connected up the various
sections of trenches,
making one continuous
trench deepened it &
strengthened it, placed
about 8 ~~ft~~ rows of

3
barbed wire & about
10 ft of trip wire in
front. dug close ^{and} sufficient
trenches 100 yds in
rear, set lines of
communications
brought up supplies
of flares, rockets &
SOS signals &
made a real front
line trench. The
reason was that at
that point we were
far advanced of the
rest & they are

going to keep still
there until the
flanks move up
into lines then go
ahead again. The
three villages, Le Bar
Ligny, Shelly & Shelly ^{are}
are behind us. The
latter to our right
behind. Bapaume
is still ahead & just
over the ridge. The
new lines are well
ahead but he has
snipers ^{men with} & flame pots
placed quite near.
Patrols go out each
night from both

trenches to see that
everything is O.K.
between the lines.

When we arrived
back at the Chalkpit
we found we had
been left out in the
cold. For an hour
we walked around
in vain looking
for a posse until
at last in desperation
we went into the valley
(Ligny valley) about
200 yds behind & found
a cellar with mattresses
in it. We were in luck

2 soon turned in. We
got to sleep about mid-
night. The mattresses
were too soft & we
didn't sleep so well
but it was heaven
compared to the cold
trenches. When we
woke up the ground
was covered with
snow. We thought
we had seen the
last of it but here
it was again. The
sun soon melted
it however - made
everything wet & slippery.

The weather was clear
+ some pretty fellow
went + lighted a fire
to heat some water
+ I only spotted the
smoke. We were all
down below in the
cellar when wood
crash came the first
shell followed by
another one going
over + the next falling
short. Next minute
the third shell 5' 9" HE
came bang right
on top of the cellar.

The whole thing shook
debris cragled down
the steps blocking them
up + the air was
filled with smoke.
Just two men had
been on top. Joe
came stumbling
down with a broken
arm. We fixed him
up + sent him away.
The other chap we
couldn't find. After
that day we gathered
up the bits + buried
them.
Another shell lobbed

shot into the black
pit, buying a
couple of men. One
we got out & brought
round. Banded
up & carried him
away. The other
was done for
feeling. Yesterday
I felt steeled again
but unsuccessfully.
We were relieved that
night & were very
glad to get away
without further
misadventure.

Friday March 9th. We are
still here, contrary to
expectations. We may
even be here for another
fortnight & then go
back into the line here
again. I think we are
deemed to stop on
this sector forever. We
are all sick of it &
are hoping to be sent
north either to Montebello
or Effie. The weather
here is still cold. Snow
& cutting winds make
things very cold. We
have 2 parades a day
as before. The new Det.

is O.K. after the other chap.
Casualties in line last
time about 40. not
counting the 18-20 captured.

Sunday 11th March 1917

Beautiful day today.
Bright & warm. Hopest
stays like this but there
is not much chance I am
afraid. More letters from
home dated Jan 14th.

Probably moving in a few
days. They say we are
going to take over the Verdun
front. Anyway whatever
we go it can't be worse
than what we have had.
There is a chance of it being better.

Monday 12th. Today the
16 Regular S.B.'s were put in
a hut together with the 14
Ips Sigs. making 28 in all.
We are now attached to
Batter Hd Ips. as a body &
are only attached to the
various companies when
in the line. Had heavy
rain last night & today.

Sunday 18th March 1917
We are now in billets in
Dreux. We have been
here two days now. It is
a change from the old
huts. It is 2 months since
we were in a hut last.

This is a fairly large village but nothing much in it. It is mostly mud walled barns & farm-houses. A few small shops, a church & a YMCA & Church Army huts. Nothing much to do but parades 2 a day 9-12 & 2-4 pm, stretcher drill, bandaging & lectures.

Last night, Eric with some others, went to Fricourt to have their medals presented. He ought to be back today.

Weather getting better although it is cold again.

Today. Our billet is an old barn with wire byrkes built in it. It is fairly comfortable.

Bapaume fell to our 5th Divn last night. They say there was heavy street fighting. There is trouble in Russia too. We don't know where we are going next. Some say back further & other say the firing line again. It is hard to guess as anything may happen. You need know where you are going or how long you may stay there.

Thursday 22nd March 1917
We are moving this afternoon
at 1 pm for Ribemont about
4 miles away. They say
we stop there a couple of
days and then go on to
Cambrai but we don't
know for certain. We
think we are entraining
for somewhere but where
we are not certain.
Maybe North to Ypres,
perhaps Arras or Combrin,
or even Verdun. Nobody
knows.

The Germans are still
falling back rapidly.
We are right up to Cambrai.

to St Quentin. The 4th Brigade
marched through here this
morning on their way to
the line. They have a long
way to go now. About
3-4 days march. Most of
us think the war is coming
to an end now, we all
hope so anyway. The
Light Horse are doing
most of the work this
time for the first time too.
Weather still alternately
snowy & cold & warm &
sunny. Spring is doing
its best to make itself
felt.
It seems hard that, after

us doing such a lot of
hard bullucky work
in the line for about 2
months, we should be
withdrawn just as the
Germans started falling
back. Then the other 9
divisions get all the
credit for taking
Bapaume etc. We are
all out of it here although
we had a bit of a
stunt when we were
up there last time.
Still I wouldn't be
surprised if we were
put into a push at
something around

Arras or somewhere where
Fifth hasn't begun to
fall back yet.
Friday 23rd March
Arrived here in Ribemont
yesterday afternoon about
3. Our billet was horrible
but we got out of it into
a better one. Fairly
big village but we
have no money just
now so we are not
feeding as well as
we might. However
we ought to get paid
tomorrow & then we
will visit the butcher's
shop & have steak & eggs etc.

It snowed off on
all day yesterday.
Weather still cold.
Rumour says we will
be here a few days
& then go to Arras.

We had a Battalion
concert tonight. It was
very good indeed. Our
regimental band was
A1 - just like a 1st
Class orchestra. It was
a bit of a surprise to
most. The other items
were good too & we
had a good evening.
It was held in the big
shed with stage etc,

complete which had been
built for a picture show.
Sunday. 25th March.

Still here & no word of
moving yet. Training
pretty hard. Said today
sp he will have a good
feed of steak & eggs for
tea.

Monday 26th. Raining all
day again. We have all
decided that the four
seasons in France are not
Spring Summer autumn winter
But Wet Season, Cold Season,
Then the Rainy Season finished
up by the Big Spring Rush
A month from now it ought to

be alright though.
We were supposed to
have a Brigade stunt
this afternoon but on
account of the rain we
just did a bit of a
Battalion affair. It
was an imitation attack.
I suppose the Brigade
affair will take place
as soon as weather permits.
Tuesday April 3rd 1917.
4pm We are now at camp
in Montauban on the way
to the line. We still have a
long way to go. Next
stop is probably Bapaume
somewhere night. The line is

then still about 8 miles away.
It will be very interesting
to see the country around
about & behind Bapaume
with the villages taken
recently in the advance.
I ought to be better this
time than before, more
open.

At Ribemont we had
several mimic captures
of various villages so
it looks promising. We
also had several good
concerts at Mercourt
Hall, especially the last
night when a proper
concert party gave an
entertainment altogether.

we have had a good spell
- for us at any rate. It will
be a month since we were
in the trenches by the time
we get back there, although
we were in reserve for a
good deal of that time.
We left Ribemont at
10 am & marched here,
about 10 miles, getting here
about 2 pm. It was a
pretty stiff march. My
back is particularly heavy
owing to the souvenirs I
am carrying. We are in
huts again now.
The weather lately has
been very bad. Cold &
windy & rainy & some

heavy snow. Today for
some time we have had a
bit of sun. We all hope
it lasts as it will dry
things up a bit up the line.
It is terrible there when
things are all wet & muddy
& cold. It is about time
we had better weather.
We have had winter now
since the middle of October,
about 6 months now.
We have had no mail
for weeks now. We are
all getting tired of waiting.
They say a lot has been
lost. It looks very much
like it.
all the AMC surplus gear

had to be dumped so my
rifle couldn't be carried,
so Eric left it with the French
woman in Pibemant where
they used to get "fried kups"
for tea pretty often. She
said she would look
after it & when we are
coming back we ought
to be able to get it. It
is the only chance anyway
I think I will leave
my pack with Eric's
this time too as the weight
may cause some souvenir
seeker to investigate I
don't want to lose them.

Thursday April 5th

Here we are at Fremleau
about 6 miles from the line
at least it was 6 miles last
night, it might be more
now. Things will be lively
up here.

We left Montauban at
8am yesterday morning
& after a terrible long
& heavy march of about
8 miles (it seemed like
18, the way was so bad)
we arrived here at 4pm.
We are now advanced of
Bapaume & to the right
the country round here
is lovely, green fields

woods & no shell holes
It is good to see. The
villages however are in
a bad state. Fritz has
smashed them all up
just for spite. It is pure
vandalism. Fruit trees
& all other trees are cut
down. Gardens & houses
wrecked, roads blown
up & wells destroyed. We
have no proper billets &
water is scarce & muddy.
Our billet is the remains
of a room in a house.
It is about all that is
left except for parts
of the walls. Half of the
walls of the room & most

of the roof is gone. The floor
is covered with bricks &
debris. We have cleared
enough room for the 16 GIs
to sleep on & built a fire
in the old fire place to
keep us warm. We slept
well last night in spite
of the hard ground & cold.
Yesterday the weather
was horrible. Cold & it
snowed like fury. We
were all ^{wet & tired & hungry} covered with
mud by the time that we
arrived. Today the sun
is shining but it would
take a week's fine weather
to dry up the mud now.

The church & all the big houses
here have been mined &
are a total wreck. There
are no decent bullets in
Metown. We are lucky
to have even a bit of a
roof & luckily still it
didn't rain last night.

We may dump our packs
here or maybe carry them
to the next stage & dump them
there. From there we carry our
overcoat (perhaps a blanket)
Stretches, waterproof, Iron
Rations, etc. only. There
is a big village just in front
of Cambrai they say we
have to take. Leaving this in my
back, we will continue when I get stopped.

Thursday 12th April. We are now
in the trenches in front of the
village of Hermies which was
captured by the 1st Brigade two
days ago. It is a pretty big
village but is now in ruins.
There were about 250 casualties
in the Brigade our Battalion
was one in support so
our casualties were not too
heavy. Fritz defends these
villages one by one, leaving
only a few men & some
machine guns to bar our
way. He fires until we get
close & then surrenders. This
village was defended more
strongly than most. We
captured over 200 prisoners

516 machine guns in it. In
between the villages he has
isolated strong machine gun
posts but the villages them-
selves are the main points
of resistance. His main
body are probably con-
solidating. "The Hindenburg
Line" long before this but
are only fighting his rear
guard. From this point of
view this method of fighting
is good as he only stands
to lose a few men + a gun
or two. But unless we
are very careful we
suffer heavily.
We arrived here last night

relieving the 2nd Battalion +
set to work to dig a "fossy"
for ourselves. I had got a
fairly good one going
with a hole dug in the
bank + waterproofs + a
sheet after over it + a
mattress in it. I found
this next door + instantly
appropriated it. This
is his bar! Before I was
finished however I had
a call. We had two
cases to carry back
to the aid post. One of
our patrols had been
fired on by one of our
own advanced posts
who had not been

wounded Kata patrol
was going out. so
took them for Germans.
We went out & got them
& took them down.

The aid post is fully $1\frac{1}{2}$
miles away, which is
a long carry. We went
right through the valley
instead of around it
as the way was shorter.

The weather has been
terrible lately. Cold &
windy & showy & rainy
& we have been all
frozen.

after leaving Fremicourt
last Thursday afternoon

after about 5 miles march
Glocks & blankets etc & stretch
through green fields &
woods & a big chateau
grounds, along an old
railway line & roads
we arrived at the out
posts where we relieved
the 53rd Bn. The post
was just about 20 yds
of trench with a few
 dugouts built in it.
It was one of a chain
of similar posts about
100-150 yds apart all
along the front.

The Company was split
up in Platoons so three

of us had gone with
the first two platoons
& three with the other two.
The two platoons I was
with then divided again
so I went with one & the
other two went with the
other taking the stretcher.
At first they were in
a more open area, at a
cross roads $\frac{1}{2}$ mile back
but afterwards they
moved up onto our
right flank.

After we had settled
down we ~~strengthened~~
gear, advanced about
 $\frac{1}{4}$ mile & with patrols

out & sentries posted
we half dug another post
to be finished & occupied
next night. The other posts
did likewise. Then we went
back & buried in. Possy
was very wet & muddy &
cold but luckily I didn't
was a long way off so we
could move around a bit.
Next night we packed
up & moved up to the
next post. It was raining
& cold but we soon got
warm working. When
we had finished, we tried
to turn in but found there
was not nearly enough
room & so three of us (I

was one of the unfortunate
ones) had to sit out in the
trench all the rest of the
night & all next day. It
seemed an eternity to
me. We were all wet
through & a cold piercing
wind was blowing
with snow & rain & I
nearly froze to death.
As soon as it was dusk
we three turned to &
dug a fossy for
ourselves, dug back
to our old post for
a cover (wood & bit of
tar paper) for the roof
with these & our ground
sheets, we got a real

nice comfy little home.
In the end it turned out
to be the only dry place
in the post, so we felt a
bit paid back for the bad
time when we had no home
& the others had. Next
day was a ~~hike~~ ^{hike} & dry
(although cold & blowy)
so we dried our things &
scraped off as much
mud as possible, put
a few finishing touches
to our home. (collected
some dry straw for the floor)
They used to bring us
breakfast about 4:30 am
& tea about 8 pm from

The cookers which were
about a mile back, during
the hours of darkness the
men do very little except
keep watch & do a few
fatigues. There is no
different pass word each
night - patrols go out each
night sometimes meeting
Japs.

We were very sorry
indeed when the Japs
leave and have to come
up here which is now
the front line after
the "hop over". Before it,
we were the front line.
Since we came here,

we have advanced about
 $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles in about 3 stages.
Battn Hd Qrs, Company Hd Qrs
aid post, cookers etc all
move up. Probably
to night or tomorrow
night we will advance
again towards the next
village. The 3rd Battn will
be in the first wave then.

We have carried our
packs with us all the time
this time. Seems as if we
have come to stop.

Get some letters, the
other day the first for 3
weeks. Will have a lot of
writing to do next time out.

There are souvenirs of all
~~sorts~~ lying around if only
a chap could carry them!
We have had a couple
of meals off German badly
beef & bread + jam. The
beef is OK. like braised
almost, but the jam +
bread are very rough.
We heated some stew on
a German trench cooker.
(just like our Tommy cookers)
Fritz has been good & unsatisfactory

Wednesday April 25th 1917 ANZAC Day
Here I am in Boulogne in the
3rd Canadian Gen. Hosp. with a
bullet through my chest. Not very
bad as luckily it missed all vital
organs. Fractured rib + punctured

lung - not very sore now. Have
been here 2 days now + was 8 days
at the 3rd Aus. CCS at Gréville
near Bapaume. Was hit on the 15th
on the 13th we packed up + advanced
1000 yds from our trenches in front
of the village. Dug in. Not much
opposition on our sector although
considerable on our flanks.
Next day uneventful. Next
night advanced another 300 yds
+ dug in again. Very close to
Fritz now. Flares + machine
guns all around. Standing to
all night. Very early in morning
of Sunday 15th Fritz opened up
a barrage pretty heavily then
he attacked. - Came over in
swarms. Our front line had to

retire as it was merely a string
of small posts & pretty weak.
I only advanced a considerable
distance on a 6 mile front they
say, before we could get up a
proper resistance. When we
did, however, he got it all
back with interest. They were
all killed or wounded. Capt. [unclear]
& the line ended up in its
original position. Our side
had a good few casualties.
I was one. The other SB & I
were sitting in our little fossy.
During the bombardment & as it
seemed to be getting worse instead
of better we popped out to see. Our
fossy was a little way away
from the post & I popped over to

see how the boys were & found them
gone. They had evidently forgotten
us. I went back to our fossy & the
SB had gone too as I thought I had
better go. Then I saw a whole heap
of men approaching. It was
rather dark & they were on me
before I knew. One of them challenged
me in German & before I could do
anything, wwoof. I got it & my
legs gave way & I fell. The Jutys
then ran all over me & left me
behind. I didn't feel too pleased.
It looked as if I was to be
captured as well as wounded & I
didn't like the idea. I lay there for
hours it seemed (it was only 10 I think)
& then I tried to rise but failed.
Then I started to crawl & a fellow

machine gun started on me. I
stopped but as he wasnt too
close (not nearly as close as I had
had them while I was lying there)
I started again. He started again
but he was a long way off & so didn't
get too close & there was a sunken
road where my old posse was that
I was making for. I was going
to hide. after a painful journey
I got to the road & stood up rather
shakily & started off for the dugout.
Saw two figures coming down
road & thought the game was up,
but instead of Germans they were
our chaps. I was rather pleased.
One of them helped me down. We
missed the dressing station.

~~McKee's old posse~~
Landed in Blighty 30th April. 1918
Taken to Eastbourne

walked 3 miles to the ambulance
waggons. I was just about done.
Taken to the Field Amb. & thence by
Car to the C.E.S. Wasted, unincubated
for Tetanus, pyrexia put in & put
into bed. Wound dressed properly.
Hardly remember much of this.
Kept here for 8 days & then sent
on to Base. all chest cares
kept 14 days in France, so I
have a few more days to do
here & then probably it is
Blighy for me "Take me back
to dear old Blighy". I am
looking forward to a good
holiday. It is true but in
hospital now that I am getting
better & I intend to have a
good time on my furlow off.
I get out of hospital. 1918

