

## MEDICAL CONDITIONS TREATED BY MEDICAL CORP STARTING WITH BATTS

Notes taken from "The Anzacs" by Patsy Adam Smith

### **Trench Feet**

Medical teams behind the lines treated the men for trench feet. They washed and dried and rubbed the feet with camphor. At first the men were issued with whale oil and later with chalk to help the crippling disease, but the only sure remedy was the one they could not get dry feet.

Trench Feet was a common casualty. This was caused by the damp conditions, cold, and inability to get the blood circulating by moving around. "You'd stand in trenches unable to move about for upwards of four days without being relieved. For the winters of 1916, 1917 and 1918 always up to your ankles at best in mud. Always cold, hardly ever a warm meal, and often poor boots." Sergeant Harry Kahn (W.A) recalls.

"Trench Feet, well first this started with your feet going wrinkly, soft, puffy, then red. The base of your foot swelled up and was so painful you hobbled around. Several days of this and it would go black. Next thing the troops found they lost a foot, sometimes a leg. The patties were bad for it. These we had to bind around our trouser legs from knees to ankles, restricting the circulation. Up in the front line first one man and then another unwound them and tied sandbags around their place. Later the powers that be gave official approval for this."

French Fever (Pyrexia). Although not notifiable until 1918, was one of the most important of expeditionary wastage. This term embraced many diseases from influenza, dengue and other viruses, to typhus and other lice carried diseases. Pediculosis, the body louse, is believed to have infected 95% of the men with an average of 20 lice per man. Although gross infection reached as high as 1,300 to 10,000 counted lice as well as approximately 10,000 eggs on one shirt. As well there were the itch mites that caused scabies and pyogenic cocci that brought on suppurating, sores and impetigo.

Apart from wounding by bullet, bomb or shrapnel there was gas and numerous psychological diseases, which were treated well but little was done to the ailments until the volume of men out of action seriously affected the numbers

needed to replace those killed. Humanitarian reasons may be given but they cry for more and more men (particularly after recruiting began to fall off dramatically in late 1916) accelerated medical research. Psychology was scarcely practised in World War 1 and many of the non-physical diseases suffered what, before the war, had been termed “Disordered Action of the Heart (DAH)”. This manifested itself in feeble and rapid heartbeats with many patients pulse 130, trauma and mutism.

When examining the troops in the trenches who were repeatedly “fit” or at least had most reported sick, Colonel J. Perves Stewart found 77% were emaciated and anaemic. He says rapidity and fullness of the heart was most striking. Tachycardia not due to sudden exertion or emotion was found in 50% and 74% suffered from shortness of breath. Vitamin A deficiency has its characteristics; symptom weakness of heart’s actions and General Howe reported that “men frequently fainted at their post”.

When declaration of peace came on 11 November 1918, an exhausted number of men were in hospital. Nurse Alice Neville did not record it in her detailed diary for her patients were “dreadfully ill”. “Epidemic Spanish Flu attacking everyone causing shortage of medical and nursing staff. Everyone going down like flies. It’s cruel to see them going on duty at night too limp, with no energy to wash or keep their clothes in order.”

Sickness among M.O.S (medical orderlies), nursing staff and patients is alarming. Almost impossible to cope with.

One third of the Australians (137,011) were wounded in action. A surprisingly low figure (4,044) taken prisoner. The percentage of death to battle casualties was 25.3%. These are corrected figures of 1931.

## **Gas**

The one wound that terrified all men was to be gassed. The fear of this secret weapon did almost as much damage as did actual gas. They were man to man terrified of it.

The physical effects of it were bronchitis, emphysema, fibrosis of the lungs, asthma, vertigo, pulse up to 130°, vomiting, pain after food, streaming painful eyes and temporary blindness. Although 164,96 men were gassed only 323 died before 1920.

In 1919 5 pound (\$10) = 130 francs.

R.I.A	Killed in Action
A.M.S	Army Medical Staff
A.M.C	Army Medical Corps
A.D.S	Advanced Dressing station. The most advanced medical station before R.A.P (Regimented Air Post.)
C.C.S	Advanced Cleaning Station. Main medical station it was just behind the lines.
R.A.P	Medical Aid Post
A.D	Advanced Dressing
F.A	Field Ambulance
F.D	Field Dressing
PICKET	Sentry – party or patrol
TAUBE	Monoplane

**Taken from the Diary of Thomas Mathers**

No diary kept in 1915, but must have been working in hospitals and attending lectures as he received his:

- St John's Ambulance Association Certificate that he has attended a course of Instruction in Home Nursing and has passed the examination. Dated August 25th 1915 at Sumner Hill Branch.

Also: St John's Ambulance Association  
Thomas Mathers has attended the course of instruction at Paddington Branch of St John Ambulance Association and is qualified to render first aid to the injured. Dated August 25th 1915

Then from a list:

<i>Thursday, 2nd September 1915</i>	Will and I enlisted.
<i>Sunday, 19th September 1915</i> services there).	Last day at Double Bay (took church
<i>20th September 1915</i>	Send off.
<i>21st September 1915</i>	Came into camp – Army Medical Corp.
<i>22nd September 1915</i>	Hospital work.
<i>27th September 1915</i>	On Sergeants Mess
<i>1st October 1915</i>	Made Town Orderly for A.M.C

*From here diary continues from 6th January 1916.*

*It would appear that Tom became a Sergeant at this time and soon after Will was Lieutenant Corporal. However, at some stage, both asked to be returned to Privates as they did not want to be separated. They went through the war together*

## 1916 - Liverpool Camp

In camp working in hospitals. First entry of any notice.

*Friday, 14th January*

Sworn in at field hospital by Captain Meir.

*Saturday, 22nd January*

Took Private O'Leary to Sydney Hospital with fractured arm to be amputated.

*Sunday, 23rd January*

Home tomorrow.

*Diary hard to read and blurred until:*

*27th January*

Left camp at 10.30am and returned at 4.00pm. Saw post-mortem in field hospital (man) Pneumonia. See Morrison accepted in A.M.C. Cut head.

*28th January*

See Morrison at Haberfield W. Wells (Uncle by marriage).

*Saturday, 29th January*

Left Camp 9.30. Nothing of note between camp – hospital and leave.

*Monday, 28th February*

Will promoted to Acting Corporal.

*Tuesday, 29th February*

Will acting Lieutenant Corporal. Parading. Farewell dinner to Sergeants and up.

*Friday, 10th March*

Will promoted to Corporal. At camp in Quarter Master Stores.

*Monday, 13th March*

Made Transportation Sergeant. 9 men to Garrison Hospital. Reidy – Hernia Randall, Rhodes, Sheppard & Davis, hernia also Marten Cooke-Bursitis, Cragg & Garry Varicose. Photos of Sergeants taken.

*Tuesday, 14th March*

More to hospital. More patients attended to in hospital till 20th March.

*Tuesday, 21st March*

FINAL LEAVE

*Tuesday, 28th March*

Advance party 150 for "KANOWNA" leave at home last time.

*Wednesday, 29th March*

(KANOWNA Hospital Ship).N.S.W boarded 1.00pm Queensland 1.30pm. Sailed to Melbourne 2.30pm. Paid 3 Pounds (\$6). Slept in hammocks.

Photos taken of Orderly Staff Thursday, 3rd February. 3rd March Sergeants photos and March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### 1916 – At Sea

*Thursday, 30th March*

Food excellent and plenty. 10.00am Parade. 8.00pm Concert. Posted 9 letters.

*Friday, 31st March*

1.00pm Enter Port Phillip. 5.00pm reach Port Melbourne. Go ashore at 6.00pm till 12.00pm. Had photos taken. Posted 8 letters.

*Saturday, 1st April*

Left wharf at 1.00pm. Sailed 5.30pm.

*Sunday, 2nd April*

At sea. Calm in morning, choppy evening. Church parade.

*Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> -Thursday, 6th April*

Very rough, many sick.

*Friday, 7th April*

Out of Bight and hugging coast. Sea calm. Pay-day 10/- (\$1). Wrote 8 letters.

*Saturday, 8th April*

Gorgeous day, sea calm. Leave granted for Fremantle and are loading for Colombo. 10.45 passing Rotness Island. Arrive Fremantle 1.00pm. Went ashore 6.00pm. Arrived Perth 6.40pm. Perth nice, homely place, streets narrow. Left Perth at 9.00pm. Went through Fremantle, not as good as Perth. Arrived boat 11.00pm.

*Sunday, 9th April*

Sailed from Fremantle. 3.10pm for Colombo then on to Egypt.

*Wednesday, 12th April*

Weather fine. 2nd ocean debate - total abstinence or moderate drinking. Total abstinence won.

*Thursday, 13th April*

At sea fine. Mock trial.

*14th – 15th April*

9.00am Keeling Islands in sight. 10.00am Emden seen wrecked on Cocos Island. Afternoon sports –entered 4 heats, won 3, lost our final. 2 finals to run Tues. or Wed.

*Monday, 17th April*

Calm. On Police Duty.

*Tuesday, 18th April*

Sports, won heats in 3 races. (*Both Tom and Will were good athletes and swimmers*)

*Wednesday, 19th April*

Crossed the equator.

*Thursday, 20th April*

Raining in evening.

### **1916 – Ceylon Colombo**

*Friday, 21st April*

Birthday, 25 years old. (*His birthday was actually 22<sup>nd</sup> April*) Cloudy at sea. 5.00pm land sighted, Ceylon. Hilly country, too cloudy to see properly. Colombo picturesque, entered harbour 12.30pm. Went ashore, took rickshaw, till 6.00pm. Cost 4/- (40c). Visited cinnamon gardens. Saw many plants including tea and cocoa, a very sensitive plant. Then markets and bought fruit there. Buddhist temple took off boots, saw Buddha, people worship, signed book, spoke to priests. Bought shawls, scarves and moonstones to send home. Visited P.O and other buildings. Had tea, to ship 9.00pm.

*Saturday, 22nd April*

At Colombo. Natives coal the boat. Went ashore 2.00pm, took rickshaw for afternoon with Will. Cost 2/- (20c) visited opposite end of city. Hindu City, saw Brahman Temple, old but carvings picturesque. Climbed tower of Christ Church Cathedral. Women in quarry break stones. Photo taken with snake

charmners. Visited greatest Buddhist temple in Ceylon and had interpreter. Pet Buddha 18ft long. Bought jack fruit, visited greatest R.C Cathedral in Ceylon. White interior picturesque, many worshippers. Spoke to High Priest who signed card already signed by High Priest Buddha. Told us that 15,000 at worship previous day. 6.00pm went to native quarters – wild. Shadowed by police. Returned to ship 9.00pm.

*Sunday, 23rd April*

9.00am Went ashore on Church Parade so service dismissed at till 12 noon. Walked around town with Will. Met returning soldiers on “Karula”. Hospital ship also in harbour. Gave them letters to take home and asked them to visit home, they promised. Met a friend of “Karula” (A.M.C). Spoke to many returning soldiers. Told us of affairs in Egypt – were all glad to be returning. Returned to ship 12.30. I took service along with Private Little, a divinity student, in 7 Ward on board. Many men and nurses there. Had a good time. Sailed from Colombo 4.30pm, weather fine.

### 1916 – At Sea

*Monday, 24th April*

Fine and warm.

*Tuesday, 25th April*

11.00am inoculated for entry by Captain Edwards Dr. 3 punctures. 9.00am passed Minnagoy Island. 8.00pm concert on board to commemorate Anzac Day.

*Wednesday, 26th April*

Sports, five entries, won heats on all but one.

*27th/28th/29th/30th April*

Sail along west coast of Africa. Sing song service at night, enter Arabian Sea.

*Tuesday, 2nd May*

In Red Sea, passed Hell’s Gate. Saw Twelve Apostles. Transport “Suffolk” sighted on horizon in morning – passed 11.00pm. In afternoon passed African Coast.

*Wednesday, 3rd May*

Dressed in Marching Order 10.00am parade. Sports and evening concert.



*Thursday, 4th May*

Red Sea – windy afternoon. Paid 10/- (\$1) passed another hospital ship going in opposite direction.

*Friday, 5th May*

Gulf of Suez on left. Arabia on right.

**1916 – Egypt (Tel-el-Kabir, Alexandria)**

*Saturday, 6th May*

Entered Port Suez 8.30pm.

*Sunday, 7th May*

Port Suez. Disembarked 11.00am. Took tram third class for Tel-el-Kabir. Dinner first on bully beef and biscuits. Saw native quarters, natives and camels.

Tommys have great camp here in sand. 4.00pm to Tel-el-Kabir two hours journey from Cairo. Small native village nearby, nothing of importance here. English, N.Z, Australians and Indians encamped here. Skirmishes about ten miles off so we can hear the guns. This is the A.M.C depot, men are appointed here for everything.

*Monday, 8th May*

Lay about camp all day. Inoculated for cholera.

*9th May*

Went to village at night with Will.

*10th May*

Went for route march 6.30am. Inoculated for Para Typhoid. Inoculation took affect. Feverish at night. 120 men picked for desert.

*Thursday, 11th May*

Route march in desert, 6.30am. March to desert and drive till 11.30. Afternoon half holiday.

*Friday, 12th May*

Route march 6.30am. Route march 10.00am. 4.00pm parade before clothing board for completion of kit.

*Saturday, 13th May*

On guard 8.00am till 8.00pm Sunday. Issued with Red Cross tobacco, also tropical uniform.

*Sunday, 14th May*

10.00am Church parade. Regimental issue of tobacco.

*Monday, 15th May*

Route march along canal 6.00am, same at 4.00pm. Private Arthur Ashley returned to No.3 A.G.H. Temperature 120°. Men arrived from NSW, - Queensland per "Nestor".

*16th May*

5.45am route march along canal. 4.00pm parade.

*Wednesday, 17th May*

5.00am parade, 4.00pm parade. 4.30pm went to military funeral at Tel-el-Kabir. Coffin roughly made of wood. Natives afraid of rifle fire. Lay in tent the whole day, took a walk in the evening. Received note from Base Depot re letters.

*Thursday, 18th May*

5.00am parade, 7.15am parade. 3.00pm paid 3 pester notes 3 pounds 7/- (£6.70). Went to pictures in evening, bought mat. Mail closes for Europe.

*Friday, 19th May*

5.00am parade, march along line. Inoculate for paratyphoid 10.00am. Parade 4.00pm, dismissed on account of inoculation, went to circus in evening.

*Saturday, 20th May*

5.00am parade, dismissed on account of inoculation. Parade 8.30am, march to canal. 4.00pm – 6.00pm to canal, received letters, spent afternoon in Y.M.C.A tent.

*Sunday, 21st May*

5.00am parade, marched on road. Church parade 9.15am. Read 1 Corinthians chapter. This is land of Goshen Tel-el-Kabir where "children of Israel left". In evening walked up the lines.

*Monday, 22nd May*

5.00am parade, march to canal. Parade 7.30am. Stretched drill. Mailed 4 letters. Parade 4.00pm, march to desert. To pictures in evening.

*Tuesday, 23rd May*

5.00am parade, on guard from 8.00am – 8.00pm. Next morning Second shift.

Bought 4 Egypt cloths at 3/6 (35c) each and crêpe de chine hankies, 8 pestres. Posted hankies to Mary, Boodie, Nellie.

*Wednesday, 24th May*

Dismissed from guard 8.30am. Parade for equipment 2.30pm. In evening walked along lines. Cushion cover for mother 5/- (50c). Posted parcels home for John and Nellie.

*Thursday, 25th May*

5.00am route march along canal, 7.30am route march along canal, 2.30pm parade for equipment, 6.30pm parade to hand in pay books for audit prior to sailing tomorrow.

*Friday, 26th May*

5.00am route march along canal, 7.30am same. 10.00am parade to hand in 1 blanket (1 left). Issued with oil sheet, mess-tin, jack knife, fork/knife/spoon, field dressing, soaps mess-tin, strap. Parade 3.00pm, got pay books back. Will issued with same kit as myself.

*Saturday, 27th May*

5.00am marched through the village of Tel-el-Kabir. At 9.00am ordered to leave Tel-el-Kabir. 4.00pm parade, issued with 24 hour rations and 6 ozs tobacco. 5.30pm A.M.C.D march out. 8.00pm train leaves Tel-el-Kabir. 8.30pm arrived Alexandria. 4.00am embarked. 6.00am on "Corsican". Bunks Tom 2/2 Will 2/4. Will and I on advanced guard. Left wharf 4.30. Lying out in stream. 8 hospital ships in Man of War and harbour full of ships. Met Pennock in Tel-el-Kabir while marching out (from Mosman). A.M.C and A.S.C F.A and Pioneers 2,500 all to form depots in compound.

*Sunday, 28th May*

In harbour. Parade 6.00am. to wear life belts all day at sea and bootlaces undone. Met Les Fotheringham on board, is W.O (from Mosman). "Corsican" Allana Line takes zigzag course on account of torpedoes.

**1916 – Alexandria MEDITERRANEAN Gibraltar**

*Monday, 29th May*

Sailed from Alexandria 8.00am, escorted by two naval boats. Six navy men on board to man 6" gun. Parades 6.00am, 9.30am, 3.00pm, lights out 7.00pm. Met W. Putman (from Mosman on board with A.S.C (Army Service Corps).

*Tuesday, 30th May*

BARKA 6.00am on parade. 9.30am parade, boat stations. 10.00am passed

Island of Crete. 3.00pm boat stations. All afternoon sighted Coast of Africa on port side (BARKA). Twilight 8.00pm.

*Wednesday, 31st May*

Mediterranean 6.00am Parade. Food on board scarce. Bread, sour B Porridge, coffee – bread – dried meat and potatoes, T rice and bread (Imperial). Parade 9.30am – 3.00pm. met John Graham in A.S.C aboard. Handed in pay books.

*Thursday, 1st June*

6.00am parade. 9.30am parade. 3.00pm boat stations. Half holiday. Met Blue Walkins' brother on board.

*Friday, 2nd June*

6.00am parade. 9.00am parade. 2.00pm boat station, stand by boats till dark for fear of submarines. Dismissed 8.00pm, very cold.

*Saturday, 3rd June*

Passing Algiers. 6.00am parade. 9.00am parade. Coast of Algiers close by. 3.00pm boat stations. 12 noon passing wreckage's of boats.

*Sunday, 4th June*

10.00am church parade, 10.15am church parade.

*Monday, 5th June*

6.00am parade. 10.00am parade. 7.00pm sighted Gibraltar daylight, 8.00pm lay in harbour. Gun fired at sunset, all the houses lit up and search lights swept the sea. Magnificent sight. Fight in North Sea rumoured 14 British and 40 German warships sunk, later heard that 14 to 20 but nothing definite.

*Tuesday, 6th June*

Morocco. This morning 6.00am parade. Spaniards come alongside and sell cigarettes, cigars, etc cheap. A mist over H Rock. At 7.00am we entered and lay alongside the wharf ready for coaling. Several guns fired, submarines, torpedoes, destroyers moving about and a couple of cruisers. Rock covered with houses. 10.00am parade for medical history. Spent the remainder of day taking on water and coaling.

*Wednesday, 7th June*

6.00am parade, 7.30am sailed from Gibraltar. A beautiful little Spanish town lies on a promontory near entrance to sea, opposite side of Gibraltar. 10.00am parade, see last of Coast of Africa.

**1916 – Atlantic Ocean, Bay of Biscay, English Channel**

*Tuesday, 8th June*

6.00am parade, 10.00am parade, 3.00pm parade. Received wireless that Kitchener was assassinated while on his way to Russia, also that the Russians have captured 85,000 Austrians.

*Friday, 9th June*

1.00pm swabbing decks and Will exempt from all parades. Commenced O.T ex & N.T LKII

*Saturday, 10th June*

Cold. 6.00am parade, 9.00am parade. Bought about 40 badges from a sailor (Hannibal) travelling home on our boat. He was sunk with submarine, got badges from Suvla 2/- (20c). Saw 2 fleets of fishing boats at sea in afternoon.

*Sunday, 11th June*

At 5.00am the British torpedo destroyer (85) met us off Cape Usken, France and escorted us up the channel 90 miles. Parade 9.00am, leaving ship tomorrow. Sighted Cornish Coast 12.30pm, passed Eddystone lighthouse 2.00pm, arrived at Plymouth House 3.15pm (picturesque). News of Kitchener's death, 40 German and 14 British boats (naval) sunk and Austrian lines broken. Confirmed. Saw Plymouth House. Landed at Plymouth House 9.00pm, left 9.30pm in G.W Railway, 3rd class Amcovea.

### **1916 – ENGLAND- Park House Camp, Salisbury**

*Monday, 12th June*

This morning at 1.00pm received buns and tea on Exeter Station from Lady Mayoress. Daylight about 3.00pm. Had an excellent view of country. Many fields en route. Arrived Salisbury 4.00pm, Endover junction 5.30pm, Tidsworth 6.00pm. this is Australian Headquarters, our camp 4 miles out. Park House Camp arrived 8.00pm, no meals till tomorrow morning. Time here has turned back 1 hour (Daylight Savings Act). 9.30pm and the sun has not set yet, it is daylight and last post is blown. Issued two extra blankets and mattress. Walked to village of Tidsworth.

*Tuesday, 13th June*

Parade this morning at 6.00am, very cold. Parade 9.30am and route march along country lanes through Shipton and back. Parade 2.00pm till 4.30pm, route march along lane the opposite way. Took a stroll with Will to village Shipton Bellinger.

*Wednesday, 14th June*

6.00am parade, No.2 (our section) on duty. 9.00am parade, march to Hilton, 2.00pm parade for kit inspection. Wrote to Mother and Mary, Nell, Minnie. Camp time 25 minutes behind town time. Food good. Took a stroll to Shipton Village with Will.

*Thursday, 15th June*

6.00am parade (kit inspection), 2.00pm parade march and paid 2 pounds (\$4). Only allowed to draw 2 pounds while in England, 1 pound 6 owing. Went to Garrison Theatre, Tidsworth in evening.

*Friday, 16th June*

6.00am parade march, 9.30am parade march to village, 2.00pm march halfway to Tidsworth. In evening went to Shipton Bellinger.

*Saturday, 17th June*

6.00am parade march to village. First leave granted to our men. 9.00am parade practice review, 12 noon review of No.2 Parkhouse Camp by High Commissioner of Australia (Fisher). After, Will and I went to Tidsworth and saw picture show.

*Sunday, 18th June*

6.00am parade. 10.00am Will, Stanley and I walk from Parkhouse to Amesbury, 6 miles. Has some quaint old houses, visited an old church, first minister 1491 St Mary's. Then went to Stonehenge, two miles further on. The stones are 9ft underground, 20 ft above. On average 2d (2c) admittance for soldiers. Australians, Canadians, New Zealanders and Tommies encamp close by in huts. Camps all along road, returned by motor through camps. Monastery in Amerdury (6th century), destroyed by pagans, Gurmandas or Guthan who overran country at this time. Guinevere house of Almesburg in Tennyson's Idylls of the King to lion Ethelward 1777 in favour with Royalty Catherine Of Arragon lodged here in 1501 from Exeter to London. Relics of Saxon times preserved in glass case in nave head of churchyard. Cross of 8th century (over it) Norman nave, ancient Port Norman bowl Purbeak marble was finished under chancel floor (saw it).

*Monday, 19th June*

6.00am parade, 9.30am parade route march, 2.00pm route march to Cholderton. In evening Will and I went to see "Singalee" in Tidsworth. Cholderton is a pretty little village 2 miles from Shipton. We went into the little church which is very old and one of our boys played the organ.

*Tuesday, 20th June*

6.00am parade. Will and I are mess orderlies for this week. Col. Brodie detailed me for hospital and Will for field but will arrange it to suit. Minnie's letter returned. Walked to Tidsworth with Will.

*Wednesday, 21 June*

6.00am parade. Miss orderlies 1.30pm. Will and I allotted for Field Ambulance. Went to see pictures in Tidsworth.

*Thursday, 22nd June*

6.00am parade, 9.30am parade. Men picked for hospitals (Digger Stanley picked), lent Digger 1 pound (\$2). Went to concert in Regal Institute.

*Friday, 23rd June*

6.00am parade. C8.30am march to Bulford, 4 miles away. All Australian troops in there for practice parade for W.M Hughes, Prime minister of Australia, tomorrow. Took lunch with us and returned 3.30pm. General Moore (Australia) reviewed us. In evening to Shipton.

*Saturday, 24th June*

6.00am parade. Raining. 8.30am parade to Bulford Camp to review W.M Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia. Reviews troops. A Fisher was there. Hughes thought of here. Swiss troops satisfactory and marched well. In evening Will and I went to Shipton and visited an old lady who had a son on "Princess Royal" and showed us a piece of shell that had struck his ship in the Battle of Jutland.

*Sunday, 25th June*

6.00am parade. 8.15am church parade. 4 days leave granted to all Australians before leaving for France.

*Monday, 26th June*

6.00am parade. 30% go on leave in London. Last day mess orderlies in evening at 5 theatre with Will.

*Tuesday, 27th June*

6.00am parade. 9.30am parade route march Tidsworth. 2.00pm route march past village into field. In evening at pictures with Will and Digger.

*Wednesday, 28th June*

6.00am parade. No.2 section on duty. Will and I detached for Picket for Shipton, 6.00pm till 10.00pm. Only sat about the village until time expired. 10.00pm walked to the rifle butts.

*Thursday, 29th June*

6.00am parade. 9.30am parade and march to Chalderton. Played organ in church. 2.00pm parade for pay 2 pounds(\$4), 6 pounds(\$12). Will and I for holiday. Had game of bagatelle with Will.

*Friday, 30th June*

6.30am parade to Shipton. 9.30am squad drill. 2.00pm physical drill. Will and I granted 5 days leave to visit Scotland from Monday to Friday.

*Saturday, 1st July*

6.30am parade marched to village. 9.30am parade to pay fares to Glasgow. Raining in afternoon. Will and I went to Tidsworth in evening.

*Sunday, 2nd July*

6.00am parade, dismissed. 8.30am church parade. Spent afternoon in Tidsworth.

### **1916 – LEAVE - London, Scotland**

*Monday, 3rd July*

6.30am parade, dismissed. 10.45am left Tidsworth. Arrived Waterloo Station 1.30pm. 4 days of furlough. Walked over Westminster bridge to our Head Quarters at Horsefield Road. Went to Com Bank in motor, returned by motor bus. St Pauls' Buckingham Palace, Westminster Park House. Received warrant for Scotland 30/- (\$3) each leaving 10 pounds (\$20) in all. Went to Euston by underground tube, rail from St James changing at Charring Cross and Waterloo. St Paul's. Had tea went to pictures. Took taxi to station caught Flying Scott 11.30pm for Glasgow. Crew caught 6.30 now in Scotland. 8 o'clock passed Motherwell and recognised old home. Arrived in Glasgow 8.30am. An average of 50 miles per hour. Drive time about 78 hours. Got a very warm reception in Scotland.

*Tuesday, 4th July*



10.00am arrived Finlay's Works in Motherwell. Had a look at the old house and recognised by Mrs Rain in office. Met Mr Finlay since Mrs Murray rang many npeople know us. Went to Uncle Bob's for dinner (Bob Melrose). Girls do a great deal of work here. Munitions work. Train 2.30 to Holy town to change for Shotts. Welcome by Peggy Lennon (nee Mather's Aunt) and family. Went back to Glasgow met man who treated us to a taxi. Found Minnee and Bessie (daughters of Samuel Mathers) and spent the night at their house. The Glasgow or Scotts are the finest I have met so far. They will do a great deal for you. Australians are scarce here and they are taken up with the uniform. Mary asked us if we were local boys, squatters, etc.

*Wednesday, 5th July*

Spent day in Glasgow with Bessie and saw principle streets and sights. Went under Clyde by tunnel. Crossed by ferry also over bridge. Went on many of the trams, went over the University. Had dinner in a restaurant and caught train to Bowling. Had tea and returned to Glasgow. After seeing Uncles Will, Bob and Alec (must be Melrose). Had a stroll through main streets and went to Uni park and turned in for night at Ferguson's hotel. The Scotch fairly love the Aussies and were very warm hearted. They go a great deal out of their way to help and have Soldiers Buffets at all the stations. The girls are more beautiful than in England and would come up to talk to us.

*Thursday, 6th July*

This morning went for a run in a taxi and caught the 10.00am train to Edinburgh, arriving at 11.00am. Went through Exhibition Buildings. Edinburgh Castle, with a guide. Saw the clock and had a swim in the baths. Returned to Edinburgh Princes Street and saw Sir Walter Scott's tower and went to the top. Then took taxi to zoo. Back by train, had tea. Meals in Scotland are cheaper than England and excellent. Trains ½ foot wide in Scotland and 1 foot in England. Went to the pictures, the interior and exterior magnificent. Went to Burns monument. Nelson statue. Edinburgh disgrace (Catlon Hill) to N.B station. Taken to Princes Street. Express to London 10.20pm. Crowded and people are very kind and many said goodbye. We were very sorry to leave Scotland but our leave expired at 12.00am, Thursday 6th so we should have been in England (Parkhouse) but worth anything to see Edinburgh.

*Friday, 7th July*

Arrived Euston Station 8.30am. Had a walk around town. Went through Madame Tussard's. Saw ancient and modern works and many real ancient curios. Chamber of Horrors. Then St Paul's, down the crypt. Saw Nelson, Roberts, Wellington and Worbly graves and the car that carried Wellington's coffin. 16 tons of captured guns. Was drawn by 12 horses (black). Went

through Tower of London and saw bloody tower where the two princes were murdered and the room at the bottom of the steps in which the princes were thrown. Saw the white tower with the ancient armoury. The Jewel House with Crowns gold plate, etc.

*Friday, 7th July Cont. Saturday 8th July*

Argyles Tower and State prison room with inscriptions written on wall by the state prisoners. The Scaffold on which Ann Bolyn and Lady Jane Grey were executed and many other things. Had a walk around London. Had dinner, caught 3.30pm from Tidsworth , a day overdue. Carried at Andover to Salisbury names taken and returned to Andover. Walked 12 miles to Parkhouse. Arrived at camp worn out 1.00am. 6.00am parade Saturday. Marched around village. 9.30am parade. Men packed for France. Received 9 letters.

### **1916 – Parkhouse Camp ENGLAND**

*Sunday, 9th July*

7.30am parade, dismissed. 8.30am Church parade in Y.M.C.A, English Chaplain. Writing.

*Monday, 10th July*

6.30am parade, march to village. Detailed to Y.M.C.A as mess orderlies for day. 9.30pm punished 7 day C.B (Confined to Barracks) for signing petition to Andy Fisher for leave, along with 30 others.

*Tuesday, 11th July*

6.30am parade. Will and I detailed to Officers Mess for day. Finished 2.00pm to stay in camp.

*Wednesday, 12th July*

6.30am parade march. 9.30am parade. 2.00pm parade. To remain in camp. Writing letters.

*Thursday, 13th July*

6.30am parade march. 9.30am march to Chalderton. 2.00pm physical drill and pay 1 pound 0.40 (\$2.40) and Will 10/- (\$1). To remain in camp. Writing letters. Receive 5 letters from Australia.

*Friday, 14th July*

6.30am parade, physical drill. 9.30am parade, more men selected. 2.00pm allotted to 29 Hut. Will and I went to Tidsworth for Vaudeville Show 10/- (\$1) from W. Worth.

*Saturday, 15th July*

6.30am parade, physical drill. 9.30am more men selected for the draught for France and paid fares to London for 4 days leave. Corporal Cosway called to see me. We had a walk back to Tidsworth to his barrack with him.

*Sunday, 16th July*

6.30am parade, dismissed. 8.45am church parade. Last day on C.B.

### **1916 – LEAVE - London, Chelmsford, Hayes**

*Monday, 17th July*

A Ward birthday (*mistake Her birthday was 27<sup>th</sup> July*). 6.30am parade, march to village. 8.30am left camp for 4 days in London. Left at 11.00am, arrived Waterloo 1.30pm. Drew 1 pound (\$2), Will 16/- (\$1.60) at Horseferry Road. Had a meal at buffet and walked around town. Piccadilly and Leicester Square. Returned to Union Jack Club. Went to East End. People thought war was over. Spent night Union Jack Club.

*Tuesday, 18th July*

In morning we went round city. Got pass for Chelmsford and went around East End. Through Jewish Quarters. Policeman showed us Petticoat Lane and place where Jack the Ripper was caught. 2.30pm train for Chelmsford. Grace in London returned by train for Chelmsford. Met Grace and spent evening together and home to Union Jack Club. Crossed Waterloo Bridge on way home. Chelmsford pretty place, an hour's train trip from London.

*Wednesday, 19th July*

In morning we visited Westminster Abbey and saw the tombs of ancient kings and queens as well as other notable men and women. Service on when we entered. Took bus to London Zoo in afternoon. Returned to Union Jack Club then to Calford. Met Grace and went to Hayes about 1 hour from London. We stayed with the Murrays all night, leaving for London in the morning.

*Thursday, 20th July*

Took Grace to Calford and returned to Union Jack Club for our belongings. Spent afternoon and evening with Grace and went to Westminster. Took Grace to Waterloo Station and said goodbye there. Left Waterloo for Tidsworth 11.43pm, arrived home at 2.00am. Very tired.

### **1916 – Parkhouse Camp**

*Friday, 21st July*

6.00am parade, dismissed. 9.00am parade. Will and I detailed off for Officers

Mess fatigue for day. 3.45pm parade again, 8 men picked for Section 1 Field Ambulance for France. Will and I picked. Stayed in camp.

*Saturday, 22nd July*

6.30 am parade, physical drill. 9.30am parade, stretcher drill. Afternoon in camp. Evening in Tidsworth to theatre.

*Sunday, 23rd July*

7.00am parade, dismissed. 8.30am church parade in Y.M.C.A tent, a fine chaplain. Went for a stroll to Tidsworth with Will. Spent evening writing letters.

*Monday, 24th July*

6.30am parade, physical drill. 1.30pm parade, stretcher drill. 2.00pm parade, tent pitching. Spent evening in camp writing letters.

*Tuesday, 25th July*

6.30pm parade, physical drill. 9.30am parade, Clothing Board for Brassard only. All issued with Imperial black boots for France. Exercise with medicine ball and route march over hill towards Bullford. 2.00pm parade, lecture on anatomy (bones and joints of body). Captain Johnson. 3.00pm route march past Shipton. 5.45pm Will and I on Inlying Picket until 6.00am, on duty at 3.00pm.

*Wednesday, 26th July*

6.30am dismissed from picket. 6.30am parade, physical drill. 9.30am parade, stretcher drill. 11.00am tent operation, pitching tent. 2.00pm parade. In evening went to Tidsworth theatre in taxi.

*Thursday, 27th July*

6.00am parade, physical drill. 9.30am parade, stretcher drill. 2.00pm squad drill. Lecture. Paid 1 pound, Will 16/-. Called home 8 pounds (\$16). Spent evening in camp.

*Friday, 8th July*

6.00am parade, physical drill. 9.30am stretcher drill. 2.00pm route march. Spent evening in camp playing Bagatelle. About 1.00am bottles and jam flying about hut. Some men struck by drunks. Received pair of socks from A.D. Cabled to John through Commonwealth Bank, London for 8 pounds.

*Saturday, 29th July*

6.30am parade. Will and I picked for guards from 7.00am to 6.00pm. Will to guard Isolation and I to guard Hospital. Went to Tidsworth with Will to see pictures. When we returned, all drunk in hut.

*Sunday, 30th July*

6.30am parade, dismissed. 9.00am church parade Y.M.C.A. Spent afternoon and night in camp writing and reading.

*Monday, 31st July*

6.30am parade, physical drill. 9.30am parade, stretcher drill. Light duties in Regimental Institute. Suffering from touch of flu, pain in head. Went to Theatre in Tidsworth in evening with Will.

*Tuesday, 1st August*

6.30am parade. No duties for day. Light duty. Spent time lying in field reading. Received note from base, mailing cable had been dispatched to John. Ill in evening.

*Wednesday, 2nd August*

6.30am on sick parade. Light duty. Spent day in field reading. Received letter from bank stating that they received mine and would inform me when money came through. Very ill in evening.

*Thursday, 3rd August*

6.30am on sick parade. Temp 100.2°. No duties. Spent day in field reading. Received 2 letters (first from John *brother*). Several old pals arrive from Liverpool.

*Friday, 4th August*

6.30am sick parade. Light duties on Sergeants Mess in morning. Afternoon in hut. Spent evening writing.

*Saturday, 5th August*

6.30am parade. Working in PO. Arrange with WO and Staff Sergeant to go to S. Hampton to attend review 1.30pm at head quarters by General Robertson, Kitchener's Secretary. Parade 3.00pm. Went to Tidsworth in evening with Will.

*Sunday, 6th August*

6.30am parade, dismissed. 9.00am church parade in Y.M.C.A for 15 minutes only. Told story of wounded soldier "The Heart of Jesus Is With You". 9.30am marched from camp to Tidsworth with whole camp. All Australians assembled to be presented with Shield and Colours (General Sir Newton Moore). Colours presented at 11.45am. Passed saluting base and returned to camp 1.00pm. Spent afternoon in hut. Went to Tidsworth for evening with Will and Scotty Robertson.

*Monday, 7th August*

6.30am route march. 9.30am stretcher drill. 2.00pm parade, stretcher drill. 2.00pm parade, tent pitching Hospital Tent. In evening Will and I went to Tidsworth Theatre.

*Tuesday, 8th August*

5.30am physical drill. 9.30am stretcher drill (load stretcher). 2.00pm route march and bandaging. 2.00pm spent evening in camp writing letters, playing bagatelle.

*Wednesday, 9th August*

6.30am parade, physical drill. 9.30am march round Chalderton. 2.00pm parade, 100 in all. Government clothing and prepared to march out any moment. Met Les Harrison at Parkhouse this afternoon. He is a captain in the A.A.M.C and came over from Egypt.

*Thursday, 10th August*

6.30am physical drill. 9.30am parade, draught for France selected and finally dismissed at 11.30am. 1.30am parade, paid 10/- and 1 pound 10.0 dismissed. In afternoon Will and I hired bicycles and went to Amesbury. Met some friends of 9th Hugh Bowden, Kekener and Will Melrose (cousin). Had supper with him and returned 10.00pm.

*Friday, 11th August*

6.30am parade, route march. 9.30am parade, route march for draught round Chalderton. 2.00pm parade, route march and rest behind camp under trees. Spent evening in camp with Will and at Institute.

*Saturday, 12th August*

6.30am parade, route march (draught) 9.00am parade (draught). Evening to pictures with Will.

*Sunday, 13th August*

6.30am parade, dismissed. 9.00am church parade Y.M.C.A hut. In afternoon wen to Tidsworth with Will and Scotty.

*Monday, 14th August*

6.30am parade, dismissed. 9.30am parade, medical inspection SA for draught. Hand in blankets and bolsters. QM 2.00pm parade, draught dismissed. Spent afternoon writing. In evening Will and I went to Tidsworth Theatre. Everyone drunk in hut waiting to march out.

**1916 –To FRANCE**

*Tuesday, 15th August*

1.30am Fill in 70 men for France. 2.00am marched out. 3.40am goodbye to Tidsworth to Woking. Marched into rest camp at Shorncliffe for breakfast and left 10.30 to embark at Folkstone with Tommies, Scots, Canadians, NZ and Australians. Crossed in small vessel for Boulogne. Arrived 2.45pm. Marched through to (rest camp) went to Boulogne in evening with Will. Very few civilians (men) about, mostly women. Great deal of poverty here. Women and children come to camp for food. Saw a good deal of the people of Boulogne.

*Wednesday, 16th August*

10.00am parade, marching off. Left Boulogne for Etaples 20 miles out in train. 40 miles behind ferry lines attached to 2nd A.D.B.D C/- A.P.O Section 17 B.E.F France. Spent evening fixing tent gear. In evening in camp. Etaples out of bounds to troops.

*Thursday, 17th August*

5.30am review, dismissed. 8.40am parade, marching order. 10.30am parade, medical inspection by Captain Morgan Dr. from Sydney. Both passed. 2.30pm route march out through the village of Etaples and through Paris-Place to ocean beach (Atlantic), 5 miles out. This is a beautiful ocean beach and houses were fine. Thoroughly enjoyed the trip after 6.00am. Swimming parade to Paris Place every Thursday.

*Friday, 18th August*

6.00am parade, dismissed. 7.45am parade, march to Bull rink for final tests before going to front. Lectures on gases and use of helmets and gloves (tear). Practice on bomb throwing, marched through poisonous gas chambers with helmets. March through tear gas trench to camp. Afternoon off in camp.

*Saturday, 19th August*

6.00am parade, dismissed. 10.00am parade for pay 40 francs (1 pound 80). 12.00pm washing parade. Marched about 1 mile to wash clothes in wash

house. Went to station and met Lieutenant Hillman from Mosman going to Poiziers. In afternoon Will and I had to walk to the village La Faux, 2 miles out. Passed beautiful fields, good crops. French catholic village, visited church.

*Sunday, 20th August*

6.00am parade and warned for draught. After taken off first draught and informed later to go on second draught. Detailed to cooks fatigue. 6.00pm told to answer parade. 3.00am march off at 4.00am. Had service in hut 8.30 before sleeping.

### **1916 At Front in FRANCE**

*Monday, 21st August*

3.00am review, fall in at 4.00am. Marched out with engineers. Caught train with Scots, English and others bound for front. Left Etaples 9.00am, arrived Boulogne 10.00am, Calais 11.30am. At 1.10pm the whole of the fields on the way were heavy with crops. Menfolk are very scarce, mostly old men employed on railways. At Baillent, about 5 miles from lines, we hear first firing. Left train at Stienwarter for report to camps, etc. Saily march right about 6 miles along line heard firing and saw shrapnel fired at our aeroplanes. Billeted at an old cart village 3 miles back from trenches. Heard bombardment during the night. Stienwarter 1 mile from Belgium. Armentiers close by.

### **1916 –FRANCE, Saily, Armentiers, Estaires**

*Tuesday, 22nd August*

6.00am parade to River Lys to wash. 9.00am parade, examination of gas helmets. Will and I got new ones. 2.00pm parade, issue of steel helmets. A.M.C did not receive them (Army Medical Corps). Afternoon off. In evening took a stroll to Saily with Will and Moran. Many civilians there. On way home our guns were firing at a taube went quite close to it. Our aeroplanes hovering all day, being fired at. Guns firing all day.

*Wednesday, 23rd August*

6.00am parade for wash River Lys. 9.00am parade, A.M.C on fatigue. Guns firing at aircraft all day. 2.00pm swimming parade to River Lys. In evening Will, Moran and I took a walk towards Estaires and Bastilles and Levantie. 10.00pm 100 pioneers marched in. Heavy stint bombarding for a couple of hours.

*Thursday, 24th August*



6.00am parade for wash at River Lys. 9.00am on fatigue filling in holes in the yard. 11.00am parade, engineers left and Major and Lieutenant Colonel came for A.M.C. Will and I detailed for 8th Field Ambulance. Others for 14th and 15th Field Ambulance. Dinner in farm. The WO has remembered us, knows John Well, lives near us. WO Caller. About 4.00pm Dr M Maston called and took Will and I away in a motor ambulance to 8th Field Ambulance at Estaires. He told us he knew the name. We found many of our old friends in the 8th as mostly composed of N.S.W. Met Will May. In evening Will and I had a stroll round Estaires. 8th out of action just now. Camped in a French school. Children still attend.

*Friday, 25th August*

7.30am breakfast. 9.00am parade. Will and I put in A Section, 8th Field Ambulance and dismissed for the day. 12 noon dinner, afternoon off. 5.00pm tea. In the evening we had a walk through Estaires returning 8.00pm. Parade 9.00pm for roll call, lights out 10.00pm. Met McFadyen. He said he was a friend of Tom Storm, Minnie's husband. Our division just been through a heavy stint. 50% of the division cut up, all resting as well as 8th Field Ambulance.

*Saturday, 26th August*

7.30am breakfast. 9.00am parade. Will and I along with 7 others sent out to Douliou Where C Section, 8th Field Ambulance run a rest station about 4 miles out. Here we spent the day harvesting for the farmer, bringing in and stacking peas and wheat. Left 3.00pm, returned to camp 4.00pm. In evening had a stroll with Will through Estaires. Met Troudate, a friend of John's from Mosman.

*Sunday, 27th August*

7.30am breakfast. 9.00am church parade. 9.30am left Crosier took the service Y.M.C.A. I prayed. Off in morning. After dinner wrote letter. In afternoon Will and I had walk through Estaires. Met some old people at photographer's shop and stayed there for the evening. French all the time. Left prints for Monday.

*Monday, 28th August*

7.30am breakfast. 9.00am parade, detailed Will and I to baths to clean up in the mornings. 2.00pm parade, Will and I detailed for picket afternoon off. Went for a stroll through Estaires and found friend of Will Staffords. He is camped about 2 miles from us, Sergeant W. Stafford R.E. 6.00pm pickets fall in. Will on yard, second shift 2.00am on gate, 3rd shift 10 – 12. 8th Field Ambulance having a concert tonight 10 – 12, picket on gate.

*Tuesday, 29th August*

4.00am Will and I on picket at gate. Breakfast 7.00am. 10.00am till noon picket on gate. 4.00 – 6.00pm picket finished. Spent evening talking to a French family. Very wet.

*Wednesday, 30th August*

Wet all day. 9.00am parade. Will and I and 10 others detailed to go to Saily to help 15th Field Ambulance erect a rest station. Met some old friends here. Finished at 4.00pm. Will and I had a stroll about Estaires in evening. Bought caps for Bruce and Barty. (*Brother Robert's children*)

*Thursday, 31st August*

9.00am parade. Remainder of 4 section given pass to go to baths at Lazorque. Here the soldiers came up from the trenches to have a warm bath. Women are employed for washing and mending underclothing. We can leave dirty clothes and towels and take clean ones. Thursday afternoon off in lieu of Saturday. Here in the morning French have market in the street. Had a walk about Estaires in afternoon.

*Friday, 1st September*

9.00am parade. Will and I detailed off with 10 others to visit 15th Field Ambulance at Saily to finish baths for rest station, finished 4.30pm. Took a stroll around Estaires. 9.00am fair 40 francs each bought veil for Mother 8F, Scarf for Mary 7F, Collar for Boodie 7F. Spent afternoon with Will in Estaires and writing letters. Today issued with wet equipment in place of putties for leggings.

*Saturday, 2nd September*

9.00am parade. Went to Divisional Baths at La Gorgue for wash and changed underclothes. 2.00pm parade, issued with gas helmets and rubber eye piece. Detached along with others to go to ..... to do carpentry work. Also asked to take the service in Y.M.C.A in the morning for Army Medical Corp (A.M.C). Afternoon off. Estaires with Will. Evening prepared for service.

*Sunday, 3rd September*

9.00am church parade. This morning held service in Y.M.C.A, 8th Field Ambulance. I was asked to take it. Spoke from 2nd Samuel of David and Johnathon. Sent home parcels to John containing an ashtray for John and one for Robert and two serviette rings for Harry. Also two letters. Anti-aircraft guns busy with our planes. The Catholic Church have had a great procession through Estaires this morning. Spent evening in a French home MacHortense. Invited us in and passed a good evening. She only speaks French.

*Monday, 4th September*

9.00am parade, detailed for duty with 15th Field Ambulance at Saily building hospital. In evening at French people's house, only speak French. Invited back tomorrow. 9.00pm parade, roll call.

*Tuesday, 5th September*

9.00am parade to Saily to assist 15th Field Ambulance with Hospital Carpentry. Spent evening visiting. Could only speak French Mademoiselle Beauvantse. 9.00pm roll call. Heavy strafing all night.

*Wednesday, 6th September*

9.00am parade to Saily to assist 15th Field Ambulance building hospital, lining walls with calico. 6.00pm got pass for La Gorgue to see the pictures in a French Cinema Theatre. Heavy strafing all night.

*Thursday, 7th September*

9.00am parade to division baths to prepare. Helped the engineers. Afternoon off, spent it reading and writing. 6.00pm parade for picket duty. On duty 8.00pm to 10.00pm. Heavy strafing.

*Friday, 8th September*

4.00am to 6.00am on picket. 12 noon to 2.00pm on picket. 6.00pm dismissed. Will and I visit Mlle Hamelin. Heavy strafing throughout the night. Received letter from Boodie.

*Saturday, 9th September*

7.00am breakfast. 9.00am parade. Will and I with others went to assist 15th Field Ambulance with construction of hospital. Detailed for picket in afternoon. 2.00pm parade, went to La Gorgue. Went with Will and two others to Division Baths. Spent afternoon in La Gorgue with two miners. Issued with cigarettes and tobacco. On picket from 6.00pm to 6.00am Sunday.

*Sunday, 10th September*

On picket till 6.00pm. Spent evening with E Beauventue. No church parade this morning, few men in.

*Monday, 11th September*

9.00am went to N. Monde to help 15th Field Ambulance with hospital. 2.00pm parade on picket from 6.00pm to 6.00pm Thursday.

*Tuesday, 12th September*

On picket. Visited Madame Beauventues.

*Wednesday, 13th September*

9.00am parade, sent to Bein St Mair to get load of coal. Received 5 letters from home and telegram from Grace. 2.00pm parade, sent tables and forms to C Section. Stroll from Estaires.

*Thursday, 14th September*

9.00am parade, bundled some blankets, wrote a few letters. 2.00pm Will and I on picket first shift 6.00pm – 8.00pm. Will third shift paid 14/4 (\$1.45) each in morning, 14/4 owing. Stroll through Estaires in afternoon. C Section march in from Dublin.

*Friday, 15th September*

2.00am till 4.00am on picket. Very cold. Will and I transferred A to C Section. 10.00am picket to 12 noon, dismissed. 8.00pm in evening Will and I went for a stroll in Estaires. In evening went to French pictures at La Gorgue. Saw shop on fire when returning.

*Saturday, 16th September*

9.00am parade. Will and I transferred to C Section, 8th Field Ambulance, Stretcher Bearers. Removed billet from Notre Dame de Lourde to house next square on top floor. Morning loading cart with medical equipment. 2.00pm parade, half an hour squad drill, dismissed for afternoon. Had a stroll around Estaires and spent evening in little shop. 9.00pm, roll call.

*Sunday, 17th September*

9.00am church parade. Went to service in Y.M.C.A hall L/C Crosiar took service. Had stroll around Estaires, spent evening at shop in Estaires.

*Monday, 18th September*

9.00am parade. All day in camp. In evening Will and I went to French Pictures at La Gorgue.

*Tuesday, 19th September*

9.00am parade. Will sent to Doulieu to help pull down some sheds. Sent to help transports remove some medical equipment. In evening visited people in shop on way to Merville. 9.00pm, roll call. 9.30pm, lights out.

*Wednesday, 20th September*

9.00am Will sent to Doulieu to finish work. I sent to transport, no work, returned. In evening I visited photo shop and spent a nice evening there. Hear we are clearing out of Estaires tomorrow. I took up the service in Y.M.C.A this evening. The hall was filled. Spoke from this text 2 Sam 11.7 and Nathan said unto David "Thou art the man".

## 1916 Armentiers

### *Thursday, 21st September*

9.00am parade, standing by in billet. 2.00pm parade. Will and I are to transport to help pack wagons to clear out. In evening had stroll Estaires. Received note from Bank to say they had received money for us. 9.30am, lights out. To leave for Armentaires 6.00am from head quarters.

### *Friday, 22nd September*

4.00am rose. 5.00am breakfast. Leave billet 5.30am. Head quarters at 6.00am. Full kit and packs, march for 4 hours, about 10 miles. Few taubes flying Corp passes close behind us. Take over the clearing station from Highland Regiment from Dundee. Spent afternoon about hospital. In evening went for a stroll with Will and a couple of Scots, returned 8.00pm. 10.00pm till 12.00 on picket. Will, 12.00 – 2.00pm. Heavy bombardment. Several of our men brought in the morning.

### *Saturday, 23rd September*

6.00am on picket till 8.00am. Will, 8.00am – 10.00am. Had a stroll around by “Half Past Eleven Square”. The buildings here all battered about with shells and bombs. The scenes of street fighting, most of the churches destroyed. 2.00pm till 4.00pm picket. After tea Will and I stroll about Armentiers towards Houplines, this town is shattered. Few people about. 2 kilometres from our part of line.

### *Sunday, 24th September*

Free till 4.00pm then on picket at front gate in morning and afternoon. Will and I had a walk about Armentiers. Very few people living in buildings. Passed the square and had a look at the station. Went through the Church St Voost it has been shelled as were the other churches there. Visited the Y.M.C.A afterwards. On picket – 12.00am. Will, 4.00pm – 6.00pm. One of our men brought in gassed by one of our own cylinders leaking, not serious. Took two dispatches. Received 4 letters from Bank on receipt of money. Grace. Mr Williams.

### *Monday, 25th September*

6.00am till 8.00am on picket. Several of our planes cross the German lines, on returning are shelled but with no effect. Picked up more of the shrapnel that fell near our hospital. Scots leaving today. As from 2.00 – 4.00pm on picket, dismissed. 4.00pm went for walk towards Port Nieppre when Germans began to shell town of Armentiers. The shells came over us and we could hear them. One landed in place we had just left. Not much damage, but 7 men wounded and French soldiers on leave killed. A couple of shells landed 100 yards from

hospital knocking over houses and wounding a man. All brought over to our hospital. One man shell shock.

*Thursday, 26th September*

This morning the weather is fine. Will and I are on fatigue with others sweeping the streets around the hospital. Went into the cellars under the brewery, left in case of heavy bombardment. After tea Germans again bombarded the town of Armentiers came over before. Issued with the latest helmets. On picket 4.00pm – 6.00pm, front gate. Will 4.00pm – 8.00pm on back gate. Also 10.00 – 12.00am. Read a book in the night “Pentecost of Calamity” by Owen Winter, Germany before and during war.

*Wednesday, 27th September*

On picket from 8.00am – 10.00am. Will, 4.00am 6.00am, also 10.00am – 12 noon, 4.00pm dismissed. 5.00pm the Germans are again shelling Armentiers, one shell has exploded just near the hospital. Pieces of shrapnel falling in the yard. 9.00pm lights out. One of our A Section wounded by shrapnel coming out of the Y.M.C.A. Also 4 others.

*Thursday, 28th September*

8.15am Will and I and others sweep the streets around the hospital. Issued with cigarettes and tobacco from comfort funds. 4.00pm Will and I again on picket. Will 8.00pm to 10.00pm, 6- 8.00. Received parcel containing edibles from H Caulfield, Glasgow. 4.00pm the Germans again shell the town causing many casualties, several killed and wounded, civilians as well as soldiers. Heavy bombardment by our guns at night.

*Friday, 29th September*

4.00am – 6.00am on picket. 12.00 noon – 2.00pm our artillery are about to bombard the enemy. Knowing that they will return it we are all taken into the cellars and remained there till it was over. Happily the Germans did not shell the town this day. 8.00pm Will and I went to bed.

*Saturday, 30th September*

8.15am picket cleaned up the yard. Will and I then went to Port Nieppre to the baths to change underclothing. Bought some post cards and gave some clothes to be washed. Received watch again repaired. This afternoon the Germans shelled the town, striking a house about 20 yards behind and one 30 yards in front of hospital. One baby slightly injured, we were sent to cellars. Received 2 letters from Nell. 10.20– 10.40pm on picket back gate when our artillery opened up a heavy bombardment. Not withstanding the bombardments, the civilians remain in town preferring danger to starvation. Great number of factories here, they live from day to day.

*Sunday, 1st October*

6.00am – 8.00am on picket back gate. 2.00 – 4.00pm on picket. Off duty after 4.00pm. Germans have been shelling all day to get one of our batteries, one observation officer hit. They did not bombard the town today. At 6.30pm we had a service in the reception room. Taken by a Chaplain, communion was held after the service. Half of those present remaining behind and all of us enjoyed the service.

*Monday, 2nd October*

8.30am Will and I scrubbed out the passage on the ground floor, free to 4.00pm. 4.00pm on picket, Will first shift 4.00pm – 6.00pm and I on duty 6.00pm – 8.00pm, both on front gate. Raining all day. Germans did not shell the town today. Received letter from Mary, one from Annie Ward.

*Tuesday, 3rd October*

2.00am – 4.00am on picket (French piquet). 10.00am – 12 noon on picket. 3.30pm at present in cellar. Germans commence to shell the town and we are ordered to take to cellar. Went to bed about 8.00pm.

*Wednesday, 4th October*

8.30am breakfast then Will and I swept the corridor and free till 4.00pm. About 3.00pm the town is being shelled, one soldier killed, 2 wounded in hospital. 4.00pm change picket, Will on third shift. Front quiet too. On second shift, back gate 6.00pm – 8.00pm. 5 o'clock more shells come over. They seem to have a special dislike for the Australians and they have shelled every day since Scots left. Wrote letters to Mary and A. Ward, also to Mother, Boodie and Nell. 9.00pm again town shelled for 20 minutes.

*Thursday, 5th October*

*(First three lines cannot be read)* 4.00pm picket dismissed before 8.00pm ordered to cellars. Our men about to bombard, expect Germans to reply. Took our blankets and slept there for the night, found the floor hard and damp. Met young French R.C Priest outside cellar, had a long chat with him and learned much concerning French people. Spent time in cellars reading book "Purpose in Prayer" and thoroughly enjoyed it. The bombardment did not come off. We fired a few shells and little gas. Received 2 letters, one from John and K. Williamson.

*Friday, 6th October*

Off duty will 4.00pm, then on picket. Will second shift, I last shift, front gate. 10.00 – 12.00pm picket. Couple of patients brought in 6.00pm. Commenced bible study class in mess room, had a good meeting, 26 attended. Tuesdays and

Fridays. Hymns, pray, read. German gas alarm sounding. Sergeant carries one and a half miles to hospital ??? did not know legs off. Man with arm hanging off table (*cannot read rest*).

*Saturday, 7th October*

1.00am our men give Germans a heavy bombardment and carry out raid successfully, using gas, only three or four patients brought in. 6.00am to 8.00am on picket. Spent morning sleeping and reading. 2.00pm to 11.00pm on picket. 4.00pm picket dismissed. Spent evening reading and chatting about the war. Went to bed about 8.30pm. We were not shelled this afternoon. Received letters from Annie Ward and Miss Brendly.

*Sunday, 8th October*

Wet day. Breakfast 8.00am. Will and I swept backyard off till 4.00pm. this evening we entered holding service 8.00pm in mess room. Mitchell, Hickorly and I to speak. 4.00pm on picket, back gate. Will last shift, back gate. 4.00pm – 6.00pm picket. 6.00pm we had divine service in mess room, 26 attended. Mr Hickorly spoke first on “the example we set others”, Mitchell on 1 Gen “In the beginning God”. My list was from Phil 2 5-10 “Let this mind be in you Christ empties himself” with a few short prayers and hymns, we retired. We all enjoyed it. Had a long talk to Hickorly before going to bed. 10.00 – 12.00 Will on picket. 12.00 – 2.00am, I am on picket.

*Monday, 9th October*

8.00am – 10.00am on picket, then free till 4.00pm. Spent morning reading, afternoon studying. R Stretcher Bearers leave us and go to join their units in the trenches. 4.00pm dismissed. In evening wrote letters to Nell and M. Williams. Reading bed 8.30pm.

*Tuesday, 10th October*

8.00am breakfast, free till 4.00pm. Will and I took stroll in town. Bought postcards and sent them home. Afternoon reading. 4.00pm on picket, last shift, back gate. Will second shift, front. 6.00pm held our second meeting for prayers and bible reading, 20 attended. Had a great time and enjoyed it. Most of the men spoke or praying. Today received registered parcel from Sydney, 24 packets of chewing gum. In evening had a chat with a couple of lads and went for a stroll with Will and H. Hynesley. 10.00am – 12.00 picket.

*Wednesday, 11th October*

6.00am – 8.00am on picket. Studied scripture with Hynesley 2.00 – 4.00pm on picket. 4.00pm, dismissed. Spent evening reading, went to bed 9.00pm.

**1916 BELGIUM- Flanders (First experience in Trenches)**



*Thursday, 12th October*

8.00am breakfast then Will and I swept the back yard. Read in morning and evening. 4.00pm on picket again. 6.00pm sent with Will and others to trenches, raid on. Entered trenches about 7.00pm then commenced bombardment in evening doing away with parapet. With gas helmets on alarm given. Taking place of R.S and went to front line. Then Will and I picked up man with shrapnel in kidney and commenced our way back. Took gas helmets off after we took him off stretcher and carried him. Were almost beaten when some of his own companions came over back from stint and insisted an officer carrying for a while. 100 of our boys went over, blackened; took many prisoners, killed many, destroyed trenches. Only 3 killed 20, mostly slightly wounded.

*Friday, 13th October*

Took our own men to aid post, then to cleaning station on wheels. Two Germans prisoners passed us, one a major. Took nearly 4 hours to get 8 men in. Then met shell shock case and wheeled him in. After wounded German brought in about 1.00pm returned with him to hospital. Our lads all returned safe. 9.00am breakfast in house in grounds. 31st Battalion went over against 9th Bavarians 5th Division. Spent day reading and studying scriptures. On orders to march out 9.00am tomorrow. Prayer and bible reading at 6.00pm, 24 came, we had a great time. N.Z.A.M.C came in from Somme.

*Saturday, 14th October*

6.00am had breakfast in house. Armentiers to NZ's at 9.30am. Marched to square and took motor transport through Balieul to Strazelle (Flander's front). Near Poperiacle About 12 miles from Armentiers. Quastered in barn. In afternoon Hapesley Will and I had tea in house near there took stroll along road front but we can see the star-shells go up quite plainly and mark the line all around. Returned to barn, 60 of us in it. Lay down in stones and read till fell asleep.

*Sunday, 15th October*

7.30 review. Breakfast 8.30am. Parade full marching orders. 9.30 route march to Vieuse Berquin, 3.5km and back. After dinner Hugh Reid, Will and I took stroll to Vieuse Berquin (old lady cut my hair), had a cup of coffee and a nice chat and then had eggs and chips from Belgian lady. Too late to go to church. Went to bed 7.30pm. Very cold.

*Monday, 16th October*

6.30am review. 7.30am breakfast. 8.30 parade at headquarters, dismissed till 11.00am then we all had a note for or against conscription in Australia. Will

and I most of us are against. Between 12-2.00pm went to Y.M.C.A. 2.00pm parade, route march to Caestre, 3.5 km, Fort Mavelok and Filtre, about 10km in all. These villages are very quiet and all the land is cultivated as in most of the other places in north of France. 6.30pm concert in Y.M.C.A but we went home to bed and read.

*Tuesday, 17th October*

7.30am review. 8.30am breakfast. 11.30am dinner. 2.30pm parade, full marching order. Marched from Strazelle to Balieul, 10 miles. Arrived there about 5.00pm, commenced to rain. took train from here to Longpre in cattle trucks. Had a good sleep among the straw. Slept whole night in train.

## 1916 - Somme

*Wednesday, 18th October*

Raining. About breakfast time arrived at Longpre, had breakfast on station at Y.M.C.A. Met Tommies returning from Somme. 11.30am again start off with full packs for 8 miles to Ergines, came on to rain, roads muddy. Had dinner on road. Arrived at Ergines about 5.00pm. Had tea about 6.00pm. Billeted in barns and houses, we are in a barn. Plenty of apples about (we are now in the Somme district). Had an enjoyable sleep in the straw. Letter writing.

*Thursday, 19th October*

Raining. Our transport marched out to next place after midnight, we are following later. Had breakfast at 10.00am and a good drink of milk. The weather is getting cold now. We cooked our own food today. Six of us had a fine stew, also we stewed some apples, stewed plenty of milk with them. The old lady of the house was very good to us. 8.00pm we all rolled ourselves up in the straw and slept.

*Friday, 20th October*

Review 5.30am, bitterly cold. Had breakfast and got ready with full kits, left Ergines 8.30am. March 2 miles to meet French motor transport. They took us through Flencourt, Amiens to three miles from Albert. The roads were lined with miles of our transports and German prisoners further on mending roads. We were surprised when stopped on the march alongside Wall Stafford and Bert Newman in 14th Field Company Engineers. Later Bert came and had tea with us, told us both Jarvis wounded. Doug Stafford now chief engineer on H.M.S Warrigo. Walked back to Bert's billet with him and returned to bed. The lines are 16 miles away but hear continuous bombardment.

*Saturday, 21st October*

Review 6.30am. Breakfast, bitterly cold. 8.00am our boots are wet and muddy, marched with full packs from about 10.00am – 5.00pm to Manetey – Wood. Here we camped in partly built huts in the woods, wrapped up in leaves. The noise of guns is awful. Soon we were asleep and woke up quite warm. Many of our observation balloons are up, aeroplanes are active.

*Sunday, 22nd October*

6.30am Review. Awoke this morning to noise of the guns. Very cold, frost and ice. Had breakfast and 2 mile march to Green Dump. Have to take over a Field Ambulance from the Tommies. 3.00pm went out to relieve 3 sections, 4 relays of 16 men, about 4 miles from post to post. On 3rd post out, all guns behind us now, awful uproar. Will, Hapesley and Menston and I had 3 carries. Ground covered with shell holes, mud, extremely hard work to carry men. Sat in dug-outs writing, had tea out there, very cold. A continued bombardment, guns and trench mortars never cease. 12.00pm our relief in later, 14th Field Ambulance relieve us till 8.00am, 15th till 4.00pm. 12 stretcher carries, 8 walking, 1 died.

*Monday, 23rd October*

1.30am relieved. Carried case through, all lost way. Will, Hep and I lost till 4.00pm. Had stew and then rolled in till 4.00pm. Few shells landing around our dug out. Had dish of stew and off to Cormicks post. Carried two cases through. Spent couple of hours reading bible to Will and Phil Newson. Three of us in a small dug-out. We are covered with mud, are wet. Managed to carry one case over the top, but it is too slippery we kept falling into shell holes and mud. Our relief is again late 1.30 and a case to carry through. We go through sap (*part of trench*) in soft mud up to the thighs and got home 3.30am and roll in.

*Tuesday, 24th October*

2.30pm set out to relieve 14th Field Ambulance. Arrived 3.00pm instead of 4.00pm. Carried 2 cases through, the ground is so slippery we cannot carry over the top, so take to saps and we are knee deep in mud. Read another 10 chapters of Romans to Will and Phil in dug-out. 12.00pm we are relieved on time but as usual a stretcher case comes through and it is our turn to carry it, we had an awful time and had to throw stretcher away and carry man. Captain Irving, us and many of boys. It is awful carrying over such ground, guns going all around and shells flying. We reached next post about 2.00am. We arrived home. Received 2 letters from Robert and cigarettes in dug-out.

*Wednesday, 25th October*

Got to bed about 5.00am. Had to get breakfast at 9.15am to go to Fleurs post to relieve other ambulance for 30 hours. Took over at 2.00pm on first shift, had 3

carried before 6.00pm. Took a blind man and one with broken arm through. This road is shorter and easier than previous one. We are between 2 batteries and Fritz is sending over plenty of shells, feeling for them. There are six of us in a small dug-out, all wet and covered with mud from head to foot. It is very cold. We had tea in dug-out, too cold, wet and noisy to sleep. How thankful we are to see the dear old sun again. Met Ben Arnold with engineers (Mosman).

*Thursday, 26th October*

Received 32 letters today. Shell-shock case. 6.00am had breakfast in dug-out. Our planes are active and Fritz is shelling near us again. After 2.00pm Fritz sent over an awful bombardment of high explosives. We were carrying cases through it and they were landing all around our dug-out. One of the lads W.B was giving up heart. I prayed another chap and Will and I then read 2 psalms and immediately after the prayer the barrage was removed away and we sang a few hymns. Then W.B was quite cheerful and professed for Christ. I read the book of John to the lads in the dug-out. 7.00pm, after 31 hours shift, cold, hungry, wet clothes and all spent we were relieved by another Field Ambulance. 150 infantry men sent out to assist us with the carrying. Arrived at Green Dump about 9.00pm. Had some stew and slept.

*Friday, 27th October*

Spent day at Green Dump. 5.00pm marched out to first post for 24 hours, then to another for 24 hours. Short carry to A.D.S (Advanced Dressing Station). Will and I had tea today for first time. 150 infantry men, mainly machine gunners, were put on to assist us with the stretchers. Around us is Thiepbal Pass through Albert, Dernicout, Contarismen?, Mericourt, Bazentin and Le Petite Bazentin, Le Grand Poziers, Bapaume one mile from front line. Peronne on right of us.

*Saturday, 28th October*

Spent day on first post. Wet and cold. Will is very ill, had to bring him in. Major Williams asked him to go to rest station but he preferred to work on top. He is put on as car orderly. The ground is too slippery to carry over so we used sledges today with great success. I came in at 4.00pm and was returned to Green Dump where I slept for the night.

*Sunday, 29th October*

Reported at A.D.S this morning at 8.30am. Had to stand by for odd jobs. 12.00 sent to relieve another man on the cars as car orderly (cars bringing in wounded). Took pack from Green Dump, wet and cold day. Had tea in the car with Will and two seats and slept in the stretcher for the night. In the car, very cold.

*Monday, 30th October*

Had breakfast and spent one of the most unpleasant days of my life in the car, teeming, cold and we are wet through. Towards evening took out my bible and read. I never felt God nearer in the midst of it all he seemed to be speaking to me. Will is not too well. Now for the first time I can really appreciate the beauties of nature, being among all this carnage and waste where we are living like beasts and very little shelter. One must see it to realise it. At night went down to advance service station (A.D.S) and had a cup of cocoa, got a couple of stretchers and rolled into one of the dug-outs with Will.

*Tuesday, 31st October*

This morning the sun is shining for the first time for days. Our cars are not in to go to Bazentine le Grand for wood. Here are the late German headquarters and their ammunition about. They are expert at dug-outs. Spent the afternoon on the cars. At night we went down to A.D.S and slept on some boxes in the reception room. The air is full of our balloons and aeroplanes. They have all the ground marked out. He had practically no observation and we are all safe. One balloon in distance. They intend to send the boys over in the morning 6.00am.

*Wednesday, 1st November*

Cloudy. Went again to Bazentine le Grand this morning for wood after breakfast. The stint did not come off as expected, our cars still in workshop. Built dug-out near cars to stay in. Waited. About one car came in and Will took patients to C.C.S (Casualty Cleaning Station). The Germans have been shelling around us all night. Two taubes flew over us this morning.

*Thursday, 2nd November*

1.30am went out with convoy of 6 cars. 4 lying and 1 sitting patient. Journey is very rough to C.C.S. Arrived there about 3.00am, had drink and slept in tent until 7.00am. Came back with Corporal Cosiers car about 9.00am. Received 1 lb tobacco and tin of chocolates from John and a letter from A. Orr. Will's car not back from workshop yet. Took 4 patients to cleaning station about 15 miles out Becordel. Had supper and left at 12.00am. Arrived 2.00am and rolled into bunk.

*Friday, 3rd November*

2.00am slept in car, rose 8.00am. The second division have come to relieve us. Met many old friends among them. 14th F.A marched out, relieved by 6th/7th F.A, 5th and 15th. Our planes are very active, some taubes buzz over. About 9.00pm Germans are shelling around the A.D.S and very near our cars. Went to sleep about 11.00pm, rose at 7.00pm. The weather so far will not give our

chaps a chance to advance, too many have been sent back ill to advance but 1st and 2nd Division are in and may go over.

*Saturday, 4th November*

Arrived C.C.S 9.00am. Sent field service cars home. Stayed with car in yard at Becordel. 12.00 midnight called out to go to lines. 2nd and 1st have stint. Broke down on road out and spent night there. Will went on with another car. 1st went over and replaced.

*Sunday, 5th November*

In morning I had breakfast on road and mended cars. Had nothing but bully beef and biscuits. Met Harry French (Lieutenant) and Stevenson. Returned to Becordel at 4.00pm and my car went into workshop, so went up line with another. Roads blocked with traffic so took us over 12 hours, arrived at 4.00am. Slept in car till 9.00am, came away without breakfast with 4 lying and 1 sitting case. The 1st and 2nd Division have taken a line of trenches. Losses are comparatively heavy. Met W.A Edwards. Gave my helmet to patient to vomit in.

*Monday, 6th November*

Returned to C.C.S (Becordel) 3.00pm. Took 6 hours to come through. 14th and 15th relieved, 8th not relieved. Spent day at Becordel with A.S.C.M.T (Australian Service Corps Motor Transport). It is a beautiful evening, a couple of Taubes are over us. A few miles away they are dropping bombs on our ammunition dumps, the noise is awful like an earthquake. 40,000 tonnes dropped the ground and cars are shaking. They have been shelling Albert all night, at last we go to sleep in an ambulance car.

*Tuesday, 7th November*

Our cars are finished with lines for present, awaiting orders to move. The 8th Field Ambulance Bearers march to Becordel late in afternoon. Will and I left with car, passing through Albert and later Maricourt and Ribmont where we met the 4th Division going into action. Many of our "Kanowana" boys are there from England and New South Wales. We met and recognised many in the 1st and 2nd Divisions. Also, we were first in and out. Now resting for 10 days before returning. Arrived at Vignecourt about 9. Car broke down, just going to be billeted with 8th Brigade Infantry. When our tent section passed, we joined them.

*Wednesday, 8th November*

Major Williams promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of 1st Field Ambulance and Major Nurall to Lieutenant Colonel of another ambulance. Captain Wooster to Major of B Section. We are now billeted in a French Chateau. What a peaceful

and charming time after all the slush and noise of battle. No groans are heard here, all is peace. We are almost 40 miles behind the lines and three miles out from town. What an awful thing for men to go through. Men are broken hearted. The 1st and 2nd Division has lost a lot of men already.

*Thursday, 9th November*

Had kit inspection 9.30am this morning and put in for new clothes. Received 30 letters this morning. Will and I put on carrying water from well. Colonel Williams examined me in morning and gave me medicine. Received more letters this afternoon. Am writing some letters this evening. Received more letters and a photo from Nell. Heard the Taubes over bombarding Amiens, see the firing of anti-aircraft guns.

*Friday, 10th November*

9.30am on water fatigue, getting water from a well 250 ft deep. Got issued with sheep skin vest and shirt. Spent afternoon and evening writing letters to Mother, Mary, Robert, John, Nell, N.W, K.C, A. Orr and Bank, London. Heavy bombardment on French lines all day, heavier in night, can hear quite plainly from here.

*Saturday, 11th November*

9.30am on water fatigue. Issued with draws and 2 pairs of gloves. Water fatigue in afternoon. About 5.00pm Will, Hugh Reid and I walked to Vignecourt, about 3 miles in, and had tea, eggs and bought some edibles. The people here sell everything at double the price and are unliked by all the soldiers. Arrive home at 10.00pm and went to bed. Reinforcements come in from England for 5th Division. Heard rumour that Bapaume and Peronne had both fallen (not official).

*Sunday, 12th November*

Breakfast 7.00am. Church parade 8.00am. Detailed off for water fatigue. Birdwood speaks to the men and tells them we are here for some time. Spent day in Chateau. Captain Crosier held church service on top floor 6.30, I read and prayed. He spoke a few helping words. Retired for night. On sick parade, Captain Mollinson. Will received John's parcel, contains chocolate and cigarettes.

*Monday, 13th November*

9.00am on parade, detailed for cooks fatigue. Heard today that Thistle Dump, our late A.D.S, was shelled, causing 30 casualties, 2 killed. Also that 1st Field Ambulance bombed by taubes and some casualties. Captain Mollison leaves for base hospital. Heavy bombardment going on all day in French lines, can hear it like constant rumble.

*Tuesday, 14th November*

On cooks fatigue. In the evening Will and I took a stroll to Flezelles. Went to Reg Canteen and bought some edibles. Left about 6.30pm to return, took wrong turning and came back through Vignecourt about 10.00pm. Reported about 3,000 German prisoners taken and some trenches.

*Wednesday, 15th November*

On cooks fatigue. Received some comforts: sweets, soap, writing paper, pack tobacco and cigarettes. Spent rest of day in Chateau. Evening in bedroom.

*Thursday, 16th November*

On cooks fatigue. Drawing water from well. It is bitterly cold. The big pond is frozen about 1.5 quarter inch thick. Spent day in Chateau.

*Friday, 17th November*

Very cold, heavy frost. Spent day in chateau. Cold evening. Drawing water.

*Saturday, 18th November*

This morning the ground is covered with snow. Received letters from Nell, Annie Ward. Received overcoat. In evening wrote letter to Barclays. All day Chateau.

*Sunday, 19th November*

On cooks fatigue all day, drawing water from well. Received cigarettes. Held gospel service on our floor in old Chateau. Captain Crosier read and prayed. I spoke from Luke XVIII "The Children of This World". Had a good meeting.

*Monday, 20th November*

On water fatigue all day. Walked to Vignecourt with Will in evening. Met Dando, is A.D.M.S Batman, tomorrow goes to headquarters. Returned to quarters. Read before sleeping.

*21<sup>st</sup> and 22nd November*

On cooks fatigue. Spent day and evening in Chateau.

*Thursday, 23rd November*

Cooks fatigue all day and evening in Chateau. Received letters, 1 photo of Boodie from Robert.

*Friday, 24th November*

Cooks fatigue.



*Saturday, 25th November*

Cooks fatigue. Received letter from K. Caulfield. Her mother and sister are sending me a Christmas parcel and inviting us to Carrisbrook.

*Sunday, 26th November*

9.30am. 8 of us have days leave, visit Amiens. Leave in motor ambulance, about 17kms. Will and I walked about the town, had dinner and visited Amiens' Cathedral. This is the finest cathedral in France. The architecture and sculpture, magnificent. Many parts are sand-bagged against bombs. The taubes come over often. We hear the bombing from Chateau. There is a great crowd towards evening. Many evil houses in the city. The people here, like the majority in the North, are money grabbers and never forget to take advantage of the Australians. 8.00pm caught M.T Bus at station with infantry of 1st Division. Home 9.00pm.

*Monday, 27th November*

Cooks fatigue.

*Tuesday, 28th November*

Cooks fatigue. Extremely cold and foggy all day. Received letters from Boodie and Nell addressed to Egypt, dated June. Paid Will and I drew 14/- each leaving balance of 5 pounds 4pence (\$10.05) each. Have also 8 pounds (\$16) in Commonwealth Bank, England. Billie reading on St Peter.

*Wednesday, 29th November*

Cooks fatigue.

*Thursday, 30th November*

Cooks fatigue. Received letters from Robert (2), Boodie (2), Nellie, K. Caulfield and Mary L. Brendley.

*Friday, 1st December*

Extremely cold today. 6.30am drawing water from well. Cooks fatigue. 6.30pm Billie reading on Romans 8.

*Saturday, 2nd December*

On cooks fatigue. In evening went for a stroll to Vignecourt with Len Palmer and Will.

*Sunday, 3rd December*

On cooks fatigue. 10.30am Captain Cosiers took church service. Will, Hugh Reid and I took stroll to Frezicourt. 6.00pm conducted gospel service. Spoke from Matthew 26.39 "Oh My Father If It Is Possible".

*Monday, 4th December*

On cooks fatigue. In evening Will and I went to Vignecourt. Bought daily mail, post cards. Had tea there. Received letters from John, Boodie, Nell, Nell Gilbert and A. Orr.

*Tuesday, 5th December*

On cooks fatigue. Received letters and cards from Mrs Stafford, Lizzie, F.O.M, Katie. 30 men from 7th Field Ambulance march in, Wiltshire, P Taylor and others I know. Held bible meeting in our room, tonight read Book of Thessalonians 1.15. Had good time.

*Wednesday, 6th December*

On cooks fatigue. Will and I had stroll to Frizelle in evening.

*Thursday, 7th December*

Cooks fatigue. Received several cards from Australia. Spent evening at Chateau.

*Friday, 8th December*

Cooks fatigue. Wrote letters to mother, Robert & Boodie, Nell, Mary, E. Plumb, J. Berrisford and Redmond A.P.O. Had bible reading in room, 6 of us read from 1 Egypt of Timothy.

*9 and 10th December*

Cooks fatigue.

*Monday, 11th December*

Will and I general duties. Went to Vignecourt for wood and coal with transport.

*Tuesday, 12th December*

General duties. Paid 2 pounds 3-0 each, spent 10 francs on presents. Table centre for Mother, Mary & Nell. Scarfs for Bruce and Betty.

*13<sup>th</sup> - 15th December*

General duties. Tent pitching.

*Saturday, 16th December*

General duties. Tent pitching. Went to pictures in Vignecourt with Will and W. Ward (Mum's brother).

*Sunday, 17th December*

General duties. Tent pitching all day. Will Hopperly returns from hospital. Had bible reading in evening.

*Monday, 18th December*

General duties. Making cement floor for ablution benches. Went to pictures in evening with Hugh Reid, W. Hopperly, Will Ward and Will.

*Tuesday, 19th December*

On general duties. Cementing stand for ablution bench. Snowing.

*Wednesday, 20th December*

On general duties. Cementing stand for ablution bench. Sent parcel home for Mother, Mary, Bruce and Barty.

*Thursday, 21st December*

Conjunctivitis. To Strazelle with W. Ward in evening. During day on ablution block.

*Friday, 22nd December*

Off duty. Two of our ambulance men are killed in dug-out, the first deaths in the ambulance. Private Bennett and Godwells. One wounded (all in last 24 hours). Our ambulance should have been out. Received packet from H. Ward's wedding cake and P.C from Nell and letter from K. Caulfield conveying news of her father's death in Scotland. W. Hopperly went into hospital.

*Saturday, 23rd December*

Working on baths in morning, off in afternoon. The 5th relieved our ambulance this time, and like last lot had one Sergeant on L/C and one private wounded, other Sergeant killed.

*Sunday, 24th December*

This morning at 10.30am we had church parade including bearers and hospital patients. We commenced in the open air but rain drove us into the large tents. They were almost filled. I took the service. Major Clayton and Lieutenant Robinson assisting. Christmas Service. In evening Will, Hugh Reid and I went to Vignecourt. I received parcel from Mother and Boodie, also Will.

*Monday, 25th December*

There are no fatigues today. Special breakfast. The patients had dinner in a large tent about 2.50pm. Then we had dinner at 1.00pm in same tent and 3 course meal, etc - jellies and custards. In evening we had a concert. It was a joyful Christmas.

*Tuesday, 26th December*

9.00am parade. Will and I sent to Flezelles. Will and I put in charge of baths. In evening boys in our room collected our Xmas parcels together and had a great spread. Thus we spent a happy evening in the old Chateau. Pay day. Will and I each drew 20 francs. (*5 pounds = 130 francs*). W. Hopperly went to England on leave. Cosier returned from London and brought a copy of S.O Gordons "On Lords Return", also dictionary.

*Wednesday, 27th December*

Will and I started on the baths, they are very good. A little boiler outside but works. Six small showers inside. The bath was well fratonized by officers and men. In the evening Will, Will Ward and I took a stroll to Flezelles, bought some edibles at canteen, left some clothing with French woman to be ready by Monday, then returned. Chats very active, never slept throughout whole night.

*Thursday, 28th December*

Will and I running the baths. 6.00pm Will, Stan Wilson and I took stroll to Vignecourt. Made some purchases and returned. Barry James transferred to 1st Division Transport.

*29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December*

On baths.

*Sunday, 31st December*

On baths New Years Eve. Will and I went to Vignecourt. Service in morning, also in evening. The old year passed out quietly and missed the sound of bulls and horns.

*It must be remembered that the men from front were wounded or at best muddy. Some had trench feet, and all were dirty gassed. These men needed baths and those who were ill had to be bathed. Hence "On baths" is probably more than just standing by. See front pages.*

## 1917 SOMME

*Monday, 1st January*

Will and I on duty all day at baths. Had plum pudding and good dinner and given box of sweets and tobacco in evening. In evening "The Night Birds", our own men gave a concert to staff and patients.

*Tuesday, 2nd January*

Will and I on baths. In evening went for a stroll to Vignecourt. Received about 12 letters from home, also parcel from Lizzie. R. Laycock runs scabies.

*Wednesday, 3rd January*

Will and I on baths. I received a new pair of boots from Q.M. Spent evening in old Chateau.

*Thursday, 4th January*

Will and I on baths at Olincourt Chateau.

*Friday, 5th January*

Will and I on baths. Went to Vignecourt to picture show in evening Y.M.C.A. Last night someone had been tampering with the baths, lit fire when water off and burst boiler.

*Saturday, 6th January*

Will and I on baths. Received "Sydney Mail" from Mary. Went to Vignecourt in evening with Will and W. Ward. Baths daily (about) unit 33. Patients 38. Scabies 8. Wash 33.

*Sunday, 7th January*

Will and I on baths. Corporal Crosier had service in Chateau in evening, good number attended. Sang duet with him "In Jesus".

*Monday, 8th January*

Will and I on baths. In Chateau in evening, wrote letters too Les Cornish and Grace.

*Tuesday, 9th January*

Will and I on baths in evening. Had bible reading in our room, about 12 of us. Private Mitchell led II Capt Romans. Will received letter from Robert.

*Wednesday, 10th January*

Will and I on baths. In evening stayed in Chateau. Wrote letters to K. Caulfield. Len Palmer went on leave to England.

*Thursday, 11th January*

Will and I on baths. Went to Vignecourt to concert given by Tommies in evening. Was good. Our ambulance concert party "Night Birds" gave a concert at Flezelles, was a success.

*Friday, 12th January*

Will and I on baths. In evening went for stroll by myself to Flezelles, "Night Birds" repeated concert.

*Saturday, 13th January*

Will and I on baths. Party return from leave in London. W. Hopperly not with them. Went to hospital in England. 2.00pm parade for bearers. Will and I detailed along with 80 others to go out lines, equipment completed. In evening wrote letters to Mother, Mary, Robert, John and Nell. Forgot to post them. In evening "Night Birds" gave concert for those leaving tomorrow morning.

*Sunday, 14th January*

9.30am on parade for bearers going to trenches (Somme). Left Chateau at 10.30am, marched to Flezelles to entrain. Major McKenzie in charge. Left Flezelles 12 noon, dinner on train. Passed through Amiens about 1.00pm. Snowing heavily all day. The march warmed us. Arrived Station at about 3 o'clock, met 14th and 15th Ambulances. Had stroll through the village about 20kms from the lines.

*Monday, 15th January*

9.30am parade, with 14th Field Ambulance. Dismissed and had a stroll round village. 2.30pm parade dismissed. Went for stroll to Merricourt close by. Many German prisoners engaged scraping mud off roads. 6.00pm Will and I went to concert in Merricourt given by Anzacs. Returned to billet about 10.00pm, on top story of a mill. An old dame sells coffee and cakes in the building.

*Tuesday, 16th January*

9.30am parade. 14th bearers went on to lines this morning, dismissed. Will and I went for a stroll to Heilley 1.8kms to get change of underclothing and

bath. Passed some German prisoner camps. They seemed contented. 2.30pm Buvire-sur-ancre parade, dismissed and went for stroll to Buvire-sur-ancre 2kms and returned for tea. Packed up and ready to set out at 9.00am in morning for lines.

*Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January*

8.45am parade and marched off under Major McKenzie . Went through Buvire-sur-Ancre Dernancourt (slept here on 12<sup>th</sup>), Mayault then to Becordel, about 9 kilometres. Snowing all day, heavy – about foot deep in places. Roads hard and slippery. Many fell, stopped 4 times. Old church used as a canteen, only town stands. Four of our party go on leave tonight. Slept in tents. Bread and jam for dinner. Met Worths. Relieved 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. During night Albert shelled, 1 mile away.

*Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January*

8.45am parade, marched off at 10.00am. Heavy snow on ground. Snowed all day, arrived Bernapay A.D.S (Advanced Dressing Station) about 1.00pm. 15<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance in charge. 14<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance went on yesterday. For 7 days 15<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance follow us. Sleep in circular huts. Train runs right up to A.D.S for patients. 4<sup>th</sup> Division A.S.S on other side of ridge. Met Greenbey running Y.M.C.A, knew father. Gave us tea and edibles which were very acceptable. Shelling not so heavy as in October.

*Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am on parade. A & B section on duty, we stand by. Snow heavy on ground, very cold. All around the fields are so muddy and have a white mantle on them. 15<sup>th</sup> run canteen. Will and I laying duckboards. Went to engineers canteen. 2.00pm erect tents, bought a tin of rabbit for tea. 6.30pm went to bed, read Gordon's "Christ – Second Coming". Private Winn Arthur, young Methodist student sleeps next to me, friend of R. Hall and A.O.H. Private Dean from Millers Point next to Will.

*Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade. Have cold, went on sick parade. Marked light duties. Will on am fatigue. A & B sections sent out to A.D.S to help engineers build dug-out. In the morning I carried some duckboards from railway line. Met Basil Barnettas friend from Liverpool, met Chas Prince both in 4<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance. Met Rumjay. About 6.00pm went to bed, read Gordon. Snow still on ground, very cold but dry. 4<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance do a fortnight straight off.

*Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> January*

700am parade. All C Section and part of 15<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance to A.A.D.S (Australian Advanced Dressing Station). Built dug-out with Eyres. Carried galvanised iron up. General Tway, our Brigade General, spoke to us. Duckboards run high up the line. Heavy shelling round us. Pieces N.E (high explosive) fell just near us. No wounded. Two 14<sup>th</sup> bearers wounded. Light Railway Anzac runs to Needle Trench. Had no dinner. 1.45 detailed of ten 2 to clear homes. Hot cup of cocoa and tin beef at A.C found in field. Stew for tea. Met Cyril Marten. Read Gordon.

*Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January*

9.00am parade, Will and I on horse lines. Shovelling mud. 10.30am went to Y.M.C.A for tea. 2.00pm parade, detailed to gather wood. Heavy snow, heavy firing. 3<sup>rd</sup> change of underclothing. Met Charlie Jervis in baths. Got soap and sardines from 15<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance. Will detailed with others to build dug-out at A.A.D.S in morning. 6.00pm went to bed, read Gordon.

*Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January*

6.30am Will and I and others went to build dug-outs at A.A.D.S Snow on ground still. Coldest morning I have felt. Blue sky and sun shining, first for weeks. Few Taubes come over us. Went to Y.M.C.A. Private Hyde friend of Annie Orr. Men and 8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance to go to lines for 7 days to relieve 14<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance. 6.30pm to bed. Germans shelling close by, pieces of H.E falling on roof. Waited till he ceased and got to post 5.00pm. 9.00am Will and I took in 4 walkers, 5 from Delville Wood, returned about 11.00pm. 5 carries and 4 walkers today. 14<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance had only 9 cases in 7 days.

*Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January*

Parade 9.00am. Coldest and frostiest day French have had for years. Frost in boots, too stiff to put on. Some men skating in trench, never dry. Clear day. Taubes are over but high up. One just brought down by ours. 3.00pm parade. 8<sup>th</sup> to go to lines with Major McKenzie. Duckboards right out, very slippery with frost. Though Delville Wood close by here, battery being shelled. Here is our first post. Met General Birdwood coming from lines. Station at No.3 Battery Post. Germans shelling boards in front of us.

*Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January*

Today in dug-out Will and I and Win Arthur and Dean. Will and I made breakfast about 9.00am, good rations. We run for light? 1.30pm squad No.5 carried case through. Got oxo and biscuits from A.C.F in Delville Wood. Sergeant Hyde detailed to A.M.C turned in 7.00pm. 3 cases through us. Spent some charming hours reading Gordon. Full of happy thoughts. Christ is



close to us out here. All day we spend wrapped up in blankets. Have not had letter for a month.

*Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> January*

Breakfast 9.00am. Rations sent to us 1.00pm. Took stretcher case through. Turned into blankets and read. No cases during the night. At daybreak was awakened by the guns around us, we are surrounded by batteries. Something unusual going on. 4 stretcher cases passed through. Found later that 29<sup>th</sup> Division Tommies on our right had just gone over and taken several hundred prisoners.

*Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> January*

Kaiser's Birthday. 9.00am took stretcher through. Taube flying over us, brought down, not before he had given away the battery 100 yards away. Germans 11.00am to 4.30pm searched continuously for it. They got one farm and one L/Corporal and another. We were driven into trench hole just in time. Battery Officer and rest visited with us, what a strange feeling. 5.00pm another stretcher case. Letters and parcels from home and big mail and photos. Never was mail appreciated more. About 8 cases through today.

*Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> January*

Fifth day out. Will went through with case 5.00am. We took walker in evening. High explosives to our right and left all day. One poor lad had both legs blown up before reaching us.

*Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> January*

Sixth day out. Clean, cold morning. Dig ice out of shell hole for water. Cook our own food, quiet day. 3.00pm carrying 4 stretchers. Active in front line now. 8.00pm carry case through. Got cocoa and jam tin at A.C.F. Returned about 10.00pm.

*Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January*

Seventh day. 10.00am breakfast. 3.00pm dinner. Tommies on right took 1000 prisoners. French 10,000 at Verdun, one of 15<sup>th</sup> wounded at A.D.S. Fairly quiet. Spent morning in bed, afternoon pottering about, lightly snowing. 9.00pm took case through.

*Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January*

Eighth day. 9.00am made breakfast. 2.00pm stretcher, 15<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance should relieve us at 4.00pm. As usual late, so to take another case through and return for kit. Germans have shelled heavily this afternoon. Dud landed behind our dug-out. We left about an hour after others, 5.30pm. Reached Bernafay A.D.S 7.00pm. Had stew and biscuits and turned in.

*Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> February*

9.00am parade. Should have 14 day spell but 10 of us go out to help engineers at Cow Trench. Not shaved for 10 days or bath for mud. Have no rations here and our emergency biscuits and tins of jam for the day. 6.00pm rations turned up. 7.00pm turned on terrific bombardment from us. Four divisions have stint. Take 3 lines trenches and 50 prisoners. Shells landed near dug out, a taube is above. Being very tired we fall asleep though it is bitterly cold.

*Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February*

Two days out here "Waterlot Farm". Beach frozen. 10 of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 of 14<sup>th</sup>. Quiet through day. 3.00pm shelling batteries near us (enemy). 4 of us to go out tonight 7.00pm till 7.00am to work with Scottish Tunnelling. L/C Moore in charge of all. Worked all night, returned about 7.00am. Made tea in our dug-out for Tunnellers. Cow Trench about 1 mile behind line.

*Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February*

Third day out at Corduroy Dump. 24 hours off in afternoon. Will and I walked to Bernafay Wood. Had a wash and got some mail from home. First shave for 12 days. Our bearers are most in dug-outs on drill at Bernafay. 5.00pm returned to A.A.D.S. On way met Miller at Eskimo Dump. Detailed to A.M.C to Engineers 8<sup>th</sup> Battery and loading posts cut out so do not pass through Delville Wood which is a ghastly sight.

*Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> February*

Fourth day out with 8 others. Went to "Cow Dump" building underground hospital for 150 patients. Professor David in charge of tunnellers. No rations today. German snipers are firing at us but are a good way off. Occasionally a bullet flies past us. 6.00pm returned to A.A.D.S, dinner and tea together. 9.00pm bombardment from our side.

*Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> February*

24 hours off as many patients are coming through here. We have to clear out to Eskimo Dump (Engineers) at 4.00pm. Sent field cards home. 7.30pm went to cow trenches, 3 miles out from here, to work all night. Bitterly cold. Scots have been through and say it is the coldest winter, black frosts here for 3 weeks. Ground is solid and worse to cut than stone. Everything frozen, food etc. Fields covered with snow so that the shell holes give me the impression of being out to sea. All is white and the place is honeycombed with shell holes.

*Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February*

Sixth day out. Returned about 5.00am from Cow Trench to Eskimo Dump. We spent the whole 24 hours rolled up in the blankets, too cold to read or write.

*Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February*

Seventh day out. 7.30am went to Cow Trench with tunnellers, very cold. It is hard work carrying bags of dirt from under the ground for we are well under now to the top of the trench. 5.30pm we return to Eskimo.

*Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February*

Stayed in bed all day. Will Stafford called today to see us. 14<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance relieved 15<sup>th</sup> yesterday. 15<sup>th</sup> relieved us at Eskimo Dump about 4.30pm. Returned to A.D.S Bernafay and sleep in dug-outs.

*Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> February*

Slept in morning. Will and I put on foot baths. To carry ice we dig out of shell holes for water to wash the men's feet (Trench Foot). After tea, Len Hall called to see us. Received letters from Mother, John, Mary, Nell, etc.

*Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> February*

Will and I have the day off. After dinner called over to see Len in his dug-out. He is Corporal in 14<sup>th</sup> vickers machine gunners. Tried to find Bert but failed and Will spent evening in McDonald's dug out listening to his yarns. 8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance headquarters have now moved to Bellevue Farm, about 5 minutes walk from Albert.

*Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> February*

Will and I cleaning the wagons, Red Cross, in the morning. Taubes came over and dropped bombs close to us. Nose caps landed other side of wagon we were cleaning.

*Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> February*

Will and I evacuating patients at A.D.S, carry them to train. Letters from Mother, Robert, Boodie, Mary, John, also papers. Gas alarm about 8.00pm. Wrote letters (green envelopes) to Mary, Mother and Nell. Were paid 10 francs each.

*Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February*

Will and I cleaning up the dug-outs. Tomorrow we relieve the 14<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance.

*Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February*

Off in morning. 1.30pm Will, Arthur, Pip and I leave Bernafay for lines. Go to R.A.P opened at Miller's son (Reg. Aid Post). Furthest outpost, not far from front line, we take from Regimental bearers and carry past Rose to Needle Trench. Dug-out 50ft deep, extensive job. There 6.00pm. 57<sup>th</sup> then along with us, make a raid. Meanwhile Will and I went to Rose Trench to take over R.A.P but had to return and bombardment opened up. We waited. Our men took several prisoners of Prussians. Will and I carried with Win and Pip the wounded, Germans also through. At about 4.00pm had a rest.

*Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> February*

10.00am left Millers Son R.A.P with doctor and started R.A.P at Rose Trench. In afternoon 22<sup>nd</sup> Brig changing over were caught with gas and shrapnel, several wounded and gassed. We got slight touch in our dug-out but helmets on at once. Were busy carrying this morning. Pip goes on ill and Birdwood also (Birdwood's Gutz) relieves them. It is hard to find this dug-out in dark and the trench behind us is under fire continuously.

*Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> February*

One case through today on return, we were held up by fire. As we got men we saw gas shells all along the ridge before us on left and shrapnel. We ran for dug-out to get our stuff as we were being relieved but fortunately they stopped. 4.00pm relieved and went back about a mile to Needle Trench R.A.P. Worn out, rested till morning. Followed up with stretchers with shrapnel from R.A.P to Rose Trench. Between R.A.P and Rose Trench his snipers play machine guns.

*Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> February*

Very foggy and muddy, snow has gone, ground good, thawed. 3.00pm took Walker to A.A.D.S (Advanced Ambulance Dressing Station).

*Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> February*

3.00am took stretcher through. Our truck on Anzac and Light Rail and pushed through. Ground muddy and sticky. 12.00 noon Will and I took walkers through. 6.00pm took a Lieutenant and two walkers through.

*Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> February*

Had a couple of cases during the day. The ground is muddy again.

*Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February*

6.00pm couple of walkers. Took 6 trench feet cases through on trucks, takes too long on account of mud, had to get off several times to let ration trucks through.

*Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February*

No patients through today. 4.00pm the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance relieved us. Some time the enemy opened up a bombardment on Rose Trench behind us. On way out met Cash Cornish going up line on fatigue, is in 56B A Co. Will and I not too well today. 6.30pm arrived Bernafay. Lin Hall called to see us.

*Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February*

Spent most of the day in bed. Did not feel well. Had change of clothing and bit of a bath. First for over 6 weeks. Ces called to see me this afternoon. Handed in pay books.

*Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February*

Will and I went on sick parade in the morning and got medicine and light duties. Spent most of the day in bed. 14<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance and rest of section took over hospital from 4<sup>th</sup> Division this afternoon. On Fleur's front opposite us.

*Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> February*

12.00 noon Will and I under Major Pigdon (Dr) 15<sup>th</sup> along with 7 others of 8<sup>th</sup> on hospital train. 12 left Bernafay with patients, called at quarry siding for 4<sup>th</sup> Division, at Bottomwood for 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, at Barzentin for 1<sup>st</sup> Division, Bernafay 5<sup>th</sup> Division, then to Becondels to leave the sick and on to Edgell C.C.S (Casualty Clearing Station) with the wounded. Stay at Meault 11.00pm for a couple of hours and went over the trip again, back to Meault 11pm. I am on infections cars. Will on D.R.S walkers. Bulletin from John.

*Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February*

Train left Meault at 8.00am, arrived at quarry 11.00am. Major Pigdon (Dr) told us the Germans had retreated 7 miles this morning on our front. Left Bernafay 12.00 noon with trucks full.

*Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February*

Today we went through the same routine as previous day (for previous days on back in haversack)

*Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February*

Same as previous day.

*Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February*

Same as previous day. Some of the patients are leaving the train at Becondels. Took our gas masks and several other things out of our kits. Tomorrow we are being relieved by 15<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance.

## 1917 FRANCE - SOMME-Bellvue Farm

*Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> March*

Left Meault 8.00am this morning. At Bernafay 8 of the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance relieve us. Went through one trip with them to Barzentin, Bottomwood, Meault and Edgehill, returning to Bernafay about 6.30pm. The other 7 have to go up line tomorrow. Will and I to report to our headquarters. The Germans have petered out, Australians have advanced.

*Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March*

Spent morning at A.D.S. Bernafay. 12.30 for Will and I arriving 6.00pm. Will and I with Dr ? in train back to headquarters at Bernafay then to D.R.S at Barzentin. **(unreadable)** was carried in seriously wounded and went to Becordel. **(unreadable)** Received pay today, 20 francs each and had stroll through Albert couple of 100 yards away, full of Tommies and seriously shelled.

*Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March*

In this Divisional Rest Station run by one ambulance, there are about 1000 patients. The food is good. Will and I have morning off in park and in afternoon. After 10 spent the rest with Will Ward. Happily he is cook in our transport lines. We are sleeping in a large tent.

*Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> March*

This morning Will is first on baths again. I am on incinerators. Two patients. Church parade, Divisional band played. Spent evening in tent.

*Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> March*

9.00am I am on incinerators with 2 patients to help me. Received 8 letters from Australia. In evening went with Will and Will Hapesley to Albert Anzac Concert. Letters from Mother, Mary, Nell, Kate, also papers from Mother.

*Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March*

9.00am on incinerators. In afternoon had to strike tent. Will and I and W.B occupying a circular hut at bottom of hospital on our own. It is very windy but we have a good fire and enjoy reading and writing. Received letter from Mrs Hill, Double Bay.

*Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March*

9.00am incinerators till 4.00pm. Spent evening with Will reading.

*Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> March*

9.00am – 4.00pm incinerators. Received photos of Will and self. Letters from Boodie, Robert and Annie. Evening as previous ones with Will and Hapesley

*Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> March*

As before. 9.00am - 4.00pm on incinerators. Did not know it was Sunday till the afternoon. Will and WN Hapesley and I spent evening singing hymns.

*Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> March*

Will on baths as before. Will WH and I spent evening in hut.

*Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March*

As before but wrote to N Davidson.

*Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March*

As before but spent the evening with Will and WH in hut teaching WH Latin. Wrote letter to Mother. 9.00pm parade, kit inspection. Will and I before Colonel for being late (along with 4 others). Paid 14/- each.

*Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> March*

10.00am paraded to Colonel for being late yesterday, fined two day's pay. 2<sup>nd</sup> Field on incinerators. Spent evening in hut with Will and Will H.

*Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> March*

I am on incinerators. Will on baths. Received letters and a parcel from Auntie Jean. W. Hapesley spent the evening with us in our hut. Letter to mother. Bapaume fallen. Russian revolt.

*(Alan( son in law of Tom) said Russians fighting White Russians and caused problems with army covering).*

*Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> March*

On incinerators. Had to move from hut today to another with some others. Went to concert in evening with Will in mess-hut. Wrote letter to Mary. 20 Bearers went up to front this morning.

*Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> March*

On incinerators in morning. W. Hapesley along with 30 other bearers went up to the front this morning 7.00am. The camp is short-handed. Will is in charge of baths. I am on duty in admissions and discharge tent.

*Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> March*

I'm in admissions and discharge tent. Taking patients in to different wards. Will on duty in baths. Met Sergeant Cooper in charge of A & D tent (Advanced Dressing). From public works in Sydney. Big advance continues on all fronts. On duty 8.00am - 8.00am. Our ambulances near Bafaune.

*Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March*

On duty in A & D tent. Will in charge of baths. Advance still continues. Started to learn Greek from Tom Mitchell, a young C of E Clergyman.

*Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March*

On duty in A & D tent. Will closed baths today owing to staff shortage and went in as orderly to No.8 Trench Feet ward. Advance still continues. We are too far away to hear guns. Studied Greek.

*Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March*

On duty in A & D tent. Will in charge of 8 & 9 Trench Feet wards. Had a look at some Greek tonight.

*Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March*

On duty in A & D tent, 8.00(am?) - 8.00(pm?). Will in wards. Advance continues.

*Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> March*

On duty in A & D tent. Will on wards. Advance continues on our front. Hospital is full. Wrote letter to Robert.

*Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> March*

On duty at A & D tent. Will in charge of baths again. Advance continues on our front. Wrote letter to K Williamson and Annie Ward.

*Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> March*

On duty in A & D tent. Will on baths. In the evening the "Night Birds" 8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance gave concert to patients.

*Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March*

On duty in A & D tent. Will on baths.

*Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. In afternoon met Ces Cornish in hut returning from No.3 C.C.S with a broken jaw. Will, Ces and I spent evening in Albert at picture show. Ces reported to reinforcement camp and slept in our hut.

*Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March*



In A & D tent. Will on baths. This morning Ces reported on our sick parade and was sent again through C.C.S (Casualty Clearing Station) for hospital. Very busy all day. Wrote letters in the evening. Staff moved from bottom hut to C.C.S tent. More of the old "Kanowna" (boat) boys reported to us this morning after 1 year at No.3 A.G.H.

*Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> March*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. In evening Will and I took a stroll to Albert. I wrote a letter to Mary. Major Clayton on A & D tent in morning, Captain Howard in afternoon.

*Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> March*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. On duty in evening.

*Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> April*

In admissions and discharge tent. Will on baths. On duty in evening.

*Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. Went with Will to see pictures in Albert (Anzac concert).

*Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. On duty in evening.

*Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April*

On A & D tent. Will on baths in evening. Read in evening. 140 patients come in during the morning. Went to hear Chaplain General Talbot, having a mission in Army Hut, Albert.

*Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. On duty in the evening. 130 patients in this morning.

*Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. 1.00pm the bearers returned from Bapaume lines. W. Hapesley in our tent. 130 patients come in this morning.

*Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. About 150 patients come in this morning.

*Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. In evening on duty. Parcel for Will and I from John.

*Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. On duty in evening.

*Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. In evening on duty. Received parcel for Will and I from John.

*Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. Wrote letters in evening. The 4<sup>th</sup> Division cut up and broke Hindenburg Line. The 5<sup>th</sup> come out for big spell but had to go back again.

*Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. Wrote letters in the evening. Received letter from Robert.

*Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> April*

6.45am parade and route march through Albert. On in A & D tent. Will on baths. Pay day, withdrew 40 francs each. Took stroll to Albert in afternoon with Will.

*Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> April*

6.45am parade and route march to Becordel. On A & D tent. Will and W Hapesley on baths. In evening sent letters to Mother, Mary, Robert, Nellie, K Williamson, Annie Walker, E Plumb. Sent stamps to Mary and Robert. Taken in advance, in Chesters-arms and Flos, a small village near Bapaume. Germans have held this place for 2 years.

*Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. In evening went to service in mess-hut.

*Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. On duty in evening.

*Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> -Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths.

*Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Birthday 26*

In A & D tent. Will on baths.

*Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. Went to Albert in evening with Will.

*Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. Went to bible class in Trench Feet wards.

*Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> -Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths.

*Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> April*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. Will and I went to concert in Albert.

*Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May-Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May*

In A & D tent. Will on baths.

*Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. Australians commence a big advance on Hindenburg line. 2<sup>nd</sup> Division in lines. 8<sup>th</sup> reinforce.

*Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> May*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. Advance continues.

*Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> May*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. About 9.00am all bearers warned to stand by to go up the lines. Some of our ambulances have many casualties but Australians have broken Hindenburg line.

*Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> May*

In A & D tent. Will on baths. Advance continues. We are still standing by.

*Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> May*

In A & D tent. Will on baths.

*Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> May*

8.30am on parade. A & D tent. Will on baths. 12.00 noon 15<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance took over from us and we are going into action tomorrow.

## **1917 SOMME - Front, Vault**

*Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May*

Moved off from Bellevue Farm through Albert 2.00pm. Pozieres and last years battlefields, every village razed to ground. Went through Bapaume in the motors. Everything shattered. Went about 4 miles out to M.D Station outside Vault. B Station took over A.D.S beyond Vault. Here met all the other ambulances except 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> and many old friends. Over 250 casualties in Ambulances.

*Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> May*

C Section taken over M.D.S (Medical Dressing Station). Will and I put up flags in the morning. In afternoon the Germans shelled us out of M.D.S. Killed a couple and wounded a few and smashed up one of the cars killing the Sergeant. 8.00pm we marched into the lines. Our squad and another got lost and returned to A.D.S about midnight. Slept there for the night.

*Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> May*

9.00am two squads sent out to right R.A.P. In the afternoon we were shelled out. One caught the Major (Dr) and another man in the dug-out next to us. Another landed close to Will and I. A German machine gunner kept shooting at us when carrying, but did no harm to us. We changed our course a bit. We were bombarded that night. About 8.00pm we were relieved.

*Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> May*

Major Bond sent over 2 squads back to A.D.S to stand in reserve. Last night in evening he sent for us, sent us out to relay front on left. About 12 of our men are already wounded. He snipes at us with H.E (high explosives) and machine guns. In the evening Fritz tried to come over and were under heavy bombardment for an hour and a half. He was cut up in the morning. The Scots and Aussies went over and cut him off again and took rest of Burthercourt.

*Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> May*

At dawn we are under another bombardment. The pieces fly all around us and shells land very close to us but the Skylarks rising up with their songs cheer us as we ask God to protect us. After a strenuous time we are again relieved but Major Bond asked us to stand by till morning. We slept in sunken - three squads. He shelled it and W. May, Riley and Sutton all in the same squad were wounded near us.

*Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> May*

We carried from here to loading post for a while and about 11.00am Major Bond gave us permission to go back to M.D.S for a rest and stand by in reserve. That afternoon we were tired and went out and had a bath and a good sleep. In the morning had to go up with 6<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance to help at Left R.A.P. The Germans make another counter attack to a bit of ground but lost it again while Aussies hopped out and cut them off.

*Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May*

He sniped us with high explosives as we were going in. Landed one on Will's feet and mine, we ran together. He landed another one on the edge which knocked us over, but too close to harm us. Many dead and wounded at out post. One young man dying. What dreadful sights. He shelled heavily all day and our 8 squads carried over 80 men out. Shells landing at our heels and sides. Pieces flying past us. We could not believe it possible to go through without being hit, but we believed God was with us and he was. I never saw anything so close. Only one slightly injured. We never stopped until all the wounded were through. Mostly Tommies, that was about 5 o'clock.

*Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May*

How tired and knocked up we were, yet we had done a glorious day's work and God blessed us. The Tommie A.M.C relieved us at 8.00am. Last night we slept in M.D.S. Received small mail today and had rest. M.D.S is now back towards Bapaume.

*Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> May*

Last night Will and I asked to report back to A.D.S as wagon orderlies. Had nothing to do till this morning, then we went out in turns on ambulance wagons to loading post and picked up wounded. This is under shell fire. One of our drivers was hit and an orderly climbed through and drove the patients out of shell fire. This is 12 hour shift and 2 off.

*Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> May*

We are off today and have a sleep in our own dug-out at A.D.S. Things are fairly quiet now. The Australians and Scots are in Bullencourt. The Skylarks soaring up in the midst of the bombardment at dawn cheered us as we thought of the text "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing", etc. They sang as the shells flew past.

*Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> May*

The 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade in Lagnacourt on the right and some of our bearers have been on this front. It is quiet. I went out with horse ambulance and stayed there in sunken road. That night a few shells came over close, we had two trips in.

*Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> May*

Will and I have the day off and sleep at A.D.S. Few wounded coming through, one or two lately. On the 15<sup>th</sup> there were dead and wounded lying at our post. One poor little Tommie wounded in the head, arm, leg and back lay dying. I knelt down and pointed him to the saviour before he passed away. What great courage and comfort he gave me.

*Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> May*

Today he is shelling the loading post. It is too dangerous for the wagons and they are good targets to so A.D.M.S told them to send the Ford car. A white flag lies on a train when the wounded come through. Will and I watched as 80 go up with the car today. Had 2 trips.

*Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May*

24 hours off so rested at A.D.S but went out to Lagnacourt and slept there for the evening as no cars came through. He shelled one of our dumps not far from the road we were on. Rained all night. Rode the horses back in morning to main rest station in the Bapaume. All the Aussies are now off the front. We erected tent today. Two of the 4<sup>th</sup> division, 16 Ambulance taken prisoner 6 weeks ago, escaped from the Germans this morning and came back to our line.

## **1917 Bapaume**

*Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May*

Handed over to 20<sup>th</sup> R.A.M.C. Through "no man's land" one was shot in the shoulder, not serious, they passed by to headquarters. The 20<sup>th</sup> R.A.M.C took over from us today. The bearers went back to M.D.S and in the morning to man rest station in Bapaume. All the Aussies are now off this front. We erected tent today.

*Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> May*

Will and I are attached to the transport as wagons orderlies (temporarily). We washed and oiled the wagons. The bearers are doing fatigue, making paths, gardening, etc. Received letters from Nell and Wall. This town is completely ruined, every building has been mined or shelled but the gardens are splendid. Beautiful flowers and green trees, clusters of gooseberries, currants and cherries coming on. A few shells still drop on the town.

*Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> May*

Washing and oiling wagons. The weather is warm. Wrote Mother, Mary and Nell.

*Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> May*

Washing and oiling wagons. Received some papers and letters from home. Spent some time learning Greek and reading. To work in afternoon.

*Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> May*

Had day off. We spent the day about the camp.

*Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> May*

Washing and oiling the water carts. Wal Stafford called over to see Will and I, now Corporal. Leave is being granted to Amiens also to rest Camp by sea for fortnight.

*Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> May*

Washing and oiling wagons. Laying border of grass around tents and tiling the paths. All tents have gardens and decorations made about them by the men. The camp looks beautiful. Four Australian nurses visited the camp today from C.C.S.

*Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> May*

Polishing bright work on wagons. Went to pictures in evening. Third and 4<sup>th</sup> in north. Parade 8.30am, kit inspection.

*Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> May*

Polishing bright work on wagons. "Night Birds" had concert in Army hut. Paid 40 francs each. General Livery inspected the camp. ?. Medals given to bearers of 8F front.

*Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> June*

Polish bright work on wagons. Went to see "Curious" concert in the evening. Had a look around Bapaume. Went into the ruined cathedral. Saw numerous skulls in a vault where building is shattered. Will and I and C Section playing cricket afternoon.

*Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June*

Polishing bright work on wagons. A Section plays B Section cricket. A wins. Received a letter from W Ward.

*Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June*

Went to church service in Cinema hall. A Bishop spoke and band played. Received parcel from Greenoch, Scotland.

*Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> June*

Went back to bearers in the evening. Will and I went to Cinema.

*Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June*

7.00am parade and short march. 8.00am parade and station drill signalling.

*Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June*

7.00am parade and short march with full kits over part of the old field. Returned 12 noon. Our team played 30<sup>th</sup> and were beaten. Met Tom Carson from Mosman.

*Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> June*

7.00am parade and short march. 8.00am parade and squad drill till 12.00. 2.00pm parade dismissed. Cars put on to drive us to C.C.S cricket, we won.

*Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> June*

7.00am parade and march. 8.15am parade, full kit for route march. Went back over the old battlefields, round Fleurs, Millers Son, all over our old front. Could scarcely recognise it for the grass and flowers. Did about 12 miles full kit in 4 hours with two short stops to 12.00 noon. 2.00pm parade dismissed.

*Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> June*

Will and I have leave to Amiens today. Left in motor about 7.30am. Caught train at Albert 9.00am. The country is now green, everything looks well. What a contrast to October 1916. Spent 12 hours in Amiens. It is a very immoral town. Caught train back 8.00pm to Albert. Had a lift in flying corps car to Pozieres then caught another car to Bapaume, got home about 11.00pm.

*Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> June*

7.00am parade, went for short march. 9.45am Church of England parade in church army hut. Rested rest of day.



*Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> June*

7.00am was raining so hard no parades in morning. Playing cricket in afternoon. Went to pictures in evening.

*Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June*

7.00am parade and short march. 8.30am route march with full packs about 10 miles through Viller-au-Floss. Off in afternoon.

*Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> June*

7.00am parade and short march. 8.30am Sgt Laddie Matherson gave us stretcher drill. Off afternoon.

*Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> June*

7.00am parade and short march, later kit inspection and inspection of gas helmets. In evening went to picture show.

*Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> June*

7.00am parade and short march. 8.30am squad at stretcher drill and semaphore signalling. Sgt Matherson. Off afternoon.

### **1917 Senlis**

*Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> June*

7.30am parade, dismissed. Loaded wagons in morning. 1.30pm A & C Sections leave Bapaume by train with 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade. 2<sup>nd</sup> Division relieve us at Bapaume. We took over from them at Senlis, a little village about 3 miles from Albert. Met Peter Taylor and Young Jones in village.

*Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> June*

7.30am parade, dismissed. Will and Hugh Read and another chap and I had a stroll through village of Senlis. It is old, and like most others, dirty. 1.30pm parade and dismissed. Received mail letters from Nell, Mary, John, Robert, Nell G. Photo Sweetie E Plump and paper. Have meals in mess. Wrote home and sent parcel of souvenirs to Mother.

*Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> June*

6.00am parade and short march before breakfast. 8.30am parade, gas drill. Lecture on transport work by Major Marshall and semaphore signalling. 1.30pm parade Captain Irvine (Dr) said farewell to men and went to England. Will and I had stroll in afternoon to Warloy, a village about 3 kilometres away. 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade there.

*Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June*

6.45am parade. Big route march postponed owing to rain. 8.30am parade. Did trench around officers tent. Parade to baths. Paid 60 francs each. 1.30pm Will and I walked to Bougencourt about 3 kilometres and caught car to Albert. Civilians are returning to it now and things are going ahead 7 kilometres from here. Come back in flying corps car to Bougencourt and saw Anzac Coves, Concert.

*Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June*

7.00am parade, short march. 8.30am parade in full marching order for inspection by Colonel Sheppard. In morning, cleaning wagons for inspection by S.O.S tomorrow. Spent rest of the day about camp. Received mail from Robert, Mary and Nell.

*Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> June*

8.00am drove into Albert in ambulance car, caught 8.30am to Amiens. Had dinner at Hotel de L'Universe, cost 7 francs each. Wandered around Amiens. It is a very fast place, houses are licensed and people are forward. Caught home train 8.00pm and walked from Albert to Bouzinecourt about 6 kilometres, got home about 10.00pm. (Large town where troops have leave).

*Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June*

6.30am parade. 9.00am parade, on fatigue dig hole for burying tins. 11.00am parade, inspection of full kit by General Hubbs. Finished for day. Received letters from Nell, Annie Ward, K. Caulfield. Wrote C.P, R.C, Robert. Corporal Lloyd here from show ground. Told me Bert Orr is Dr at C.C.S Edgehill about 6 kilometres off.

*Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Blank*

*Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> June*

6.00am parade. 9.00am Will and I took a stroll to 2.00pm to see Dale, he is in England. Then to 56 C.C.S to see Bert Orr (Dr), met him, he is Captain in 5<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance. Walked about 20 miles today. Went to Hemecourt, Ribemont, Edgehill, Warloy, Baizsiel and Villencourt.

*Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> June*

7.00am parade. Will and I are in the receiving room 9.00am - 8.00pm today. Will 9.00am - 2.00pm. I am on 2.00pm – 8.00pm.

*Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June*

Will on duty 8.00am - 2.00pm. I am on from 2.00pm – 8.00pm.

*Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> June*

On admission tent from 8.00am - 2.00pm. Will from 2.00pm – 8.00pm. Received mail from Australia. In evening walked over to Warloy with Bert Berry. B Section tent division running officers hospital in Chateau. We went to concert in evening given by 5<sup>th</sup> Division concert party.

*Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> June*

Will on duty 8.00am – 2.00pm. I from 2.00pm – 8.00pm. This afternoon Len Hall called over to see us.

*Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> June*

On duty from 8.00am – 2.00pm. Colonel Sheppard gave out 10 military medals to our bearers and a D.S.O to Major Bond for Bullencourt stint. In afternoon I took a stroll to Warloy.

*Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> June*

Did not go on duty today, have a boil on right eye. Spent time reading. Paid today, 20 francs each.

*Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> July*

9.00am parade, McHolman and General Birdwood for review 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade and present medals to the troops. Did not attend the parade. Will on duty. Wrote letters to Mother, Mary, Aunt Jean and K Williamson.

*Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July*

8.30am Will on admissions. 2.00pm on admissions.

*Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July*

8.30am on admissions. Will on 2.00pm. After dinner took a short walk with Will to Warloy. Spent evening reading.

*Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> July*

8.30am Will on admissions. 2.00pm I am on admissions. 5<sup>th</sup> Aussie division sports. Will in sports in afternoon. 15<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance won the cups, 8<sup>th</sup> second and 14<sup>th</sup> third.

*Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> July*

7.30am Will and I went in car to Amiens. 8.30am train to Amiens, 1 hour journey. After dinner in Hotel L'Universe we did shopping and had a stroll. Met Wal Stafford and went to pictures. Caught train 8.00pm for Albert. Got to Senlis 11.00pm, spent about 30 francs.

*Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> July*

8.30am Will went on parade march. I am on receiving hut. Spend evening in camp. Wrote letters to Blighty Sent postcards to Mother, Mary and Nell.

*Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> July*

8.30am parade. Will out on special duties. 8.30am Will on admissions. 2.00pm am on admissions. Lent 20 francs to F Williams.

*Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> July*

8.30am went to service in the mess hut. Will on duty on admissions. Received letter from K Caulfield.

*Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> July*

8.30am parade. Special duties on admissions. Sent postcards home. Went to Y.M.C.A Hall in Senlis with W Ward (Will on duty) and heard a discussion on Hell. Not very profitable.

*Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July*

8.30am parade. Fall out with special duties. Will on 8.30am. I am on at 2.00pm. At 10.00 the Colonel spoke to us regarding the "Night Birds". Sent more postcards home.

*Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> July*

8.30am parade, dismissed. On admissions hut. Will on 2.00pm. Received letter from K Caulfield.

*Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> July*

8.00am parade. Will on admissions. I at 2.00pm. Went over to Hemecourt to see second assault at arms by 5<sup>th</sup> Division. King George V reviews us. Saw the king today. Was an excellent show, our ambulance wagon took the prize for the division.

*Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> July*

Went to Senlis at 9.00am to catch motor wagon to Amiens, no car going. Returned to camp and went in, in Motor Ambulance with Colonel Sheppard, Major Bond and Marshall Captain (Chaplain) with Will. Had dinner in hotel with Padre Malcolmson. Met car about 9.30pm and had conversation with Major Bond.

*Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> July*

6.00am parade, went for short march. Off admissions but on ground duties. 8.30am parade, squad drilling and signalling. 1.30pm parade, dismissed. Went down to village. Paid 40 francs each. F.W paid 20 francs back. Our section Sgt Thompson left today for No.3 A.G.H (Advanced General Hospital).

*Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> July*

6.30am parade, dismissed. 8.30am church parade, C of E in mess hut. Met Captain Malcolmson and went to communion with him. 2.00pm got bicycles from Chaplain Major and French interpreter and went to Corbie through Henincourt, along the main Amiens road, through Heilly to Corbie. Corbie is about the size of Albert. Met Bert Newman billeted there. Had coffee and poached eggs and jellies. Returned through Ribemont, Millencourt and Warloy about 9.00pm. Went about 30 miles. Corbie is 12 miles direct. The scenery was beautiful.00

*Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> July*

6.30am parade, short march. 8.30am parade, squad drill. 1.30pm parade (swimming). 2.30pm went to see Captain Chaplain Malcolms (he is ill). After tea Will and I went for a run on bikes to Toutencourt, about 12 kilometres away. Will's front wheel punctured returning and had to walk 6 miles home. Lecture to men by Major Marshall Dr. (venereal disease).

*Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July*

8.30am this morning we marched before the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade with full packs up to Corbie to cross the Engineers platoon. We did close to 14 miles before dinner, then were billeted in Corbie. All had night off in Corbie and slept there. Through Herencourt, Millencourt, Ribemont, Heilly, Bornay.

*Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July*

8.30am the brigade marched out of Corbie. I reported sick and rode back on horse ambulance. At Senlis about 11.00pm and had the afternoon off. Picket round camp started today. Have touch of trench fever, temp 100.2 during day.

*Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> July*

6.30am parade, dismissed. 8.30am parade, squad drill, lecture by Captain Barreskill on fractures. Signalling. 1.30pm parade, dismissed. 1.30pm Will and I on picket until 4.00pm. On again from 8.00pm – 12.00. Body temperature 101.2 and 102 evening.

*Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> July*

8.00am on picket until 10.00am, relieved 2.00pm. Spent the afternoon reading, went to bed early.

*Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> July*

Off in the morning. 1.30pm parade, 10 of us went over to Millencourt with A.S.C wagons. Loaded food stuffs on them and went on to Albert to unload, returning to Senlis about 6.30pm. Albert is getting well populated. "Night Birds" concert tonight.

*Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July*

7.45am went into Albert, caught train to Amiens 8.30am. Went to service in Cathedral about 9.30am then went for a row on the river on very light skiff with Will. Had dinner in Hotel de Universe then went to French theatre to see play "The Marquis of Priola" Then to Cirque commune where the French and Belgian bands were playing in a large circular building. Several nationalities were there. Caught 8.00pm train to Albert, walked to Senlis.

*Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July*

6.30am parade, short march. 8.30am parade, squad drill and signalling and kit inspection. 10.30am dismissed. C Section to scrub wet equipment.

*Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> July*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade, fatigues. 1.30pm, loading wagons. Received letter from Bank.

*Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> July*

6.30am parade, short march. 8.30am parade, squad drill and signalling. 1.30pm dismissed. Our hut played 22 hut, we won. Received letter from K Caulfield.

*Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> July*

6.30am parade, short march. 8.30 am parade, squad drill and route march. Gas drill. Took picket to 30 B.H.Q brought it back, spent rest of day reading, doing Greek, letters to Mother, Nell, postcard to Annie.

*Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> July*

6.30am parade, short march. 8.30am parade, squad drill, route march. Tried helmets in gas room. 5.00pm parade. Received letters from Mary and Nell. Wrote letters to Mary & Ed Plumb. Papers from John W.

*Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> July*

6.30am parade, short march. 8.30am parade, drill. 1.30pm dismissed. Spent afternoon learning Greek. Received letters from John, Mother, Mary, A. Orr and F. Orr.

*Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> July*

6.30am parade, short march. 8.30am our C Section warned to march out tomorrow 12 noon. Going to North of France by No.16 train. Spent most of day learning Greek. Rest of Ambulance is following 2.00 – 4.00pm. Will on picket 4.00–6.00pm. I am on picket line water 10.00am – 12.30. Will 12.00 – 3.00pm

### **1917 Racquinhem, St Omer**

*Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> July*

10.15am C Section march out Bougencourt to Aveling to entrain (7 kilos). Had stroll about Aveling, Abbeyville, Etaples, Bolougne and Calais. Arrived St Omer 4.00pm (12 hours in trucks). St Omer about the size of Amiens but more modern. Marched through it and on to a village 10 kilos off, Racquinhem, and billeted in a farm in a small place called Quietde. Very quiet here. C Section (ours) at headquarters. Sleeping in a barn in straw.

*Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> July*

Train returned to St Omer 4.00am, a very pretty town with many fine buildings and cathedral. Left 5.00am and went 3 miles out of way. Arrived Racquinhem about 9.00am. Marched with full packs. The other sections arrived later. Pitched tents and after a stroll with Will to Oliver. Caves came to canal. Went to bed. W Hapesley sleeps next to us. Estaires about 20 k away.

*Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> August*

8.30am parade, pitching tents. 1.30pm parade. 2.00pm paid 40 francs each. After tea took stroll to a village with Will and W.H. had eggs and coffee. The people are better here than on Somme. Things are much cheaper.

*Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August*

8.30am parade, on picket. Spent the morning reading. After dinner Will and I took a stroll to Aires, a town 7 kilos away from here. A fairly large town. Many Portuguese soldiers there and round about. Passed through “Wittes”, a small village on the way. On picket Will 2.00 – 4.00am. I on 12.00 – 2.00am.

*Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August*

Will and I leave to go to St Omer, a town 10 kilos away. Drove in on Frenchies cart. There are three very ancient cathedrals there as well as churches. There are many nurses (British) and W.A.D.C girls from England. There is very little amusement in the town. Not as big as Amiens. Leave till 9.00pm.

*Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> August*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade, gas lecture. Writing and reading all day. Has been wet the last 4 days.

*Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> August*

6.30am parade, fatigues. 8.30am on parade and digging hole in the yard. Spent rest of the day reading and writing. On picket 2.00-4.00pm, Will 4.00 – 6.00pm.

*Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> August*

6.30am parade, dismissed. 8.30am parade. Spent most of the day writing. Wrote to Mother, Mary, John, Nell, A OM, K Caulfield, Minnie. Received letters from Margaret Mathers. On picket at 2.00–4.00pm. Will 4.00 – 6.00pm. Wrote to John to Cable 8 pounds for Will.

*Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> August*

8.30am parade and 10 mile route march with packs. Went through Pont Asquin, Eblingham and Bearingham. 1.30pm parade. In afternoon Will and I went for a walk. Will Hapesley and I decided to help the farmer stack wheat in field.

*Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> August*

6.30am parade. 8.30am and fatigues. Gas drill. 1.30pm gas lecture on recent gas attacks by officer from gas school. Will and I went into St Omer for tea. Came on to rain. Returned about 9.00pm on A.F.C car.

*Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> August*

6.30am parade. 8.30am on parade and fatigues. 1.30pm lecture on wounds by Captain Howard (Dr.). Spent rest of evening reading. Sent postcards home.

*Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> August*

6.30am parade, short march. 8.30am parade. Went for a stroll in afternoon with Will.

*Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> August*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade and picket.

*Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> August*

Had leave today to visit St Omer. Walked in and came home by train. Met Andy Anderson from Dawes Point. Spent most of day walking about and listening to band in the park.



*Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> August*

6.30am on parade. 8.30am parade, dismissed. This is second anniversary of 8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance. We are given day off. Sports in afternoon. Concert in evening.

*Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> August*

8.30am parade, route march without parks around Wittes. 1.30pm erected tent. Spent afternoon and evening doing Greek and reading.

*Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> August*

On picket. 2.00pm paid 40 francs each.

*Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> August*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade and fatigues. 1.30pm parade, dismissed. Will and I took stroll to Portuguese villages.

*Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> August*

8.30am parade and route march. Met Ben Orr. 1.30pm parade, spent evening reading.

*Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> August*

6.30am parade. 8.30am Brigade route march. Was unusual with new boots. March to Aires and back. Afternoon off. Will and I on picket.

*Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> August*

Finished picket 3.00pm. Rode into St Omer in French staff car. N.Z band playing. Received letters from Nell and Robert.

*Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> August*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade and fatigues. Afternoon off. Bert Orr called round to see us. R.M.O (regimental medical officer) in 23<sup>rd</sup> Bat. Received parcels of tobacco and cigarettes from Mary.

*Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> August*

Had day off. Will and I went into St Omer in wagons. Received papers from John and Lizzie (cousin).

*Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade, had blisters on foot lanced. A & B Sections on roster march. On picket.

*Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade and fatigues. On picket. Went around to Bert Orr's billet at 7.00pm and spent the evening with him.

*Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> August*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade and picket on sanitary fatigue. In evening walked about 4 miles to picture show in Arques.

*Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> August*

8.30am parade, fatigues. Afternoon off went to village, 4 miles away for stroll.

*Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> August*

8.30am parade, on picket 9.00pm. In afternoon Will and I went into St Omer, saw picture in evening. Received mail from Robert, John, Mary, Will Orr, A Ward and jumpers and parcel. Wrote Nell, Maggie, FOM and A Ward.

*Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> August*

On picket. Stayed in camp.

*Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> August*

8.30 parade, fatigues. In afternoon to guard cars' pit at meal hours. Went to Arques with Will in evening to picture show. Rode in French day cart. Papers from John. Wrote to Mary.

*Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> August*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade. Guarding cars pit. A & B Sections in march past Field Marshall D. Douglas Haig.

*Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> August*

6.30am parade. 8.30am kit inspection. I went for a stroll through Heuringham, a village about 4 kilos away. 1.30pm parade on picket and fatigues. 6.30pm on fatigue. 9.00pm Will on picket.

*Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> August*

On picket 2.00pm. Pay parade, 40 francs each. Will and I went to Blendaques, a village about 3 kilos from St Omer, fairly large. Sir Douglas Haig's headquarters here. No rations issued today so we had fish and chips here. Met a girl from Aimentiers, was there this time last year but shelled out.

*Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> September*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade and fatigues. 12.30pm parade and route march to baths at Blarringhen, 5<sup>th</sup> Division headquarters. Met Bert Newman painting the baths. Received "Life" from John.

*Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September*

On leave. About 9.00am Will and I walked into St Omer. Had a look around park, N.Z band playing. Had dinner with Tom Mitchell. Saw pictures in the evening and walked home about 9.00pm. Just as we reached home the enemy carried out an air-raid at St Omer and villages about. Many bombs dropped. Today is the second anniversary of our enlistment.

*Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade, dry rations given. On fatigue. Had afternoon off. Wrote to Nell and M. Gilbert. Enemy planes over.

*Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade and route march, full packs, lost box respirator. 1.30am on parade, fatigues. 7.00pm Will and I walked round to see Bert Orr and stayed till 10.00pm. Enemy planes are over. 12.00pm Will on picket.

*Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September*

3.00am on picket till 6.00am. Spent evening in barn reading and writing letter from K. Caulfield.

*Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> September*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade and fatigues. Spent evening reading and writing.

*Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> September*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade and route march with packs, about 10 kilos. Gas lecture and drill by District Gas Officer. Spent afternoon writing and reading a lot in evening. 7.00pm called around to see Bert Orr. Wrote to Mother, Mr Pope, M.A.I Chicago re bible correspondence.

*Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> September*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade and route march dismissed for day. Received three letters from K. Williamson. Went for a stroll to Arques. Saw pictures and met several friends & K. Williamson's cousin, Carsdill. 9.00pm on picket. 12.00pm Will on picket.

*Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> September*

On picket. 2.00pm went around to see Bert Orr. He was out. 3.00pm Will and I went to St Omer, had a walk round. Met Stillman and Clelland From Mosman. Saw pictures.

*Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> September*

6.30am parade, fatigues. In evening called round to see Bert Orr but he was out at Uni dinner. Wrote to Mother, K. Williamson.

*Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September*

6.30am parade. 8.30am parade and route march with full packs. Captain Howard took us through Portuguese village, Heuringham, Blendaques, Argues and back, over 15 kilos. Received letters from Bessie and answered it.

*Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September*

6.00am 2<sup>nd</sup> Division made off to lines. 6.30am parade. 9.00am parade and fatigues. On picket 9.00am – 12.00 noon. Received letter from Bessie.

*Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> September*

Picket 9.00am – 12.00 noon. Paid in afternoon, 40 francs each. Received Australian mail – Mary, Robert, Nell, M. Gilbert, A. Orr and Plumb and 2 parcels from home, also papers. Had a stroll through village after tea.

*Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> September*

Had day off. Will and I went into Omer. Went to concert there in evening. Met 2 W.A.A.C girls. First English speaking families spoken to since arriving in France.

*Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> September*

6.30am parade, fatigues. 8.30am parade and fatigues. Clearing hospital for removal. Spent evening writing.

*Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> September*

9.00am parade, fatigues. 10.00am wrote letter to Mary. 12.00 – 3.00pm on picket. Will 3.00am – 6.00am. Leaving in morning for Poperinghe.

## **1917 BELGIUM - Poperinghe- Battle of Ypres**

*Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> September*

Left Racquingham and marched behind 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade 9.30am. Marched all day with full kits and blankets arriving at Cassels about 6.00pm and Steenwoorde in Flanders about 7.00pm. Marched out about 25 kilos. All of 5<sup>th</sup> Division here. Had a cup of coffee in a house and went to bed. People here speak Flemish in homes and French in schools.

*Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September*

Marched from Steenwoorde with full packs and blankets to Poperinghe, about 16 kilos. L'Abille the first Belgium town on border. Here many of the refugees live in clay houses and wooden huts. At present we are in a rest station for all troops of 2<sup>nd</sup> Army Corp. All colonies represented here. Opposite us are C.C.S, one bombed last week and 3 nurses and many prisoner casualties.

*Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September*

9.00am parade. Will detailed for baths. I am on sanitary work. (Ypres) the lines are about 10 miles off. Poperinghe is often shelled.

*Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> September*

On sanitary. About 3.00pm cars took all bearers up near Ypres and slept at "Belgian Battery Post" for night.

*Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> September*

About 6.00am drove us to A.D.S. We marched from there to the lines and relieved 2<sup>nd</sup> Division bearers at R.A.P (Registered Aid Post) and had 10 carries each. Our squad lost in the night amongst 18 pounders. The enemy made a constant attack this morning but was driven back.

*Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September*

Our post was shelled pretty heavily, 4 of ambulance wounded, 1 missing (likely killed). 8.00am 2<sup>nd</sup> Division ambulance relieved us. We returned to M.D.S headquarters in cars. Spent rest of the day. Wrote postcards home, slept in M.D.S for night.

*Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September*

About 9.00am cars took us up to Ypres. We relieved 1<sup>st</sup> Division ambulance at ramparts, slept there for the night. A Section went in 12.00pm.

*Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> September*

This morning we stayed at ramparts, in the afternoon we went up the lines. C Section on fatigues. The road was shelled. Went back to ramparts for the night. Carried blankets and stretchers to Hooze Tunnel. This tunnel is 4 miles long, near Ypres. Was built by the enemy to bring up troops.

*Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September*

This morning we went up lines. As we were leaving Ypres the road was shelled, killed 1 of the wounded and 3 of our section. We took over "Hooze Crater" for 24 hours. Enemy shelled the road, blew up dump station on one path. Three of our men killed at Hooze Tunnel and others wounded. Carrying all day. 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance is all out together. Will Hapesley wounded, rest of his squad killed.

*Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September*

5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Division stint came off of front this morning. Advance about a mile and few thousand prisoners taken. Heavy carrying all day. Tommie Ambulance with us. Australians advanced beyond others. Carried several Scots out. Bert Newman wounded, picked him up at Burt Crossroads, put him in ambulance.

*Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> September*

About 10.00am were relieved by 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Ambulance and returned to A.D.S and ramparts for a rest. Only 3 squads of our section come back to ramparts. We slept here till 4.00pm.

*Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> September*

4.00am went up the lines. Our section to right R.A.P to relieve 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Ambulance. We are in a captured block house, concrete and very strong. The shells do not effect it much, 1 hit it while we were in it. Average only 2 carries per day here. 2<sup>nd</sup> Division are bearing with us.

*Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> September*

Still in pill box. He shells fairly heavily here, about dusk and sunset. Tonight our squad sent out with a wounded prisoner. He was shelling our way with high explosives and a new gas. We lost our way and took off helmets and hid in a bit of a trench with the prisoners, then ran to see where we were. We had wandered into a dangerous area but succeeded in getting our patient through.

*Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> September*

Back at pill box at 9.00pm. Our relief about 9.00pm came. The Leicesters changed over with the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. We went back to ramparts and to our headquarter D.R.S, Poperinghe. Some of A Section still not at R.A.P. All our

ambulances have suffered heavily and Infantry had to help us. Cars met us at ramparts.

*Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> October*

This morning the Leicesters lost 150 yards of ground our divisions took. Mail from home. We are feeling slight effects of gas. Moonlight nights, the enemy bomb Poperinghe close to us.

*Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October*

Parade 9.00am and fatigues. Received mail and parcel from Nellie Gilbert. Sleeping in tents. Sent postcards home.

*Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October*

9.00am parade. We went on sick parade, affected with gas, cold in head and chest. No duties. Went to meeting in Y.M.C.A. In evening wrote to Mary, Nell and H. Gilbert.

*Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> October*

9.00am parade, went on sick parade. No duty. It is a wet day. Received mail from home. Our troops have another stint in the morning. After dinner all bearers hurried up to front on trains. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Divisions have taken ridge and many prisoners. A great success. Slept at night in Belgian Battery Corner, Ypres.

*Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> October*

About 5.00am went up line to relieve 2<sup>nd</sup> Division bearers. We have advanced another mile there in 2 weeks and have taken ridge, a very important position (C Section) from Kit-Kat to Westlock Ridge. Wet weather is setting in. Carried several Germans today.

*Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> October*

Not being relieved today. We were wet and in the dug-out, extremely cold.

*Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> October*

6.00am our relief has not turned up. This is 2<sup>nd</sup> Division stint. We have had 16 carries each since coming in, 4 squads on our post. 12 noon 5<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance turn up. Our relief 53 hours on post. Returned to Reemy siding (Poperinghe) received letters from Mary, Robert, K. Williamson and parcel, also letter from Bank - they have 8 pounds for Will.

*Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> October*

It is wet. 9.00am parade. Will and I on sick parade (no duties). Both gassed. Will has gastritis, I have hernia in left groin. Spent day in bed. Received letters from Nell and parcel from E. Plumb. Miserable wet night. Alan Adams was gassed in our squad, sent to hospital.

*Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October*

Went on sick parade. Major Bond admitted Will to hospital, 5<sup>th</sup> Division D.R.S and ordered me to wear a truss. I am on duty at No.17 C.C.S Bureail, clerical working with Sergeant Parl (Mosman). 5<sup>th</sup> Division relieve 2<sup>nd</sup> tonight. Our ambulance standing to for lines.

*Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October*

9.00am commenced this morning again at No.17 C.C.S. Taking in walking wounded. Will is in D.R.S Hospital with gastritis, on a light diet. At 1.00pm our bearers went up the lines again for 5<sup>th</sup> Division stint.

*Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> October*

On duty at C.C.S from 9.00am – 7.00pm. Will in D.R.S Hospital, keeping well.

*Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> October*

On duty at C.C.S. Will in hospital, keeping well. Received some papers from home. Heard today that Dale Smith was killed (Boodie's brother) in last 1<sup>st</sup> Division stint, sniped by machine gunners previous to stint. Colonel Sheppard, our O.C, has left us and gone to 2<sup>nd</sup> Division as A.D.M.S. We have Lieutenant Colonel in his place, Col Makin.

*Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> October*

On duty at No.17 C.C.S. Will in hospital D.R.S, on full diet. Wrote letters to all at home this evening. The weather is very bad now, continual rain.

*Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> October*

On duty at No.17 C.C.S. Will in D.R.S keeping well. This morning I went along to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion headquarters and enquired about Dale. He was sniped before the stint came off, his men buried him in the field and his personal effects were sent home (16 photos, 2 letters and a new testament, theosophy book and photo case). They are preparing a cross for the grave. A church service and band playing "Lord a Little Band & Lowly".

*Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> October*

On duty at No.17 C.C.S. Will in D.R.S, keeping well. Wrote letters to all at home: Nell, W. Gilbert, Plumb, Ward and Caulfield.



*Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October*

On duty at No.17 C.C.S. We are about a half kilo from Poperinghe. Every good night the enemy planes come over and bomb. Will in D.R.S, keeping well (8<sup>th</sup> day).

*Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October*

On duty at No.17 C.C.S, had a good deal of time on hand and studied "The Christian Workers Magazine" M.R.I. Usually do a little Greek. Will on convalescence and working fire for bath house, D.R.S.

*Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> October*

On duty at C.C.S. Poperinghe had a stroll round today and did some shopping. Will on baths at D.R.S. Saw an old lady making lace in Poperinghe, it seems tedious work. One place wanted 100 francs for a small lace cap. Poperinghe is occasionally shelled and often bombed but little trace is seen. The Belgians all speak good English, better than the French. Spent the night studying Scripture "The Christian Workers Magazine".

*Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> October*

Will on baths at D.R.S. I am on duty at C.C.S with Couchman and Parle from Mosman. Couchman is a friend of Jim Mathers (cousin). Spent all the evening studying "The Christian Workers Magazine". Our team still in line.

*Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October*

Will on baths at D.R.S. I am on duty at D.R.S. There are some American doctors and me here. The weather has been fine lately, though a little cold. Spent the evening studying Greek and Scriptures "The Christian Workers Magazine".

*Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> October*

Will on baths at D.R.S. I'm on duty at No.17 C.C.S. Spent evening at service and writing at Y.M.C.A.

*Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> - Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October*

Will on baths at D.R.S. I'm on duty at No.17 C.C.S.

*Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October*

Will on baths at D.R.S. I'm on duty at No.17 C.C.S. Received letters from Australia, Nellie Davidson and I Clark. This evening also on duty at No.3 Canadian C.C.S on bureau for stretcher cases, filled in 3 hours. On duty at No.3 C.C.S every second day.

*Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> October*

Will on baths at D.R.S. I'm on duty at No.17 C.C.S.

*Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> -Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> October*

I'm on duty at No.3 Canadian and No.17 British C.C.S. Will on baths at D.R.S.

*Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> October*

Today on duty at No.17 C.C.S and No.3 Canadian C.C.S. Was paid 90 francs and went to Poperinghe and bought lace for Mother and Boogie (lace caps) for Mary and Nell. Furlough to be extended from 10 to 14 days to Blighty. Met Tom Meldrum in Y.M.C.A in 55 Battalion 5<sup>th</sup> Division.

*Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October*

On duty at No.3 Canadian and No.17 British C.C.S. Received account from M.B.I Chicago.

*Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> October*

On duty at No.17 C.C.S. Will on duty D.R.S baths. Sent parcels (lace hand-made Belgium) to Mother, Mary and Nell. Moonlight nights every evening. Gothas (planes) come over and bomb about here.

*Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> November*

On duty at No.3 & 17 C.C.S. Will D.R.S baths. Leave extended from 10 – 14 days today. All the Australian Ambulances suffered heavily. We have 7 killed and close on 40 evacuated. 14<sup>th</sup> about 7 casualties.

*Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November*

On duty at No.3 & 17 C.C.S. Will proceeded on leave to England and Scotland this morning by 10.15am train from Poperinghe via Calais and South Hampton for 14 days in Britain. Met T. Meldrum tonight. I received my leave pass this evening for 14 days leave. Private Allan and Captain Barreskill went with Will.

### **1917 LEAVE: LONDON, GLASGOW**

*Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November*

9.00am left D.R.S to proceed on leave to England by 10.15am train from Poperinghe. My pass is via Calais and leaves 12.30pm. Spent day in Poperinghe. Went to pictures in afternoon and concerts "Duds" in evening.

*Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> November*

Arrived Calais about 7.00am. Motor wagons took us to boat. Left about 10.00am, arrived Dover 11.00am, London 1.30pm. Ces Cornish is working at

Horseferry Road (Australian Headquarters). Received pay owing 13 pounds, new uniform and underclothing. Met Will at Victoria Station. He received 14 pounds pay and came via Bolougnes and Folkstone. All Austrians on leave from English camps recalled, owing to Irish troubles.

*Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November*

Very few Anzacs on leave. About 12 on our train. Went to Commonwealth Bank this morning and drew 8 pounds each. Had tea at Lyons Strand and went to Criteria Theatre (Carminetta) an opera and missed the 11.30 train to Glasgow. Waited for 2.30 train at Pancreas Station.

*Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November*

2.30am left St Pancreas Station, 2 hours at Derby and Leeds. Went to pictures in Glasgow. Very few Aussies about.

*Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November*

Went to Minnie's place at Denniston and stayed there.

*Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> November*

Spent the day at Minnie's place.

*Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> November*

Spent morning with Minnie. Had dinner at Grosvenor Hotel, Glasgow. 4.00pm went to Greenoch to visit K. Caulfield and stayed with them till Monday. Had a fine time. Took K.C to pictures in evening. Will went to Edinburgh to see I. Whitehead and stayed until Monday. This house is in Clyde, high up, near ship building, can see Ben Nevis and Dumbarton Castle from here.

*Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> November*

Had breakfast about 10.00am and went with K.C to Gourock, etc along the Clyde. Saw the camps and ship building and torpedo factories, etc. Spent the afternoon in the house. In evening took K.C to theatre to see "Charlie's Aunt".

*Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> November*

Took K.C and T.C to church this morning. Spent the afternoon and evening at home and had a stroll around Port Glasgow.

*Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> November*

In morning returned to Glasgow with K.C. Went home to Minnie's place and took her out for dinner and tea. Met K.C at 9.00pm. Will went to theatre with Mr Storm.

*Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November*

Spent day in Glasgow with Will. Went to theatre in evening with Will. Stayed at Caledonian Temprace Hotel, opposite Buchanan Street Station, Glasgow.

*Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November*

This morning Will and I went to Loch Lomond and spent the day there. Had dinner in hotel there and had an enjoyable time. Ben Lomond had snow on summit. Returned to Glasgow in evening.

*Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> November*

Spent morning with Minnie and left at 12.00 for Edinburgh with K.C. We spent afternoon and night at theatre, left by train for London.

*Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> November*

Arrived Kings Cross Station 8.00am and went to Kings Cross Hotel. Rang Grace up at Brighton. Caught 1.00pm train for Brighton and went to see Grace at Hove. Spent afternoon on beach with her and at Wentworth Hotel. Went to theatre in evening, caught 11.30pm train for London. Y.M.C.A car took us about 1.30am to hotel.

*Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> November*

Caught train to Brighton 10.00am. Spent the afternoon with Grace. Went on small train to Black Rock then went to Hotel, had supper at Sweetings as on previous evening. Left 11.30pm for London. Arrived 1.00am. Y.M.C.A car drove us, for help given Y.M case, to wait for train at Victoria Station 6.00 – 8.00pm. All night wrote Mother and Nellie.

### **1917 RETURN TO FRANCE: MESSINES FRONT**

*Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> November*

6.00am this morning Will and I left Victoria Station for Folkstone, Bolougne. 8.00am went Dover - Calais. Will arrived back at unit on 19<sup>th</sup>. I slept at Calais. Seems to be a nicer place than some of these French towns.

*Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> November*

About 8.00am marched to train. Got out near Castles and slept in 5<sup>th</sup> Division wing camp for the night. Will arrived back at unit today. Both returned with 3 pounds each in our pocket.

*Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November*

About 10 left Castles by car, went through Bailleul to Messines front where 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Divisions are holding line. We are running main dressing station and our bearers have been up the line about a week. Will is on fatigue in M.D.S. I

received mail from home, America (M.B.I), Scotland and England. A parcel from K.C and K.W. Went to division concert.

*Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November*

8.00am Will on fatigue, building dug-outs. I am in admissions room. Received 2 registered parcels from K. Williamson.

*Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November*

8.00am breakfast. 8.30am parade. On duty in admissions hut. This is a very quiet front and very few cases come in. Will on fatigue. Wrote letters and sent 2 books home (Christmas).

*Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November*

8.00am on duty admissions hut, very few wounded come through. 8.30am parade, dismissed. Enemy bombed near our camp today. Received socks from Annie Ward.

*Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> November*

8.00am on duty admissions hut. Parade, dismissed. Will on fatigue, building dug-outs.

*Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> November*

On admissions. Building incinerator and dug-outs. Will on fatigue. Received paper M.B.I. Wrote Robert and Mary.

*Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> November*

On admissions. Bert Cox from Millers Point passed through wounded today. Received mail today from Mrs Orr, John and K. Williamson.

*Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November*

On admissions hut. Will building dug-outs. Received mail from home.

*Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> November*

On admissions hut. Will building dug-outs. Received letter from Minnie and Annie Orr.

*Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> November*

On fatigues, mending duckboards. Will on dug-outs. Mail from Mary. Photos Nellie and proofs of photos taken in Glasgow with Minnie. In evening with Will and Alec Adams to concert 5<sup>th</sup> Division "Kookaburras".

*Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> November*

On fatigues, duckboards and admissions hut. Will on fatigues. Received pay. Drew 10 francs each. Had a talk to Captain Earnshaw from Sydney University, knows Bert Orr well.

*Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> December*

On admissions hut. Will on fatigues.

*Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December*

On admissions hut. Will on fatigues. Went to service in recreation hut in evening. New Chaplain. Major Chaplain Single went to 14<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance.

*Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December*

On admissions. Will on fatigues. In the evening went with Will and Alec Adams to 5<sup>th</sup> Division concert. Went in with patients to C.C.S Steenwoorde, saw Aimentiers on left.

*Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December*

On admissions hut. Will on fatigues. Very cold and heavy frost on ground this morning, but winter has not been as bad as it was in October last year. We can live without fires.

*Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December*

On admissions. Will on fatigues. Heavy ground frost.

*Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> December*

On admissions. Will on fatigues. Heavy frost. Went to 5<sup>th</sup> Division concert in evening with A. Adams, W. Ward and Will.

*Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December*

On admissions hut. Will on fatigues. Weather mild today. About 7.00pm Alec Adams and I set out to A.D.S, Kandahar. A. Dud and I on picket (gas) during night. Will and Storey sent out to Wgts. Chateau Farm A.D.S.

*Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> December*

Rested during the day. Sent letter to Bessie for German Grammar. 4.00-8.00pm and 2.00 – 8.00am on gas picket at A.D.S.

*Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> December*

Rested during the day. 8.00pm – 2.00am on gas picket.

*Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> December*

Rested during day. 8.00pm – 2.00am on gas picket.

*Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December*

Rested during day. 8.00pm – 2.00am on gas picket. News received that British have captured Jerusalem from Turks. Polly day re conscription. Will on M.D.S.

*Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December*

Rested during day. 4.00am – 8.00pm on gas picket. Saw a Gotha shot down near us by our A.A guns. Will at M.D.S.

*Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> December*

Rested during the day. On gas picket 7.30am – 1.30pm.

*Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December*

Rested during the day. Wal Stafford called to see me this afternoon. 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Ambulance arrived to take over on Sunday. Received letter from Uncle John Melrose and K. Caulfield. On gas picket 4.00pm–8.00pm and 2.00am – 8.00am.

*Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> December*

Rested all day. 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Ambulance took over from us.

*Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> December*

Off duty, our bearers came in. Went over to M.D.S in car and saw Will. Walked back, it was snowing.

### **1917 FRANCE - Warwignes**

*Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> December*

10.00am parade. We marched out, met A & C Sections at Daylight Corner, about 2 miles. Entrained with Engineers and Pioneers. About 80 miles in train, 3.00pm – 4.00am. Arrived at Desvres and marched to Warwignes, a little village 11 kilos from Boulogne. Billeted all over village. Arrived about 5.30am

*Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December*

We are billeted on top floor of a house. It is very cold, snow lies on the ground. Received our photos from Minnie. In afternoon Will, Bol Storey and I walked to Desvres about 5.5 kilos and spent our last 2 francs on coffee and bread.

*Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December*

9.00am parade and route march, dismissed. 1.30pm parade, dismissed. Afternoon walked into Samer. Went to see 5<sup>th</sup> Division pictures.

*Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> December*

9.00am parade, route march. Very cold. 11.00am paid 40 francs each. 1.30pm parade, short route march. Spent the evening in estaminet writing home. Spent afternoon skating on pond.

*Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> December*

9.00am parade, route march. 1.30pm parade. In afternoon B. Storey, Will and I walked in to Desvres. Met a young lady, Mademoiselle Germaine Bacon, and had dinner at her home.

*Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December*

9.00am parade, route march. In afternoon Will and I walked to Samer, had tea there. Will received a letter from I. Whitehead in Scotland.

*Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December*

9.00am parade, short march. Received letter from K. Williamson and Matt. Sent photos home of Will and myself and postcards. After dinner Will and I had a ride into Desvres, walked all around it. Spent the evening at the house of Bacon, Desvres 5.5 kilos.

*Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> December*

9.00am parade, dismissed. After tea Storey, Will and I went to Samer, 4.5 kilos, and spent evening there. Wrote to P. Sawes.

*Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December*

No parades today. Had dinner in tents, turkey and plum pudding. Had concert in tents. It commenced snowing in the evening and came through the tiles on our blankets.

*Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> December*

9.30am parade, dismissed. After dinner wrote to John and K. Williamson. Snowing heavily all day. Everything covered with snow. In afternoon walked to Desvres, 5.5 kilos. Spent evening at home of the Bacons.

*Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> December*

8.00am parade, dismissed for day. (Cannot read the rest of page).

*Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> December*

9.00am parade, route march. 12.30pm Will, Bob Storey and I caught motor bus into Boulogne. Visited it 17 months ago when we arrived in France. Had tea



and went to picture show. Had supper and caught bus home at 8.00pm. Boulogne is continually bombed. 11 kilos from Desvres.

*Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> December*

9.30am parade and march. 1.30pm parade, dismissed. Had tea in Desvres with Will at home of Bacon.

*Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> December*

9.30am parade and march to Desvres for bath. Baths closed today. All dismissed in Desvres and spent afternoon and evening with the Bacons along with a couple of A.S.C men.

*Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> December*

9.30am parade and march. 1.30pm parade. 2.00pm paid 40 francs each. After tea Will and I went to Desvres and passed the old year out with the Bacons. Had an excellent French dinner and left for Warwignes 1.30am. Met Bennet Bacon from Monte Carlo. He invited us to Paris. It is very cold, snow lies on the ground but a long walk these nights is great.

*Captain John Melrose*

*Uncle John Melrose 731 at Royal Monmouth England Engineers No.4 siege (brother to Margaret Mathers, Tom's mother). Also a John Melrose who was killed was a cousin and was married to Annie Melrose. Much later she was taken in by Grandma Mathers and later she married John Mathers. Auntie Boodie lost her brother Dale in 1917.*

## 1918 FRANCE -Warwignes

*Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January*

Between Desvres and Boulogne. Saw 1917 out at home of Bacons, Desvres. Will and I walked to Boulogne, 11 kilos.

*Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January*

9.00am parade, dismissed. Walked to Desvres in evening with Bob Storey to Bacons.

*Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January*

Went to Desvres and went around the pottery. Wrote home in evening.

*Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade and marched. Walked to Samer in evening, 4.5 kilos.

*Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade and march. Had a look around the church in Wirwignes. The cüre did all the decorations and sculpting himself. Took him 43 years. This is mentioned in "History of Picardy". Walked to Desvres in evening.

*Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> January*

Went to Boulogne in bus.

*Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade. Received mail from home. Walk to Desvres in evening.

*Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade. Received mail from home and invitation from B. Bacon to Paris.

*Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade and short march. Received parcel from Boodie and W. Ward. 1.30pm lecture on gas. Studied Greek and Christianity and History in the house we are billeted in.

*Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade, dismissed. Studied Greek, etc in house.

*Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade. Received jerkins (pullovers), letters from P.S. Studied Greek.

*Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade. 1.30pm parade, dismissed. Studied Greek. Writing home. Will went to Desvres.

*Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade, dismissed. First clear day for some time. After dinner Will and I walked to and from Boulogne.

*Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade and short march. Wrote letters home. Minnie has a son. 1.30pm parade, dismissed. Studied Greek.

*Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade and march. 1.30pm parade, dismissed. Paid 40 francs. Letters from home. Studied Greek. Walked to Desvres.

*Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade, dismissed. 1.30pm parade. Walked to and from Boulogne and went to Cinema.

*Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am bathing parade to Desvres. Parcel from N.S. Washed clothes and reading.

*Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade and short march. 10.00am gas lecture. Wrote home. In evening to Desvres.

*Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade. Route march to Bowinet. Received letters and photo from K.W. Wrote home. Had dinner in evening with friends at Bacons, Desvres.

*Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade and march. Mail from home. Caught bus to Boulogne, looked around lower quarters. Sanitation bad. Went to Cinema. Rode home to Samer and walked to Desvres.

*Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> January*

9.00am parade. On duty. Rest went to presentation of medals by G.O.C. Received mail from home. Went to library meeting in school hall.

*Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January*

9.00am parade. Holiday for sports. Studying, writing. Went to Samer for bread.

*Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January*

9.00am parade, short march. Writing in afternoon, went to Desvres in evening.

*Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade to baths at Desvres. Received parcel and letter from Mary.

*Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> January*

Parade and march. Mail from home. We walked to Boulogne.

*Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade and march. Received mail. Afternoon to Desvres.

*Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> January*

Went on sick parade (cold). Mail from home, M.B.I paper. Went to Desvres in evening.

*Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade and march. 1.30pm lecture on haemorrhage. Wrote home. Went to Desvres in evening.

*Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am leave for front. 3.00pm studied. Afternoon on picket.

### **1918 FRANCE - Locre**

*Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am march to Samer to entrain for Balwich. Leave 10.00am, all day in train, Balwich 7.00pm. Marched to Locre. Running D.R.S (Dressing Station) in Catholic Convent.

*Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> January*

9.00am parade. 1.30pm parade. Will and I on baths.

*Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> February*

Both Will and I on baths. Letter from N. Davidson.

*Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February*

Running 5<sup>th</sup> Division D.R.S on baths.

*Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February*

On baths. Walked through village. Service in evening.

*Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> February*

On baths. Mail from home. Concert in evening.

*Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February*

Baths. Sent 6/3 to M.B.I (to do with study) and wrote to John.

*Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February - Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February*

On baths. Studied in evening.

*Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> February*

On baths. Went to pictures in Dranoutres in evening.

*Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> February*

On baths. Studied in evening.

*Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> February*

On baths. Studied. Went to pictures in evening. Letter from Mademoiselle. Millet. Postcards Amiens.

*Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February*

On baths. Mail from home. Weather is good for season.

*Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February*

Baths. Studied Greek and early church history. Walked to Dranoutres and returned to concert given by Tommies at D.R.S.

*Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> February*

Baths. Papers from home. Will parcel from John. Studied Greek and how we got our bible. Went to pictures at Dranoutres.

*Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> February*

Baths. Will painting panniers. Studied Greek. Went to 4<sup>th</sup> Division concert at Locre in evening.

*Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> February*

Baths. Will painting panniers. Studied. Pay day, 20 francs. Cabled John for 26 pounds for leave.

*Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> February*

Baths. Will on panniers. Studied. Church service in evening. Wrote home.

*Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> February*

Baths. Panniers. Studied. To Dranoutres to pictures. Received parcel from John.

*Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February*

Baths. Panniers. Received word from Sydney University that I am Hon Life Member of Union. To all students on active service. Studied, wrote home.

*Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February*

Baths. Panniers. Went to 4<sup>th</sup> Division concert in evening.

*Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> February*

Baths. Panniers. Papers from home. Studied. 60<sup>th</sup> Batt concert in evening at D.R.S.

*Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February*

Baths. Panniers. Parcel from Lizzie. Spoke in evening at fellowship from 11 Cor. V.17.

*Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February*

Baths. Panniers. Studied and wrote home. Pictures Dranoutres.

*Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> February*

Baths. Panniers. Service in mess hut in evening.

*Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 1918*

Ill off duty. Will painting and printing medical parnus. Letter from P.S.

*Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February*

Baths. Panniers. Went to Corjuror on D.R.S evening.

*Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February*

Baths. Panniers. Studied, wrote home.

*Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> February*

Baths. Panniers. Parcel from K.W and Mosman School Girls. Went to pictures at Dranoutres in evening.

*Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> March*

Baths. Panniers. Wrote home.

*Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March*

Baths. Panniers. Cold, snowing. Went early to bed.

*Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March*

Baths. Panniers. Mail from John and N.D. Wrote home and went to service in mess hut evening.

*Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Panniers. Wrote to John and Mother in evening.

*Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Panniers. Study. Went to 5<sup>th</sup> D.M.C pictures in evening.

*Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Panniers. Will received No.1 Rivingtons Building Construction book. Wrote to Mary. Study.

*Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Panniers. Went to pictures in Dranoutres evening.

*Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Panniers. Evening reading. Mail from home, wrote Lizzie.

*Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Panniers. Studied.

*Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Will painting signboards for transport.

*Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Will signboards. Went to Cinema Locre. Studied.

*Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Signboards. Studied in evening. Mail from home.

*Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Will ward orderly, gas patients. Bathed 40 gas patients. 2 men referred to hospital.

*Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Will ward orderly. Went 1<sup>st</sup> Division concert evening.

*Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Ward. Paid 20 francs. Wrote Mother, Robert, Lizzie, K.W, Will.

*Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Ward. Studied Greek.

*Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Ward. Bank received money from John – 8 pounds.

*Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Ward. Will received letter from Bank. Studied.

*Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Ward. Wrote to bank. Studied.

*Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Ward. Studied.

*Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March*

Baths. Ward. Studied “The Faith of Honest Doubt”, St Paul.

*Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Ward. Studied Scriptures.

*Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March*

Baths. Ward. Studied.

### **1918 Drours, RAP Hamlet, Before Villers Betonneux**

*Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March*

12.00 noon left for Somme. Arrived Godesveldte, 10 kilometres, 4.00pm. Slept there.

*Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March*

9.00am parade. 2.00pm parade. 12.15pm march off to entrain.

*Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March*

Entrained 2.00pm. Arrived Doullens – Somme 4.00am. Marched 12 kilometres in rain to Vauchelles, arrived 6.30. Germans had advanced in Albert.



*Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March*

9.30am parade in Chateau. Left Australia 2 years ago today.

*Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> March*

8.30am parade, marched to Arqueves, 3 kilometres. Rested in barn.

*Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March*

Billeted in barn. Church service in barn 10.30am.

*Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> April*

Arqueves. Rested all day.

*Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April*

Still in Arqueves.

*Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April*

10.0am route march.

*Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> April*

Marched about 5.00pm to Vauchelles and embussed 6.00pm. Travelled all night and morning.

*Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April*

Passed through Amiens. Got to bed at Bisset and ordered to march on 15 kilometres to Boves. Slept in well-furnished chateau just left.

*Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> April*

10.00am parade. In reserves. Finished "Paradise Lost" and St Matthew's Gospel.

*Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> April*

10.00am parade. Read early history in French book in Chateau and Matthew's Gospel.

*Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April*

9.00am parade. Raining all day. Letters from M.B.I and P.S.

*Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April*

After dinner marched to Glissy, 5 kilometres. Billeted in barn. M.D.S D.A.S

*Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April*

9.00am parade. Reading. 1.30pm parade, fatigues.

*Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> April*

9.00am parade. Reading French medical manual. 1.30pm parade. After tea enemy plane bombed village.

*Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> April*

9.00am parade. Amiens 5 kilometres away. 4.30pm parade marched to Daours, 8 kilometres. Large wooden mills here. Warm day.

*Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> April*

Billeted in large wooden mill. Le Maire and Dillries has just been evacuated. Machinery and wool still here. It is all Australian wool. 9.00am parade, on picket for 24 hours.

*Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April*

Came off picket 9.00am. Corbie 4 miles away being shelled. Reading Dr. P Garsuiers French book "Le Mariage, Hygiene de la generation". Conjugal effects. Hygienic and Moral.

*Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> April*

9.00am parade. Letter from Bessie. Concert evening 14<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance.

*Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April*

9.00am parade. Filled 3 water carts in morning. Afternoon off.

*Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April*

9.00am parade. Off all day.

*Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> April*

9.00am parade. Will and I on baths, finished about 9.00pm.

*Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> April*

8.30am on baths. 144 of 58<sup>th</sup> Brigade had foot baths.

*Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> April*

Sick, have touch of trench fever. Mail from home.

*Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April*

7.30am we went up line and relieved 15<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance and R.A.P at Hamlet. Baron Von Richthofen, German crack airman, shot down near us by our machine gunners. No carries today.

*Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April*

My 27<sup>th</sup> birthday. At R.A.P (Regimental Aid Post). Commonwealth Bank received 10 pounds for me. We cook our own food. Plenty of vegetables from French houses deserted nearby and milk from 2 cows we keep at R.A.P.

### **1918 FRANCE, Gassed, Hernia**

*Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April*

Fine day. Received parcel from K.W. Corbie about 2 kilometres on our left being shelled. In distance, about 10 kilometres, we can see the tower of Amiens Cathedral. Was billeted in this area about a year ago, all was peaceful then. Now it is deserted and in ruins. Killed a heifer this morning for food. Built in a stove. Were gassed from 5.00pm – 10.00pm.

*Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April*

Our collecting post at Aubigny shelled and gassed out, also A.D.S at Hamlet (Advanced Dressing Station). All on our post are gassed. This morning 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade retook Villers-Betonneux from Germans and over 900 prisoners. This place overlooks the valley to Amiens. A wagon smashed and a horse killed. Several of our men evacuated. Cars run up to our post.

*Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> April*

On duty. Will and I during the night with battalion doctor.

*Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> April*

Went to village and got a bag of potatoes from cellar and eiderdown quilt for bed. Andy Anderson, Sergeant, from Millers Son (killed in this place).

*Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> April*

Received letter from P.S and wrote home. Read all day.

*Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> April*

Filled in shell holes on road for ambulance car. Received letter from Lucie Esterich, Valance. French I corrected her English. Wrote and read.

*Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> April*

12.00 noon. B Section relieved us. Returned to Daours after dinner.

*Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> April*

All of our post on sick parade. Gassed. Spent day in bed coughing badly with loss of voice. Gas burns all over the body. 4 of our post evacuated to C.C.S gassed.

*Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May*

No duties, stayed in bed. Captain Brown (Dr.) ordered me a double tress for hernia through gas.

*Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May*

No duties, in bed. Both of us have laryngitis and colds. The burns on the body leave black marks on skin.

*Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May*

No duties. Mail from home.

*Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> May*

No duties, in bed.

*Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> May*

No duties. Reading. Will received architecture book. C Section went up lines.

*Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> May*

No duties. In bed. Studied Greek, read mail.

*Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May*

No duties. Parcel from K.W. Sent \$10 to M.B.I for Schofield Correspondence Course Book and Scripture.

*Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> May ( no entry)*

*Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May*

No duties. Studied Scripture and read.

*Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> May*

No duties. Greek.

*Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May*

No duties, reading.

*Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> May*

No duties. Jim Powell killed. Rifle accident in lines. W. Saunders and Howard killed by shell in car week ago.

*Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May*

Light duties. Greek, reading.

*Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May*

On duty. 9.00am parade. Studied. 2.00pm parade. Reading.

*Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May*

9.00am parade. Greek. 2.30pm parade. C Section returned from lines.

*Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May*

9.00am parade. Studied Greek. Mail from L.E Bacon and Bank.

*Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> May*

9.00am parade. Filled water cart, warm day. Swimming in Somme. Will sent 9/- for Rivingtons III Architect (book).

*Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May*

9.00am parade. Swimming in morning and afternoon. Greek and Scripture. 57<sup>th</sup> Brigade gave concert in Wood Mill.

*Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> May*

9.00am parade. Greek, Scriptures, swimming. Church in evening in mill.

*Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> May*

9.00am parade. Scriptures, Greek, swimming.

*Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May*

9.00am parade. Studied and read. New underclothing at baths in afternoon.

*Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May*

9.00am parade. Went towards Corbie and swam back, 1.5 kilometres. Greek and Scriptures.

### **1918 FRANCE Daours, Villers-Bretonneux**

*Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May*

9.00am 2 squads of us to R.A.P (Registered Aid Post), Chalk Pits at Villers-Bretonneux to relieve A Section.

*Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> May*

3.00pm went out to support R.A.P. 2 carried 5.00pm, 3.00am.

*Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> May*

3.00pm returned Chalk Cliffs. Gas shelled. Scriptures.

*Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> May*

3.00pm went to R.A.P supports. Shelled with gas in morning.

*Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> May*

3.00pm returned to R.A.P, Chalk Cliffs.

*Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May*

Received mail. Pits and about here being shelled heavily. After dinner are relieved and return to A.D.S in Aubigny. Received Australian mail. Slept in cellar.

*Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> May*

8.00am both on duty in dressing room till 8.00pm. Wrote

*Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> May*

Aubigny 8.00am on duty, dressing room. Went down canal trench in car to pick up 2 wounded Tommies. One is dead, brought other back. Dead man and cart he was in fell in river. Washed away. 8.00pm off duty.

*Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> May*

8.00am – 8.00pm on duty, dressing room.

*Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> June*

On dressing rooms after dinner. 13<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance relieved ours. Returned to Daours. Read letter from Bank.

*Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June*

6.00pm marched out to Amiens, about 10 kilometres. Arrived 12.00 noon and billeted in a beautiful green copse just out of Amiens. Will and I bivouac in a little house we made out of trees. Amiens out of bounds. Continually shelled and deserted by inhabitants.

*Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June*

9.00am parade. In afternoon we walked to Bollinville, about 2 kilometres away and had eggs and coffee.

*Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June*

9.00am parade, dismissed. Studied and read.

*Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June*

9.00am parade. Studied.

*Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> June*

9.00am parade and went for a stroll. 2.00pm inoculated for Typhoid.

*Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June*

9.00am parade. Sent 15/- to Mabie Todd & Co for pen.

*Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> June*

9.00am parade. Sports, running, etc in afternoon.

*Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> June*

On water picket 10.00pm – 2.00am.

*Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> June*

Afternoon walked to Bollinville – Coing and other villages, about 14 kilometres. I had milk and eggs at the farms.

*Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June*

9.00am parade. Read.

*Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June*

Received papers from Miss Victoria Booth (America) 4356 Lowell Avenue, Chicago (Mrs Catherine).

*Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June*

9.00am parade. Studying.

*Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> June*

9.00am parade. Study. 8.00pm conducted service in woods.

*Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> June*

8.00am marched out to Petite Kemmel, 5 kilometres towards line. Billeted in tents in wood.

*Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> June*

9.00am parade. Received fountain pen from Mabie Todd & Co.

*Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> June*

4.00am 12 of us C Section went to build A.D.S (Advanced Dressing Station) with tunnellers. Returned 12.00pm in ambulance wagon. Letter from W. Hopp and L.E.

*Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> June*

Study. Mail from home.

*Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June*

12.00pm – 8.00am building A.D.S about 4 kilometres away.

*Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> June*

Slept all day. Went to 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade concert at Allenville in evening. Letter from M.B.I. Received money for S.C.C.

*Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> June*

Studied during day.

*Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June*

Studied. Went to 12<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance concert in evening.

*Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June*

9.00am parade. Went to service in evening.

*Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> June*

9.00am Will and I went to D.A.D. OS for clothing for leave to Paris tomorrow – 10 days.

### **1918 Leave in Paris**

*Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June*

6.00am we went in ambulance car with Major Guest & Crome to catch train at Salines 2.00am. Rouen 12.30pm. Went through Amiens in car. The centre of town is blown down by shells and bombs. Had dinner and walked around Rouen till 4.00pm. Arrived Paris 9.30pm. Went to Pap Barracks Y.M.C.A hut. Stayed at Ostend Hotel near the Opera.

*Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June*

Did some shopping and strolled around town. After dinner booked in at Hotel de Paris in centre of town. The Louvre and Opera. Had dinner at Café Bison and went to Follies – Bergers. Air raid at 12.00pm.



*Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> June*

Went round town. Visited Place Concord and Exhibition. Here met 2 French nurses, Misses Blum. They took us to the Madelin and other places. In evening went to Olympia. Air raid about 12.00pm. Drew 150 francs each at Barracks.

*Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> June*

Went around town. We met Misses Blum in afternoon. They showed us around the city. Both have been nurses in Italy since war began and speak Italian and English fluently. They are in the hospital at Versailles, their home is there. In evening had dinner at Restaurant Maubest with Will and went to Casino Theatre. Visited the Bois de Belougne. Air raid 12pm

*Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> June*

Went around town met the Misses Blum in afternoon and visited Tuilleres Gardens and the big wheel. They return to duty after afternoon tea. Visited Pathes Freres, Patho-Phones. There we heard some excellent music. Anything up to grand Opera and all latest songs on the Patho Phones. We met Mademoiselle Bertot here and went to Cinema after tea.

*Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> June*

About town. At Barracks drew third of account 20 francs. Will 50 francs. Visited Les Invalides and Tomb of Napoleon with Misses Blum in afternoon. We spent the evening at our hotel. Air raid about 12.00pm.

*Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> July*

In town visited other interesting places. In evening went to Cinema with Mademoiselle Bertot.

*Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July*

In afternoon met Misses Blum and visited interesting places in town. M. Blum gave me a string of beads she brought from Italy when nursing there.

*Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July*

In town. Met Major Guest this morning. Went to Cinema with M. Bertot in evening. "He de Fontaine" Moliere & Jasperd.

*Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> July*

The Greatest 4<sup>th</sup> America and France's Day celebrated in Paris and all over today. The town is crowded. It is a great holiday here. Americans have a procession. Many people invited us in to their homes today. The Parisian's think a great deal of the Aussies here and as we are the first dozen or so British for 6 months we had a great reception. Soldiers and officers of all nationalities

are here in their gay uniform except the Germans, Austrians, Turks and Bulgars. The women are very pretty and beautifully dressed and are as free with privates as with officers. The crowds are on the Boulevards des Italiens and other Boulevards which go around the city and large restaurants. As the Bison and Fauby, etc are handed around the theatres ie Follies Bergers, Casino and Olympic are crowded with gay pleasure seekers. The town is dark after 8.00pm outside but inside Cafes, Theatres, Hotels are all ablaze. They gave an excellent time. Paris is the most beautiful town I have seen. So well lined out. Met Padre Chaplain Bent today in Place-Vendome. Left Paris 10.15pm by civil train, arrived Rouen at 5.00am.

### **1918 Rest Camp Rouen**

*Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> July*

Spent day in Rouen. In evening went to Camp 4 kilometres out of town. Slept in open. Rouen is a pretty town with many important churches. The river Seine flows through it and it is famous in the history of France re Joan d'Arc. She was put to death here.

*Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> July*

In rest camp. Spent whole day in Rouen. Drew 30 francs, Will 15 francs from Australia pay office here. Returned to camp 10.00pm.

*Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> July*

Rest camp Rouen. Spent day in Rouen. Went to English C of E service in basement of Cathedral in morning.

*Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> July ( no entry)*

*Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> July*

Rest camp. 5.30am parade and returned to lines. Left Rouen by train 8.30pm.

### **Pernois, St Gratiar, Petite Kammon, Allonville Wood**

*Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July*

12.00 noon arrived at 5<sup>th</sup> Division wing camp, Pernois and went to gas school in afternoon.

*Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> July*

6.00am left Pernois and marched to Bertangles 12 noon.

*Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> July*

7.00am left Bertangles and marched to St Gratiar, 7 kilometres. Arrived there 11.00am. Joined up with unit 6.00pm at Petite Kammon.

*Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> July*

Parade 9.00am. Received large mail and Schofield Bible from M.B.I, Chicago, USA. Also money sent from bank. Paid 18 pounds into my pay book, Will 8 pounds. Studied.

*Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am parade. Went to service in tent 10.00am and 6.30pm.

*Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am parade, went for wood. Met Wal Stafford. Wrote letters and studied Schofield Bible. Paid 20 francs, Will 10 francs.

*Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am parade. Wrote letter and studied Schofield Bible. Went to fellowship in evening in barn.

*Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am parade. Did first exam in Schofield Bible and wrote letters.

*Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am parade. Wrote letters.

*Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am parade. Exam in Schofield Bible and wrote.

*Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am parade. Schofield Bible and wrote.

*Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> July*

8.00am went for water. Did exam Schofield Bible and went to service in morning.

*Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July*

9.00am parade. Wrote to John for cable Will 15 pounds.

*Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July*

9.00am parade. Studied Schofield Bible.

*Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am parade. Study Greek and Schofield Bible.

*Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am parade. Study and sent 1st Schofield Exam to M.B.I.

*Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am parade. Studying.

*Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am parade. Studied.

*Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am parade. Studied. Went to service in tent in evening.

*Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am parade. Studied. Went to 4<sup>th</sup> Division pictures in evening.

*Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am parade. Studied. Picket 3.00am – 5.00am.

*Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> July*

8.00am we are sent as advance guard to camps in Allonville Wood. Remainder follow in morning.

*Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> August*

Afternoon parade, built a hut in the woods and studied.

*Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August*

9.00am parade. Studied. Sent 2<sup>nd</sup> Exam Schofield Bible to M.B.I, USA. Went to concert in evening.

*Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August*

Studied. Went to 4<sup>th</sup> Division concert.

*Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> August*

9.00am parade. I took service in evening in Y.M.C.A tent – text “Give Us A Sign”.

## 1918 SOMME - FRONT

*Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> August*

9.00am parade. Left Allonville this morning for front. Marched to Aubigney, 12 kilometres. Slept in cellar.

*Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> August*

Spent day in Aubigney. 8.00pm went up to supports Villers-Bretonneux in trenches.

*Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> August*

Spent day in trenches. 12.00pm went up to front with 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

*Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> August*

4.20am zero 2<sup>nd</sup> Division broke through enemy and beyond field guns. Went 5 kilometres. We followed our division 5<sup>th</sup> and went through 2<sup>nd</sup> about 12 kilometres, taking many prisoners, guns, etc. All Australian Division, Canadians with Tommies, Yanks and French. We had few casualties in Division. Germans had 5 casualties to 1.

*Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> August*

Our Division again advanced and we follow up. 2<sup>nd</sup> Division went through them. Many prisoners. S.H killed, one of our squad wounded. Cathres F Artery cut.

*Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> August*

7<sup>th</sup> Division relieved us. This morning we marched out to White Chateau, M.D.S at Villers-Bretonneux.

*Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> August*

Arrived in M.D.S and slept in deep dug-out.

*Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> August*

At M.D.S, White Chateau.

*Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August*

At M.D.S (medical dressing station) with ambulance and camper near Ignacourt.

*Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> August*

Stayed in Ignacourt in reserve to Canadians. Met Cas Hewitt.

*Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> August*

At Ignacourt.

*Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> August*

Left Ignacourt and took over A.D.S at Bayon-Villers. B & A Section stretcher bearers went to lines. I went to 14<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance in Charabanc to Hamel.

*Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> August*

At A.D.S (advanced dressing post) closest to front lines.

*Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> August*

At A.D.S, Bayon-Villers.

*Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> August*

A.D.S, Bayon-Villers.

*Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August*

Went up lines to R.A.P (Reg Aid Post) to make dressing station. No work.

*Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> August*

8.00am went with 1<sup>st</sup> C Section to R.A.P Merricourt to build dressing station – no work. Shell landed alongside Charabanc going home, it went over the side but did not explode.

*Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August*

1<sup>st</sup> Division relieved us.

*Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August*

Marched back to Hamel.

*Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> August*

9.00am parade. Walked with Will to Daours and Bussy. Received kits.

*Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> August*

7.00am parade. Studied Schofield.

*Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> August*

7.00am we all to 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Went to lines Merricourt. Enemy retreated. Stunt cancelled. Return M.D.S at Bayon-Villers.

*Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> August*

At Bayon-Villers.

*Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> August*

At Bayon-Villers.

*Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> August*

6.00pm to Raincourt, Proyast and Sugcourt and spent night in old trench in supports near Villers-Cardinittes, 15 kilometres march.

*Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> August*

At 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion at R.A.P Cardinittes. 1<sup>st</sup> Company crossed Somme. 10.00pm relieved by Scots 51<sup>st</sup> Division and marched back to German C.C.S near Estres, 10 kilometres. Slept on roadside.

*Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> August*

12.00 noon met others and went back then to A.D.S, Herbicourt.

*Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> September*

12.00 noon to loading post after tea off 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion in supports.

*Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September*

Crossed the Somme with 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion to Halley and Clery.

*Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September*

In supports.

*Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September*

Went to supports outside Peronne. Three of our squad wounded by shell shrapnel - Finch, Peddar and Will . Will remained on duty, slight shrapnel in leg.

*Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> September*

At night marched through. Was being shelled and heavily gassed. Wore gas masks. Marched 12 kilometres. Passed Doingt and slept in a field about morning.

*Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> September*

12.00 noon advanced to Mont le Charris, 5 kilometres. A fleet of German planes attacked us, firing machine guns. Tom Gregan wounded. Afternoon our A.D.S near us.

*Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> September*

6.00am went through Scots 8 kilometres towards St. Quentin through Veraignes. Our line is beyond Pocuville. We are in a trench in Pocuville, about 60 kilometres from our starting point. Thousands of prisoners and Booty captured.

*Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> September*

R.A.P at Pocuilly. Shelled out of trench and slept in sump holes.

*Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> September*

R.A.P, Pocuilly.

*Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September*

R.A.P, Pocuilly. Relieved by 13<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance and 4<sup>th</sup> Division. Marched out 8 kilometres. Had tea by the way and dinner at 12.00pm and camped in old German hut near St Grens.

*Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September*

Joined our unit in old mill new St. Grens and Mons. Built a dug-out for 4 of us.

*Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> September*

Our passes through for leave to England. Will, Morcombe and I rode on motor lorries back to Villers-Bretonneux, over 50 kilometres, then past chalk pits down to Aubignay for packs and back to Villers-Bretonneux where we slept in a house near station.

### **1918 LEAVE - England & Scotland**

*Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> September*

7.00am caught train. All day in train, reached Boulogne 10.00pm. Had supper and slept in barracks.

*Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> September*

Caught boat 12.30pm. Arrived Folkstone 2.00pm. London 6.00pm. Got new uniform, hot bath – first for weeks. Paid 24 pounds, Will 14 pounds. Stayed long time with Cas at Horseferry Road. Left Euston Station 11.30pm for Scotland. Raining.

*Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> September*

Arrived Glasgow 9.00am. Met P. Sawyers and went to Rouken Glen in afternoon. Spent night at Minnie's place.

*Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September*

Had dinner in town with Minnie and boy. All went to theatre in evening.

*Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September*

Went to pictures with Minnie.

*Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September*



Met P.S. Spent day in town with Will.

*Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> September*

Went to town and out with Mr Storm in evening.

*Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> September*

Met Reg Morcombe. Will went to Edinburgh and back. Spent evening with Reg at Minnie's place.

*Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> September*

Went to town and pictures in evening.

*Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September*

Went to church with P. Sawyers and Vaddingstone afternoon.

*Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September*

Spent day in town.

*Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September*

Spent day in town with Minnie and boy and Will.

*Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September*

Went to Rouken Glen in afternoon with P. Sawyers and returned to spend evening at Minnie's.

*Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> September*

In town with Minnie and I. Storm and boy. Went to see Martin Harvey (theatre in evening) "A Cigarette Marks Romance". All had tea at Grosvenor. P. Sawyers came to see us off in 10.00pm train.

*Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September*

Arrived London 8am. Went round town. Hyde Park etc. Had supper at Lyons

*Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> September*

Will drew John's cable for 15 pounds at bank. Saw "Chu-Chen-Chow" in afternoon. Met Grace at 5.00pm, Margaret unable to come. Went to see "Tails Up" and stayed at Cranston's Ivanhoe Hotel.

## 1918 FRANCE AGAIN

*Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> September*

Left Victoria Station 8.00am. Marched to Folkstone Camp, billeted the houses by shore. Caught boat for Boulogne 1.00pm. Went to camp at Boulogne "1 blanket hill" and bought Bruges Lace for Minnie and Bessie and P. Sawyers and had a look around town. Slept in tent. Still raining hard.

*Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> September*

Caught train 6.00am. Arrived Brie Nucleus Camp, 5<sup>th</sup> Division in afternoon and slept there the night.

*Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October*

Walked through Penonne till 3.00pm and joined unit running A.D.S in lines. Americans broke Hindenburg Line but did not mop up and were almost cut off. The Australians mopped up and went through them and saved them. 4.00pm on Admissions Tent for walking wounded. Will on sanitary. Received corrected exams from M.B.I – No.1 100 marks, No.2 96 marks, No.3 100 marks.

*Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October*

6<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance take over. We camped nearby. Met Captain Kelly Dindal.

*Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October*

9.00am march out 4 kilometres to water carts. Slept in dug-outs. I am put in charge of horse fodder.

*Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> October*

In charge horse feed.

*Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> October*

In charge horse feed. Will on water cart.

*Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> October - Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> October*

Feeding horses.

*Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October*

9.00am ambulance marched to Peronne. I am orderly on German Ambulance Wagon (salvaged). Will went with water cart. About 6.00 arrived at Peronne. Heard that Germany accepted Wilson's terms and asks for Armistice. Entrained after 12.00pm, left about 2.00pm.

*Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October*

Arrived Oisemont, Abeville and Amiens and billeted in Chateau in little village, Biencourt. Sleep in stable.

*Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> October*

In charge of horse feed. Will painting ambulance wagons. After tea walked to next village, Martineville – 4 kilometres.

*Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> October*

Horse feed. Will painting. After tea went to village of Blaujay, 6 kilometres away. Fair sized village.

*Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> October*

Horse feed. Will painting. Studied Schofields. Cabled to John for 15 pounds each.

*Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> October*

Horse feeding. Will painting. Went to Blangy after dinner.

*Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> October*

Horse feeding. Will painting. Studied Schofields and arithmetic.

*Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October*

Went to fellowship in evening in harness room. Studied Greek, arithmetic, Schofields. Horse feed. Will painting.

*Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October*

Horse feed. Will painting. Studied maths, Schofields. 9.00am parade.

*Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> October*

9.00am went in motor lorry to Abbeville. Visited the hospital, 3 A.S.H, and met many old friends there. Went to theatre “Cousin Kate” evening.

*Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> October*

Horse feed. 9.00am parade. Will painting. Took service in evening “Introduction to Prophecy”. Studied arithmetic and Schofields bible.

*Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> October*

Horse feed. Will painting. 9.00am parade. Studied.

*Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> October*

Horse feed. Finished 4<sup>th</sup> Schofields Bible exam. Wrote letters.

*Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> October*

Horse feed. Will painting. Commenced 5<sup>th</sup> Schofields Bible exam.

*Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October*

Horse feed. Will painting. Study maths, Greek, Schofields Bible and "Fellowship".

*Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October*

Horse feed. Will painting. Studied Schofields Bible. Went to Y.M.C.A pictures in evening.

*Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October*

Horse feed. Will painting. 9.00am parade. Maths and wrote letters in the evening. Received pay books today. Posted 4<sup>th</sup> exam Schofields to Chicago.

*Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> October*

Horse feed. Will painting. Maths and studied "Christianity and Progress". Went to Y.M.C.A concert.

*Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> October*

Horse feed. Will painting. Studied maths and exam Schofield Bible. Received letters from Instruction Education Office, A.I.F headquarters, London.

*Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> October*

Horse feed. Will painting. Studied Schofields Bible. Services 9.00am and 6.00pm.

*Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> October*

Horse feed. Will painting. Study maths and finish 5<sup>th</sup> Schofield exam. Letter from Minnie.

*Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October*

Feed horses. Will painting. Studied maths, Schofields 6<sup>th</sup> exam.

*Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October*

Feed horses. Will painting. Studied maths. Spent a while writing "A Stretcher-bearers Experience in the Lines" for Captain Earnshaw to put in the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance war diary. Wrote an account of Stunt 4, Aimentiers. Went to cinema.

*Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> October*

Feed horses. Will painting. G.O.C 5<sup>th</sup> Division inspection. Wrote for the war diaries. Corrected Chaplain Cosier's report on spiritual work of ambulance. Chaplain Cosier leaving to become Captain Chaplain in morning.

*Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> November*

Feed horses. Will painting. Studied Schofield. Wrote for Ambulance Diary.

*Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November*

Feeding horses. Will painting. Studied Schofield Bible. Wrote for Ambulance Diary.

*Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> November*

Feed horses. Will painting. Exam Schofield. Wrote for Ambulance Diary.

*Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> November*

8.00am Will and I went to Abbeville Concert "Cavaliers" – walked home 15 kilometres 8.00pm.

*Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November*

Feed horses and Will painting. Exam Schofield No.6.

*Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November*

Feed horses. Will painting. Exam Schofield. German Generals in France this afternoon with Fock re Armistice.

*Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> November*

Feed horses. Will in bed all day. Influenza, Temp 104°. Studied Schofield Bible. Commenced bible class. I took subject "Inspection and Authority of Bible" for systematic bible study – 6 present.

### **Hospital - Armistice Signed**

*Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> November*

After dinner both (sent) to No.3 A.S.H, Abbeville with Influenza.

*Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> November*

Both in hospital. Will in next bed. Temp 104°, Influenza and Pneumonia.

*Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November*

5.00am Armistice signed. Both in 3<sup>rd</sup> A.S.H, Rheumatism.

*Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November*

No.3 A.S.H

*Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November*

In 3<sup>rd</sup> A.S.H. Will in next bed. Hearts affected.

*Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November*

In 3<sup>rd</sup> A.S.H hospital. Got up today.

*Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> November*

In No.3 A.S.H. Transferred to No.2 B.S.H in afternoon. Both with Scabies.

*Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November*

In No.2 B.S Hospital, next to No.3 A.S.H, both with weak hearts, colds, scabies.

*Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November*

Both in No.2 British General Hospital.

*Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> November*

Both in No.2 B.S.H. Went to Y.M.C.A in evening.

*Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> November -Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> November*

In No.2 B.S Hospital.

*Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November*

In No.2 . Both discharged to duty. Caught train 1.00pm for Le Havre (Roules), Australian General Base. Details arrived 7.00pm next day. (Hospital 16 days).

### **1918 FRANCE**

*Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December*

All day in cattle trucks and all previous night. Very cold. Arrived Harfleurs 7.00pm and base details about 10.00pm.

*Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December*

At A.S.B.D, Roules.

*Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December*

A.S.B.D. Went on leave to Le Havre.

*Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December*

A.S.B.D.

*Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December*

A.S.B.D. Both sent in applications for entrance to Glasgow University, Theology and Architectural Schools.

*Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December*

A.S.B.D.

*Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December*

We had leave again to Le Havre.

*Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December*

Warned for draught to return to unit. Did not go.

*Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup>, until Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> December*

A.S.B.D.

*Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December*

A.S.B.D. Service in morning. Wrote to P.O London and home, 3.00pm left for return to unit, entrained in cattle trucks 6.00pm at Le Havre. Spent all night in train.

*Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December*

Arrived Busigny about 12.00 noon. 9.00pm took train 5 miles back and slept in open barn in rain.

*Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December*

9.00am marched 10 kilometres with full kits to Division Wing Camp. Arrived Catallion 2.00pm. In barn.

*Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December*

9.00am motor took us to Favril to rejoin unit. Unit marching 14 kilometres to Auvesnes Went on in motor to Auvesnes and joined unit at Barracks recently occupied by Germans.

*Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December*

10.00am marched 10 kilometres to Sars-Potiers. Billeted in Potiers houses. All the civilians here have been with the Germans during the war over 4 years. They are delighted to be on our side of the line. Received letters from Scotland and France.

*Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December*

Will, McF and I took room today in French home. Collected cabbage and turnips the Germans left in field and cooked them. Paid 7 francs.

*Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> December*

9.00am parade, fatigues. 2.00pm parade. Studied in evening.

*Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December*

All University students to return by March 19<sup>th</sup> to Australia. Wrote letters, stayed in house.

*Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December*

9.00am parade, fatigues till 11.00am. Wrote and studied.

*Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December*

9.00am parade, fatigues. 2.00pm parade. Studied Scriptures and Schofield Bible. Christmas Eve and the snow just beginning to fall.

*Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December*

Christmas. Had dinner in school hall. Turkey and pudding. Little snow lying on the ground. Passed the day quietly. Spent afternoon and evening studying. Service in school in morning.

*Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> December*

9.00am parade. Filled water carts. Spent the day studying in house. Received paper from John. Letter from M.B.I.

*Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> December*

9.00am parade. Filled water carts. Studied during day. Letter from base P.O, London noting change of address. Paid 7 francs.

*Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> December*

Raining, no parades. Studied.

*Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> December*

9.00am parade. Sick parade, ears. Studied all day. Wrote Presbyterian, Church of Scotland. Paid 80 francs each.

*Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> December*

Parade account sick. Studied. Letter from L.E Bank. Will sent for look on "spec". 14/- and sent an application for Architectural Set in Glasgow.

*Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> December*



Parade, sick (ear cold). Studied morning and afternoon. Received book from Lucie Esteouille, Valance, France. Walked to Soliel-Chateau, 5 kilometres, and went to 5<sup>th</sup> Division Cinema. Went to bed early.

### **1919 Sars- Potiers, Soilre - Chateau, Hestrud**

*Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January*

(Dull). No parcels. Received paper from John. Spent afternoon studying Greek. In evening finished 7<sup>th</sup> exam in Schofield Bible courses. Studied "Joshua". After dinner loaded C Section material to go to ordinance. Will studying "Rivingtons Architecture".

*Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January*

(Fine). 9.00am parade, dismissed. Studied Greek in afternoon. Schofield Bible in evening. Commenced 8<sup>th</sup> exam. Sent 11/- to M.B.I for "S.B" and magazine. Will also applied to study in Scotland for R.I B.A as requested by Division and Corp Education Offices at Royal Tech College of Glasgow. Sent exams 6 & 7 to M.B.I.

*Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January*

(Fine). Parade, dismissed. Rode in Algerian Ambulance Wagon to Soilre-Chateau and walked to Hestrud, 10 kilometres on frontiers near Belgium. Had a peep at Belgium. Afternoon at a farm and got motor back to Soilre-Chateau and walked home in the rain. Will not well. Stayed at home. Paid 7 francs. Received letter from L.E, Valenns.

*Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> January*

(Fine). 9.00am parade, dismissed. Spent all day studying Greek and Schofield Bible. Sent exam 8 to M.B.I. Will went to Hestrud with McFadgen.

*Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> January*

(Rain). 9.00am parade. 10.00am 20 of us went to Y.M.C.A room for review, General Birdwood. Spent day in house. Received 15 letters from Australia (Mary, Robert, John, K.W, N.S, E.P, L.S, Lizzie, L.S.B and A.D).

*Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade, dismissed. Studied. Letters from P.S. After tea went to 5<sup>th</sup> Division pictures at Y.M.C.A.

*Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade, dismissed. Studied Greek in morning. Walked with Will to Hestrud, 10 kilometres away. In afternoon letters from Robert, Mary and John.

*Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade, water fatigue. 25 of our 1915 men left for Australia this morning. Studied Greek. Received 15 pounds each from John. Notice from Commonwealth Bank. Also photos from John, paper from Lizzie and letters. Studied Schofield Bible in evening.

*Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January*

No morning parade. Studied Greek. 2.00pm parade, dismissed. Wrote to Bank to pay 15 pounds each to credit in pay book. Received letter from Director of Education to apply immediately for repatriation. Received another note from Bank re money. Read in evening.

*Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> January*

Parade. On ward duties. 4 German prisoners in ward. Studied Greek in afternoon and Schofield Bible in evening. Paid 7 francs.

*Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> January*

Relieved ward duties this morning. Studied Greek and Schofield Bible in evening.

*Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am parade, dismissed. Studied Greek in morning. After dinner Will went for rations – Q.M to St. le Chateau. I walked to a Belgian village, 10 kilometres. Received papers and mail from Australia. John, Robert, Mary, K.W, N.S, E & L, E.P and Lucie Esteoulle, France. Received photos of Bruce and Barcroft.

*Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January*

9.30am parade, dismissed. Studied Greek, read. Went to 5<sup>th</sup> Division pictures in evening with Will. Wrote to Mother and Mary.

*Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January*

9.30am parade (hours fatigue). Studied Greek in morning and Schofield Bible in afternoon. Evening wrote to K.W. Received mail from Bessie, L Esteoulle re Rivingtons book and book from home.

*Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January*

9.30am parade, dismissed. Studied Greek and read in evening. Schofield Bible study 1 Kings.

*Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January*

9.30am parade, water fatigue. Studied Greek in morning, Schofield Bible in afternoon. Went to 5<sup>th</sup> Division Cinema in evening. Parade to Y.M.C.A Hall to hear General Nicols lecture on repatriation and demobilisation. Received parcel from Mary, Rivingtons book on Architecture and letter from Rev. R.H. Dunlop, Deputy - Church of Scotland Home Mission referring me to Dr. Gardiner of Kirknewton re Theology Hall, Sydney University.

*Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> January*

9.30am parade, dismissed. Studied Greek in morning. Wrote to Rev. R.H. Dunlop, Edinburgh. Also wrote to Architects College and Royal Tech College, Glasgow re Will, also P.S. In evening studied Schofield, Kings II.

*Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> January*

9.30am parade, dismissed. Studied Greek in morning. Wrote to A. Orr and L. Est in afternoon. Received two parcels from Mother and one from Kate, also letters from Mother, Mary, John, Kate, F.O, N.S, E.P, L. Esteouille, Li Vaughan, F.O, N.S. Studied Schofield in evening, Kings II.

*Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> January*

9.30am parade, dismissed. Studied Greek, Schofield Bible and wrote home.

*Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January*

9.30am parade, dismissed. Studied Greek and read. In evening Schofield Exam  
1 – 11 Chron. Received papers from home. Finished 8<sup>th</sup> Schofield exam.

*Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January*

9.30am parade, dismissed. Studied Greek and read. Letter from Uncle John Melrose. Parcel from Mary. Wrote to Mundie and sent for writing pad, etc.

*Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January*

9.30am parade, dismissed. Will in charge of ward 8.00am – 8.00pm. Studied Greek. Wrote to K.W. Studied Schofield Bible.

*Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January*

9.30am parade, dismissed. Studied Greek and read. Received parcels from home. Lizzie S. and Robert & Boodie – 2 letters.

*Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> January*

9.30am parade, dismissed. Studied Greek, Schofield Bible and read Drummond. Received postcard from J. Blum. Wrote to J.B and K.W.  
7 francs pay each.

*Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January*

9.30am parade, dismissed. Studied Greek in morning, read Drummond and Schofield Bible in evening.

*Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> January*

Snowing heavily. 9.30am parade, dismissed. In afternoon got car to Estrud, walked home through snow. Received letters L. Esteouille and Bank re money transferred to pay book.

*Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> January*

9.30am parade, dismissed. Read in morning. Paid 20 francs each, 15 pounds each from Commonwealth Bank, London paid to credit in pay book. Wrote to Mother and Robert. Received letter from P.S, Scotland. Read Drummond and did Schofield Bible in evening – Ezekiel

*Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January*

9.30am on parade, water fatigue. 4.00pm on heater at school room. Studied Greek and read Schofield Bible in evening.

*Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am Ward Orderly, 8.00am – 8.00pm. 3 patients. Will on hospital work. Studied Schofield. Received letter from Grace.

*Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January*

8.00am nursing in hospital. 5 patients duty?. Studied Greek. Received letter from Lucie Estouille.

*Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January*

8.00am – 8.00pm nursing in ward. Will off. Studied Greek (verbs) and Schofield Bible.

*Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> February*

Snowing. 8.00am – 8.00pm Will and I on wards. Studied Greek and Schofield Bible (Daniel). Received paper from home.

*Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February*

8.00am – 8.00pm hospital – 5 patients. Studied Schofield Bible (Esther).

*Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February*

2.00pm – 5.00pm on hospital – 6 patients. Went to 5<sup>th</sup> Division Cinema.

8.00pm – 8.00am on duty in hospital. Letters from L.E, Margaret, P.S and Royal Tech College, Glasgow offering Will a course of studies in Architecture.

*Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February*

8.00am came off duty for the day. Slept in morning. Studied Greek and Schofield Bible (Nehemiah). Letter from Minnie

*Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February*

8am came off duty. Will on duty til 8pm. Studied Scriptures and Schofield Bible. Wrote to Mary, C Bank, PS on duty wards 8pm to 8am.

*Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February*

8am came off duty. Will on duty. Studied scripture and Schofield Bible in evening. Wrote to Margaret, Minnie, Grace. On duty ward 8.00pm – 6 patients.

*Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> February*

8.00am off duty. Went for stroll in afternoon. 8.00pm on duty – 4 patients.

*Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> February*

8.00am off duty. Went for stroll. 8.00pm on duty – wards. Unit dinner and send off to Australia to 1915 men. Went to 5<sup>th</sup> Division Cinema.

*Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> February*

8.00am off duty. Went for stroll. 8.00pm on duty.

*Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> February*

8.00am off duty. Studied Greek. Letter from Mr Blum. Went to Cinema in evening. 8.00pm on ward – 9 patients.

*Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February*

8.00am off duty. Studied Greek. 8.00pm on duty wards to 8.00am. Will 8.00am – 8.00pm.

*Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February*

8am off duty. Studied. 8pm on duty. Will on day duty.

*Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February*

8am off duty. Studied. 5.15 Lecture in school room by J.E. Pulsford. 6pm on duty. Will on day duty.

*Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> February*

8.00am off duty – 6 patients. Went to Cinema. Alpine Charreus Band playing. 8.00pm on duty.

*Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> February*

8.00am off duty. Will off duty. Studied during day. 8.00pm on duty.

*Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> February*

8.00am off duty. Studied Greek and Schofield Bible, finished exam 9. Letter from L.E. 8.00pm on duty, wards.

*Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> January*

8.00am off duty. Rested in morning. After dinner Will and I walked to 5<sup>th</sup> Division pay office at Solre-le-Chateau and drew 5 pounds each (130 francs). Studied Schofield Bible – Job. Read. 8.00pm on duty, wards.

*Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January*

8.00am off duty. Studied. 8.00pm on duty till 8.00am.

### **1919 BELGIUM**

*Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January*

9.00am. Caught leave bus for Charleroi, 50 kilometres in Belgium. Arrived there after dinner and caught passenger train to Bruxelles (Brussels), 60 kilometres further on. Arrived there about 5.00pm and took hotel on the main Boulevard Anspack. Will and I had a look around Brussels. The place is very gay. Dancing restaurants being open all night and morning.

*Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> February*

This morning we visited all the important buildings and places - Palais de Justice, Palais-de-le-roi, Art Gallery and saw Reubens' paintings, Mannekin Pis, Cathedrals, etc. In evening went to several entertainments. All seem to seek pleasure here, even gayer than Paris. It was the same when Germans occupied the town.

*Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> February*

This morning went round town again with Will. Caught train at 2.30 for Charleroi. Passed through Waterloo (battlefield) just out of Brussels. Saw Napoleon's mound and monument in the field. The capital, Brussels, is an historical place. Arrived Charleroi about 5.00pm. Took hotel and visited Museum of Anatomy and English Theatre there.

*Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February*

This morning 10.00am caught leave bus for Sars-Potiers. Passed through Beaumont, stayed a while. Solre Chateau & S.P about 4.00pm. Received mail from Robert, John, Mary, K.W and posted postcard to Mother. Received paper

and stationery – writing pads, ink, envelopes and notebook from Mundie & Sons.

*Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February*

9.00am on wards, day duty. In charge of another ward – 5 patients. Will on day duty 8.00am.

*Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February*

8.00am on ward duty – 4 patients. Will also. 5.00pm we went to 5<sup>th</sup> Division pictures. Paid 20 francs each.

*Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February*

Off duty. 8.00pm on night duty in wards – 16 patients. Will on day. 8.00am off duty.

*Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February*

8.00am Will on wards. Off duty 8.00am. Will did not go on duty 8.00pm.

*Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> February*

8.00am Will on duty. Off duty. Read during day. 8.00pm on duty, wards.

*Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. Studied Schofield Bible (Job) during day. 8.00pm on duty.

*Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty, wards. 8.00pm on duty. Papers from Lizzie Stevens.

*Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Read and studied during day (Schofield Bible).

*Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Will off duty. 15<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance amalgamated with 8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance and taken over the hospital, etc.

*Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March*

2.00pm Will and I and 2 others left Sars-Potiers in an ambulance car for Jeumont, an hour's run about 20 kilometres on Belgium border to work in hospital. Will on wards day. I in kitchen. Three German prisoners work for us. Living is comfortable here. In evening took a stroll around town and through Erquelines, across the railway line Belgium. 20 men 8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance to return to Australia this week.

*Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am on duty. Received letter from L. Esteoulle. We are examined (medical) to return to Australia.

*Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am on duty, kitchen and sanitary. Will day hospital orderly. Went to cinema in evening with Will. Studied Schofield Bible – Proverbs.

*Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am on duty. In evening took a stroll around Erquelines.

*Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am on duty. Went for a stroll in evening.

*Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am on duty. We went for a walk through Erquelines in evening. Received letter from P. Sawyers.

*Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am breakfast. Letter from McFadgen, Scotland, papers from Lizzie and letter from Euston. Telegraph Co. Ltd, London for cable to John for 30 pounds and 15 pounds each. Cost 12/-.

*Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am breakfast. On duty. Went to Erquelines with Will in evening.

*Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am breakfast. On duty in kitchen. In evening strolled through Jeumont and couple of villages nearby.

*Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am breakfast. On duty in kitchen. Went in evening to Belgian house in Erquelines.

*Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> March*

On duty in kitchen. Will day ward orderly. Went for a walk around Jeumont and Erquelines in evening with Will.



*Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> March*

On duty in kitchen. Will day ward orderly. Paid 40 francs each. Received letters from Grace and Margaret Mathers. In evening went to Belgian Cinema with Will. Received papers from home.

*Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> March*

On duty in kitchen. Will ward orderly in hospital. Papers from home and M.B.I. 29 men 8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance returning to Australia this week. 8.00pm I am on night duty in wards till 8.00am. Will 8.00am – 8.00pm.

*Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00pm on duty. Studied Schofield Bible. Will on wards till 8.00pm. Letter from L. Esteouille. Went for walk with Will. 8.00pm on duty in wards. Letters from Minnie, Grace and Margaret.

*Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. Read and went for a walk in afternoon. 8.00pm on duty. Wrote letters till 1.00am. Chocolate to J. Blum, Paris. Received papers from M.B.I.

*Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. Slept and read in morning. In evening went to pictures with Will. In afternoon Will went with ambulance car to Mons, about 20 kilometres away. 8.00pm on duty in wards.

*Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Will on wards. Went for a stroll with Will in afternoon. 8.00pm on duty.

*Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. In afternoon went with Will for walk, 4 kilometres away. 8.00pm on duty.

*Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March*

Cable from bank – 15 pounds each. 8.00am off duty. Will on duty. In forenoon walked to town of Solre-sue-Sambre, a pretty town 3 miles in Belgium. Received letters from Cosier, Bank, received another 15 pounds from John (re cable), Mother, Robert, John, Kate. Went to cinema Erquelines in evening. On night duty.

*Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. In afternoon walked with Will to Marpent beyond Jeumont. 8.00pm on duty.

*Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. Went to Division pictures in evening. 8.00pm on duty. Exam 8 from M.B.I – 98%. 8.00pm on duty.

*Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. Went for a stroll with Will in evening. Papers from M.B.I. Letter from L. Esteouille. Draught left unit for Australia. 8.00pm on duty.

*Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. In evening went to Marpent. Studied Schofield Bible. 8.00pm on duty.

*Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. Studied Schofield Bible (Jeremiah). Walked with Will in evening to Solre-sur-Sambre. 8.00pm on duty.

*Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. Studied Schofield Bible. Went to cinema with Will. Paid 30 francs each. 8.00pm on duty. Sent postcards home.

*Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. Studied Schofield Bible. Went to Belgian Cinema at Erquelines with Will. 8.00pm on duty. Left Australia 3 years ago today.

*Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. Received letter from Mary. 8.00pm on duty. Studied Schofield Bible (adoption).

*Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> March*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. Received letters from Minnie and J. Blum. Walked with Will through Jeumont. Studied Schofield Bible (Advocacy). 8.00pm on duty.

*Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. Went for walk with Will in afternoon. Studied Schofield Bible. 8.00pm on duty.

*Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. Went for a walk with Will in afternoon.  
8.00pm on duty.

*Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April*

8.00am off duty. Will on duty. Studied, received letters from J. Blum, Paris and L. Esteoulle. 6.00pm Will and I and Barker relieved by 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance men and returned to headquarters at Walcourt by motor ambulance, about 15 kilometres. 8.00pm Walked around town.

*Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April*

8.30am breakfast. 10.30am Q.I fixed for equipment. Before dinner walked around town. Studied Schofield Bible. Went for a walk with Will in evening.

*Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> April*

8.30am breakfast. Studied. Walked around town with Will after tea. Letter from Mother (Will). Sent 12<sup>th</sup> exam to M.B.I.

*Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> April*

8.30am breakfast. 10.30am went through medical board for draught. Studied Schofield Bible (Prophets) and completed study of Old Testament. Sent last exam O.T, sent 13<sup>th</sup> exam M.B.I. Went for stroll with Will in evening.

*Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> April*

8.30am breakfast. Read. Walked to village, 2 kilometres away. Studied Psalms. Walked around town with Will in evening.

**1919 FRANCE on way to England**

*Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April*

8.30am breakfast. 1.00pm 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance left Walcourt by train for Charleroi to join up with 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance 2<sup>nd</sup> Division at Mont-sur-Marcelle, suburb of Charleroi, 3 miles out. In evening went to Charleroi with Will to 4<sup>th</sup> Division concert party.

*Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April*

8.30am breakfast. 9.30am draught parade for Australia and paid 40 francs each. 12.40pm draught left Mont-sur-Marcelle for Charleroi. Will and I with Sergeant L/C Australia. Medical details to draught. Will and I spent afternoon and evening in Charleroi.

*Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> April*

About 10.00am draught left by train (in trucks) for Le Havre (Base). Had tea in Mons. Captain Earnshaw in charge of details.

*Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> April*

Breakfast in Amiens. Arrived Le Havre about 6.00am and marched into detail camp.

*Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> April*

In morning went through baths and had new underclothes. Handed in equipment and went with draught into A.I.B.D Camp. Went to Gymaster display in afternoon. 9.00am sick parade.

*Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> April*

About camp all day. Went up river in afternoon in a rowing boat. 9.00am sick parade. Wrote home.

*Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> April*

9.00am sick parade. Received second equipment, underclothing, towels, etc. Attended lecture on repatriation in afternoon.

*Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April*

Held sick parade 9.00am. In afternoon received new uniforms and spent afternoon and evening in town. Last evening in France.

## **1919 ENGLAND**

*Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April*

About 3.00pm left camp in motor lorries for boat at Le Havre. Sailed 6.00pm for South Hampton (8 hours), arrived about 3.00am and went by train to Weymouth.

*Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> April*

Arrived Littlemoor Camp, Weymouth about 2.00pm. Applied for leave to Glasgow. Attached with Will and 3 others as medical details to draught. Spent evening in Weymouth with Will. A seaside town 3 miles away.

*Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> April*

9.30am held sick parade for draught and medical examination and vaccination. Went to town in evening and had a stroll along the promenade.

*Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> April*

9.30am held sick parade, also medical examinations for quota. In evening went to town with Will and went to theatre on pier to see "Romeo & Juliet".

*Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April*

9.30am sick parade. 11.00am went to Church of England in village Upwey. After dinner walked to seashore and round to Weymouth. Went to Salvation Army service.

*Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> April*

Am 28 years of age today. (**Should be noted on 22<sup>nd</sup>**) 9.00am sick parade. Payday – 2 pounds each. Walked to town in evening, went to see "Ly-Lay".

*Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April*

9.30am held sick parade. Went to town in evening with Will.

*Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April*

9.30am sick parade. Gave application for early repatriation to Education Officer of camp. Went to town in evening (To the Director General of Demob and Repatriation A.I.F), Administrative Headquarters (London). Advised Major Holmes E.R Grosvenor Place, London, SW 24/4/19.

*Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> April*

9.30am in dressing room. Application for Demob and Repatriation sent on. Advised Major Holmes. Wrote to Mother, Mary, Katie, Minnie, P.S (postcards). Our Quota 31 went to London for Anzac march tomorrow.

*Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> April*

9.00am dressing room. After dinner walk with Will to Weymouth.

*Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> April*

9.00am dressing room. Paid 15 pounds each to leave to Glasgow. Quota returned from London. Went to beach in evening.

*Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> April*

9.00am dressing room. Went to town after tea. Received passes for Dorchester and Glasgow.

*Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> April*

7.00am left Upwey for London. Arrived 12 noon Paddington, drew 15 pounds each at Bank. Received 1pound 6/3 each at Horseferry Road, ratio allowance. Met Cas Cornish in furlough department. Met Maggie Mathers at 5.00pm, had

tea and went to theatre. Left for Glasgow 11.30pm train. Have 15 pounds in pocket before bank.

### 1919 SCOTLAND

*Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April*

Arrived Artral Station 9.00am. Went to Minnie's place. All at home and Grace from England. Went out in evening with Minnie, Grace and Mr Storm.

*Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> April*

Spent day at home. Had tea with P.S and went to Annieland?. Bought boots At Huttons 55/- each, shirts, gloves, etc. Will silver case for cigarettes 3 pounds and pipes.

*Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> May*

Spent the morning at home, went to town with Will and girls in afternoon. To Kings Theatre in evening.

*Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May*

Fine weather and warm. Spent the morning at home. Went out to town in evening.

*Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May*

Spent morning at home. Afternoon and evening spent in town with the girls.

*Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> May*

Went for day to Loch Lomond with P.S.

*Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> May*

At home in the morning, went out with the girls for afternoon and evening.

*Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May*

At Minnie's place and in Glasgow.

*Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May*

At Minnie's place and town in evening.

*Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> May*

Went to pictures in evening with P.S. Will took Mr Storm, Minnie and Grace to Opera "La Boheme" (O'Mara Co.).

*Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May*

In evening took Grace, Bessie, Mr Storm and Irish friend to Opera "Faust" (O'Mara Co.).

*Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May*

In evening Will and I took Minnie, Mr Storm Grace and P. Sawyers to Opera "**Maritana**".

*Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> May*

Spent day at home. All came to see us off by 8.55pm train. All night in train.

### **ENGLAND before Departure for Australia**

*Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May*

Arrived London 6.30am. Spent day in London. Went to see "Chu-Chin-Chou" for second time. Stayed at Deans Hotel, Oxford Street. Extension of leave granted till tomorrow by Headquarters, London. Had interview with Captain Professor Holmes, Sydney University re application for early repatriation. Also with Captain Walker and Colonel Chaplain D.D.M.S, London. My application granted but Will's not. Left it for his consideration.

*Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May*

Met Margaret at 12.00 noon and spent remainder of day with her. Went to Horseferry Road Headquarters and granted another day's leave. Went to Adelphi Theatre, "The Boy" Opera full. Took Maggie home. Staying at Deans Hotel.

*Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May*

10.00am Maggie called at Hotel for us. Went to Art Exhibition and about town. To matinee in His Majesty's Theatre "Eyes of Youth". After tea caught 6.55pm train to Weymouth. Arrived home at camp about 11.30pm by car.

*Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> May*

Spent day in camp and went to town in evening. Received mail from home, Professor Holmes, Mike Blum, Paris and Valance.

*Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> May*

Spent day in camp. Kit inspection. Paid 30/- each. Went to town in evening.

*Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> May*

In camp in morning. Went to town with Will after dinner. Received letters and paper from Robert. Letter from Mary.

*Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> May*

In camp in morning. Received pay books back up-to-date. Leaving for Fovant in morning. Went to town after dinner.

*Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> May*

7.00am all A.M.C in Quota 31 left for Fovant. Arrived Salisbury about 11.00am and Fovant Camp about 12.00 noon. Records taken. Met most of the boys left that enlisted from Liverpool with us, from all divisions. Went to cinema in evening.

*Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May*

9.30am parade and medical examination. Letters from D.D.N.S, London to put Will and I on same boat-roll for Australia, Went to Kelsey's lecture and concert at Y.M.C.A Hut at Hurdcott in evening.

*Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May*

9.30am parade. After tea went to pictures at cinema. After walked through village. Studied during day.

*Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May*

9.30am parade. After tea went to dramatic recital and pictures at Hurdcott. Studied during day.

*Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May*

9.30am parade. Studied Schofield Bible (Matthew). Went to cinema at Hurdcott.

*Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> May*

Salisbury. 9.30am parade. Will and I with about 60 others put on boat-roll "Somali" as M.C (medical corps), details for Australia. Medical exams after dinner. Caught motor car from Hurdcott to town of Salisbury, about 1 mile. Visited Salisbury Cathedral.

*Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> May*

9.30am parade. Studied during day – Schofield, etc. Went to village after tea. Letter from L. Esteouille

*Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> May*

9.30am parade. After dinner Q.M parade went to cinema and concert after tea.



*Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May*

9.30am parade. This morning handed in pay book. Warned to stand by to leave for London for "Somali" tomorrow. After dinner walked to Denton with Will and beyond, about 14 miles. Went to concert in Y.M.C.A, Hurdcott. Sent postcards home and L. Esteouille.

*Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May*

9.30am parade "Somali" details. Dismissed for pay, etc. Western Australians to take our place on "Somali". After dinner Will and I took car to Salisbury, walked around town and to theatre in evening.

*Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> May*

9.30am parade. Received letter from L. Esteouille, France and J. Blum, Paris. Studied Schofield Bible (Matthew). Went to cinema in evening with Will and Brown.

*Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> May*

9.30am parade, dismissed. Letter from L.E. Wrote to her. Went to concert in the evening. Studied during day.

*Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> May*

9.30am parade. Went to concert in Hurdcott in evening. Studied during day.

*Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> June*

9.30am parade, church. Read during day.

*Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June*

9.30am parade. Will and I put on boat-roll for the "Port Lyttleton". Paid 1 pound each. Went to cinema in evening. Studied during day.

*Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June*

9.30am parade. Study during day. Went to lecture (Dickens) and service Rev. L. Fletcher, Y.M.C.A, in evening, Hurdcott.

*Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June*

9.30am parade. Letter from L. Esteouille. Studied.

*Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> June*

9.30am parade. Paid 3 pounds each till end of month for ship. Went to lecture and pictures in evening.

## ON BOARD "Port Lyttleton"

### *Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> June*

8.00am left Fovant. 9.00am Denton via Salisbury to London. 11.30am dismissed till 4.00pm. Wired to meet Margaret, had dinner and she saw us off on train 4.00pm. Changed at, and spent an hour in, Selby. Hull 11.00pm. Fovant – London about 80 miles, London – Hull 150 miles. Officer from ship brought motor lorries to meet us. Went on board with advance party 36, 12.00pm. A.A.M.C (Australian Army Medical Corps) for sick berths. Remainder embark at Devonport.

### *Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> June*

Sleeping in hammocks. 4.00am went to sleep on deck. 8.00am breakfast. 1.00pm ship sailed for Devonport to pick up the Quota 36. Sea is calm.

### *Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> June*

8.00am breakfast. Delayed by fog from 12.00 – 4.00pm opposite Dover.

### *Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> June*

Arrived at Plymouth about 12.00 noon and tied up in the naval docks in Devonport. 7.00pm went ashore till 10.00pm.

### *Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June*

About 12.00 noon Quota 36 came aboard – about 900 men.

•

### *Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June*

To have sailed 10.30am but delayed till new pump put in.

### *Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> June*

7.30am breakfast. 10.00am march through Devonport. 2.00pm leave. Went with Will to town till 10.30pm.

### *Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> June*

9.00am marched to town. Parade inspected by Prince of Wales and dismissed. Went to Plymouth after dinner. Great processions and crowds to see the Prince. Had a swim in the baths and sea and stroll on promenade. Returned to ship 11.00pm.

### *Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> June*

2.00pm leave ashore. Had tea ashore and went to the Hoe, our band played on the promenade. Returned 12.00pm.

### *Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> June*

2.00pm went ashore with Will. Caught ferry at Plymouth Hoe to a beach in Cornwall. Went ashore in rowing boats, one capsized. Had tea there and rowed and came home in launch.

*Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> June*

No leave. Sailing tomorrow morning. Sailors came aboard from "Man O Wars" to spend evening.

*Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June*

8.10am sailed from Devonport through the line of naval ships. Sailors on all ships lined up to cheer us out.

**Last Day in England depart for Australia on board "Port Lyttleton"**

*Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> June*

7.30am breakfast parade. Spent the day exercising and reading.

*Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> June*

7.30am breakfast. Studied and read during day.

*Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> June*

Studied and read during day. Band played after tea.

*Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> June*

Studied and read during day. Concert in evening.

*Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June*

Atlantic Ocean. Studied and read during day. Church parade in morning, Padre Paton. Song service in evening. Passed Canary Islands about noon, went close to Las Palmas.

*Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June*

Studied during day.

*Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June*

Studied and read during day.

*Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June*

Will and I looking after V.D patients in hospital, 4 patients. Studied and read. Swimming in baths erected. Rev. gave a lecture on life of Christ in evening.

*Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> June*

On V.D hospital. Studied and read. Band played in evening.

*Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June*

On V.D hospital. Read and studied.

*Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> June*

Read and studied. Concert in evening.

*Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> June*

On hospital duty. Read and studied. Went to Rev. Paton's service in evening.

*Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> June*

On hospital duty. Read and studied. Band played in evening.

*Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July*

Hospital. Read and studied.

*Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July*

On hospital duty. Relieved by 2 others. Paid 2 pounds each.

*Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July*

Read and studied during day. Band played in evening.

*Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> July*

Read and studied.

*Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> July*

Read and studied. Studied Greek with Rev. Paton in morning.

*Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> July*

Service in morning and evening Rev. Paton.

*Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> July*

Studied Greek with Rev. Paton in morning. Read during day.

*Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July*

Stormy at sea.

## 1919 CAPETOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

*Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> July*

Arrived at Capetown at daybreak. Taking on coal and cargo. 11.00am leave granted till midnight. Shopping around town. Visited native quarters and went to "Camps Bay" by train. 1.5 hours run round the Table Mountain. Spent a while watching the surf. Had tea at "Maxine" and went to Opera.

*Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am we are on town picket. Our party attached to Police Station in town to help police. Called out several times. Wandered around town shopping. "Miltiedes" came in this morning "Thonistiles" a sailing vessel and in for repairs and propeller.

*Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> July*

9.00am sailed from Capetown. Sea is rough outside.

### AT SEA, Indian Ocean

*Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> July*

Sea is rough. Studied Greek.

*Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> July*

Rough sea. Service 10.00am Rev. Paton.

*Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July (same entry)*

Spent morning in Rev. Paton's cabin. Studying Greek.

*Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> July*

Spent morning in Rev. Paton's cabin. Studying Greek. Paid 10/- each.

*Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> July & Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> July (same entry)*

Spent morning in Rev. Paton's cabin. Studying Greek.

*Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> July*

10.00am service by Rev. Paton. Spent day reading.

*Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> July to Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July (same entry)*

Spent morning studying Greek with Rev. Paton.

*Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> July*

Studied Greek through day. Concert in evening.

*Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> July*

Studied Greek. About 9.30am Private Dennis jumped overboard. The boat stopped for an hour and a half. Life boat went out but he was drowned.

*Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> July*  
Studied Greek.

*Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> July*  
Service this morning and evening by Rev. Paton.

*Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> July*  
Greek.

*Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> July*  
Studied and read.

*Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> July*  
Studied Greek and read. Sing song and lantern lecture.

*Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> July*  
Studied Greek and read.

*Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> August*  
Read during day.

*Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August*  
Read. Concert on board. Handed in drill suits.

*Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August*  
Service morning and evening.

*Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> August*  
Sighted Cape Ottway about 2.30pm. First land in Australia seen. Passed about 7.00pm. Australia in sight.

### **1919 AUSTRALIA**

*Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> August*  
Arrived Melbourne quarantine about 1.00am. Inspected and sailed up Port Philip. Went off about 4 o'clock and entertained on wharf. For Sydney went through Spencer Street Station. Arrived Albany about 12.00pm. Delayed by an engine off line. Paid 10 pounds each.

*Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> August*

Arrived Sydney. About 5 cars drove us to Buffet in town. There met Mother and the others.

HOME about 7.00pm (approx 54 days).

*Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> August*

Spent the day at home and went to cinema in evening.

*Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> August*

Spent morning at home. Went to town and ordered suits at Bessors? Received train passes and went home with Kate.

*Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> August*

Spent day at home.

*Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> August*

Spent this morning at home.

*Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> August*

Went to town for shopping. To Robert's home in evening.

*Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> August*

In bed ill.

*Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August*

In bed ill. After dinner went to town and Barracks. Received suits and discharges.

*Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> August*

Went to town with Mary and Will shopping. To theatre in evening – Opera "Oh Oh Dephene".

*Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> August*

Went shopping with Mary and Will in town. Bought shoes and underclothing.

*Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> August*

Went to town in morning. Received suits from Bessors. Went out with Robert, John and Will in evening.

*Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> August*

After dinner went to Manly with Will by train then to St. Stephens Church and took Kate home. Met Rev. Earnest Ferguson.

*Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> August & Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> August*

At home.

*Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August*

Stayed at Criterion Hotel, Newcastle. Spent evening at Wards.

*Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> August*

Went to Wards for dinner and Kurri after.

*Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August*

Stayed at Auntie Jean's (Step-mother to Lizzie and Bill).

*Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August*

At Kurri. Spent evening at Thomas' place.

*Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> August*

Spent evening at house.

*Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> August*

In morning returned to Newcastle. Had dinner and spent evening at Wards. In evening went to Meriweather Beach with Annie and Nettie Ward.

*Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> August*

Went to Ward's for dinner and returned to Sydney. Wrote to University. Robert's in evening.

### **Home Mossman 1919**

*Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> August*

Went to town with John and Will. Saw Rev. Johns.

*Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> August*

Will and I called to see Kate and went to Robert's.

*Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> August*

In town.



*Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> August*

Caught train 1.25pm to Lawson.

*Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> August*

Church.

*Monday Sat 30<sup>th</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> Sept*

At Lawsons

*Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> September*

At Lawson. Went to Mosman. Received letter from registration, am accepted as matriculated Student as from 1920. Received letter from Rev. Johns to see him 10<sup>th</sup> September.

*Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> September*

Spent day in town.

*Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> September*

Caught 1.25pm train to Lawson with John, Will, Bruce (8) and Barty (5). Went to see E. Plumb.

*Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September*

At Lawson. Went out with John and Will.

*Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> September & Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September*

At Lawson.

*Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September*

Went to Sydney with Will. Saw Rev. John Ferguson and went to Robert's in evening. Received the trousers, white, from Bessors and bought white shoes.

*Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September*

Home.

*Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> September*

Returned to Lawson by 11.55am train. Letters from A. Ward and K. Williamson.

*Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> September*

Robert came up to Lawson. Went home next day.

*For rest of the year saw University about courses and took church services at weekends at various churches for which he was paid. Report approved University Fees B.A and Theology.*

***Thomas Mathers (1897 – 1963)      8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance***

- Came out from Scotland 1897 aged 6.
- Born Motherwell, Scotland 22 April 1891. Died 26th December 1963.
- Thomas returned from World War I in August 1919 having served for 4 years and 56 days.
- He returned to university and finished his Theology Course and gained his B.A degree. Was granted a place at St. Andrews.
- While at university had a double hernia operation and his doctor friends stood around waiting for him to come out of anaesthetic to hear him swear. He said “They are not going to get my guts” to their merriment. Annie Ward kept him in oysters.
- He had the same operation in NZ in the 1950’s.
- In November 1923 he married Annie Ward and they had 2 children – Elaine 1924 and Kelvin 1926.
- Was gazetted Chaplain in 1921, and served regularly in and served each year for a period in military camps. Continued this Duty as Major Mathers during World War II.
- When he was 60 he began to have heart problems and was classed by military doctors as permanently and totally unfit to carry on his Ministry. He was granted a full military pension. This passed onto Annie on his death.
- He died while visiting family in New Zealand in 1963 on Boxing Day, aged 72.

Thomas was awarded a scholarship and became a resident student at St. Andrew’s College within the University of Sydney. He was very popular with the students. In May 1923 he gained the B.A degree and the college students presented him with a silver entree dish, inscribed with the St. Andrews crest. An honour which had never been done before according to the Principal, Dr, Anderson.

Dr Anderson married Tom and Annie in November 1923 in St. Stephens Church and later christened both children. He had become an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church in 1923. For some time he had been acting as a Home Missionary while studying Theology.

***William Mathers (1893 – 1953)      8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance***

- Will was also born in Motherwell, Scotland and came to Australia aged 3 years.
- He served the same time as Tom and on return he became an architect in New South Wales Architects Office.
- He married Anna Barbara Engel on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1927.
- They had 2 children - James 24.01.1928 and Margot 19.04.1933.
- Tom suggested he apply for a military pension when he began having heart problems. This Will did and the doctors came to the house to examine him. He was asked to leave the room while they discussed his case. He collapsed and died in the hall on the way back to the bedroom. It was his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Will had not been at University which made coming home a little later.*

***William Ward (1890 – 1934)***

William Ward was brother of Annie Ward and later Tom's brother-in-law. He often met Tom and Will while in France. Am not sure when he lost his leg. Tom does not mention it in his diaries. He married Beatrice Barnes (called Trixie) in 1916. Her family had a hotel in Elizabeth Street, Sydney, close to Central Station. Uncle Will worked in the "Returned Services Artificial Limb Factory" not far away. He was able to try new developments in limbs that might suit him. He and Beatrice had no children. We often met Uncle Will in Tea Gardens. At that time Grandma and Grandad Ward were living there and Tom and Will spent the Christmas holidays there. Sometimes we met him in Belmont when camping at Swansea. Will died on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1934. Tom conducted the funeral service. A popular Uncle.

***John Melrose      Cousin – Tom and Will***

He came to Australia from Scotland in 1909 and worked with a number of firms as an engineer. He later took up farming. Just before he left for the war he married Annie Gammie, who came out with her sister and worked on the telephone exchange. John Melrose was killed in the war. Years later Annie married John Mathers. Tom's brother.

***Dale Smith      Signaller T.B Smith (Dale) A Company 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion***

Killed at the front. Was the brother of Boogie Mathers. Boogie and Robert also lost a son, Bruce, in World War II.

### ***John Mathers (1898 – 1975)***

Worked in the Treasury and was keeper of the “Purse”. Tom and Will had worked before joining up and John took care of their savings while they were at the front. It was a discussion made by the boys who would join and who would stay with Grandma. John was established and able to care for her.

Unfortunately he received a white feather, a popular handout in World War I.

### ***When on Leave – England and Scotland***

Samuel Mathers was the 5<sup>th</sup> son of John Mathers, ? to James Mathers who was the 4<sup>th</sup> son of John Mathers.

Samuel was an Ordained Minister and remained in Scotland. He had 4 daughters and 3 sons, all of the boys died while very young. The only Mathers to remain in Scotland.

His daughters were:

- |          |                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Margaret | Was a nurse and took over from Nurse Edith Cavelle when she was executed by the Germans. Margaret took over her work.                               |
| Bessie   | Was a University graduate and taught in private colleges.                                                                                           |
| Grace    | Was same as Bessie.                                                                                                                                 |
| Minnie   | Became Mrs Thomas Stone and was a brilliant pianist. After her husband died she married a man with a title. Had a son while Tom and Will in France. |

These cousins made Tom and Will welcome and wrote to them regularly while at front.

Have just discovered that all the Mathers family, except Samuel, moved to Australia.

Uncles Will, Bob and Alec, whom he went to Bowling, Scotland to see, could only have been Grandma Mathers brothers, Melrose. Another Uncle John Melrose wrote to Tom and Will at the front. He became a Captain in World

War I and I think was living in South Africa before the war as a Station Master in 1917. No.387314 Captain J. Melrose No.4 Siege Company R.M.R.E.

Mrs Peggy (Mathers) **Lennox** lived in Shots.

William Melrose, Station Master in Bowling near Glasgow, Dumbertonshire, Scotland.

Robert Mathers, Motherwell.

Also wrote to regularly:

A. Orr	Pharmacy Boulevarde, Stratfield, Sydney.
E. Plumb	Stratfield, Sydney
Mrs Nellie Davidson	Fernleigh, Alfred Street, Greenville, Sydney Worked at Clifford Love, Clarence Street, Sydney (Dad had worked there).

### ***8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Diaries***

As Tom was asked to write for the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Diaries by Captain Earnshaw (see 30<sup>th</sup> October 1918) copies of these diaries may have been kept.

### *Wilhelm Frost*

Cannot see any mention of Wilhelm in Tom's diary. Tom and Will must have carried him to hospital and would have had no further contact.

However, have a photo of Wilhelm sent to Tom. On the back it says:

*"In remembrance of Jeumont 1919. Yours sincerely, Wilhelm Frost."*

I looked up diary of Jeumont 1919. On 4<sup>th</sup> March Dad and Uncle Will left Sars-Potiers by ambulance to go to Jeumont on the Belgium border. Will was put on the wards and Tom worked in the kitchen where 3 German prisoners worked for them. Tom must have been on duty 3 or 4 weeks there. This would be ample time to get to know Wilhelm if he was one of those prisoners recovering in hospital. He would remember Tom carrying him in to be sent to hospital even though Tom may not at the time remember him apart from the University song "Gaudeamus igitur juvenes dum sumus". This Latin song was a famous student song and was known as early as 1267. The melody in its present form dates back to about the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. So it was no doubt know to both men as University students.

Wilhelm continued to write and send Christmas cards to Tom. Each card had a candle on the front. These continued until Tom died in 1963 and Wilhelm continued to write to Annie. Annie visited him when in Germany in 1982 and he died 10 days later.

He had a bad time of it with the Nazi's in World War II and married his brother's wife to look after her and her child, a girl of 6. His brother was killed in World War I. Wilhelm, despite his degree and training as a lawyer, who eventually became equivalent of Queen's Council, was made to work as a gardener during World War II. They were very short of food and Dad offered to send a parcel if he could tell them what was needed most. "He said first of all he would like to get some fat (butter or any other kind) and if possible some tea or coffee for my mother. At all events will be pleased with anything you will send."

**“The Anzacs”**  
**By Patsy Adam-Smith**

*Delville Wood – called Devil’s Wood*

“Shell fire had torn its great trees to blackened, jagged stumps and littered the ground with trunks and branches. Trench systems had criss-crossed through the wood, separated in places by only a few feet. Huge shell craters pock-marked the ground, many of them filled with greenish water and the desolation was completed by a carpet of rotting corpses of the men who had lost and won the wood. British and German lay there unburied. The ground was littered with equipment, rifles, cartridges and all the other debris of an untidy battlefield.”

*Villers Bretonneux – 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918*

“For the first time the 5 divisions of the Australian Army were going into battle together. Beside them were the Canadians. They were jubilant. The thick mist was worrying. They could not see 20 yards in any direction, but not enough to depress them. Each Battalion moved to its tape and lay down. The men wet, cold but elated. The 57<sup>th</sup> Battalion afraid of losing its way suddenly saw lights ahead of them. They were candles in petrol tins with holes punctured to form the numbers “57” to direct them.

It was to be a massive onslaught. Men were digging trenches, planes were trying to penetrate the fog but no man had any conception of the immensity until at 8.00am the mist lifted like a curtain, gradually disclosing a scene that will never be forgotten by those who saw it. The Somme Valley came into view, the gentle sunlight, still tempered by haze, bathing the wheat-covered spurs of the south. It was to these spurs and the plateau to which they rose that all eyes turned across the summit of the Villers-Bretonneux plateau.”

*See from Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 1918*

**“The Anzacs”**  
**By Patsy Adam-Smith**

Battle casualty admission to Field Ambulance from A.I.F in France from April 1916 – March 1919.

	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
High Velocity Bullets (rifle & M.C fire)	48,309	3.93
Shell fragments and shrapnel pellets	72,513	50.93
Bombs and Grenades	2,714	1.90
Bayonets	396	0.28
Gassing	16,822	11.8
Shell Concussion & “Shell Shock”	1,624	1.14
	<b>142,378</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Accidental Injuries	15,648	7.30
<i>Non-battle casualties – primary infections and “infections by living agents”</i>		
Gastric intestine infections	1,558	0.74
<b>Facial</b> and respiratory infections	41,300	19.49
The Neurotomic ectodermoses	354	0.17
Rheumatic Fever	239	0.11
Tuberculosis	602	0.25
Infections of eye, ear and nose	2,671	1.26
Septic pyogenic infections	11,888	5.61
Venereal infections	13,105	6.19
Transmitted through insect or other host	4,244	2.01
Skin infestations	20,533	9.69
Specific wound infections	21	0.01
Pyrexia (fever)	24,593	11.61
Helminthiasis (worms)	43	0.02