

36326

Diary

L/cpl. R.C. Werner

10th Australian Field Ambulance

A. I. F.

25-5-1916 - 18-12-1918

WITH THE 10TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE

I N

"THE GREAT WAR" of 1914-1918.

Copy of
Diary Kept By

Mr R.C. Werner

During 1914-18 War.

Mr Werner was later Secretary of
the 10th Field Ambulance Association
until it ceased to exist because of
deaths of most members.

WITH THE 10TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE

I N

"THE GREAT WAR" OF 1914-1918.

- 25/5/16. Our party of 27 rank and file, commanded by Major Wheatland, embarked on Transport "A 11" (Ascanius), of the Blue Funnel line, today. The 39th Battalion is expected on board in a couple of days, and in the meantime, we are to get the hospital in order.
- 26/5/16. We had leave yesterday evening, so Roy Duckett and I spent the evening at home.
- 27/5/16. We had leave again yesterday evening so I was able to spend the last evening in Melbourne and the evening of my 25th birthday, at home. The 39th Battalion from Ballarat came on board this morning and we "sailed" this afternoon; there was a very large crowd to see the boat off, that section which chiefly interested me, being Mother, Trina, Fred, Max, Keith Bainbridge and Miss Kitty Clydesdale, while other friends were there to see Roy Duckett off. Alec Kelso got down in time to see us off and wish us "bon voyage". Captain R. Hutton and Corporal Basil Davies are on board with the 39th and C. Boake is on the Dental Staff so old H. C. is fairly well represented.
- 28-29/5/18. We were fortunate in having calm weather yesterday for our first day out; we have run into very rough weather today which has put most of the boys off their meals.
- 30/5/16, Admitted to hospital today with some abdominal trouble.
- 1-2/6/16. In Hospital. Weather very bad.
- 3/6/16. Discharged from Hospital today; feeling fit again. Weather improved.
- 4/6/16. Second Sunday at sea. Church service this morning. Boat still rolling heavily. Practically sure now that we are taking Cape route which means that our destination is England or possibly France, which latter is not probable however, as it is hardly likely the Division would re-mobilise there. Far from used to Hammocks yet.
- 5/6/16. Went on hospital duty for four days today. Weather much better. Speaking with B. Barter who is returning with 3rd. Div. Sig. Co.
- 6/6/16. Find hospital duty no sinecure, for the ward is well filled all the time but improved meals while on the job goes a long way towards compensating for a little work.
- 7-8/6/16. Finish hospital duty - not sorry - numbers of patients with ptomaine poisoning from tinned stuff. Submarine alarms and exercise daily now.
- 9/6/16. Strain muscle in shoulder while boxing with Duckett. Our dinner arrangements with one of the under-stewards knocked on the head by chief-steward - bad luck to him.
- 10-12/6/16. Had little to do but write letters. Have been stewing French and German in a desultory fashion on the chance of it being useful later. Hear today by wireless that Russians have captured 71,000 prisoners, also of sinking of British battle-ship "Hampshire". Do my washing which is an awkward job on board.
- 13/6/16. All port-holes painted black and kept shut at night which makes the deck very hot and close. Shoulder keeps me quiet as far as boxing, etc. goes. Start on sick-parade orderlies duties which is a nice easy job for the next 4 days, but hope in the event of arrival at a S. African Port in the meantime, that it won't stump me for leave that may be going there.
- 14/6/16. Yesterday evening, it being very hot in the troop-deck, Duckett and I decided to sleep on deck, but just after we got settled on deck, it started raining so we decided to risk sleeping in the isolation ward, for though out of bounds, no inspection had even been made of it after "lights out" up to that time. About 11 o'clock, the ward was raided by Captain (Dr.) Darevin and we were

placed under open arrest in company with 5 other members of our corps, who had also "risked it", and moved out. This morning we were paraded to the O. C. Troops - Colonel Rankin - who dismissed us with a caution after "praising us up" some.

We have a couple of S.- M. cases now so expect we will be quarantined at S.A.

Wireless news of continued Russian success and of continued repulse of enemy at Verdun.

- 15/8/16. Weather been good last few days but it is blowing up rough again today and in consequence, "Ports" are closed night and day, so air on troop-decks is thick enough to eat.

Wireless news of Kitchener's death.

- 16/8/16. Memorial Service to K. of K. of which I took a snap.

Sighted land at day-break this morning somewhere South of Durban and we are now bearing South along the coast to Cape Town.

- 17/8/16. Violent storm - high wind but not rough.

- 18/8/16. Reached Cape Town during small hours of this morning and lay off until daylight when we moored alongside wharf in Inner Harbour at about 9 o'clock. The "Medic", which left Melbourne about a week before us, is moored near us, as are two more troop ships (Australian) and an Auxiliary Cruiser - The "Laconia" of Liverpool. Receive news for the first time of the battle of Jutland and the manner of Kitchener's death. As expected, on account of our two S. M. cases, our boat is semi-quarantined, much to our disappointment, and so it was with joy we welcomed even a route march through the town in the afternoon. Everywhere along the line of march we received a great welcome and fruit etc. was bestowed on us in abundance by the people. Our party being as usual in rear of the procession, I was able, without attracting notice, to get into one or two of the shops and get little things I wanted; I had to do a bit of running to catch up the crowd again as they were about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile ahead by the time I got fixed up. Through an uncle of Edwards' of our party, we have been able to arrange for "extras" to be sent aboard for our mess.

The march was very enjoyable and we saw a fair bit of the town and its mixed populace. Duckett, Howitt and myself sent combined cable today.

Expect to be here three days or so and then leave with other vessels - convoyed by "Laconia". Landed S. M. cases today.

- 19/8/16. Went for a short "all-day" route march through the suburbs today and though we left the boat with 2 biscuits and a piece of cheese for the day's rations, we fared very well as the people loaded us with plenty of eatables.

- 20/8/16. Today we went for a long route-march right round the back of Table Mount, passing through the Zoo and by Rhodes House and the monument erected in memory of him. We went through the main street of the town both going and coming, and so saw the city proper for the first time. We drew for ward-orderlies for the day and Richie and Duckett were the unlucky two, so were not with us today. Two guns, one fore and the other aft, were mounted on the boat today. The Rhodes monument was well worth seeing and most of us took snaps of it; the road up the hill leading round to the "Rhodes" Estate is perfect and was made by the native element of the convicts here. The view over the town in the afternoon was beautiful - in the morning when ascending the clouds were so dense that we could only see a few files in front of us, so we were unable to see aught of town or sea. We were all busy "snapshotting" today. About 150 men from the A64 Demosthenes which is quarantined and coaled next to us broke loose this afternoon and, with few exceptions, got through the guard on the pier - one of the exceptions was slightly bayoneted in the scuffle; most of them have now been collected and sent by lighter out to the ship which moved out into the Outer Harbour this afternoon. A large party has just been sent, from our boat, into the town to collect any stragglers from their boat and our own. Portuguese troop ship - "Portugal" - came in today with troops for Portuguese front up East Africa way; the Portuguese troops are very small but look hardy enough in their light grey uniforms.

Another S. M. case landed today.

- 21/8/16. The "Warilda" which left Melbourne two days before us arrived here this morning with the "Tunnelers Corps" on board.

Nearly got "left" today. I was printing some snaps up on the boat deck when I noticed all the troops filing off the boat and I just got into my uniform in time to get off with the last of them - we hadn't expected to get off today. We didn't go far fortunately, for we were all jolly stiff after our long march yesterday; we had dinner on the cricket reserve and marched back through the town which we

found well filled with Aust. Troops off the "Medio" - they had just one hour's leave; I saw Jack Brake and had a word with him.

Shortly after we got back to the boat, it pulled out into the Outer Harbour as did the "Warilda", so that the "Medio" (A7), "Demosthenes" (A 64), "Warilda" (A69) and our own boat the "Ascanius" (A11), are all lying out together now and we expect to leave in the morning conveyed by the "Laoconia". Cape Town with all its lights, backed by the dark mass of Table Mount looks very fine tonight, so I will just go up on deck and have another "gaze" before retiring.

- 22/6/16. As expected, we all weighed anchor this morning at 7.30 a.m. and steamed out of the Harbour led by the "Laoconia". At 12 o'clock the boats took up their positions in two lines - the "Demosthenes" and "Warilda", falling in behind the "Laoconia" on our Port side, and we ourselves falling back behind the "Medio". The Dominion liner, "Port Philip", left Cape Town with us and seems to be acting as a scout 10 miles or so to starboard. All ships except "Laoconia" are sailing with lights out bar head and tail lights. Richie, Duckett and I were "dropped on" this morning for Hospital washing-fatigue which is "the limit" of a job; we got to work right away as there was no help for it and expect to get through in about four days and then have eight off to recover. Good weather but a fair swell which is causing a nasty roll.
- 23/6/16. No sign of "Port Philip" now - it has evidently gone on independently of our slow-moving fleet.
- 24-27/6/16. Fine weather. Nothing of importance to enter. Finished our washing job, so taking it easy now.
- 28/6/16. Ships have fog-barrels out for practice today.
- 29-30/6/16. Weather swelteringly hot. Passed Jap. steamer today. Duckett and I went along to Hutton's cabin tonight and had a yarn and our first "spot" for over a month, but, this hot weather, I think we will be visiting him again very soon.
- 1/7/16. Y. M. C. A. chap came along and wanted Duckett and I to sign Kitchener's pledge, but the weather and the memory of last night's "spot" had an easy victory. On Hospital cleaning fatigue - good job, just 3-hour each morning, but it only lasts two days.
- 2-3/7/16. Crossed line today and most of our chaps were initiated in Hospital "Ante-room".
- 4/7/16. Our rear gun fired two shots today at barrel - very close range but fire was fairly accurate; one could follow shell right to target so probably just "dummy shot". The gun made a fair row and gave the chaps sleeping on deck a start. Boxed Duckett to-night and got well pasted. Visited Rup. Hutton again this evening and had a good yarn, etc. with him; he thinks we will arrive at Cape Verde about next Thursday.
- 5/7/16. Duckett and I decided for a second time to try sleeping on deck last night, and we were just about as unlucky as on our first attempt. At about 10.30, lights were turned out at the main switch, plunging the whole ship in darkness and we noticed that the same had occurred on all the other ships; officers made their way along the decks, giving strict orders against lights being shown and then to cap it all, the rain came down with a will and soaked us, blankets and all, for we couldn't get down below then or for some time after. We learnt this morning that the reason for the "scare" last night, was a wireless message from some ship to the effect that a "suspicious" ship had been sighted. Copies of the boat magazine, "Ascanian", issued today.
- 6/7/16. Expected to reach Cape Verde today; we sighted high mountains on both sides at great distance this morning, but have not reached any port.
- 7/7/16. Arrived at St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands this morning, but there seems no likelihood of our getting off the boat here. Two light cruisers and a lot of small craft in the Harbour. An Auxiliary cruiser left for Cape Town this morning. A lot of natives came out in row boats, selling third-grade print and bad

cigarettes, etc. - a few postcards is all they have worth buying. It is amusing to watch the native fisherman at work; they chew the bait (raw fish), and spit it into the water and then catch the fish in hand nets or on three-foot lines on 2 ft. rods. Dropped my Field Glasses on deck and broke small eye-piece - a lucky "let off".

- 8/7/16. Just lay at anchor all day. Went on night duty with Duckett last night, but must have got a piece of bad meat for supper, for I have a touch of "Ptomaine" and am now in bed in night-orderlie's cabin.
- 9/7/16. Still in bed but feeling better. Boats all left today at about 1 o'clock and resumed old formation on clearing port. We are to wear life-belts during day and have them handy at night, from now on. Submarine guard put on today for remainder of voyage.
- 10/7/16. Up today, but not feeling too fresh yet. In tonight's orders that we are to disembark at Devonport.
- 11/7/16. Feeling right again. Go on Hospital cleaning fatigue again. "Demosthenes" left fleet today and was miles away to starboard this evening.
- 12/7/16. No sign of "Demosthenes" now - believe it has gone to Canary Islands for some small repairs to engines. Passed a small Dutch vessel today.
- 13/7/16. While a lot of the M. G. S. on board were being vaccinated this morning, came across a friend of Kitty Clydesdale. He remembered me, having met me at the Tennis Court at Seymour - a Mr. Taylor, of Seymour.
- 14-15/7/16. Go on day-ward duty - fine weather and few patients so not much to do.
- 16-17/7/16. Four Destroyers met us this morning and one took charge of each boat - the convoy has now broken up and each boat is making for port independently. The Destroyer convoying our boat is the "Larne" (No. 57.) Bully and Biscuit - "Disembarkation" ration issued.
- 19/7/16. Early this morning a second Destroyer came out to convoy us in. We passed the Ediston Light House about 10.30, and arrived off Plymouth about 11 a.m. and at Dartmouth at 12 o'clock; we of the 10th F. Amb. were the last to leave the ship as we had all the patients to get off and the hospital to fix up; we went by the third train which left about 9 O'Clock in the evening. It was light for awhile after we left so we had a glimpse of the country, which was looking very pretty, before it grew too dark. At Exeter we got refreshments, which were provided and served us by the ladies of Exeter and very welcome they were. We disentrained at a little station called Amesbury, on Salisbury Plains, at 4 o'clock in the morning, just as it was getting light, and then had a two-mile walk to the camp, which seems to be nicely situated, but is equivalent to "Isolation" as there is not even a decent sized village in the vicinity, the nearest village being Amesbury, nearly two miles away; our quarters here are huts to accomodate 30 and one of these has temporarily been assigned to us - temporarily, because we will move to our proper camp in a day or two. There is a flying school near us here and planes are to be seen manoeuvring round nearly all day. The party of the 10th Field Ambulance which came by the "Beltana" have arrived before us, and are at another camp not far away from here. At present we, from the "Ascanius", are quarantined, as someone off the boat has developed measles overnight, but it is a very "loose" quarantine, so doesn't worry us much. We are told by Australian troops we have spoken to, who have been here some time, that we will get four days disembarkation leave to London very soon, and that the rule of the camp is "open camp to visit any of the villages within a four mile radius, every evening." Sent Cable through Duckett's people in London and also with party as arranged before, leaving. Stonehenge is just a few minutes walk distant and in full view of the camp. Found on arrival here that it had been rumoured that our boat had been torpedoed and all hands lost - hope such rumour has not reached Australia also.

- 20/7/16. "Jerks" this morning and a little bandaging practice after breakfast. For the afternoon, six of us dodged the quarantine picket and paid "Stonehenge" a visit; it is a very interesting relic and I met a past member of the Kooyong Lacrosse Club there - a Scotch College chap named Grundy; he played with the juniors awhile and was not well known to me.
- 21/7/16. Squad-drill this morning which Duckett and I missed, being mess-orderlies for the day.
For something to do, Wheatland started us learning semaphore signalling this afternoon.
- 22/7/16. Got our first mail from Australia.
- 23/7/16. Parade to service this morning, it being Sunday, and in the afternoon we changed camp to No. 21. Camp and joined up with our party from the "Beltana". No longer quarantined of course.
Went to Lark Hill Cinema this evening. This camp is known as Lark Hill Camp.
- 24/7/16. A little stretcher drill this morning and this afternoon we went for a route march to Stonehenge and on through Amesbury.
The motor transport sections from the show-grounds camp arrived here today, so we will go along to see Dawson and a couple of the others, as soon as they get settled.
- 25/7/16. Signalling and Stretcher drill this morning and this afternoon a route march through the villages of Bolton and Durrington, the latter of which is of considerable size for round about these parts.
Went to a camp picture show in the evening.
- 26-27/7/16. On fatigue (Z-P) with Duckett today and in the afternoon we went over to the Y. M. C. A. hut for a few minutes and found on our return that all the others had been paid - our usual luck.
- 28/7/16. In addition to missing our pay, R. D. and I were "had up" to Ord.-room today for being out of camp when on duty and got "told off" by Wheatland - I found it hard to keep a straight face.
Party of 10th Fld. Amb. by "Wandilla" marched in last night.
- 29/7/16. Went into Amesbury with R. D. and Howitt this afternoon and went over the Abbey there, which we found small and uninteresting; had to walk home in the evening as no cars were available and Duckett was ill on reaching camp.
- 30-31/7/16. On works fatigue - easy job. Duckett still ill and is to go to hospital tomorrow.
- 1/8/16. R. D. carted off to Hospital, Diagnosed "Influ." but he is much better than he was last night. Clarrie Greenwood and I did the stoking on the bath-room boiler today.
- 2/8/16. Visited R. D. at Fargo Hospital today, as my job in camp only took a few minutes to get through; found him none too good and expect it will be a week or so before he rejoins us - only saw him for a few minutes as it was not visiting day.
Went to the pictures this evening and learned on return to hut that all the boys are going on London leave on Friday next, bar about 20 of us who are to run a clearing Hospital for the 10th Bgde. which is now in course of construction. As the delay may mean that R. D. and I will get our leave together later, I do not mind at all.
- 3-5/8/16. Expected to take over Hospital today but when I went to see if we would be moving this afternoon (Sat.), Captain Wheatland told me we would not take over until Monday and that five of us could have passes for Salisbury today and five others tomorrow; we drew for passes and Ritchie, Greenwood, Caldwell-Smith (Sgt.), Howitt and myself drew the prizes for this afternoon. We hired a car and got there at 3 o'clock. In the afternoon we had a look through the Cathedral which was a fine one, had a look through the town and spent a while in the Soldiers Club, in the council-chamber of the Town Hall where refreshments and music is supplied by ladies of Salisbury. We had our first good meal for three months, at the "Red Lion" Hotel and afterwards went to the Palace Variety Theatre and enjoyed quite a good programme. On emerging from the Theatre we found the town in absolute darkness, which seemed very strange to us as it is the first time we have been in a town since landing.

- 6/8/16. Sunday - Visited Duckett this afternoon and found him up again and expecting to rejoin us next Tuesday; tried to see something of the wounded German prisoners there but could not see much as we were not allowed through the barb-wire enclosure.
- 7/8/16. Told that our taking over of the Field Hospital is now postponed until the main body of the Ambulance arrives, so in all probability our party won't take it on at all now as we should be first due for leave.
- 8/8/16. Duckett arrived back in good order today. Been to camp variety show this evening.
- 9/8/16. The eight of us not absorbed today by No. 21. camp duties which fall to our lot today - our own unit fatigue duties are just having the day off.
- 10/8/16. Felt none too good or extra lazy today, so a work in the right quarter secured me a day off.
- 11/8/16. The main body of our Ambulance, including Hdq. arrived about 4.30 this morning; Most of them have retired for the day so we have just had a word or two with Kelso and the others, yet.
- 12/8/16. Duckett, Howitt, C. Wood, Sgt. Stahle and Cpl. C-Smith and myself, have our application for week-end leave granted so we took a car into Salisbury and there got the train to Bournemouth; we found the place very full and the hotels adverse to Privates, so it took us a couple of hours before we finally secured rooms at the Highcliffe Hotel on the sea-front, but they are "some rooms" for soldiers - white and silver bridal chambers.
We dined in the town and later graced the pier; C. Wood and I found a little business to fix up but got back to the Hotel early and we "suppered" in our own rooms.
- 13/8/16. Spent the morning on pier and front and in the afternoon made ourselves sociable. I took a snap or two of C. Wood being so and so.
Caught the 7 O'C train via Southampton to Amesbury and from there had to walk out to camp.
- 14/8/16. We, (i.e., our party of Duckett, Howitt, Kelso, C. Wood, and myself, amongst others), hear today that we go on London leave tomorrow.
Lt. Norm. Roberts and dental detail attached today, for time being, to our Ambulance.
- 15/8/16. Came up to London by early train this morning; we arrived about mid-day and were marched from Waterloo Station to A.I.F. Hdq., Horseferry Road, where we received advice, instructions etc; as soon as dismissed we looked up R. D's friend, M. Lazarus, and went with him to dinner, after which our party secured rooms here at the Strand Palace Hotel.
In the afternoon I went round and saw Mr. Sherwood and fixed up re my letters and drawing cash, etc. with him.
This evening we met Lazarus and went to see "The Happy Day", at Daly's Theatre, for which we had been given reserve stall tickets in the morning at the "Anzac Buffet" at Horseferry Road.
- 16/8/16. Went to "St. Paul's" with a couple of the others this morning - C. Wood had a great row with the "showman" for taking snaps from the balcony.
Had lunch at my old dining place - the Birbeck Cafe in Holborn and there met E's friends, Misses Little and Vaughan.
About 4 o'clock in the afternoon I left the others in Hyde Park to go on and see the Albert Memorial, and myself went along to "Maison Lyons" to look up my old friend, Ede. I had a long talk with her and find that her horizon is crowded by "one face", and all going well, so I wished her joy and made my delut.
I met Mr. Sherwood at 5 o'clock and came down to Westcliffe with him for the night to see Mrs. Sherwood and son "John"; we did not go out after dinner as it was rather late.
- 17/8/16. Came up to London again this morning and found a note at the Hotel from the others to say that they would not be back at the hotel until 1 o'clock so I called round and got my snaps that I had taken down at Bournemouth, and found them very satisfactory.
In the afternoon we went along the Embankment to Westminster Abbey; we had the good fortune to meet a gentleman there, very well up in the history of the place. who took us in hand and explained and related a lot of the history

of the place to us.

Kel and I had dinner with Miss Little and Miss Vaughan and afterwards went to the Colliseum.

- 18/8/16. I met Alan Edmunds at Horseferry Road the day we came up on leave and he gave me K. Edmunds' address, so I went along and saw him this morning at his studio just off Kingsway; I found him very well and well pleased with London and his prospects - He is a member of the Savage Club and getting on well with his painting.
I managed to see Mr. L. Laurence and pay a farewell visit to Mr. Sherwood before lunch.
Mary Guilfoyle rang me up this morning and I arranged to meet her for lunch; I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Guilfoyle, Snr., and a Pte. Bartholomew, also and we all dined at the Strand Palace after which I bid them adieu and went with the others to Horseferry Road, to look up numerous of our friends there. I saw Len Butler, who has had the bad luck to lose a leg, Lieut. Stan Holder, Alan Edmunds and George Rowden, but did not have time to search out Billy Barker (W.O.) or Rupert Heley (Lieut.).
We met Lieut. Wright in Piccadilly in the course of the afternoon, who was over from France for a "spell"; he seemed very well and was telling us that our work is pretty rough over there.
We went back to the Hotel for dinner and there I again met Mary Guilfoyle's M - in - law, for they had met an officer "off" the boat they came over in, after I left them, and had accepted his invitation to dine and the Theatre. Miss Little and her friend came down to the station to see us all off.
Arrived at Amesbury about 12 o'clock; found that the Guilfoyle's friend, Pte. Bartholomew who has to report here from France, had come down by same train, so we took him along with us and fixed him up with a bed for the night.
- 19/8/16. Very few in Camp so most of the chaps got week-end leave and so are away. Got a nice light job for the day.
Bartholomew left to "report" this morning.
- 20-21/8/16. We went along and saw Johnstone-Willard fight on the "movies" this evening.
- 22/8/16. Very sorry to hear of ^{ALAN} Alan Kerr's death today.
- 23-24/8/16. All sections of the Ambulance reconstructed today, and I was put in "B" Sect. Tent Div., but later in the day, two or three of us were called up by Major Kenny and told that Tent Div. is over strength, so I said I didn't mind staying in Bearer Section until a vacancy occurred later.
R. Duckett is "super" in C. Sect. and Kelso is in "C" Tent Div., so Howitt and I of "B" Sect. will apply for transfer to "C" Sect. to join forces with them.
- 25/8/16. One of my unlucky days.
Twice pulled up for not saluting, roused for being late for "mess", and to cap all find that when I was struck off "B" Tent Div. yesterday, I was not attached to anything else, so am a blank file and one of the reinforcement party just at present, but I am assured it will not be for long. One gleam of good fortune anyway - a tooth that has been giving a lot of trouble for some time was properly fixed by Lieut. Norm. Roberts today.
- 26-28/8/16. Not fixed in a Section yet, but Major Wheatland and J. Rohan have the matter in hand.
Inoculated with Anti and Para-Typhoid this morning and are all dismissed from duty for two days.
The different Sections had their photographs taken today.
- 29/8/16. "Flatout" with inoculation effects today.
- 30/8/16. Our second day off duty. Changed huts this afternoon. Cinema this evening.
- 31/8/16. Feel about right again today.
Told I am back in old place - "B" Sect. Bearers.
Visit Kelso over at Clearing Hosp. which "C" Sect. Tent. Div. is running at present.
Called in to see R. Hutton, but found that he was out.
- 1/9/16. Start Tent pitching drill which is a change from squard., stretcher, signalling drill, etc.

- 2/9/16. Off duty today and also tomorrow as I am on fire-picket tonight - some job.
- 3-4/9/16. Trial runs to pick our representatives for Sports between 9th, 10th & 11th Field Ambs, which are to come off next Saturday.
- 6/9/16. 2nd. dose of Para-Typhoid - next 24 hours off duty.
- 6-7/9/16. Just about recovered from effects of inoculation again. This afternoon we had practise stretcher work in the trenches but those of us taking part in the Sports on Saturday, broke off early for a little training. I am to run I think in 440 and 880 yards.
- 8-9/9/16. We won the 3rd. Div. Amb. Championship this afternoon with the greatest ease - the 9th scored 10 points, ourselves 50 points and the 11th 9 points. I ran in the relay race, the team being Kelso, Krause, Major Kenny and myself and we won by about 220 yards. I did not run in 440 but managed to pull off the 880. In the evening, a party of us including Duckett, Kelso, Howitt, Bodington, Dredge and myself, went into Amesbury and had a rather large enjoyable eveng. This afternoon, in the midst of the Sports, about 200 Fritz prisoners marched past on their way to the prison-compound that has just been built here. They are to work on the roads and at the coal dump. I secured a few snaps of them and also a few of competitors at the sports.
- 10/9/16. After church we walked over to have a look at the Fritz prisoners. I took a couple of snaps which I hope we will find more successful than my German was, for I couldn't get them to understand much. We walked to Feizeldene and on to Durrington in the afternoon.
- 11/9/16. Six of our reinforcements sent to Park House A.A.M.C. Detail Camp.
- 12/9/16. Settled that we start on 3 days bivouac tomorrow. Visited L. Woods and F. Goy (who are in the D.E.C.) this evening.
- 13/9/16. Started out at 9.30 a.m. this morning, marched 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles and have camped for the night by a little stream just outside the small village of Wylde on S.W. Railway. We passed through a lot of little villages during the day, and very pretty country. We went into the village in the evening, feeling fairly tired, but returned to the tents happily enough.
- 14/9/16. Started on the march again fairly early this morning but haven't covered much ground - the officers were jolly tired. We arrived at the town of Wilton at 3 o'clock this afternoon and have pitched camp by a stream just outside it. We got leave to go into the town from 4.30; at the only decent hotel in the place we were refused dinner, being told that only officers were served there and this illustrates very well the "line drawn" between "officers" and "other ranks" in this "free democratic" country. A very merry evening was spent by a large party of us in the music room of one of the hotels - the boys enjoyed themselves so well that they took away many souvenirs of the occasion with them. Dangles came home per car with a cargo of "Goofa-dust" see Unit Magazine "all about it". Some of us had a look through the Cathedral which is a rather fine one for such a small place; it contains a fine original Dutch doorway, some beautiful marble pillars from Pompei and a handsome pulpit, into which is worked some fine Spanish mosaic.
- 15/9/16. Open camp until 10.30 this morning so we did not get away until well after 11 o'clock; we arrived back at camp at 4 o'clock after some regular "Kenny" marching and our party was pleased to learn that an application we had put in for leave to go to Torquay for the next week-end had been granted - from Sat. 8 a.m. until Monday 2 p.m.
- 16/9/16. The car our party, consisting of Duckett, Howitt, Kelso, Bodington, Dredge and myself, had engaged to take us to Salisbury to catch the 8.15 train for Torquay, began by arriving late, then ran into a ditch from which it took us so long to get it out, that it finally arrived too late at Salisbury for the 8.15, so we had to wait until 11 o'clock for the next, which arrived at Torquay a little after 3 o'clock. After the party had looked at and turned down the place. I stayed at when here on my last trip, we finally got fixed up at the Commercial Hotel, and then we went on the war path - success and reverse but everyone satisfied.

- 17/9/16. Sunday - Went in for a swim this morning which we enjoyed very much. Afterwards we split up and Bod. and Kel. went off to Peynton. Duckett and I went for a stroll in the afternoon and happened to meet the "Countess" and her friend with whom we went for a walk towards Babycombe in the evening. We all foregathered at the hotel in the evening and got to bed and asleep very late as Bod. and Kel. would insist on a game of cricket in the bedroom.
- 18/9/16. Got up late and had our work out out to get the 9 o'clock train from Torquay this morning; half way to the station we met a Taxi and all got into it - it was so full Kel. got pushed through one of the windows which was bad luck for the glass. The train arrived late at Exeter and missed connection with Salisbury train there, so we had to wait an hour and a half. for the next, during which time we had a look through the town and Cathedral. We arrived back at camp just in nice time to miss going out on parade - a bit late but I don't think we will hear anything of it. About 14 more of our men - the reinforcements - went to A.A.M.C. Detail Camp, "Park House" today; hear that some of the six that went there a week ago have already gone to France. Issued with Tommy Boots today. We are supposed to wear the stiffness out of them and then hand them into Q.M. Store again, so that they will be ready for us when we go over to France. Got a small "cash" trophy for 880 at Fld. Amb. Sports a couple of weeks back.
- 19-21/9/16. Been hard at letter writing the last couple of days. Today is the first Anniversary of Duckett's and my going into Camp. Our new O.C., Lt. Colonel Stewart, of the 6th Fld. Amb. arrived from France today and took over the Unit.
- 22/9/16. Ran trials for Div. Sports representatives today. I'm down for 440 and mile, but do not intend running mile. Bod. ran 1st. in 440 today in 52 seconds - I followed him in. Met L. Wood and Jim Dawson about the Camp this evening - Jim D. is off to some school near London for 2 or 3 months.
- 23/9/16. During our three days' march last week, I got an insect in my ear which has given a lot of trouble but I got it syringed out this morning at the Clearing Hospital. Walked into Amesbury this afternoon and was surprised to meet Dug. Shields there; he has been here three weeks or so but spent most of the time at "Park House" Camp with mumps - he is in reinforcements at present and has dropped his Sgt. stripes. Walked home from Amesbury with Snowy Nathan of Hawthorn College and Kew Lacrosse Club and met Poole, who is with Nathan in 38th Battn., in camp. "3rd. Casualty Clearing" leave this Camp early next week but where for is not known - France is "favourite" though.
- 24/9/16. Hear that King is to visit Camp and inspect 3rd. Division on Wednesday next. It being Sunday, a party of us walked to the village of Shewsbury this afternoon and went to Church there in the evening - it is a clean and rather pretty little village.
- 25/9/16. Out training for Div. Sports this evening. Fld. Amb. are bracketed with Pioneers to put in a tug-of-war and relay team - relay team has not been arranged yet, but Pioneers won trial tug-of-war and so will compete as a team in Div. Sports.
- 26/9/16. Had a practice "march past" for the review by the King tomorrow of 3rd. Div. and other Aust. troops in camp here. Review Ground is about four miles away near Bulford Camp.
- 27/9/16. Early breakfast and set out about 8.30 this morning for the Review Ground; we had to wait about 1½ hours when we got there before the King turned up; he inspected the troops before the march past which went off well. It rained most of the day unfortunately, so that we were fairly damp by the time we got back to camp, but we are fairly used to such little discomforts now.
- 28/9/16. German sounding names in disfavour, so particulars of parentage etc. of St. Sgt. Stahle, L. Lauer, Les. Crause and myself, sent in to Hd.Q. for inspection which we all resent but have to lump.

29-30/9/16. The Div. Sports went off very well today, especially from our point of view for our Unit on its own has secured the championship of the 3rd.

Div. winning:-	Officers 100 yds.	(Major Kenny)
	Open 100 yards	(Les. Krause)
	Open 220 yards	(Les. Krause)
	Open 440 yards	(Badington)
Second place in:-	Open High Jump	(Parkinson)
	Siamese	(Parkinson & Digby)
	Mile Walk	(Stan. Sievwright)
Third place in:-	Open 440 yards	(R. Werner)
	120 yds. Hurdles	(Stone)
	Long Jump	(Bodington)

Our relay race team couldn't be found when wanted so we failed to start; it would have been an easy win for us.

- 1/10/16. In orders this morning that we are to move to M 3. Camp tomorrow and that "B" Section is to set out early with 10th Bgde. to trenches on a 5 days' bivouac - "A" & "C" Sections will follow later when they have fixed things up at No. 3. Camp.
In accordance with the Daylight Saving Scheme, clocks were put back an hour last night.
- 2/10/16. Left our Kit ready for removal and set out early this morning on this bivouac stunt in pouring rain; we arrived at the site chosen for our camp just at the back of the trenches about 12 O'clock and pitched tents immediately; we were all wet through, even though we had marched with waterproof ? sheets over our overcoats. Nothing doing this afternoon and we have retired early to get out of some of our wet clothes.
- 3/10/16. Parties sent out this morning to establish a D. S's in trenches. I'm supposed to be a dressing orderlie here from 3 p.m. until 11 p.m. and have a few sick to look after already.
"A" & "C" Sections arrived this afternoon and say that our new camp (No.3) is not too good. It is still raining.
- 4/10/16. Off duty this morning.
About 4 p.m. orders arrived for the whole 10th Bgde. to pack up and return to Camp as the weather is too bad to continue operations here without unnecessarily impairing the health of the troops; we arrived back about 7 O'clock and I got away to bed as soon as we had had tea and I had collected my belongings. I think we will like this camp alright for it is a good mile nearer Amesbury than our last and is near the camp "Picture Shows" etc.
- 5-6-7/10/16. Weather has been keeping bad so we have been getting a few lectures. Rumours getting about re moving over to France.
The four of us with German sounding names are told that our characters have passed muster.
- 8/10/16. Sunday - Our application for leave, for today, granted to Duckett, Kelso, Howitt, Morgan and I got a car and went to Bournemouth for the day, and had a great time. Met Miss Babbage.
- 9-10/10/16. Visited R. Hutton this evening.
- 11/10/16. All day route March with 10th Bgde - we have a very easy day. Camp Variety Show this evening with Duckett.
- 12/10/16. The great exam. for L/Cpls. started today - about 30 candidates went through the mill - I finished all sections of the exam. that have taken place so far and have only the written paper to do now.
Panoramic photo of the whole Ambulance taken today - one or two who had to remain at the Clearing Hospital on duty were absent and Duckett had the bad luck to be one of the number.
- 13/10/16. Written paper of Exam. this afternoon and I think I did well enough.
Got the Panoramic photos of Ambulance and I have sent one home and one to Seymour.
In this morning's orders that "B" Section is to go on 4 days' bivouac with 10th Bgde. starting Tues. next and that members of "A" & "C" Sections may begin their "Indulgence" leave from next Monday - a certain number at a

time; "B" Section will have theirs after return from Bivouac.

"Indulgence" leave is a leave that has been granted us by the King after his inspection of us some week or two back.

- 14-15/10/16 Special Church Parade of 10th Bgde. to hear Chaplain General Rentoul; it was held in the open and the wind was bitterly cold so we were glad when it was over.
- 16/10/16. Voting on the question of Conscription in Australia took place today.
- 17/10/16. Set out on the 4 days bivouacs to trenches with 10th Bgde. this morning in a steady rain and arrived at site of our camp in a very soaked condition at 1 o'clock and having no changes with us we had to let our clothes dry on us which was mighty uncomfortable as the weather was so cold.
- 18/10/16. Stretcher drill this morning and this afternoon march and exercises led by Major Kenny. There was a night attack stunt at the trenches but we were not called into it fortunately.
- 19/10/16. Same as yesterday. I Parade to Major Kenny this morning and make application that the Indulgence leave of Duckett, Howitt, Kelso and myself commence on Wednesday next - hope to get the Sunday in and thus get 5 days instead of the 4.
- 20/10/16. We struck camp this morning and came back here to camp after dinner arriving about 4 o'clock. Issued with our colour patches - long oval chocolate in colour, to be worn "horizontal". Hear that our application for "Indulgence" leave has been granted. Know now that we go to France next month.
- 21/10/16. Just about too cold to sleep last night. Everyone very busy sewing on colour patches, etc. today. Took up ornamental position in goal this afternoon in a match between "C" Section and "A" & "B" Sections.
- 22/23/10/16. Got a very decent cold all to myself, so on inside jobs at present. Hear that our O. C. is transferring to a Base Hospital.
- 24/10/16. Our O. C. Lt. Colonel Stewart left today and his place has been taken by Lt. Colonel Purdy from Park House A.A.M.C. Detail Camp.
- 25/10/16. Set out on our 5 days "Indulgence" leave; caught the "Special" from Amesbury and arrived up here in London about 12 o'clock. We found the Strand Palace Hotel - our former resort - full up, so booked up at the Bedford Hotel. This afternoon we went to Gamages to get a few things. I got an overcoat and a friend (Vina) there. I called round and saw Sherwood. Rang up Mary (Guilfoyle) this afternoon and accepted their invitation to dinner at their establishment, after which I went to see "A little bit of Fluff" at the Criterion Theatre, with Mary.
- 26/10/16. Called round at Strand Palace Hotel this morning, to leave notes for C. Wood and Howitt who were at another Hotel and to get our Aust. mail which we had arranged to be sent on there for us from the camp - answers to our first letters from England. Called round to see Vina Beecham and arranged to see her tomorrow evening. Put in an hour or two at Holborn Variety Theatre Matinee and then went out to Acton and spent the evening with my old friends the Currys; I spent a very pleasant evening there playing "solo" - talking of past times.
- 27/10/16. Lunched with Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Davis at First Avenue Hotel, Holborn and then met the others and we all went out to Brixton Skating Rink - a very "no class" place but we had a decent fly round. Met Vina this evening and after dinner at the Strand Palace Hotel, joined the others at the "Coliseum" where we had booked seats earlier in the day. We all enjoyed the evening - the "show" was good and the "company". Bod and Alec. missed a little of the show and the "company" missed them a little.
- 28/10/16. Had dinner with some of the chaps at Lyons Corner House (a merry dinner) and then caught the 2 o'clock train to B'mouth where I had engaged to spend the week-end while Bod., Kel., and Duckett went to Brighton. May met me at Bournemouth; fixed my room at the Waverley Hotel - the evening was a very pleasant one.

- 29/10/16. Met May, her sister and friend this morning and went for a walk to the Chimes - a very pretty place; I took a few snaps there. Dined at the Pier Hotel and as the afternoon was wet, we just passed the time in the Drawing Room of the Waverley Hotel here. After tea we had a look round the Francis Gardens before I got the train for Salisbury at 7 o'clock. Had a two hours' wait at Salisbury for train to Amesbury so arrived in camp fairly late and I'm feeling very cheap.
- 30/10/16. Day off duty on the sick list.
Hear that I have been one of the successful candidates for the L/Cpl. stripes in recent examination. I didn't get very high up on the list but Kelso received 3rd place.
- 31/10/16. On duty once more. The A.D.M.S. inspected us today and gave us a farewell speech; he said we would be going soon but gave us no idea of the date.
- 1/11/16. Duckett 24 today and by a fluke a parcel wishing him "best of luck", happy returns, etc. came to light this morning.
- (Note that should have been in under 23/10/16 - General Monash distributed the prizes for 3rd. Div. Sports this evening and I got an Ideal (Waterman's) Fountain Pen out of it).
- 3/11/16. Went out route marching this morning but it started raining while passing Y.M.C.A., so Sgt. Wilson broke us off and we spent the morning in there.
On the evening of distribution of Div. Sports prizes, I took delivery of a trophy for Stan. Sievwright which I handed to someone to give him, as I went on leave next morning - he was absent on leave at the time. On enquiring of him today whether he had received same, I find that he has not and no inquiries can find the man to whom I gave it to give him. The man to whom I thought I had given it, says such is not the case, so I haven't the slightest recollection who it could have been - very unpleasant for me and also for the chap that I had said, in all innocence, I thought I had given it to; I naturally thought at the time he had just forgotten to hand it on.
- 4/11/16. Raining hard do no Parades.
Go to Clearing Hospital with Kelso (now transferred to "B" Sect.) and rest of T.D. to relieve "C" Section T.D. but find that we are too many to run the place so I return to Unit.
Our hut members gave an "evening" this evening, at the Empire Tea Rooms in Amesbury, to Mr. & Mrs. M. Davies in order to express to them our congratulations on their recent marriage. Mrs. Davies "braved" the lot of us and the evening was a very pleasant one.
- 5/11/16. Raining hard do nothing doing bar get our kit in order in anticipation of moving soon now. While Vernon Hazard was cleaning out his haversack he found the missing trophy of Sievwright's that there has been so much fuss over. I am practically certain I never gave it to Hazard and he has no recollection of my having done so or of having seen the thing before, so it looks like "dirty work" somewhere, but where and by whom will remain a mystery I suppose. I'm glad it has turned up anyway.
- 7/11/16. Solid route march this morning led of course by Major Kenny.
Imperial black-boots re-issued this afternoon - I scored a new pair as my old ones were no good to me for marching.
- 8-9/11/16. Instructed re use of Gas Masks.
There is to be a practical "march out of camp" in a few days.
An application that a party of us made for leave to Batt^e next Sunday has been granted.
- 10-11-12/11/16. Duckett, Kelso, Howitt, Bodington, Stan. Morgan and myself got a car this morning to Batt^e - the driver would only take five, so Bod. got under our legs until we got too far out for the driver to talk about not proceeding. Had a pleasant drive down even though we had to fill the radiator every few miles as it leaked about as fast as you could pour water into it. Met a lot of our motor ambulance drivers at Batt^e who are at a school there, attached to our Divisional Transport - they are all having a great time; also met J. Dawson and P. Jeffreys of D.M. 7.
We had a good look through the old Roman Baths and took the "waters" in the Pump Room - not struck on the "Waters".
We dined well at the Christopher Hotel and had an exciting drive home for our lights were no good in the thick mist.
We had one narrow shave; the car went straight on at a curve, leaped the

ditch and pulled up half-way through the hedge bordering the road; Kelso, who was asleep, got a decent shake but we found on inspection that car and ourselves were right, so soon got the car on to the road and going again.

13/11/16. Out on "practice" Div. march out of camp today; we went 14 miles with full kit up so are jolly tired tonight.

14/11/16. Put in whole day answering Aust. mail.

15-16/11/16. Handed in all surplus kit today. Final issue of Ration bags, singlet, gloves and iodine. Sent some of my things to Mr. Sherwood and a spare uniform to Mrs. Curry for safe-keeping. Hear that Ted Blanchard of "B" Sect. Tent Div. has gone into Hospital in London with Pneumonia while on leave there.

17/11/16. Intensely cold. 1st Snow this evening. Final Kit inspection.

18/11/16. Snowing again this morning. Go out for a route march but it was so intensely cold that Sgt. Wilson broke us off in front of "Y.M.C.A" where we spent the morning. Been having trouble with one of my teeth and as our dentists here have now packed all kit, I have got a Pass to visit Dentist in Salisbury tomorrow.

19/11/16. Got my tooth fixed in Salisbury this afternoon and saw "Ye Gods" at the Theatre there in the evening.

20/11/16. Chanced it and went into Salisbury with Kelso to meet his friend, Minnie Stone down from London for the day; lunched with them at the Nelson Hotel and then I went to the Soldiers' Room at the Town Hall Council Chambers and enjoyed an afternoon's good orchestral music; met Kelso later at the station and helped him see his friend off and then we dined at the "Red Lion" before returning to camp. Expect to leave next Friday. Issued with two H.P. Gas Masks and with gas-goggles to-day - got our steel helmets yesterday. Apply to Major Kenny for vacancy in Tent Div. so as to join up with Kelso.

21/11/16. Visited R. D., at Clearing Hospital where he is with his Sub. Sect. at present and afterwards went on to see Rup. Hutton whom I found in, and well; he tells me that B. Green is at Bellestone Camp but I doubt whether I will get a chance to see him now. Part of 40th. Battn. left here for France to-day. Rup. leaves in charge of 2nd. train load of his Battn. on Thursday morning.

22/11/16. Practice march with full kit up, this morning which pretty well knocked me flat as my feet were jolly sore. Transferred to "B" Tent Division on parade to-day so will be with Kelso as desired. Fatigue parties told off and instructions given by Lt. Maughan re embarkation and disembarkation. We leave for France to-morrow morning.

23/11/16. False alarm - we leave to-morrow morning. Clear up generally today.

24/11/16. Reveille this morning at 4 O'C.; we left camp at 5.30 and entrained at Amesbury at 7.45, reaching Southampton at 10.30. At Southampton we were split into two parties and went across to Le Havre in separate boats - Kelso and I were together but Duckett and Howitt came across on the other boat with the "Transport". We had dinner on the wharf at Southampton and left at dusk (5 O'C.); we all had to wear our life-belts - Kelso and I tried to sleep on deck, but what with life belts and cold, we didn't get much sleep. We passed close to the Channel "net" as we neared Le Havre. The trip was comparatively smooth. Just before leaving Southampton one of our chaps - McLean - was found in the water between boat and pier in difficulties. The manner of his getting there, etc. has not been cleared up satisfactorily but he is considered a bit "dippy" and so it is put down to that. He was sent to Hospital on arrival at Le Havre.

- 25/11/16. We reach Le Havre about 3 a.m. this morn. Left the boat at 5 O'clock and marched with full kit up to No. 2. rest camp which flattened the lot of us for we had had little sleep for two nights; it was up hill solid for five miles and raining hard. We found the camp and tent one - wet and dirty. I met F. Goy just going on further again, L. Wood having preceded him by a day. Duckett and the rest of the Amb. arrived this afternoon. No leave was granted this evening, but we managed to get something decent to eat in a house near-by - all the houses here seem to cater refreshments.
- 26/11/16. This morning our tent full got up rather late and had an awful job to get ready in time; we missed the main body but got away with a clearing party; the long march to the station was not so bad as coming here, being down hill. We entrained at 12 O'clock and settled down for a journey of unknown duration; we are crammed in cattle-trucks - 25 to a truck. Just before leaving a mixed train came in on the opposite side of the platform and the chaps in our truck got down on it for a "bale" of straw and some first-class seat cushions and these greatly added to the comfort (?) of the journey. We stopped at 11 O'clock tonight at a station called Burly, where tea was ready for us.
- 27/11/16. Sleeping in these carriages is the limit; one has to be top or bottom layer and one is as bad as the other. At a small station we happened to pull up at today, one of the French porters "spotted" the seat cushions and nearly went silly but he couldn't find anyone in authority to understand his troubles (in french) so we didn't lose our cushions. Our progress is so slow most of the time that we get out and wash in any little stream we come across and then catch the train again a few yards further on. Passed through Calais early this evening. About 11 o'clock we were all roused and told to get ready to detrain which was some job in the dark; we detrained at Bailleul near Armentiers and were transported in motor-buses to our present camp near a little village called Strazelle, 10 miles from Bailleul and 12 from the firing line; we can hear the guns and very lights are plentiful; we are billeted in a drafty barn and cold is not the word for it.
- 28/11/16. Up early and washed in some old trenches after breaking the ice. Got up the Hosp. Tents and the sick came in quickly, for the Battalions, all of which are billeted in the vicinity, had been holding them up during the train journey until we arrived here. First Aust. Mail in France today. Went up to the village this evening and got some eggs and chips, which seemed luxury after bully and biscuits of last three days. Late this evening I went two trips into Bailleul with patients to 12th Canadian General on the Ambulance cars and got a few things in there that I wanted.
- 30/11/16. Some of "C" Section including Duckett, left to-day to take over from 3rd N.Z. Field Ambulance the advanced Dressing Stations near Armentiers; we follow up in a day or two to take over M.D.S. in Armentiers.
- 1/12/16. Issued with Box-respirator gas masks to-day and hand in one of the H.P. masks - got plenty of drill with the new masks. Went into Strazelle to air our French, etc. this evening but found that they don't understand good? french well round here.
- 2/12/16. Ord-Cpl. to-day. Evacuated Strazelle this morning and came by bus to Armentiers where we have taken over the M.D.S. from 3rd N.Z. Field Amb.; we are billeted in same buildings as Hospital Dressing Room, Wards, etc. and should be very comfortable here as we can get hot baths; food is better already and we can get any extras etc. we want at the many shops in the town here - also get our washing done. The town is not very much knocked about but most of the people have left it long since - only the poorer people remain and those catering to the needs and wants of the troops which seem to keep two or three hundred shops of all kinds going. Bombs, guns, etc. on the go night and day, but this is a quiet part of the front - regarded at present as a training-ground. The 37th and 38th Battns. are in the trenches at present.

NIGHT

- 3/12/16. Cpl. of the late picket last night but managed to get some sleep. Had a look around a little of the town this morning. A fair number of sick coming through from the 37 and 38 Battns. and a few casualties. St. Sgt. Reid went to Isolation Hospital at Bailleul with mumps a day or two ago, so Cpl. C. Smith has taken his place in charge of "B" Tent. for the time and Kelso has taken Cpl. Smith's place as Wagon Ord. Cpl. of "B" Sect.
- 4/12/16. Picket job again last night. Tommy Turnbull paid us a visit last night; I only saw him long enough to see he was A.I. He is with second C.C.S. stationed not far back from here near a town called Steenwerck. Found Vernon Hazard very sick to-night, so get him taken down to Hospital Ward - looks like C.S.M.
- 5/12/16. Fair number of wounded through today - a fair percentage being "accidents". A lot of trench-feet coming through. Hazard was sent on to Base Hospital today - is a C.S.M?
- 6/12/16. About 12 o'clock last night, when we were all soundly asleep the gas sirens and alarms went off and for a minute or two we were a bit excited - to put it very mildly. We struggled into our masks in the dark while still half asleep for we felt quite sure we were already breathing gas but we soon got out of them again for no gas could be smelt and they were very uncomfortable on, as we are not yet used to them. We received the safe message about half an hour later so were soon asleep again. Peter Dredge, the chap downstairs, and many others made the affair a humorous one to look back on though we didn't think it so at the time - it was the first time most of us realized we were at a war I think. Escaped all duty today so went exploring the town which is a big one and will take some time "to know." The Div. Baths has got going near here for the troops, but as we have our own bath-room here, I don't think many of our chaps will trouble them.
- 7/12/16. A gas attack was talked of but did not come off last night. I was on picket job.
- 8/12/16. Went for a walk to the Y.M.C.A. this morning. Great speech by Lt. Manghan to-day at dinner parade entitled "Each man Shall have his whack". Went to the "movie" show this evening and called in at "Bertha's" for a spot "de vin" on the way back. London is nothing to this place for darkness; at nights most of us have torches to find our way about now.
- 9-10/12/16. Got a new job for a change - In charge of General Fatigue, so do a lot of work for a change. Germans dropped a few shells in the town to-day and a couple found the billets of the 37th who had just come out of the trenches for a spell this morning - four were killed and about six wounded. Went to service at Y.M.C.A. this evening to hear Rev. Mills. Cpl. C. Smith left for hospital with Pleurisy this morning; hear that Bert Reid will not be back for awhile yet. Start ward upstairs for mild medical cases today.
- 11/12/16. From 1 o'clock until 1.30 this morning our guns made a great row bombarding the German lines - Kelso slept through it all. Kelso and I usually "on" alternate nights in charge of gate-gas-picket. A lot of planes up today, this being the first good clear day we have yet had here; it is very interesting watching them being bombarded by the "Archies" Cpl. C. Smith left for hospital with a dose of pleurisy this morning. Hear Stf. Sgt. Reid will not be back for a while yet. Start ward upstairs for "3 or 4 day cases". A duel between one of our planes and a Fritz took place overhead today in which the Fritz met his Waterloo.
- 12/12/16. Snowing heavily this morning. "B" Bearers relieve "C" this morning.
- 13/12/16. Aroused and turned out with patients at 10.30 p.m. last night; we all repaired to gas-tight cellars previously prepared in the event of bombardment - news evidently no good for the bombardment did not come off; after a while we got back to our billets and finished the night in peace - and our clothes. Went to movie show this evening.

- 14/12/16. Went for a walk over the canal into Belgium this afternoon and had a poke round in a ruined town and a look at the old trenches there.
Met Eric Pike; now a 1st. Lieut. in Engineers and had a yarn with him.
- 15-17/12/16. Everything very quiet. Our rooms wanted for extra wards so we removed to an old factory about 50 yards away.
- 18/12/16. "A" Sect. return from town sparrow starving. Grand spread of six courses at Bertha's of "59" this evening; Kelso provided the spread having just received a couple of decent parcels from former pupils.
- 19/12/16. Go to Div. baths but it was so cold waiting, that 20 out of the 25 of us drifted back before our turn came. Bodington, whose throat has been bad for some time, was sent to British Infectious Hospital to have swab taken but we are in hopes he will not be away long.
Hear that Vern. Hazard is out of danger.
Parcel from K.O. to-day. Snowing heavily.
Met Rup. Hutton with Cpt. Giles to-day; both were well and had just come out of the trenches.
- 20/12/16. Went out with R. Duckett to 2nd. A.C.C.S. to see Tommies Turnbull and Bee; we got a car ride there but had to walk back in the evening; we had a very enjoyable day with the two Tommies and had a good look over their camp which is A.I. T. Bee was in bed having been operated on a month or so ago for appendicitis - he is going well and expects to be up again soon.
Saw General Sir D. Haig inspecting some troops. Stepped by sentry at Point Nierffe (Point Nierffe) bridge on way back but while he was arguing the point with a motor car, we made the best of our chances.
Aeroplanes active to-day. Archies also but with no success.
- 21/12/16. Day off duty to-day. Duckett in bed - not A.I. today. Bodington back A.I. Pictures this evening.
- 22/12/16. Weather cleared this afternoon and aeroplanes got busy; observing, dropping lights to indicate batteries etc; one seemingly found it a bit slow and swooped down very low and did a little machine-gunning along Fritz's trenches.
- 23-24/12/16. This morning Kelso and I went in one of the cars to the A.D.S. and from there with Sgt. Wilson round Tissage Dump, Little Mary Dump and the dug-outs at Willow Walk; things were very quiet, just an occasional shell coming over and none of them came near enough to us to be worth a mention. We had a look over some of the ruined parts of Houplines before returning. St. Sgt. Reid returned to the unit to-day.
Celebrated Xmas Eve in the best with N.C.O. Staff of 39th Q.M.S. (Kelso's friends).
- 25/12/16. "Xmas Day" - The Sgts., Officers, and Cooks made a special effort and we had a real swanky "blow out" to celebrate it.
Rupert Hutton came into Hospital to-day so I spent the evening of Xmas Day yarnning to him.
Our batteries bombarded the German lines very solidly to-night, though not a great many batteries were going at the same time - went out and had a good view of it.
- 26/12/16. On Cpl. of Guard but no guard available until "B" Sect. men return from forward posts this evening - "C" Sect. having gone to relieve them.
"A" Sect. relieved "B" of Hospital duties this morning.
R.D. went up to forward posts along with rest of "C" Sect. this morning.
- 27/12/16. All kinds of jobs this morning as we were very short, "B" Sect. men not having returned yesterday - some of them returned this afternoon. Kelso and I went to Pierrot Show this evening - really good show.
- 28/12/16. Hear that Bob Williams (Seymour Camp Leave King) is with 2nd. A.C.C.S. at Steenwerch a few miles from here.
Cpl. Oliver of 37th came in slightly gassed to-day.
- 29-30/12/16. Oliver going along well.
Aust. mail. Not much coming to hand, for me yet.
- 31/12/16. Spend New Year's Eve in various Estamine's studying human nature, etc.

- 1/1/17. "New Year's Day" - and something special in the way of dinner to remind us of the fact. Estaminets all pretty merry this evening. Kel. and I take up dancing in a near-by Estaminet.
- 2/1/17. Met my friend of last night's dancing at Port de Nierfe and afterwards went to the Pierrot Show which was very good. Had a jolly good dinner at "Bertha's" for a change to-night.
- 3/1/17. If I had been a bit better up in French and German, I had a very good chance of a staff job as an interpreter this morning, but my French anyway, is too weak, even if I had wanted it - which I don't.
- 4/1/17. Lot more casualties coming through lately, as fighting is getting gradually more severe; our bearers have been getting stirred up a little - a couple have a touch of gas from gas shells and Whitefield a touch of shock. Bodington was in to-day and said things were getting fairly lively; he said R. D. was at Willow Walk and not feeling too well.
- 5-6/1/17. On general duties. Spend half the day at Baths with "Scabies". Received a lot of Aust. mail to-day that had been re-addressed by Sherwood's and gone by mistake to 10th British Field Ambulance, which explains long delay and absence of a couple of parcels. I'm thinking that some things I sent to Sherwood's for will probably have taken the same wrong turning too - high boots and W. P. sheet.
- 7-8/1/17. Wrote letters yesterday not being on any special duty (Sunday). Nothing doing today.
- 9/1/17. Took "Scabies" to Baths this morning and had one myself. 20 Bearers sent to Dumps this afternoon, trouble being anticipated for this evening; I was away for a while at the time and found party complete on return and though I had a try, couldn't get off with them. Our Batteries were busy this afternoon and are going pretty hard this evening.
- 10/1/17. Party that went up to the Dumps yesterday afternoon returned late last night and fortunately didn't have a busy time. Alec's birthday today so we had tea at "Bertha's"; we spent the evening with Stan, Hyde and Bert Owen celebrating the birthday and did it well; the cake which had arrived from Australia for the occasion was out with much ceremony about mid-night in our billet and Alec waited on the crowd.
We had expected to have a great evening but Bod. and R. D. were not able to get in from the forward-posts and Howitt was on A.S.C. Duty at Steenwerck for the Q.M.S.
- 11/1/17. I arrived late on Parade this morning but Alec didn't arrive at all; the Colonel asked for Kelso and when I was marching off the "Picket" told me to report to him after posting the picket so I began to think it was going to be a case of "The Day after the Night Before", but found on reporting that he had wanted Kelso to go to a gas-school and as he had not been on Parade, I was to go instead. Start to-morrow morning at 6.45 a.m. from Half-past Eleven Square by bus. Saw Clive Fergie last night when trying to induce "Bertha" to give us supper after hours, in which we all failed.
- 12/1/17. Set out at 5.30 a.m. to get bus at "11.30 SQ." for Steenwerck Station; found bus flowing over when I got there but managed to find hanging room; we hadn't gone far when we met a second bus coming from Steenwerck to take overflow so I hopped off and got into it which didn't turn out to be too brilliant a move, as it arrived at the station so late that the R.T.O. didn't get our tickets made out in time so I missed the train along with Sgt. Crook of the 9th Fld. Amb. and Cpl. Wilkinson of the 37th Bn. I took Sgt. Crook along with me to 2nd. A.C.C.S. which was near and we had Breakfast and Dinner there - thanks to Tommy Turnbull; I had a good yarn with Tommy Bee, who may shortly go to England to convalesce and also to Bob Williams of Seymour. We had a look round Steenwerck before making for the station again in the afternoon to get the 3 o'clock train. We picked up Cpl. Wilkinson at Steenwerck station and got as far as Hazelbrücke by that train and there found that there was no train on to

Cassel until to-morrow evening. We asked how far it was to Cassel by road and were told about 6 Kilos. so decided to walk; after walking about 5 Kilos, by which time it was fairly dark, we came across a sign-board labelled "Cassel 6 Kilos." so we began to think we were jolly lucky to be holding our own and not losing ground. About 8 o'clock we got as far as Oxelaire which is a little village just out of Cassel and the place we were looking for - thank the Lord it was our side of Cassel and not on the other side of it for we were "blown out". For some time we could not locate the school as our French - mine was the best in the party - was not "too clever" and the "villagers" we enquired the way of seemed pretty thick in the head; we found a British Aviation Hdq. at last and one of the chaps there took us round to our rendezvous which was quite near.

- 13/1/17. Find this morning that the chaps who arrived yesterday morning have not made a start and as the Instructing Officer did not turn up this morning, we had the morning off.
There are 20 of us here in the school - all Aust. and N. Z's. and all N.C.O's.
Assembled at 2 o'clock for work, to be informed that there would be no start made until the following day, so we all went up to Cassel. Made an attempt to fulfil commission for Alec. but failed.
View from Casino at Cassel no good on account of heavy mist. Ground fairly thick with snow at present and weather very cold.
- 14/1/17. Started to-day and find the subject a very interesting one; we have two lectures and two practical lessons a day, which fill it nicely. This evening we went to Cassel and had a musical evening there in one of the Cafes.
- 15/1/17. Another day's work with a short practical exam. in the afternoon. Spent the evening at Marguerite's Cafe in Cassel.
- 16-17/1/17. Finished up school to-day.
This morning we occupied the model trenches and went through a gas attack of high concentration carrying out all duties laid down before, during and after an attack; we rather enjoyed it and came through with fully established confidence in masks.
This afternoon we had the written paper of 10 questions which were not difficult.
We all went to the "movies" at Cassel this evening and afterwards to "Marguerites" for a farewell supper.
- 18/1/17. Caught the train at Oxelaire at 8 o'clock this morning and found at Haze4 - bröcke that there would be no train to Steenwerck until 6.45 next morning so we were put up for the day at the Military Rest Camp of the Town and had a good look round the Town which is the largest I have yet been in - bar Le Havre - that we just passed through on landing over here - and perhaps Armentiers, which however is hardly inhabited now.
- 19/1/17. Caught the 6.45 train and were met by bus at Steenwerck, for Armentiers, where we arrived about 8 o'clock.
Find that our Section has been on hospital duty a week and that I'm booked for night-duty Casualty Ward, which suits me alright.
- 20/1/17. Start duty this evening. Aust. mail in to-day so I spent the morning "answering".
Met Rup. Hutton on the way to Baths this afternoon; he is out for a month and not sorry by a long way.
- 21/1/17. Sleep most of the day, after night duty.
Met Cpl. Taylor of Seymour in an Estaminet this evening.
A party of us, including Duckett, Kelso, Bod., Woff, Ede and Angwin, have hired a little room near-by for writing and reading in the evenings - it is too intensely cold to sit anywhere without a fire; the people in the house cated in the "egg and chip" line for the troops, two very bright girls Raimond and Alice being a great attraction.
R.D. sent to his uncle in London for a Proof Jacket to-day and ordered one for me at the same time.
- 22/1/17. Went last night with patients in car to 2nd. A.C.C.S. and saw Tommy Turnbull who happened to be on night stretcher -squad.

- 23/1/17. Things livening up at the lines. Heaviest and most prolonged artillery fire yesterday evening we have yet had here and as a consequence we had rather a busy time with cases coming through last night.
Slept all day - bed is the best place at present as weather is intensely cold.
Spent the evening at our room.
- 24/1/17. Old pay book called in as we are to be issued with new ones.
Issued with new gas-goggles.
Had tea at "Raymonds" this evening and afterwards went to the Pierrot Show which was very good.
- 25-27/1/17. On duty at night and between the blankets all day as it is too cold to do anything else.
"B" Section to relieve "C" at advance posts tomorrow or day after.
- 28-29/1/17. Big raid by our chaps last night so we had a very busy night.
- 30/1/17. Finished roster so I'm off duty.
Some of our section("B") came out to the advance posts to relieve, and take over today - I among them; I'm on day duty at the A.D.S. and find it a very comfortable place.
Got the prints of a group photo of Kelso, R.D. and myself taken in Armentiers to-day - R.D. looks a bit off and wants us to cut him out.
- 31/1/17. Out for a look around the ruined and abandoned houses round here to-day and came across some strange sights; we came across a hat shop that would have made the girls sad - dozens of hats of all kinds lying all over the place and just getting knocked to pieces.
We have a great "slide" here over a frozen ornamental pool in the back-garden - This place we are in used to be some class and was the Hdq. of Von Kluck when the Germans occupied the town in the early stages of the war.
- 1/2/17. Few shells flying round here today, searching for near-by batteries.
- 2/2/17. Capt. (Dr.) Stephens (Ginger Stephens of Hawthorn College Days) called in today; he is attached to some of the artillery near here at present.
- 3/2/17. Nothing doing. Received a lot of Aust. letters re-addressed from Sherwoods that had been travelling all over the place yesterday, including one containing £5., so spend to-day answering them.
- 4/2/17. Had a good ransack round amongst the abandoned houses with Kelso to-day, but there is nothing in them worth anything - if there was it has gone south long ago.
- 5/2/17. Took a run in the car to M.D.S. for a word with Duckett today - don't see very much of him at times, now that the sections get temporarily separated.
- 6/2/17. Alec Ede "crashed" while "sliding" on the pond in the back-garden today, and has sustained concussion.
Hear that America has declared war on Germany.
Rumoured that all A.S.C. and A.M.C. men are being "classed" and some of our alarmists have it that all the fit men are immediately to be drafted into Infantry - don't believe it at all.
- 7/2/17. Alec Ede right again to-day though a bit shaky; he was quite "dippy" for a few hours after he crashed and thought he was at home - he can't remember falling or being in the back garden here at all.
- 8/2/17. Went this evening in the car with a badly wounded patient to M.D.G. and then on to 2nd. A.C.C.S; had a yard with T. Turnbull and learnt that Tommy Bee is in "Blighty" for 3 months and that Wallie Ponsford's name has been in an Honour's list for a M. M.
- 9-10/2/17. R. D. sent me out the Dayfield Body shield to-day that had arrived from England.
- 11-12-13/2/17. Very off colour - think it must be the water, as a lot of the other boys have not been too well. Moved back to here - M.D.S. - from A.D.S. to-day.

- 14/2/17. Our party fixed up for the room at Raymond's again to-day. Got our new pay-books.
- 15-16/2/17. Feeling very cheap yet.
Rumours thick lately here that Capt. Wheatland, who is away from the unit sick at present, is likely to return to Australia and that Major Chaplin may be leaving us soon.
Rumoured that we move on somewhere else from here in about three weeks.
- 17/2/17. ~~17/2/17.~~ Felling much better again - lost a fair amount of weight though.
~~17/2/17.~~ Paraded "Scabies" to Ergunghem Baths, which 9th F. Amb. are running, 2 miles distant today - had a word to my advantage in the underclothing line with Sgt. Crook "of the Cassel Gas School".
- 18-19/2/17. On Cpl. of Guard duties again as of old. Spending evenings at our room at Raymonds.
Went for a walk to A.D.S. with Alec. to see R. D. this morning and this afternoon we went to the concert given by the Miss Ashley "Firing Five" Quartet, which was very good.
- 20-21/2/17. Met Billy Barter who is with 30th Batt. 8th. Bde., on the way to the Ergunghem Baths with the "Scabies" this morning. "An Evening Out".
- 22/2/17. Went for a walk to A. D. S. with Alec. to see R. D.
- 23/2/17. Spend half the day trying to locate Billy Barter; find that he is some distance away so may not see him for a time. Hear from Mr. Sherwood to the effect that the things I had sent to him for, were fortunately never sent me.
- 24/2/17. Go out with a lot of the others this morning to see our places for the 10th Bgde. Stunt in near future and find that I am to be in charge of party of 10 bearers at Pine Bernot corner - relief bearer post Kelso has a similar job at Port Arthur Dump some distance in front of me.
R. D. Paid us a visit from A.D.S. this afternoon.
Presentation to Mat. Ferguson today to show we appreciate him as a cook and a "worker."
- 25/2/17. Started out with Kelso to visit B. Barter but find he is out of Div. area so went to a walk to canteen; met Kelso's cousin there and went to the afternoon "movie" show; in the middle of the picture show the announcement was made that all of our unit there were to report to M.D.S. at once - thought something special was on but found that the parade was just to let some of the men there know their posts for the Stunt.
Church this evening.
- 26/2/17. Parade 9 a.m. for final instructions for this evening, examination of masks, etc.
Fell in at 7.30 P.m. and proceeded to A.D.S. and from there to Tissage Dump at 11 o'clock after bluff-bombardment. I got my party together at Tissage Dump; it consisted of 4 of our chaps and 6 of the 9th Field Amb; we got to our post about 12 o'clock and made ourselves as comfortable as possible while waiting.
- 27/2/17. Our bombardment commenced at 12.45 a.m.; lasted until 2 o'clock and was very intense - the row was the limit as we were right amongst the field guns. Just machine-gun bullets round our post "zipping" through the screens along the street. Finished evacuation about 4 o'clock and got back to billets dead tired at 6.30. The raid was particularly successful, the bluff attack on the sector to the right having completely puzzled the Germans - our casualties were very light; fair number of prisoners wounded and otherwise.
Learn the said news that our new dug-out at Willow-walk, that our boys had just changed into was blown up, Vickery and Shaw being killed and the others badly shaken; Stephens was hit by a beam across the knees and has been evacuated with Synovitis.
Spent most of to-day asleep; had the bad luck this evening to get snapped up for night duty on Surgical Ward.
- 28/2/17. Had a pretty solid night looking after five very badly wounded chaps, including a dying Fritz, who has died during the day.
Thirty of "B" Sect. go to Lestrade and a similar number of 11th chaps

have gone to advance posts to commence taking over from us. Went, with most of the rest of the ambulance boys, to the funeral of Vickery and Shaw this afternoon at Armentiers Military Cemetery. Hear that I, with remainder of "B" Sect. move off at 9.45 in the morning. Spend last evening at our room at "Raymond's".

- 1/3/17. Arrived here at D.R.S. L'Estrade by Horse Ambulance at 11 o'clock this morning. On the way here I saw ~~X~~ ^X ~~Bainbridge's~~ cousin driving a supply waggon but did not have a chance to speak to him. This place is about a mile from Steenwerch and stands on its own. The camp is mostly canvas being built round a farm-house which forms the nucleus. Treated to a great sight here as soon as we arrived; a Fritz airman tried to bring down the Observation balloon stationed here but failed; the airman had two tries and was undoubtedly a plucky one. The observers descended safely in their parachutes and the aeroplane made good its escape. Schrapnel from the "Archie's" shells was flying round pretty thick as the plane was so close over us. It is a great sight to watch for one expects to see the plane brought down every minute. Saw a woman, two little kids and a dog drawing a plough to-day while a man guided it - a very funny sight, yet a sad one; my word, the people here know that there is a war on. We are sleeping for the present on stretchers in one of the tents, but expect to get fixed up better later on beds of a kind in the Farm-house loft that the 11th chaps have not quitted yet.
- 2/3/17. Very cold in the tent last night; we were all too frozen to get up for first parade. I'm in charge of scavengers squad to-day. Heard this afternoon that some men were wanted to go on guard at a farm-house near here as a nipper there had mumps and the house was isolated to troops; I warned all the chaps to "Impshi" and I'm dashed if I didn't fall in myself for it and have to go there from 7 - 10 p.m.; it wasn't bad though, for I got a lot of correspondence done and a warm comfortable room and put in the good work in my best French with the people there for future occasion - especially - especially Msele. "Ginger" (Agnes).
- 3/3/17. Rest of Ambulance arrive and last of 11th moved out. R.D. with most of "C" Section went direct from Armentiers to take over small Rest Station from 11th at Ervingham. Detailed as Corporal in charge of Night Ward Orderlies until further notice.
- 4/3/17. Went in to Steenwerch to see R. Hutton, who is O.C. of Div. Reinf. Camp there - saw Capt. Eric Kerr in a car on the way in but did not get a chance to speak to him. Found Rup. was out but met him on the road on the way back; he is A.I.; likes his job and hopes it may last for a decent time.
- 5-6/3/17. Went into Steenwerch for a bath at one of the Estaminets that I looked for yesterday - so rushed that one has to bath by appointment and party of us went to 2nd. A.C.C.S. for a yarn to Tommy Turnbull, Bob Williams and a couple of our own chaps who were patients there.
- 7-8/3/17. Had a sleep this morning for one can't always get enough at nights while on night duty - I usually sleep in the mornings. Took some patients to Reinf. Camp this afternoon and had a chat with Rup. Hutton. Sgt. Wilson awarded M. M. for work on night of 10th Bgde. stunt.
- 9/3/17. R. D. and rest of "C" Sect. arrived from Ervingham having been relieved there, to their sorrow, by "Tommies".
- 10-11/3/17. The souvenir books of the unit "All About It" came to light to-day and I have sent my lot, bar one, to home and friends. Went for a walk with Alee to Steenwerch this afternoon - we usually go for a walk to some place or other in the afternoons. Tommy T. paid us a visit this evening.
- 12-3/17. Two days ago Fritz treated us to another entertainment - three of his planes attacked the balloon again; two kept high to protect the third which dived right on to the balloon and circled round it firing like fury until it went up in one great blaze.

The observers got out as soon as they saw Fritz coming and landed safely in their parachutes.

Our planes brought down two Fritz planes the same day to even accounts.

13/3/17.

Took a party to Reinf. Camp and saw Rup, and got some long trench boots from him that I had asked him to get for me.
George McIntyre has been awarded the M. M. for work on night of 36th raid which took place a night or two after the 10th Bgde. raid and was "no bon".

Something doing at Armentiers to-night as a lot of our boys have been sent to aid the 11th Fld. Amb.

11.30 Got up to watch the bombardment at Armentiers which has just started - is very heavy and covers a wide front.

1.30 Firing over and all seems quiet again.

14-16/3/17.

Played 2nd A.C.C.S. football to-day and got "stonched".

Tommy T. and a party of the 2nd A.C.C.S. visited us this evening and we spent the evening at "Agnes's" socially.

Alec afterwards gave us his masterpiece "Bread to the right, soup to the left," he's a lucky man who gets two bits of bread - Kel, is head of the mess-room staff and bread has been short lately.

17-3-17.

R. D. develops measles by some evil chance.

Paid "Agnes" a visit this evening.

18/3/17.

R. D. sent to Hospital today.

Visited Steenwerch with Kelso, Cpl. C. Smith and Sgt. Bert Reid and had a free tea at Y. M. C.A. (Sunday); went to the pictures later with Bert.

"C" Section left to-day to start making an M.D.S. at Port d'Aschelles for Plogstaert (Plug St.) sector of Messines Ridge.

19/3/17.

Tommy T. came along to enquire re transfer for himself and Blue L. Primer from 2nd. A.C.C.S. to our unit having heard nothing more of their application for transfer to Artillery that they put on some time ago - also made arrangements for a dinner in Steenwerch next Thursday evening for a party from our unit and the 2nd A.C.C.S. Sent Kelso's and my watch to Sherwood for repair.

Very "dry" - fortunately, pay day comes day after to-morrow as our party can hardly raise 2d.

20/3/17.

A party of about 15 of our boys go with 10th Bgde. out past St. Omer for 16 days special field training.

Had a concert this evening in the mess-tent which was decently rigged up for same; most of the items were by our own chaps though some outside help was obtained - hope to have similar concerts fortnightly in future.

21/3/17.

Another party of 15 go to join "C" Section at "Cactus Farm" as the boys call it there.

T. Turnbull came along this evening to say our "party" to-morrow evening was "off", also that he was not applying for transfer at present anyway as "leave" looked "likely".

22-24/3/17.

Visited boys at "Cactus Farm" and find them all confined to camp as Cpl. Dick while executing his masterpiece, i.e., sitting over the opok house fire got it in the neck by the shell of a live cartridge that had been carelessly (?) thrown in with some rubbish and exploded. Alec and I had intended going to "Kewi" Pierrot Show with Bod. and party but as they were "gated" we had to go on, on our own; it was a brilliant show with a fine orchestra and worth the 8 mile walk. Got back to camp about 10.30. Short sleep tonight as the clocks go forward an hour to-night - daylight saving scheme.

25/3/17.

Service in our own mess tent this afternoon. Couple of French lessons from "Agnes" during the day.

26-27/3/17.

Heard from R. D. who is fairly right again and expects to be back soon. Kelso went to Hazebrucke with "Scabies".

Had a word with Rup. Hutton when I took some men along to the Reinf. Camp.

- 28/3/17. Colonel Purdy got back from 10 days' course at some school so expect things will move and the war re-commence for our unit again. French lessons going pretty well. Took up milking at the farm to-night to the cows' disgust.
- 29/3/17. Muster Parade 9 o'clock for inspection which doesn't please the Colonel at all.
R. D. has arrived back and is right again; bar a sore ear.
Wrote to Mr. Laurence re "Rayless" Search-light argument.
- 30/3/17. Went to the "Balloonnatics" Pierrot Show at Steenwerch this evening - fair only.
- 31-2/4/17. Been snowing a good deal.
French lessons "off"; when up at the farm one morning lately the "Gendames" raided and finding that "Beer" was being sold out of prescribed hours the place has been placed out of bounds to troops for 2 weeks.
- 3/4/17. The Div. Pierrots came from Armentiers to-day and gave us an entertainment in the mess-tent; it was very good and much appreciated by the patients and ourselves.
The Xmas parcels arrived to-day - rather late but in good time for Easter; we were like a lot of kids with prize-packets again.
- 4/4/17. Got the job this morning of going to our old advance posts to get some "wheelers" that were left there when we were relieved - got the liver nearly shaken out of me in the wagon, going and coming, and only got one wheeler out of three missing and was lucky and had to put up a great fight to get it - things seemed to be very quiet there.
- 5/4/17. Colonel Purdy left this morning for six days holiday - we don't mind if he takes more.
Went to "Archie" Pierrot Show in Steenwerch this evening but it wasn't too good.
- 6/4/17. Party that went to "Field training" with 10th Bgde. arrived back.
Had a very "convivial" evening at "Marie" Farm with Tommy T., Blue L. and our party.
- 7-8/4/17. Up early this morning and away with patients for Ophthalmic Hospital at Hazebrucke. Got to the Hospital about 10.30 and after delivering my patients looked up a comfortable room near-by for the couple of nights I stay here waiting for my patients to be fixed up for me to take back again and then had a stroll through the town. In the afternoon I met Perry who had come on after me with the "Scabies" and had to return next morning - I spent remainder of the day with him.
- 9/4/17. Got up very late as sheets and a spring mattress are too rare to be treated lightly and then went out for a walk to watch the marketting in the Square, for it happened to be market morning.
Went back to where I had my room for dinner, which was good, and then put in the rest of the afternoon practicing French on the little Mselle, there as the weather was too bad to go out.
Reported at Ophthalmic Hospital at 6 o'clock and took those of the patients who were to go back with me, to the Convalescent Camp for the evening - didn't leave this camp in the evening as it was snowing too hard.
- 10/4/17. Catch early train from Hazebrucke and reach own camp again at 8.30.
Party leave for St. Omer for work with 9th Bgde. on Field Training.
Go on duty, Night Ward Cpl. again, and have a busy night so couldn't sneak much sleep.
- 11/4/17. Sleep this morning.
Snowing heavily to-day.
Great news of our advance at Arras - hear continual heavy firing south of us.
- 12/18/4/17. Nothing much doing last few days bar receiving and writing letters, galore.
Continued good news of British offensive and fresh news of great French offensive.

- 19/4/17. Went this evening with Alec, Dangles and Anzac Dredge to "Kewi" show at Nieppe about three miles distant and the walk which was done in quick time just about knocked me out. I have got so out of condition on this continued night duty. The show was "Brilliant"; on the way back we called in and had a word with Bodington and the boys at "Castus Farm" (Pont d'Aschelles M.D.S.); we were halted and questioned by the sentry at the railway-crossing but I put on the "high stuff" in my officer's pattern overcoat and bluffed through as an officer with a working party; we then called in on Tommy T. at 2nd. A.C.C.S. so did not get back to our own camp until late.
- 20/4/17. "Dooked" $\frac{1}{2}$ fr. each when paid this morning for some alleged damage done to our units when/camp at Lark Hill, Salisbury Plains, England. Had our photos taken in at Steenwerch to-day.
- 21/4/17. Went to see the football match between our unit and 2nd. A.C.C.S. at Steenwerch this afternoon and called on Rup. Hutton, who is A.I. at the same time. 2nd. A.C.C.S. took us down again.
- 22/4/17. Alec went off with the Eye-patients to Hazebrucke this morning. Armentiers solidly shelled yesterday and to-day with Gas and H.E. Shells - civilians suffer heavily. Went to "Movies" with R.D. this evening.
- 23-24/4/17. Very heavy 1 hour's bombardment on Armentiers sector last night which we learn this morning was due to Fritz raid which failed badly. Woke up in the middle of a decent sleep this morning to find Lt. Maughan pinching my excess pillows and blankets off me - just as well weather is warming up now. "Things" look like a move before long. "Kewi" Pierrot Troupe were to have entertained at the camp here this afternoon but did not turn up. Six of us and three of 2nd. A.C.C.S. including T. Turnbull and Blue L. had an enjoyable dinner and evening at "Agnes" Farm house this evening.
- 25-4/17. Had our photos (our party) taken by "Agnes" at the Farm house this morning. We all went to the 2nd A.C.C.S. Sports Meeting this afternoon and of course we were most interested in one or two "open" events that we were represented in. Col. Purdy won the Officers race off a good mark that he helped himself to get; much to our amusement, in brilliant style. Krause was beaten in open 100 yards being in very poor form. Our unit team won the tug-of-war. I saw Frank Wheatland who was wrongly reported at one time to have been returned to Aust. after being evacuated from our unit, at Armentiers sick - and Eric Kerr there and had a chat with them; both were very well.
- 26-27/4/17. Went out with some of the others including Major Kenny this morning for a run, as we may be having some sports next week, when we hope to get our own back on 2nd. A.C.C.S. - a Flanders virago ordered us out of the field we were running in; we all told her what we thought of her and all like her - Major Kenny especially and he managed to make it clear he thought so little of her that it is not worth entering. Alec went to Hazebrucke with "Scabies" this afternoon.
- 28/4/17. Played D.A.C. football and our boys scored a win for a change. Our sports "off" for the present as we can't find a ground. Vote to-day for Aust. elections - I got in first vote in our unit.
- 29/4/17. Secured the job of taking the Eye-patients to Hazebrucke again. Arrived here at Hazebrucke with them at 9 o'clock this morning and after handing them over I secured same room as I had last time. Found A's P.C. girl this time that I couldn't locate before and had a "conversazione" with her.
- 30/4/17. Beautiful weather so just roam around seeing the place and leaking more cash than the trip is worth.
- 1/5/17. Month starts with very fine weather. Back to S'werch this morning and collected photos of myself taken there a few days ago on my way out to camp. Spent the evening at "Agnes" farm and got the snap she took of us which is very good.

- 2/5/17. Hear that I am to get a change off night work, which I am glad of now that we are having such beautiful weather.
Met Roy Williams of Hawthorn College days, a day or two ago on one of the motor lorries; he is in the 3rd. Div. Engineers.
- 3/5/17. Heard from Wallie P. to-day; he has had the luck to get "Blighty" leave which is very scarce at present.
Tommy Turnbull is to go into Officers "try out" school and will then go on to Oxford or Cambridge should he prove "the goods", of which I have no doubt.
- 4-5/5/17. Laurie Woods paid us a visit to-day.
Had a scratch cricket match in which Kelso hit up a score of 69.
- 6/5/17. Sunday - Service in our mess-tent.
Aust. Mail and I get a couple from Kit. at last.
- 7/5/17. Broke off one of my front teeth on some bally raisins in a parcel from Aust. so don't know that I am very glad I got it.
Heavy bombardment by both sides to-night Armentiers way, and a gas alarm which put the wind up the French civilians but fortunately no gas came and the excitement soon died down.
- 8/5/17. To Steenwerch station early this morning to meet some patients.
"Kewi" Orchestra came and gave us an afternoon's very enjoyable music.
Cpl. Caldwell-Smith left for Officer's School this morning and we were all sorry to lose such a decent chap.
- 9/5/17. Read out on parade this morning that leave is to be granted at the rate of 1 man the Div. per day and applications were called for; we think it rather a joke but have all put our names in just the same.
Scratch match between 1st and 2nd Cricket Teams and 1st. had their work out out to win.
- 10-11/5/17. Had broken tooth crowned yesterday but had to have it off again today - abscess formed and it doesn't feel too good at all.
- 12/5/17. Bod., Kel. and I went for a walk to Steenwerch this evening and ran into some of Bod's friends; as a consequence we got home "well" but late.
- 13/5/17. Stayed in camp and gave a hand in the mess-tent today as most of the starvation-staff were away at some cricket match.
Capts. Wheatland, McMahon and Chaplin promoted to "Major" rank.
Fritz sent a few 12" shells over us today - they sounded as though they were for us, but landed as a matter of fact a good $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away.
- 14/5/17. Being a casual hand in time of need in the mess-tent. I join in a game of cricket to-day. Cooks and "Starvation" Staff versus Sgts. - we lost.
Capt. Chaplin left us to-day to join the 11th A.F.A.
- 15/5/17. Advance parties of units of 4th Aust. Div. arrived at Hazebrucke yesterday; Baker met Les. Robinson who is one of the 12th. Fld. Amb. party in Hazebrucke yesterday and he is to visit us here today if he can manage it.
- 16/5/17. Les. Robinson visited us last night at 7 o'clock, and of course there was plenty of talk flying round; he stayed the night with us and returned to his own billet at Douhen - about 5 Kilos. from here - this morning.
The Colonel picked on me this morning to turn a dirty piece of land in the centre of the camp into a garden of Eden, so I made a start with the pick this morning.
Les. Robinson came over again this evening and stayed to the unit concert but not for the night as the main body of the 4th. Div. are to arrive in the small hours of to-morrow morning and he must of course be on hand.
The unit concert was very good and now that the stage and scenery is all finished, we expect to have them frequently.
Things were lively at the farm after the concert.
- 18/5/17. Work hard on my "barren acre" this morning.
This afternoon a lot of the 12th Fld. Amb. came over to see us including Fred. Wandsborough, Everett Reid, Leo. Sharry, Claude Johnstone, Gerald Rook and Bert Howgate - all our old crowd at Seymour so it was a decent reunion. While they were here a Fritz plane came over and tried to "bust" the Observation balloon at the back of us, but failed. The

observers landed safely by parachute; the "Fritz" made good his escape though the shells burst very close to it - it kept very low and so had the further guns out of action; some of the shells were a bit short timed and burst a little too close over us for comfort, but none was hit. Bert Drouin took the visitors back by car and we expect them over again to-morrow, evening to the concert that the "Archies" are going to give us here in our "Theatre".

- 19/5/17. Work on my "plot" again. A party of our boys who were running the Steenwerch baths came back to-day ~~xxxxxx~~ having been relieved by P. B. men. The Seymour boys of the 12th F. A. and Maffin of the 13th came over this afternoon and had tea with us and stayed for the "Archie's" concert which was very decent; they left here very late so will arrive back at their own camp early to-morrow morning.
- 20/5/17. Les: Robinson was over for a while this evening. Was to have gone up to Ploystaert in charge of a relief party of 12 tomorrow morning - we are doing some dug-out building up there - but Lt. Auston won't let me go with abscess in jaw in present state; Howitt is going up with the party.
- 21/5/17. Worked hard and with W. O. Porter's aid finished my plot this afternoon and sowed it with oats - the Colonel had a bit of a dig at it too.
- 22/5/17. Fairly heavy rain. Fritz shelling a bit Ploystaert way to-day.
- 23/5/17. Always running into the W.O. lately when he is looking for someone for some job he has forgotten about on parade - fell in for room-orderlie this morning. Kel. and I visited the 12th Fld. Amb. this afternoon, and on our way through Steenwerch handed in the 10th Fld. Amb. entries for the Y.M.C.A. Sports on Monday next (Whit Monday), and to get prints of photos "Agnes" took. Had a very enjoyable evening with the Seymour boys of the 12th and arrived home at about 10.30 and found R. D. happy.
- 24/5/17. Cleaned up the oats-patch this morning and gave a hand in the mess-tent in the afternoon. "C" Tent if not the whole of "C" Section set out somewhere to-morrow, so the long-expected good work must be commencing soon now; we have been expecting it awhile now so are not surprised at such short notice. Concert by the "Balleonatics" at our theatre this evening; we did not see too much of it as we had an "Alsace" party at the "Agnes" Farmhouse, which was lively.
- 25/5/17. Les. Robinson visited us again this evening. "C" Tent which of course included R. Duckett, left for Port d'Archelles M.D.S. to-day, where I believe they are to work with the (Dare-Devil) 9th Fld. Amb. and other ambulance "C" Section Tent Divisions in the coming Stunt. Kel. and I are to stay here and run this place with "B" Sect. Tent Div. which will be tame but comfortable - Capt. McPhee and Major Kenny staying in charge of us which is very satisfactory. The Sgts. were up to-day reviewing the ground that the various sections are to work over during the Stunt.
- 26/5/17. My 27th "mile-stone" and the completion of our first six months in France. We all signed a testimonial affair to-day, to be forwarded to Mrs. Major Chaplin - to show her what a prize she has. Took the men to Div. Reinf. Camp and then went to see the Cricket Match between our team and that of 12th. Fld. Amb. - our team had an easy win.
- 27/5/17. Service in mess tent this morning and this afternoon we had a section cricket match.
- 28/5/17. Messed round in the mess-room this morning and this afternoon we had the Y.M.C.A. Sports to amuse us; we came an easy first, winning nearly everything. 220 - Stone, 1st Place; 100 yds. - Stone, 2nd place; Tug-of-War 1st Place; Bicycle Obstacle Race and High Jump - Parkinson 1st place; 880 yds. - myself 1st place; Relay Race - 1st place, Stone, Bud. Kelso, Myself.

- 29/5/17. Told this evening that I am to go with Ophthalmic Patients to Hazebrucke in the morning but later same is cancelled as I am wanted to relieve one of the L/Cpls. at Ploystaert.
- 30/5/17. Got ready to go to Ploystaert but arrangements were cancelled at the last minute and I was put on Ward Duty.
- 31/5/17. Bodington and Krause came back late last night for a night's sleep from Ploystaert work-party, and as Cpl. C.-Smith returned from Officer's "try-out" school to go on to O.T.C. at Oxford, we spent the evening in company. Bod. and Krause returned to-day and Cpl. C.-Smith went off to Blighty.
Take on the Surgical Ward to-day and have a very busy time as "A" Sect. Tent Div., went off to some A.D.S. at Ploystaert and stripped the ward of all equipment.
Duckett paid us a visit to-day from M.D.S. at Port d'Aschelles.
Les. Robinson came along this evening just in time to see Fritz send our balloon here up in smoke; it was nearly dark when he came over and it was some sight to see the tracer-bullets on their way from plane to balloon.
Big work-party was to have gone up to Ploystaert to-night but it has been cancelled.
- 1/6/17. Hard at work all day.
Went up to "Marie's" Farm for awhile with Kelso but did not stay long as company there was rather "irresponsible".
Some of "A" Sect. have gone up to Ploystaert.
- 2/6/17. Working hard. Work parties returned from Ploystaert; one of our chaps named Chalmers was slightly wounded there to-day and M. Campbell somewhat shaken up by same shell.
Hear that Snowy Nathan of the 39th was killed a month ago.
Parkinson "came off" his bike to-day and has gone on to 2nd. A.C.C.S. for X-ray (?) broken leg.
- 10/6/17. Have not had time to write my diary the last few days having been hard at work for about 14 hours a day and too tired for anything but sleep after.
All the boys bar "B" Sect. Tent Div. went up to the lines at Ploystaert on the night of the attack - 6th.
We did not receive wounded here at first but have about 200 now; it has been solid work for our day staff of 7, as there are 500 patients altogether to look after.
The story of the attack - The Battle of Messines - is now really past history; it has been a great success, our boys being, at time of writing, well beyond Messines - our casualties have been comparatively light in number and nature while those of Fritz have been very heavy.
We are fairly used to bombardments now, yet the one going on while I write is so heavy as to make us take more than ordinary notice - it is our guns so probably signifies another Fritz counter-attack, which no doubt will be a costly failure for them as the preceding ones have been. Our unit casualties in the Battle have been as follows:-
Killed - Craven and Rhyl.
Wounded - Capt. Glassford Jnr. L/Cpls. Thomas, Wood H., and Cleal.
Pts. Trefipitt, Bob Davies, Chalmers, Capt. McSweeney.
Gassed - or Slightly Wounded and Gassed - L/Cpl. Dines, A. V. Johnstone, G. Evans, A. Ware, J. Cormick, Alec. Munro, E. B. Dawson, Adams, Laver, Gillett, Murray, Wilson, Sgt. Hodder.
Here at L'Estrade D.R.S., we felt very little concussion from the explosion of the mines on the Messines ridge on the night of the attack but as they were heard and felt distinctly many miles to the rear of us, I conclude that we must be in a sound pocket of some kind here.
A few of "A" and "B" Sections came back to-night for a 24 hours spell.
Capt. R. Hutton came in to-night, after his arrival back from a good holiday in England, to see if any of his were here and to make some kind of a list of them, when they would be fit for duty again, etc; he is looking very well and goes on up to the lines to-night.
We have had a lot of our best Aeroplane Squadrons here for the Battle and have seen what our latest planes can do these last couple of weeks and there seems to be little that they can't do in the air now; the naval tri-planes and the latest bi-planes put Jules Verne's prophecies in the shade - they have outclassed Fritz here.

18/6/17.

Been busy sleeping and writing up mail which had got behindhand this last 8 days so have got behind again in this, the tale of my experiences. The boys all arrived back from Ploystaert round about the 12th and "C" Tent from Port d'Aschelles on the 15th.

NEUVE

"A" Sect. Tent Div. are away running a clearing station for 10th Bgde.

near ~~Nemie~~ Eglise. NEUVE

"C" Sect. Bearers were away at Port d'Aschelles for a day or two but are back again now.

I was relieved from duty on Surgical Ward and have had an easy time for a couple of days and will now have a try for night duty for a while again. Everything has been fairly quiet lately - a couple of days ago I saw a couple of Fritz Balloons brought down and for the last couple of days Fritz has been putting over a few long range naval shells a couple of which burst just about over us last night.

Herb. Morris - now a Major - called in at Port d'Aschelles and saw R. D. one day - some style etc. Roy says.

We have received a lot of reinforcements lately including a Cpl. who has been made "B" Sect. Waggon Ord. Cpl. - bad luck for Kelso who has been acting W. Ord. Cpl.

Two of our chaps - Rennie and Alexander - have gone to 37th G.M.C. detail in exchange for two from the detail.

Also Kelso went to Armentiers yesterday but it was too "hot" there and quite deserted so he did not stay long. He says that many of the Estaminets at which we used to foregather when thirsty - very seldom - are now "non-est" and that the old M.D.S. has been abandoned for healthier quarters.

20/6/17.

Major Frank Wheatland was here yesterday; I was speaking to him for a while - he is looking better than I have ever seen him.

Len Groat went to C.C.S. yesterday with post-gas trouble and we hear to-day that he has been sent on so he will probable be in England soon - some of the others are already there we hear.

Went for a swim in the Lys a couple of evenings ago - the swim was good but the dust and rain storm which caught us in the water and our clothes on the bank made a very decent mess of us.

Took on Kelso's job on night duty last night as he was away with our cricket team playing a N. Z. team and was going on with the others later to the "Kewi" Pierrot Show so I have spent most of to-day in bed. Les. Robinson came along to see us and say good-bye, as they were being relieved at Steenwerch and moving back somewhere unknown, a couple of days ago.

24/6/17.

"Missed" a night job and have been for the last few days on the skin diseases ward and am just getting things well in order there now.

Our cricket team played 3rd N. Z. a couple of days ago and beat them well - Peter Dredge made the century "not out" in fine style;

I met Les. Robinson in Steenwerch at the match - his unit is back near their old billett at Dulieu again.

"A" Section have gone to some place in Bailleul to take over a D.R.S. of which we here, know no particulars as yet.

Great aerial activity lately providing good entertainment for us.

Three days ago a Fritz plane came over and up went two of our balloons of which there has been a long line up here since the Battle of Messines; yesterday morning a Fritz squadron of fast battle planes raided the line of them from end to end at great speed and brought down - or sent up - three of them; in all cases our observers got well away in their parachutes. It was some sight to see three go up at once and as many as 20 observers out in their parachutes at various stages of the descent. Yesterday evening an aerial combat right over us, but above the clouds a Fritz battle-plane met its Waterloo and it was really a great sight to see it come bursting through the clouds, nose diving spirally until it crashed to earth about 1000 yards away - the plane was completely smashed but the airmen were alive; one did not live long and of the others we have not heard since a Fritz battle plane got into difficulties with a squadron of ours here this morning at about 12000 feet and tried to escape by the elusive spiral nose dive - elusive because it may be genuine or bluff; in this case it was bluff and the Fritz plane "flattened out" and made for its lines at about 600 feet but was brought down before getting there by one of our following planes from the attacking squadron. Fritz got cheeky to-day and came over at mid-day and "sent off" the balloon on our left and since then has been firing heavy schrapnel at the balloon on our right - wonderful shooting but unsuccessful.

Beckerley transferred into Corps. Sanit. Squad.

"Archies" gave us a concert in our "theatre" here last night.

27/6/17.

Quiet lately. Our cricket team has been playing a few matches against N. A. teams, all of which they have won easily. L/Cpls. Groat and Gandy, Pte. Mudie and Cpl. Ellis of 39th Detail have been awarded M.M.'s. from Messines Stunt and Sgt. Alec. Wilson got a bar to his M. M. out of it. Les. Robinson has been along from his billet near Dulieu a couple of times lately to see us.

3/7/17.

This morning I was sea bathing and this afternoon we had a very nice afternoon tea with as many strawberries and cream as one wished, for since last "entry" things have moved some and I am now - along with Sketa Funbridge and Roy Rule - at the 2nd Army Rest Camp at Ambleteuse which is six miles or so out of Boulogne and three from Wimereux which lies between Ambleteuse and Boulogne, the three being on the coast. About 4 o'clock last Sunday afternoon I was told that a note had come through from Col. Purdy, who is with "A" Sect. at Bailleul, to the effect that the three of us were to proceed to Steenwerch Reinf. Camp that evening and from there on to 2nd A.R.C. Ambleteuse next morning along with the rest of the 3rd. Div. chaps who were going; we were lucky enough to get down to the Reinf. Camp in one of our cars and there we found about 250 others of 3rd. Div. gathered for same purpose and not enough sleeping room so four of us cleared out and found ourselves room in the R.S.C. billet in a barn and we got a decent sleep though the air was thick enough to cut. In the morning we marched to Bailleul - our packs thank heaven going by G.S.W.

The train journey was nothing to write home about but the country we passed through was very pretty in places and one could not help noticing how intensely the country was cultivated.

We arrived at the station of Wimereux about 4.30 p.m. and then had to walk with full packs up out to the camp - an absolute hell of a march even beating that at Le Havre on disembarkation.

The camp is a bell-tent one and very clean - good wet and dry canteens, mess-tents, etc.

The routine here is Reveille 6.30, Breakfast 8.;

Rifle Inspection and Fall in 9.30, after which all are marched down to the beach for a swim, though it is optional whether one bathed or not - no further parades except meals.

Not allowed to leave camp before 2 o'clock, this hour being fixed it is explained to us in order that all will have dinner before leaving camp and so not make in-roads into the small bread supply etc. that the civilians round here now have.

It appeared this morning that leave to go to Boulogne and Wimereux was not going to be too generous so we all protested and paraded with the result that all who wanted same were granted leave and this we hope will be an established rule for the remainder of our stay here - 14 days. Didn't apply for leave to-day - too tired after yesterday's march out here and transport being scarce it is often necessary to walk the bulk of the way to Wimereux and back - trams run between Wimereux and B. There are 12 to a tent and Rule and I are in with 10 9th Bde. chaps; this weather half the chaps are sleeping out in the open so we are alright in the tent, but if the weather changes goodness knows how we will get on.

The village of Ambleteuse is not large or very interesting though it is a "sight for sore eyes" after the villages and towns we have been near the last 8 months for it is clean and modern and a typical sea-side pleasure place, something like "Portsea" near Sorrento on the Bay at Melbourne.

Our camp is practically on the beach and we see the destroyers patrolling up and down all day and now a Parseval air-ship or a sea-plane on the same job.

Food not too good and needs a fair amount of supplementing; we take it in turn to "mess orderlies" for the day.

Just before leaving our unit camp, Kelso was made Acting Wagon Ord. Cpl. of "B" Sect. and we expect that the rank will be confirmed as soon as Colville-Smith passes his Officer's Course in England and is struck off our strength.

7/7/17.

The weather is beautiful though just a little on the cool side; I have been having a great time - going into Wimereux or Boulogne every day. I met the Colonel in Wimereux one evening and he told me that our unit was going into the lines - taking over from the 11th - on the 11th of this month, which means that I will have new quarters to go back to. Saw Hodder and a couple of the others down for the day in the car that was to take the Colonel back.

Passed Groat in the train one day between Wimereux and Boulogne - thought he had gone on to England but he may do so yet. I have been wandering about a lot with a Sgt. Robinson of the 37th. The Queen visited some of the Hospitals about here a day or two ago and I caught a good view of her both coming and going. The old "castle city" of Boulogne in the centre of the present town and on the hill overlooking it is very interesting; the outer walls are kept in good preservation and are about 60 feet high and the same through; the township within the walls is of fair size but most of the buildings are modern now - bar the Cathedral and old "Keep". Plenty of the new Kahki girls in Wimereux and Boulogne - and very nice too - some of them. To-day "Third Div." is on camp duties here - I missed them but have stayed in to-day to get some letters away.

8/7/17.

Thunderstorm last night which resulted in flooding all our tents; I got a couple of forms in one of the mess tents and was fairly comfortable as some of my blankets escaped getting soaked before we woke up and found the tent flooded. Went into Boulogne after Church Parade - spent the afternoon listening to the band and in the evening went to Wimereux to meet a "Kahki" friend. Saw some of the lately arrived Americans in Boulogne this afternoon - some swank.

9/7/17.

Jolly cold to-day so didn't have my usual morning dip. Went into Boulogne this afternoon.

11/7/17.

Had a very enjoyable day yesterday and had just about booked up a full programme for the remainder of my stay here so was not pleased to get notice this morning that a telegram had been received ordering my return to the unit by the 12th to-morrow. Nothing in the telegram to say why I was wanted so it is just a matter of "Pack UP". I caught the bus into Wimereux and after a couple of hours there went on to Boulogne and found that my train went at 4 o'clock next morning so hunted up a rest billet and had a look at Boulogne by night before retiring.

12/7/17.

I caught the train this morning alright and got through to Steenwerch about 11 o'clock. I made for our old camp at L'Estrade and found that the unit had left - gone up the line yesterday so I nosed about for the easiest way to get up to them and had the luck to run into the Acting A.D.M.S. who ran me up to Westeff Farm M.D.S. in his car and from there I caught one of our own cars up to our own Hd. Q. here at Kandahar Farm which consists of Tents and a few sand-bag dug-outs arranged in and around two smashed farm houses. I found on reporting, that I had been recalled from Boulogne to run in the 2nd Army Corps. Field Ambulance Sports which take place next Saturday at Steenwerch so one can imagine how I "talked" - four lovely days at Boulogne lost for that. There are to be about 12 Ambulances represented and 2 or 3 C.G.S.'s. at the Sports and I am to run in the mile which is a race which I don't comprey but I will have a go at it now that I am back. One of our Unit - a new chap named Poulson that I don't know at all - was killed yesterday and P. Samson was evacuated "Shell Shock" due to same shell. Two old boys - Stevens - evacuated at Armentiers - and Williams - left at Lark Hill - have rejoined. Gandy is now attached to "B" Tent Div. in Kelso's place.

13/7/17.

Went with Alec. to the horse-lines some two miles back this morning and got some of my tegs from Kel's wagon. We dined with the "transport"; in the afternoon I wrote letters. While I was away the 10th Bgde. Sports were held and our boys did very well, winning most of the events that they entered for.

14/7/17.

We were taken to the Sports Ground at Steenwerch this afternoon in the Horse-Ambulance Wagons and just got there in time for the 100 yds. race. The Sports were good and we had the hardest work we have had to date, in the various Military Sports our team has competed in, to gain the Championship but we did the work alright coming out two or three points to the good.

There were 13 Units represented -

The 3 Ambulances of the 3rd Div. - The 3 of 4th Div. - The 4 N. Z. Field Ambulances - 2nd. Aust. C. C. S. and two others.

The first three were 10th Aust. Field Amb. 24 points - 3rd. N. Z. Field Amb. 21 points - 2nd A.C.C.S. 17 Points. Our points were made up as follows:-

100 yds. Stone 3rd - 1 pt. 220 Stone First - 5 pts. Hurdle, Stone 1st 5 pts. High Jump Eq. 2nd - 2 pts. 440 Bodington 2nd - 3 pts.

Mile Werner 1st - 5 pts. Tug-of-War 10th Fld. Amb. 2nd - 3 points. It was an enjoyable day's sport and we were all pleased to have kept our place "on top",

We won the relay race but were disqualified in error and though we could have obtained a decision in our favour we let the matter drop as we were ahead.

Major Kenny won the officers race.

I drew compensation to the extent of 40 frs. for my lost days at Boulogne.

15/7/17.

A party of us walked to Kemmel Hill this afternoon from the top of which we got a great view of the entire ridge and Battle Field of Messines; the ridge is barren, the trees are stripped like poles or uprooted and the earth is ground to powder - there is just enough left of the village of Messines to show where it stood.

Away on the left the shells were bursting in and in front of Ypres in a desultory fashion and right in front of us on the further ridge we could plainly see Menm-Bullien, while nearer to us just over the Messines ridge was Warneton which bids fair to rival Messines for desolation before long.

We could see our shells bursting away over in the German lines but there was not much doing.

It was too misty to make out anything of Lille.

Tonight some of the new German high velocity shells came to earth fairly near to us here and entertained us with the sight of decent columns of trees, dirt, etc.

Alec and I go up to one of the forward posts on the Messines Ridge tomorrow for our 24 hrs. spin with "B" Section.

20/7/17.

Well! we had our 24 hours and have just got back from the second dose; we were at the rail-head relief post first time and had 24 hours very solid work but not much in the way of shells.

On the 17th I took a trip into Steenwerch with the cricket team who just beat the 4th Fld. Amb. by a narrow margin.

Our second trip up the lines was much more lively than the first but we had a good deal less work.

Walked in to Nenne-Eglise a couple of days ago with some washing and met Strickland, who went into camp with our party nearly two years ago now.

23/7/17.

Back from another round this time at Unbearable Trench - got a fair dose of gas-shells for a change this time; saw some fine aerial fighting as many as 30 machines being engaged at times; we saw 7 machines brought down but in most cases it was a guess whose they were.

We have had the great misfortune to have lost two of our boys - Les. Krause and Quinn Crawford in the last two days and Jack Curnick has been very badly wounded in both legs by the same shell that killed Quinn Crawford at St. Quentin post.

We have got our wet and dry canteen going at last with Ted Ellis in charge; it is making money fast and bids to be a great acquisition and success both financially and otherwise.

I met Bill Beater who came to visit us, in our canteen the day before yesterday; he never received my letter and so did not know my address to write. He told me that Lloyd when last he heard was still in England.

27/7/17.

We go up the lines again to-morrow for another dose; last time we expected to be our last in the ordinary course of business but the big stunt we are waiting for has not yet taken place so we are to carry on until it does and see it through after which we will be relieved.

We expected to go up for the climax to-night as "A" Sect. were double issued this morning but apparently such was just a precaution in case. All day long the Hun has "barraged" the road just below us with beavies and we have been under a shower of fragments the whole time. McIntyre was knocked down by a big piece on the neck but fortunately it hit flat and was nearly spent so didn't damage him.

One chap was badly knocked on the leg about 40 yards down the road but not a great deal of damage was done. Kelso and I were at Unbearable again last time and we had some awful falls in the mud and dark; we all fell down shell holes "beaucoup" times but fortunately we were not shelled much. We fixed up the cook of the 35th and we got one of the most tasty dinners I have yet had in France - trench cooked too.

We have got an Aust. mail at last.

Alec and I dug up a bath down near the horse-lines yesterday; we had tea at the transport cook-house and a yarn with Slater who had been sent back there with others who were a bit "run out" in exchange for some of the transport chaps who volunteered to relieve them. Slater was saying it was a great safe job there so we were very surprised to hear this morning that he had been slightly wounded by a shell that got their billet and had been evacuated to C.C.S.

Met Ferguson, whose eyes were injured when a tin of carrots, that he was heating in the cook-house, blew up -- has also been evacuated to C.C.S. L/Cpls. Groat and Dines returned to unit yesterday.

Howitt and a couple of others go to Boulogne Rest Camp on Sunday next.

29/7/17.

We were at "Unbearable" again yesterday and had a fairly decent time. During the day all was quiet and we had little to do, but about 11 o'clock in the evening Fritz attacked on our sector and on that of the N. Zs. at Ploystaert on our right; the German barrage was mostly heavies on the front lines and was very intense; we barraged and smashed the attack with machine-guns and forward field-guns. Our casualties were fortunately light but Fritz caught it very heavily - 18th Bavarian Army Corps. The rest of the night Fritz threw "strays" all over the place and got one a few feet in front of our shelter filling it with dirt in which were Kelso and Owen, at the time I being away with Dutton on a carry.

Howitt went to Boulogne to-day.

Met Ferguson, returned to-day - eyes alright.

30/7/17.

Quiet to-day. Have just been told that we go up the line in a couple of hours for the long awaited hop over. Kelso, myself, 8 others of our own chaps and possibly some of the other Ambulance chaps, who have just arrived here go to "Sunken Road" Southern Sector which is by no means a quiet spot.

6/8/17.

Must go back a little and write from where I go up to last entry - Kelso, myself, two others of our chaps and 40 of the 9th Field Amb. went up to "Sunken Road" R.A.P. and there joined the 4 of "A" Sect. who were already there - the 9th Chaps formed a Dug-out near-by and our four hunted up a place big enough for one and lay down all over each other to await the opening. Captain Eric Kerr was the M. O., at Sunken Road R.A.P., with whom we worked.

The Barrage opened about 3.45 a.m. and the wounded started to come through at 5.30 and we started work in earnest - short handed for a couple of hours as the 9th chaps as usual put in an appearance well after time. Amongst the first batches to come through were a couple of parties of Fritzies who were made of course to carry their own wounded - a task they undertook eagerly.

We were kept going strong all morning but things slackened off in the afternoon; Fritz made our post very uncomfortable all day throwing "heavies" too close to be pleasant so we all spent a good deal of the time in near-by trenches when not carrying as the dug-outs were too risky. Capt. Kerr, Alec and myself got well showered by a couple of shells while dressing one case in the open and we were all pleased to get him away from the spot.

Two of our bearers and two of the 9th were called away to help at another post in the morning and in the afternoon "A" Sect. bearers were relieved by 4 of the 11th chaps.

At mid-night Dr. Eric Kerr and his staff evacuated the post and left Alec and I, along with the other bearers with us, to "carry on" until the morning; in the morning Alec went down to Goosberry Farm and rang up Colonel, explained the position and asked what was to be done as we were "done" and needed relief. The Colonel did not speak himself but a relief was promised which didn't arrive however, so we closed the post and made our way back to "Kandahar"; the whole of the previous night it had rained hard and all shelters including the R.A.P. being flooded, we had been soaked through for 20 hours and so were just about "fin".

From the time the M. D. left until we evacuated the post ourselves about 20 wounded came through which we dressed ourselves, Kelso signing the tickets - he was asked how the new M. D. was on our return.

Back at "Kandahar" we had a good sleep in spite of some high velocity shelling of Friend Fritz. Next Jay Alec and I were on "fatigue" and then after another good sleep up the line we went again - this time to the forward R.A.P. at Cross Avenue. South Sector and Eric Kerr was the M. D. at the R.A.P. and Chaplain Capt. Mills was with him as usual; we had a good yarn with him when up there. On one trip for the shelling happened to be a welter just as we got into the R.A.P. and there we had to stay, all sincerely hoping that the "verr"-proof roof wasn't going to be called on to keep out more than the rain though we all expected to see the sky through it any minute.

It had been raining for three days so that the mud and water was up to the hips in the trenches, into which we were reluctantly forced to go once or twice; so we were a decent mess; though soaked through again for 20 hours we didn't get a cold out of it so thank the rum, which was all that kept us going - we were not relieved until 3 o'clock next day, for the 4th Field Amb. arrived late; we were mightily glad to hand over to them after our 26 days and shake the mud of that cussed spot off our boots.

Alec and I got back to "Kandahar" about 5 o'clock and found that we had to pack up and leave by motor wagon at 7.30 which was pretty hard after no sleep for two days but "it had to be" so was done.

Of the stunt I need only say that in spite of strong opposition and frightful weather conditions the 11th Bgde. took their objectives and held them against all counter-attacks with the help of the 39th Bn. Someone left some decent souvenirs in "Sunken Road" dug-out, which I got hold of when we evacuated the post.

The motor-wagons brought us to our present billets near Neuve Bergium; here we are billeted in barns and hope we will be left here a few days anyway, as it is nice and quiet and far from the lines.

7/8/17.

A party of us went into Merville yesterday afternoon. Kel. thought he saw away of furthering our interests there and bought a bottle of hair-oil but without much result. We had tea there and returned in the cool of the evening. Merville is a nice little town and the first French Town we have yet been in that does not show signs of having been through the "war-mill" - it is at present full of "Pork & Cheeses" being their Hd.Qs. town.

Quiet day to-day; this evening we went into Neuve Bergium and had a pleasant evening at "Parkie's" cafe.

Hear we take over Steenwerch D.P.S. to-morrow, which is not far from our old camp at L'Estrade.

8/8/17.

"B" Sect. got about 20 minutes to pack up and start for Steenwerch this morning; we started off carrying our packs but happily a limber caught us up and relieved us of them just when they had us about beat; we arrived here at Steenwerch about 10 o'clock and are camped in tents in the D.R.S. grounds - the Sports Ground.

Hear that D.R.S. here is being closed as such and we are just going to run part of it as a Regimental Field Hospital.

Cyril Davenport called to see me this evening. He seems to be getting on well but will be as glad as the rest of us to see the end of it - I met him in Ascot Vale Isolation Camp in Melbourne.

9/8/17.

Just a lazy time today. In the afternoon Roy Williams of Hawthorn College looked me up and we spent the evening together talking of "things and people at Hawthorn".

10/8/17.

"C" Section arrived at 1 o'clock to-day from Neuve-Bergium; they may be temporarily detached from us but there is nothing definite in that line yet.

Kelso arrived with "C" Sect. and with the news that he may be sent to Details (40th Btn.) in place of a Cpl. sent here - we are sincerely hoping not.

R. D. saw Rup. Hutton on the way through; he was A.I. and promised a visit.

I went along to the Reinforcement Camp with Kelso this afternoon and had the luck to get my top boots that I left there when Rup. Hutton was O. C. there.

- 11/8/17. Muster parade this morning. Kelso reverts to rank L/Cpl. - bad luck to lose the 2nd strips after all this time but it is not an unmixed evil as there is little chance now of his leaving the unit for "Details".
- 12/8/17. Went for a walk down L'Estrade way and looked up some of our old haunts there.
Got a dec. parcel from Kit. to-day.
Hear that Bob and Claude Ponsford are a couple of miles away with 2nd Fld. Amb., so R. D. and I took a walk along to see them; Bob was out but we had a yarn with Claude who was looking very well. So far as he knew, all our Kooyong boys were right.
- 13/8/17. Cleared out of our tents and told that we leave here to-morrow - for somewhere just beyond St. Omer but what is in the wind have no idea; only "A" and "B" Sects. go to-morrow so don't know what "C" Sect. are in for.
- 14/8/17. Up at six this morning and after breakfast we marched to Bailleul station with full packs up which was no joke to begin with; we entrained and went past St. Omer to Wizernes. Major McMahon met us there and told us we had just 15 miles to go to our billets; we left our valises and started off carrying our blankets but got rid of them on to one of the cars that came to meet us at about the 10 mile mark - a few miles more and the returning cars picked us up and mighty glad we were to finish the journey in them.
We are billeted in cow and pig sheds - my word they are some lousy - can see ourselves scratching for a week.
- 15/8/17. Slept last night alright we were so tired but busy scratching this morning.
Nothing much to do to-day; we put up a hospital tent and I get the job of night orderlie which means that I sleep in the tent instead of the lousy cow shed which suits me.
- 16/8/17. Told that "B" Sect. bearers move to village of Camponet some 4 kilos. distant this afternoon so as Kelso was going with them, not yet being officially transferred back into "B" Sect. Tent Div., I paraded to Major McMahon who was O.C. for the day; the Colonel being at Boulogne and Major Kenny away having some minor operation on the nose, and worked the oracle and came with them.
Capt. McPhee is in charge of us here - the village is very small but we are now only about 4 kilos. from the town of Desvres which is a very nice township.
Our billet here is an improvement - but still "Barn".
- 17/8/17. No Parade this morning - just do a little wagon cleaning and tent pitching, the latter being just to get the tents properly dry.
Kelso, Hawkins, Owen and myself have moved into one of the tents in preference to the Barn and are hoping we won't get kicked out. A lot of us have a rash and are hoping that it isn't "scabies" now we are in such "good quarters" and in for a decent time as seems the case now.
Walked into Desvres this afternoon and found the walk a beautiful one, the scenery "en route" being fine and the walk just a nice distance. We had a good afternoon and evening in the town; it is not very large but we found a good meal place with billiard-table and drinks to suit all tastes; we wandered all over the town for it looked very good to us not being "war-stained" at all - about 45 miles from the line.
- 18/8/17. In billets to-day doing a little writing and work. Not too sure yet whether we have "scabies" or not.
Lt. (Ken.) Campbell came along to-day to see some of the boys and brought the pessimistic rumour along with him that we are here but two weeks instead of the two months we have been expecting.
Good news of re-opening of our offensive to-day; heavy bombardment could be heard here to-day so hope it is going well.
- 19/8/17. A note from the Colonel to-day recalling me to "A" Sect. Billet and Seulecoques.
I find on reporting there that he has me entered for a mile and a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile race at some Tommy Sports at St. Omer to-morrow - 10th Stationary Hospital - I stay here for the night of course.

- 20/8/17. Kelso came along this morning with myself and Stone, who I induced to take on the mile run, to St. Omer in the afternoon. We did no good. Stone would not run in the mile and I got but 4th in the mile - the winner was the British Army and Navy representative in last Olympic Games and he won B. A. & N. Mile and 2 mile for the last few years. We had a good look around St. Omer after the Sports; it is a large town with a fine park; a good many of the 2nd Div. were about and some of the Kahki girls (W.A.A.C.) who have penetrated that part now.
- 21/8/17. Kelso and I slept at "A" Sect. Billet last night and returned to our own billet here at Camponet this morning. We saw Capt. Webster before returning, who told us that 9th and 10th combined Brigade Sports are to be held Sat. next - where not yet known. I am to run in mile unless Bray (new Motor Driver) can lick me.
- 22/8/17. Bray was to have a try to lick me last night but didn't turn up; Kelso and I had a good run. Hear that "C" Section have to march here all the way from Steenwerch but expect that they will really get the train to Wizernes same as ourselves. Hope Bod. gets here in time for the Bgde. Sports on Saturday. Our own Unit Sports (handicap meeting) are to come off soon.
- 23/8/17. Paid yesterday, so in the evening, Hawkins, Owen, Kelso and myself went into Desvres and had a very enjoyable little dinner there. Just as we arrived back "C" Sect. Bearers arrived from "A" Sect. camp at Senlecques in the Horse-Ambulance wagons - Duckett with Tent Div. stayed at Senlecques; they travelled from Steenwerch same way as ourselves. Div. Sports now postponed in order to allow 11th Bgde. who are coming out to somewhere near here, time to enter representatives.
- 24/8/17. All the boys in turn are getting a day's leave to Boulogne. Kelso and I went to-day; we caught the 12 o'clock train from Desvres and had a very pleasant journey down for we got into a carriage full of N. Z. nurses on their way to "Blighty" and yarned to them the whole way; we arrived at Boulogne about 1.30 and there joined Duckett and Stan Morgan who had come by same train from "A" Sect. camp at Senlecques. Dinner took up a considerable part of our time so we just had time afterwards to see a little of the town and visit the old "Castle town" and Cathedral before getting back to the station for our train, at 4.17 p.m. We went back in a carriage full of French farm-women and a lively lot they were - we had one singing for us a fair part of the way. On arrival at Desvres we made for a little Cafe at which we had arranged to meet Bod. and one or two of the others for tea; we had anticipated a very pleasant evening but some of the chaps we met were too far gone to attempt to be decent so the evening was well spoilt.
- 25/8/17. Quiet day; had a run this afternoon and in the evening paid Duckett a visit. This morning we went "Stooking" or stacking crops for some of the farm people round about - most of the boys are giving a hand at one farm or other at present and giving real good assistance in getting in the crops.
- 26/8/17. Kel. and I and a couple of others walked into Desvres this afternoon and met Bod. and Greenwood on their return from Boulogne; we repaired to the Cafe Hotel for dinner, which was a very enjoyable one - got well soaked on our way home.
- 27/8/17. Drill introduced to stay for the remainder of our sojourn here - no bon. Heavy rain to-day.
- 28/8/17. Heavy rain so no drill and we try to do some letter writing. Howitt went into Hospital with slight temperature.
- 29-30/8/17. Yesterday morning, Alec and I got notice to go to Senlecques camp to join up with rest of "B" Sect. Tent Div. and take on the Field Hosp. there for a spell. "C" Sect. Tent Div. changed over to our billets at Camponet so I will not see any more of Duckett than before - Some of "B" Bearers have come to Senlecques camp with us. This afternoon I had a trip to Camponet to get some straw for billets here from one of the Farm-houses as I could comprey the lingo and make myself understood a little.

- 31/8/17. Raining hard still so nothing doing to-day. For tales of the Colonel in the Future note: "Prani How much?" "Forty nurses". Duckett, Kelso and I put in a joint application for Paris leave yesterday for there seems to be some chance of getting "Paris" but not "Blighty" leave in the visible future. Received a note from Park House Camp, Salisbury Plains from Keith Bainbridge to let me know of his arrival.
- 1/9/17. Hospital duty. Raining heavily so rotten job as all the tents leak badly and taking meals round is a sloppy job.
- 2/9/17. This evening we went down to Camponet to see the "B" Section Boxing Tournament; I had a go with Sid Morey as he was without a partner. The Colonel and all the officers were there so we got a ride back in the car.
- 3/9/17. On Hosp. Duty - every alternate day at present. Kelso not too good to-day. There is a curious high-temp. sickness very prevalent amongst the chaps at present that Kelso seems to have a touch of; the temperature rises about once every 24 hours to as high as 105° and then falls rapidly again so that the patient is fairly right 2/3rds. of the day and rotten the rest.
- 4-5/9/17. Rumour to the effect that all L/Cpls. are to be paid 1/6 extra per day - though all our books have been called in to see that our L/Cpl. entries are correct - I'm afraid it is too good to be true. W. Gibbs leaves us to-day for 33rd. Btn. from which he is to go on to O.T.C. Div. Sports postponed from time to time still so that we are getting full up of the training business. Football started again - "C" Section beat "B" Sect. last week and "A" yesterday.
- 6/9/17. Heavy rain again after two fine days. Very heavy storm last night. Doing a little "Trench" again lately just in case we get out "Paris" leave.
- 7-15/9/17. Nothing much been doing lately. Our own Handicap Sports Meeting is to come off on Wed. next and the Brigade Sports, which are taking the place of the indefinitely postponed Div. Sports, on Sat. next. I am competing in the mile in the Brigade Sports and Kelso in the 100 yards. The instruments for our Orchestra have arrived and I am down for a violin. A cape was left in the hospital yesterday by a chap that went on to hospital and I noticed that the name on it was Fordyce H.S., so I wrapped it up and put it aside thinking it might be Harry Fordyce of Hawthorn. Yesterday he came along to see the chap who left it and it was he sure enough. Got Tom McKeon, going over to Blighty on Special Leave, to take the German Pocket-book and contents I got at Messine, and post it on to Bruce Jenkins for me. Brent went in to Hospital with French-Fever to-day but we do not expect him to be away for long. Major Kenny has arrived back.
- 16-22/9/17. Our Sports Meeting was a great success; we had fine weather and it was an enthusiastic Meeting. The handicaps were fairly good so there were some good finishes; no scratch men registered a win. I was a couple of hundred yards behind scratch in the mile and found it too much for me by a long way. The Colonel broke some small tendon in his leg while running and thought that one of the motor-drivers - Nott - had hit him with a stone. It took Nott all his time to convince him of his innocence. We had some visitors from the staff of the No. 2. A.G.H. at Boulogne - nurses and doctors, amongst whom was Eric James of Hawthorn College. Brigade Sports fixed for to-day. Postponed again on account of the inspection of 3rd. Div. by Sir. Doug. Haig which took place to-day; we had a few kilos to march to the inspection ground but good weather and no packs so didn't mind. About 18 of our chaps have gone up the line to give a hand at one of the Clearing Stations for the stunt which commenced Thursday morning (20th) from St. Julient northwards and which report "has it" goes well. Joe Gandy left a day or two ago to take up Div. Canteen Duties. ~~Left~~ Sgt. Stahle has left for O.T.C.

- 23-29/9/17. At 11 O'Clock on the morning of the 25th we were told that we were to strike camp and move off at 2 o'clock that afternoon; we struck camp in record time and had a dickens of a job getting the patients in the hospital tents cleared - we had to take a few who came in at the last moment from the Bns. along with us in the Ambulance Wagons. "B" and "C" Sections arrived from Camponet up to time and we all got away with full packs up about 2.30; we marched 18 Kilometers that afternoon and evening and stayed the night at Halte d'Ouvre. We got on the move again early next morning and did a good 28 kilos. that day which was further than we should have done on account of our party taking a wrong turning. "B" Section who marched that day on their own and struck the right route arrived at the village of "Blarngham", where we spent the second night, a couple of hours before us. Next morning we "spelled" and it being hot, a lot of us went for a swim in the canal there which was very decent; but we had to make up for the "spell" that afternoon and evening by marching about 20 kilos to our next billet just near the town of Chapelle-Silverstere - it was a very hard march for the pace was fast and our feet and shoulders were blistered and weary and though we had been relieved of our blankets for the first time on this march our packs felt mighty heavy. Kelso and many of the chaps had to ride on account of blistered feet, etc. On the morning of the 28th we started off again and went about 10 Kilos. to our present camp; we arrived about 2 o'clock yesterday and expected to be moving again to-day but "B" Section have remained here while "A" and "C" have moved on to take over some D.R.S. about 8 miles away. Capt. Wheatland sprained his ankle at football just before we left Senlecques and so was evacuated to Hospital before we started on the march. Some new appointments to temporary rank this morning.
 L/Cpl. Kelso, Temp. Cpl. Act. Sgt. "B" Sect. Tent Div.
 L/Cpl. Wood, " " " " "A" "
 L/Cpl. Thompson " " " " "C" Dispenser.
 Hear that our party - R. Duckett, Kelso, Bodington and myself - are well up on the list now for Paris leave but there are too many "slips" in this life to take much notice of that.
 Good-bye the Brigade Sports for some time now.
 Went over to 39th camp and saw Rupert Hutton this evening; he was "Al" and tells me that he gets his "crown" in a week or so and will probably go to a Senior Officers School in Blighty for a few months.
 Lt. Dick Wright called at our camp to see Duckett and I when we were out.
- 30/9/17. We joined the other two Sections this morning at the C.R.S. of Abeele which is a huge affair and in an awful mix at present; as soon as we arrived there "B" Sect. Tent Div. was told to be ready to move on again that evening and we did, by ear, to our present billet at the "Mill" just outside Flammertinghe and right on the road to Ypres, which is about 4 miles further on. Fritz welcomed us two hours after our arrival by dropping two aerial torpedoes right on us, knocking the bottom wall right out of our sleeping room, covered our chaps with dirt etc. but did not "get" any of them, though 8 out of the 18 N. Zs. billeting there with us were "tug". I was out in the open watching the hum planes laying their eggs while the search-lights and archies sought for them; one of the "eggs" landed unpleasantly close to me but a water cart was between us and though the cart was blown to pieces, I got out lucky - a New Zealander standing near me caught a piece and I had to get to work getting him in; I don't think that he is very bad (later - he died). This place we are at "The Mill" is the Walking wounded dressing station for the Ypres sector so we will get plenty to do when the stunt comes off - we are working it along with N. Z. Unit Ambulance parties and they are very decent chaps.
- 1/10/17. Alec is going on day duty so I commence to-night with the night shift.
- 6/10/17. The stunt is over and all went fairly well; the 3rd Div. went over and got their objective and have now been relieved for a rest as it seems they are to go over again in a few days time. We had a very busy time here; in one stretch of 14 hours - our busiest - we put through 2000 which included 400 Germans who had to wait until our own chaps were finished - they were not a very good type of soldier, being for the most part, rather too young or too old.

The sad news has come through to us that George Allan and Alf Harris have been killed - two of the straightest chaps one could wish to meet. George McIntyre has been wounded but did not come through our dressing station, being a stretcher case. (Later - Incorrect report - not W.) Charlie Bond, Vic. Annett and Mo. Alister were slightly wounded and being walking wounded cases, passed through our hands here. I heard to-day of the death of Eric Kerr - he was killed up in the lines at his work, some of our chaps being with him at the time; he had a strange but unshakable premonition that he was going to be killed and had spoken of it to Capt. Chaplin Mills, who was with him, the day before. It strikes one hard even here to see so many of our best men "going west".

Most of our party here at the "Mill" went into Epres one afternoon that we happened to be off duty and things were quiet, and had a good look round the place; it is the worst mess of what was once a town that I have yet seen, most parts looking as though they had been turned over two or three times. We met some of the forward bearers there and were talking to Alf Harris and George Allan for what has proven to be the last time - they were just returning from the forward trenches to join up with B. Sect. Bearers who were quartered at the time at the M.D.S. in the gaol - We learnt that "C" Sect. Bearers left the Corps Rest Station soon after ourselves (B. Tent Div.) and went straight up to the lines; the rest of the unit followed next day; the bearers going to the lines while the "A" and "C" Tent Divs. were split up between the Dressing Station at the Ypres Gaol and the Gas Station (Hosp.) a little further back than ourselves at the Mill and on the main road back to Poperinge.

Have had a very bad time with abdominal pains again but am feeling right again now.

7/10/17.

Our section was relieved from duty and given a day off to-day just to show that our effort of the last few days was appreciated, so we paid Poperinge a visit; it is much like Armentiers used to be and offered no particular attraction so we came home early as the weather was and is vile. Hear that there is to be another "hop-over" on our section early to-morrow morning but even if such be correct, this vile weather is likely to cause its postponement - it is hell for the boys in the front lines at present without any "hop-over".

Hear to-day that George Williams and Adams, who went to Artillery details from our country camp of Senlecques, have been reported "gassed" and "foot-crushed" respectively.

11/10/17.

Since last entry we have had another busy session here for some Tommy Divs. went over on our sector. Reports of the result are very contradictory, but it seems that success was but partial at the best - rather to be expected as the condition of the ground is now just about beyond description.

The N. Z. and 3rd Aust. Div. Troops have gone up to the line again so we expect another big "hop-over" soon in which it is thought here, other Aust. Divs are also taking part.

R. D., Bod., Peter, Dangles and others paid us a visit one afternoon lately; they all were looking well but said things were very rough up the line.

R.D. passed me on the sad news that Billy Barter was killed a month ago while working with the battery; he had an arm badly shattered and on top of that was badly gassed so had no chance at all, though everything possible was done for him by his mates. Another item of news from R. D. was that Elsie Mercer had completed the first act in saving some chap from the Bachelor Tax.

Kelso was having a heart to heart chat with the Colonel to-day and put the matter of our Paris Leave on him red-hot and the Colonel puts our chances as "next".

13/10/17.

The second great stint of the Australians and N. Z's here in which our Div. and Unit has had a leading part is over and a sad day for Aust. and N. Z. - as well as for our cause was yesterday. Casualties were very heavy and but a little advance was made as we were held up by one or two machine gun nests on the ridge that a very insufficient bombardment had left intact.

The losses of our own Unit have been heavy too, and were caused mostly by one unlucky shell which caught a dump alongside the road just as four of our chaps coming down with a case and four returning from one of the advance posts for a rest; were passing. The two stretcher parties

were George Macintyre, Jim Phillips, Lon Moody, Cameron (reinforcement), Donald McKinley, Ted Pierce, Chemist and Bull - Of these MacIntyre, Phillips and Moody were killed outright, Bull and Chemist were badly knocked, McKinley wounded through the thigh, while Cameron and Pierce got off lucky with a scratch and a bad shaking - The patient was re-wounded.

Other casualties known to us up to the present are Harry Abbott (killed), Roy Rule badly wounded, McKensie, Tashurst, Cummins and Fraser minor troubles. I will complete the list later.

Harry Fordyce passed through here to-night with slight wounds in face and eyes damaged by mud and shell concussion, for he got well blown up; I think he should be right again in a few weeks and have sent a note to Ronald to say so.

Weather continues bad so conditions for the men up in the lines are terrible - water filled shell holes are practically the only protection and the evacuation of the wounded is a task of the greatest difficulty. The ground taken and then relinquished again now forms a broad "no man's" land and there are a good many poor wounded chaps there and their plight is a sad one - Today, by mutual consent, the wounded were being collected by both sides so it is to be hoped the majority have been got in.

23/10/17. On Monday morning the 15th, we were awakened early and expected that it was to go on duty again but found that we had to report at the Hdq. of the Unit. The Gas Hosp., 3 or 4 hundred yards along the road towards Poperinge - at 8 o'clock, so we had to evacuate our billet in a hurry; we found on reporting that our little party had to join up with the remainder of the 10th Brigade and go with them back to our old quarters at and around Senlecques and to establish a Fld. Hosp. for the 10th Bgde. We went by motor-bus to Senlecques, arriving late at night, so it was just as well we knew our way about. The last little glimpse we got of the "stoush" coming away from the line was a Fritz Balloon going up in smoke. We established the Hosp. next day and are still working it. The remainder of the Unit came up yesterday; they are for the most part well played out and will need a good rest. "B" Section has gone on to their old quarters at Camponet and whether our "Sub-section" will follow them on there or not, has not yet been decided. I was mighty surprised and worried too to hear that Roy Duckett had been evacuated suffering from the effects of Gas and I am anxiously awaiting a note from him to learn how he is. Len Groat was killed just before our boys came out of the line; W. Broad and Gillian were wounded. News has come through that George Williams, who was gassed while away on Artillery detail work has died as also has Bull, from his wounds.

Some Fritz must have lost himself a night or two ago for he dumped 8 bombs on and around Lotingen Station about 2 miles from here from a great height - got a couple of trucks; we got a great surprise here in our quiet country retreat to hear bombs "swishing" down. Sgt. Jack Rowan left us to-day for O.T.C.

Four of us - Kelso, Angwin, Dow and myself - spent a very pleasant evening in at Desvres on Sat. evening last; we stayed there for the night and walked back to camp early on the Sunday morning. Our old friends there were very pleased to see us and gave us a great welcome.

Hear that Tommy Turnbull and Caldwell - Smith have got their commissions and are attached to Machine Gun Sections.

A few reinforcements arrived to-night including some of our old originals among whom were Wallie Gillett, Grif. Evans, Bill Ware and Lt. Sgt. Stahl - the last named returning from Probationary O.T.C. and will wait with us now until called to O.T.C. in England.

Hear from a patient in the Hosp. who strayed in here somehow - being as N. Z. that John Ross is with his Unit not very far from here so may get the chance to see him one of these times.

28/10/17.

Still on Field Hosp. job.

No "good oil" about as to our future movements yet. Herb. Ingles and Cyril Dines have arrived back, in with a big batch of reinforcements.

A letter from R. D. to-day telling me that he is in Blighty and that, though he has had a bad time, he is getting right again - good luck. Weather beginning to get cold again bad luck to it.

Got the second dose of our Annual Para-Typhoid Inoculation yesterday, so we are a stiff arm crowd.

9/11/17.

To-morrow we move again and rumour hath it that Div. Hdq. is to be at Steenwerch again; our Unit's particular occupation and its scene, we of the line do not know yet, but running a D. R. S. or taking a hand in running the M. D. S. of Port D'Asnelles, Nieppe Road at the "mentions".

We were expecting it was "the hard road with packs up" for the move but heard yesterday that we were going by M-7 ----- thank heaven. Yesterday, I and most of the others of "B" Sect. Tent Div. had our day trip to Boulogne - went by motor-ambulances; I had a good time myself; after dinner in Boulogne I went to Wimereux and managed to hunt up Evelyn Mercer who rushed around and secured me a ticket for a W.A.A.C. Dance they were having that evening - I enjoyed it but, worse luck, had to leave after the 3rd Dances to catch the last tram back to Boulogne to get our car there. Our Sgts. including Kelso, were down at the 2nd E. G. H. that night at a return dance to them and the Sgts. of the 11th Field Ambulance and I could have got back in one of their cars if I had only had the luck to have known it. The weather has been "no bon" lately so the place is very muddy and we are not sorry to leave it though Kel. and I will be sorry to leave the little room we have "dug into" here. Kelso, Dow, Angwin and myself have had a couple of memorable evenings in at Desvres; we got together energy to do the second trip last Sunday and we stayed there the night, as on our first visit, walking home next morning. "Maggie" had just got a new piano and it arrived that evening, so to celebrate its arrival we got up a dance which went off very well - very well! Some Tommies participated and supplied the music.

12/11/17.

Left Senlecques on the 10/11/17 by motor-bus and billeted at a farm house between Merville and La-Motte for the night - we moved in the usual military manner, i.e., marched a mile and a half to get the buses and then came back in the buses through the village (Senlecques) we had marched from, and then when we got to the other end we were taken on in the busses a mile past our billets and had to march back in the dark - decent.

On the morning of the 11/11/17 we moved out again but I didn't do any marching as I went in one of the cars with Capt. Anstin to the lat. A.C.C.S. at Outterstein where he opened up a tooth on which another abscess had formed and was causing plenty of trouble - pretty right now; we joined the others at our second billet which is in one of the schools of the village of Vieux Berguin at which village we were billeted about three months ago just after coming out from Kandahar Farm et Messines - we know the village well.

Weather is good so a party of us took a walk along to the village of Merris this morning but we have to hang round this afternoon as "B" Tent Div. may have to march out somewhere this afternoon.

Dec. Aust. mail yesterday.

Young B. Barter is billeted in one of the school rooms here with the Div. Sigs; he is A.I.

14/11/17.

Left Vieux Berguin this morning and marched the 10 or 12 Kilos to here - Westoff Farm M.D.S. - in good time arriving about 12 o'clock.

Tommies are in here at present and will not be leaving for a day or two though we take over immediately.

I am on night-duty with Ted Blanchard but there is only 1 patient so not much doing.

Seems some little doubt of our staying here as all our Div. seems to be further South about Ploestaert.

The two evenings at Vieux Berguin before coming here were pleasantly spent at "Darkie's" where we managed to "scrape up" a good time though all hard up.

16/11/17.

Got off night duty so as to have my teeth fixed up in the day but it only lasted one day as I had to take Cpl. Woods place - night reception Cpl. - as he has been made Gas N.C.O. and so goes off night duty; it is a good job - mostly sleep.

Colonel got a brain wave to-day and got a lot of us to learn soccer; I got soccered three times on the shins so don't think much of it.

Received an Xmas parcel from home to-day.

17/11/17.

Learning that 6th Fld. Ambulance was running the D.R.S. at Bailleul I went in to-day to hunt up Wallie Ponsford and Coulston; found Wallie well and had tea with him. Sorry to hear from him that Stan Pierce and Dick Hogg have been killed.

J. Hamphill Brent and Annett arrived back with some other reinforcements today.

- 18/11/17. Hear definitely to-day that we go on Paris leave next Saturday. The number was taken of those in the unit to-day who had been in France a year and had not been to Blighty on leave, duty or wounded - we are due for Blighty leave but our Paris leave will knock us back some time now.
- 22/11/17. Played "A" Sect. football to-day and got stoushed by 4 points - it was more of a skating competition than football in the mud.
- 23-24/11/17. Bodington, Kelso and I left Westoff Farm this morning in one of the Ambulance cars and got the 8 o'clock train from Steenwerch Station; the journey to Paris was very tedious taking 15 hours in all so that we did not arrive in Paris until 10 o'clock in the evening; we were met by a representative from the Barracks to which he took us all along in a drag to have our papers inspected, etc. In the Barrack court-yard we got supper at the Y.M.C.A. run by Yankee girls - some twang, but a decent crowd. Cars were placed at our disposal after supper to take us to the various hotels we had selected and none of us were sorry to get there. Our party of three have put up at the Hotel Monsigny to which we were recommended by some of our unit chaps who were here before us and we have a double and single bedroom with a nice bathroom between the two into which both bedrooms open so that we have through communication. On the way down here I met Mick Towler on the train bound for the same spot and had a good yarn with him.
- 25/11/17. We got up late and just went into "The Madelaine" for a few minutes to hear the music and singing and then went on to the Soldiers Club at the Hotel Moderne in the Place de la Republique for dinner. Spent the afternoon promenading the boulevards. We dined in the evening at various restaurants and got the impression right away that we were in for a gay time.
- 26/11/17. We got separated in the morning and I spent most of the day trying to join up with the others; I had dinner at the Club and met a Cpl. Ward of 3rd Div. Pioneers there and spent the afternoon with him - called at the Hotel Monsigny in the afternoon for a wash before dinner and met Bod. and Kels. there so we all went out to dinner to-gether to a place called "The Sport", situated near the "Folies Bergiere" theatre - the same being recommended to us by my friend the Cpl; we found it a lively place and very good for meals; it is much frequented by the English artists on at the "Folies Bergiere" so that plenty of English is spoken there.
- 27/11/17. We went the "Round Paris" trip in the Y.M.C.A. Drag to-day and saw a good many of the principal buildings etc. including the "Pere LaChaise Cemetery, the principal "Places" and "Squares" of Paris, The Louvre, Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysee's Avenue, Notre Dame Cathedral and Hotel des ^{Invalides} ~~Invalides~~. After dinner at the "Sport" in the evening we went on to the "Alhambra" Music Hall where many of the turns are English.
- 28/11/17. To-day we went to Versailles with the Y. M. C. A. party and had a very enjoyable day for we were shown most of the place that is closed to the general public and had it shown us by a very competent guide. Dined at The "Sport" when we got back after which we went to the "Folies Bergiere"; the show was lively and well staged but the place is well named "Folies".
- 29/11/17. We started out shopping this morning intending to get some souvenirs to send home but we did not get a start on until late, so the souvenirs are still to be got; we had a look through the "Magasin Louvre" and then went to the Club for dinner. In the afternoon we went to the Grand Opera and saw "Jean of Arc" played and needless to say, we thoroughly enjoyed it, for though we did not understand the words of the singing, we knew the story well enough to follow the play well and the Orchestra and music was beautiful - the singing was particularly fine throughout. "Sport" for dinner and then to the "Olympic" Play House; we couldn't understand too much of the show but it sounded and looked alright.
- 30/11/17. Quiet day to-day-for Paris; did nothing in the morning and in the afternoon we went to the "Bois de Boulogne" for a while and had a row on the lake there, then returned to Paris and had afternoon tea at the Hotel Mirabeau; some place for afternoon tea - if not hungry. This evening we went to the Friday Night dance at the "Club" but did not

have much of a time to write home about. I have met Towler and Blanchard a few times at various places and they seem to be having a jolly good time.

- 1-12/12/17. Having got somewhat behind with my diary I will have to write it up now as best I can without chronicling each day's events. The "December half and a little more" of our Paris leave was just as enjoyable if not more so, than the November part; for having devoted a fair amount of time to the more serious business of seeing "Paris historic and architectural" we had more time at our disposal in the latter half of the leave to see "Paris Social". It was seldom that we were up before 9.30 and by the time we had bathed and breakfasted, it was usually about 11 O'clock, so we did not see much in the mornings.
- One memorable afternoon we went to the Luna Park skating rink and on this occasion we had Ted Blanchard and a couple of other friends with us; we had a great fly round there but things got a bit mixed and in a confused and quick "get away" we lost Ted Blanchard; the rest of us went to Ciro's for afternoon tea - it is very similar to Hotel Mirabeau.
- On another afternoon we went along to see the Church of "Sacre Coeur"; it is a very large, modern structure, built on the crest of a very high hill so that on a clear day a very fine and extensive view of Paris can be obtained from it. Unfortunately, it was very misty on the afternoon of our visit so that we did not enjoy much of a view. The church of "Sacre Coeur" is very fine and large but the interior decoration lacks the magnificence characteristic of most of the older French Churches. The "Sport" became our permanent "rendezvous" and dining place so we soon became well known there and got to know many of its patrons and patronesses who were, for the most part, Theatrical people and a very decent lot too - as Bod. and Kels. know even better than I can claim to; it is a good, lively place "The Sport", its unlimited supply of "Bovril" being excellent and the songs "Susanne Susanne" and "There's Margaret, Maudie, Lena and Blaneh" among others, are of an appropriate character for the place and go with a goodswing there.
- We saw quite a few of the theatres but not always the same ones for we now and then separated and went our own ways with some friend of one or other of us that we may have chanced to meet during the day - one or two that I went to myself that I have not yet given a mention were the "Concert Magol", "Petit Casino" and "Apelle".
- We had our photos taken together at the "Rembrandt" Studio; they turned out rather well so we sent them on to Australia before leaving Paris - one of our party got very interested for a while in the photo business and paid more than business visits to the "Rembrandt".
- Alec. went to Fontainebleau one day with a friend of his - Lt. Rowe - and gave us, on his return, such a glowing account of the place that Bod. and I went next day; it is a "full day" trip but luckily the morning train is a late one or we would never have caught it; we arrived at Fontainebleau just in nice time for lunch and then had a couple of hours to see through the Palace and grounds before having to catch the train back. We are both glad that we made the trip, for the Palace is really marvellous and is in my opinion, just as magnificent, if not more so, than that of Versailles.
- Throughout our stay in Paris the weather was all that one could wish for, which was lucky considering the time of the year - we feel the difference in temperature very much now that we are back here at "Westoff Farm" in Flanders again.
- The "Grand Rous" was in action during our stay and we had a rotate or two on it; the wheel has a radius of 150 feet so a real good view of Paris can be obtained from the top of it - it takes about 15 minutes to go round. The "Grand Rous" and Eifel Tower are relics of the great Paris Exhibition.
- One afternoon after several "failures" we managed to get along to "Blighty Corner", which is a club run by some English ladies in Paris, for British soldiers on leave there; the ladies provide afternoon tea, organize trips round Paris, and entertainments for the evenings; it is a very "cozy corner" and just the kind of place chaps need to have handy when on leave.
- After about 9 days in Paris we saw a financial shortage ahead so we went to the Paymaster and drew all we could and I sent to London for help, which arrived alright before we left, so we had plenty to see us through. My luck was out the last couple of days, for a developed "flu" and had to retire to bed.

Our passes it appears erred on the generous side - gave us a day more than we should have got and as we treated ourselves similarly we arrived back to the unit rather late and were hauled up to account for ourselves - Kelso's brilliant explanation carried all before it and we were dismissed with flags flying. The day we left Paris, I not being at all clever, stayed in at the hotel while the others went for a final look around; the two of them were to call for me to go to the station and they cut it very fine; when they did arrive it was with a taxi full of friends so our run to the station was one to be remembered - talk about mixed, it took us half way to the station to sort ourselves out. We got to Calais early next morning and struck a brilliant M.P. there who gave us all the oil re refreshment corner, dinner place and train service; we had a good look round Calais and then seeking out our pet M. P., he got us on to the train without our even having to go to the expense of getting tickets. We arrived at Steenwerch about 5 in the evening and feeling rather tired, we got Blue Laurimer to fix us up at the 2nd A.C.C.S. for the night and then came on here to Westoff Farm M.D.S. next morning. The chief items of interest, in the unit, that have occurred since we left are that Sgt. Merry has left for another unit, Major Smith is back, Sgt. Wilson and Holgate have got D.C.Ms, L/Cpl. Pratt, who when away wounded one time was, on return to duty, sent from Base Details Camp to another Ambulance, has got his transfer back to us again and H. McAlister who was similarly treated, is expected back again soon too. Plenty of writing to do for a while as we left a lot of letters unanswered before going to Paris, did no writing there, and have received big batches of letters on our return. Hear from Keith Bainbridge to the effect that he has got a transfer to 71st Squadron A.F.C. and so is now with Lloyd Davies; he expects to leave England soon - for France as far as he knows. Fritz bombed us this afternoon and got over near us here; he dropped three bombs in a line through our camp and that of the Engineers which is next to ours; the first fell on a field just at the side of the camp and the other two among the hutments but no-one was "knocked". It was the second of the three that interested me for it was jolly close, knocked me flat and chucked sand all over me but nothing worse once again, good luck. About 10 Gothas and a few Battle Planes came over and they looked rather well when they emerged from the clouds and split up to do their dirty work - a fair number of chaps round about have been killed and wounded, worse luck and only one raider is reported as having been brought down.

- 13/12/17. Mass parade this morning to be put through some gas-attack stunts by the Div. Gas Officer; he lined us all up and bombed us with tear-gas bombs and then made us take our masks off to see what it was like - it was some tear-gas; I filled my mask half full of tears when I got it on again.
- 14/12/17. Only a 10 minutes job to-day.
Move off to Steenwerch to-morrow.
- 15/12/17. Go on Ward duty for awhile this morning as "C." Sect, moved off early and left a couple of wards-full to be looked after until 6th arrive to take over - they arrived and took over just after dinner; I saw Jack Coulston and Vin. Ray, who is a St. - on the Dental Staff, but Wallie Ponsford had not arrived up till the time we left. We left at 2 o'clock and arrived here at the Steenwerch D.R.S. at 3 o'clock. "C" Sect. is on ward day-duty and "B" has taken night ward-duty; I am on the big P.W.O. Ward with Blanchard and having lost the toss, stay up to-night while he sleeps - my word, I envy him, for we have no fire going here to-night, the stove being broken, and it is terribly cold in addition to which I am so tired I can't walk up and down quick enough to get or keep warm. Kelso is Night Corp.
- 16/12/17. Feeling rotten - Had no sooner got to bed and asleep this morning after a seemingly endless night than our "Archies" started spitting at some infernal Fritz planes that came over - my word I cussed them.
- 17/12/17. A decent sleep last night so feel a bit better again. We had our first fall of snow for this Winter this morning - just a light fall. It is cold as -----.
Hear to-night that the Portugese are pulling out so the whole 3rd. Div. is to "go in" for about 10 days; we do not know whether our unit will

move or not.

Went to the "Anzac Coves" Pierrot Show here in Steenwerch to-night - a very decent show.
Sent a cable home to-day to wish them all the "Seasons Greetings".

- 18/12/17. Went for a walk to look up our old haunts around L'Estrade this morning and looked up "Marie" and Agnes. Rumoured that our section moves up the lines to-morrow and the other two sections shortly afterwards, when relieved here.
- 19/12/17. Packed up and left Steenwerch D.R.S. 12 o'clock to-day; "B" Tent Erguingham from where we were taken to a Tommy M.D.S. at A.D.S. at the Brickfields - the old brick-kiln.
- 20/12/17. The Brickfields A.D.S. a nice comfortable place but unfortunately too many of us there for the work doing so to-day some of us got orders to move back to the M.D.S. - Kelso and Ede alone of the Tent-Section remaining at the A.D.S.; on arrival back at the M.D.S. we found ourselves not wanted there but being back we were put to work to establish a Casualty Room.
This evening went with Bod. and some of the crowd to a decent little Estaminet & have arranged to celebrate Xmas evening there.
- 21-22/12/17. Spent yesterday getting the Casualty room in order; we are to work it alternate days and with "C" Sect. Tent Div., so as long as that arrangement lasts we are "on velvet", but it seems too good to last long.
Weather extremely cold but fine.
- 23-24/12/17. On duty yesterday. This evening I joined a big party at the Estaminet, gathered together to celebrate the birthdays of Bod. and Tommy Walsh, together with Xmas Eve - did it well.
- 25/12/17. Xmas Day and may the next be spent in peace in Australia. A "celebration dinner" to-day with the Sgts. as waiters - we are to have a dinkum dinner later to celebrate the occasion, when out of the lines and all to-gether; we have about £80 donated from various funds to spend on the event so it ought to be "some class".
We got our "Brigade" Xmas parcels to-day and as nearly all of them were from the people of boys in the Ambulance, there was some interest in the opening of them. Mine was just from the 10th Bgde; one of the new boys in the Ambulance - Tamlyn by name - got one from mother.
- 26/12/17. Went to Steenwerch this morning on one of the cars and put in a while with the dentist; on the way back we called in at 2nd A.C.C.S. and I was lucky enough to see Tommy Turnbull who had just arrived over from England and is attached to 6th Machine Gun Co. - he looks A.I. and stars don't dazzle him at all.
Our "one-time" popular Cpl. ----- Caldwell-Smith - has arrived back here in France from O.T.C. in England; is now 2nd Lieut. attached to 11th M. Gun Co; he visited us yesterday - just a rushed visit.
Not too well but hope to be A.I. again very soon.
- 28/12/17. Went for a walk through Armentiers to our A.D.S. at Houplines to-day and I had a word with St. Sgt. Hartigan. Armentiers is well "knocked about" and though not levelled to the ground like Ypres, seems for the most part past repair. No-one lives there now so it is very desolate in appearance.
Went to our unit Pierrot Show last evening and again this evening; they were a bit stiff last evening but went with a swing to-night - some future success a certainty. This is their first public appearance and the artists are Pte. Street (leader), L/Cpl. Bodington (rag-time), St. Sgt. Reid (comic), Pte. Lauer (elocutionist and singer), Pte. Lucas (pianist), Pte. Woff (girl-singer), and Pte. Jennings (Singer).
Pte. Parkham is included in the troupe personnel but being away sick, has not made his debut yet.
- 29/12/17. Received a note from Keith Bambridge to-day to say that he and Lloyd Davies had arrived in France so there is a chance I will see them one of these days soon.

- 30/12/17. Sunday - quiet day. The 41st Btn. band came along and played at the service for us and afterwards gave us a good programme. Our Orchestra has gone to play at Hdq. to-night - Monash must be having a party to dinner.
- 31/12/17. On Casualty Room.
Orchestra got on well last night so the members say.
- 1/1/18. New Year's Day - a quiet one. Spent the evening at our Pierrot Show again. Hear we move again in a day or two.
- 2/1/18. A few of "C" Sect. Tent Div. left as forward party to-day.
- 3/1/18. A couple of batches left Erquinghem to-day and I left with the afternoon batch; we travelled per Bus and joined the forward parties at Outersteen and billet here to-night.
- 4/1/18. Remainder of Ambulance arrived here at Outersteen to-day and after a lot of trouble, billets were found for all - very small place.
- 5/1/18. With full kit up - bar blankets - we moved out of Outersteen to-day at 2 o'clock; we were not ready to move but had to, as our billets were booked for another crowd marching in this afternoon. We marched through the village of Vieux Berquin, where we have billeted on one or two previous occasions, and have now come to rest in the little straggling village of Sec - Bois; the roads were covered with a thin film of ice hard as glass, so marching was difficult, though we only came about 8 kilos. we were pretty gone in the legs on arrival. We have got a comfortable enough barn billet and hope to be able to hunt up a room somewhere handy for writing, etc. in the evenings.
- 6/1/18. Aust. mails arrived yesterday and to-day so plenty of writing to do but we have plenty of time to do it in and our party have secured a room for the evenings. so do it in comparative comfort.
Leave going strong, four leave every 3 days for blighty and two or three for Paris every week.
News has come through that three of our boys who were wounded have died of their wounds. They are Lance-Smith, Gilligan and Dawes, of whom Lance-Smith is an original.
- 7/1/18. Kel. and I have got fixed up with a room of a kind, in one of the French shanties, for sleeping - a funny old girl rather dirty, and known locally as "Madam 2 fr." lives in the place and is landlady. Not much of a place but - just better than a billet (barn).
Parade this morning and we are told it has come to stay at 9.30 every morn while we remain here.
- 8/1/18. Kels. got a letter from Roy Duckett to-day to say that he had been boarded and marked B 11 B. (six months to Australia).
As there is nothing doing here to occupy our time, "Furpheys" have launched an "offensive" again - All Aussies for Palestine and a little one to the effect that our unit leave here about the 15th for somewhere near Boulogne.
- 9/1/18. A great stunt this morning. After Parade we started out for the baths and after a 10 Kilo. march to Outersteen found the "baths" consisted of 1 darty shed and a 2 qrt. supply of luke-warm water per hour.
Kelso and I got a passing motor-bus back to the village of Vieux-Berquin, through which we had marched on our way to the baths and there hunted up a comfortable private bath, after which we got another bus back to our camp.
- 10-11/1/18. Kelso's birthday yesterday so a celebration was held last night at the village Estaminet, there being a good circle of the old boys present; I put in an appearance but left early for I don't want to quench my thirst as I have not been too well.
L/Cpl. H. McAllister arrived back to-day and was one of last night's circle. Our "Purdy" is now a full Colonel and has left us to take command of the 3rd A.G.H. Kenny is in temporary command but it is generally regretted that it will not be for long as a Major McCartney is being promoted Colonel and leaving 1st A.G.C.S. to take command of us - we have heard but little of him.

Got a new W. O. - Morgan by name and made on drill and rules but he may improve - or leave with a broken heart.
A note from Duckett to-day to say he had weathered all reefs and was off to Australia for six months at least.

12/1/18.

More socks from home to-day - socks keeping up to demand.
Our Orchestra got a knock to-day - the best players all transferred to Hq. for Div. Orchestra.
Our Pierrots showing in Y.M.C.A. tent to the Artillery chaps to-night - Kelso and Peter went along with them but I didn't feel inclined.

13/1/18.

Kelso, Peter and I went for a "promenade" to Hazebroucke this afternoon. Since the town was shelled a month or so ago many of the civilians have left but quite a number still hang on; we found the town very quiet but not much knocked about.
We found "Maggie" running a P. C. shop in new quarters and had a yarn with her about the weather and had tea before returning at the Cafe, that was still going strong, opposite the church.

14/1/18.

Some snow storm to-day.

15/1/18.

Our Pierrots gave us a very good show in the village hall last night. The village priest put in an appearance himself but forbade the girls of the village to attend; the old chap cleared out when Streat and Val. Woff sang "Fancy you fancying me" - apparently couldn't stand the sight of Streat cuddling Val.

16/1/18.

Some weather - rained floods last night and this morning the road from "A" Sect. Billet to our "B" Billet is well under water to the depth of 3 feet as I well know, having had to wade through it this morning in my capacity of Ord. Corp. - my stiff luck.
Rumoured we move "linewards" again next week.

17-18/1/18.

Our new Colonel (McCartney) has taken over - haven't seen much of him yet. Nearly sent to D.A.C. details as Cpl. to-day; for a couple of weeks while Cpl. Chapman of that detail is away on leave but at the last minute - Stan Owen was sent instead, for which I am truly grateful.

18/1/18.

Charlie Wood having gone on leave, I have been made the temporary Gas N.C.O. - some job; just have a look at a few gas-bags now and then to see there are no cob-sebs on them.
Went out with the Pierrots last night to the Canadian Railway Camp near here, where they gave the Canadians a show that was much appreciated - especially Bod's ragtime items.

19-1/18.

Went for a walk this afternoon to Vieux-Berquin for exercise and met Jack Brake on the way back and had a good yarn with him.
Fear that Roy Williams who got knocked and sent to Blighty some time ago has got a good job there - good luck to him.
Got a cable from Seymour to-day - first I have had since leaving Australia.

21-27/1/18.

Got behind a little so will write it up "all together".
On the morning of the 21st, fifty of us were got together and off we went to Bailleul, as a working party to put up bomb-proof earth-walls round the hut-wards at the Bailleul D.R.S. which the 11th Field Ambulance are running.
I came a fearful smash - arrived late on parade and found that the party had already left for Bailleul; in order that I might catch up, the W. O. relieved me of my pack and put it on the wagon - some crash.
We arrived at the D.R.S. in time for dinner and had the afternoon off.
On the 22nd we set to work on the earth-walls and just about "knocked" the job in the one day so "went light" and had a very easy time during the remainder of our stay there.
In the evenings we usually went to see the "Anzac Cove" Pierrot Show or any other "showing" in the vicinity. We saw the 11th F. Amb. Pierrot Show one evening - not bad but all round not nearly so good as our own. Andrew Mack (McGrath) of 11th Engineers runs the 11th Fld. Ambulance Show and carries a lot of passengers - too many.
We left Bailleul and marched back here yesterday afternoon and immediately dug in at our old haunts again - our party got a great welcome by the ancient couple at the place that we have our "writing room" - they enjoy our company just as much as we enjoy their warm room.

Stan. Morgan just back from Blighty Leave; saw Roy Duckett while there and says that though he is not looking too bad, he seems to be having a lot of "ticker" ^{THROUBLE}.
Weather very decent lately - an unusual fact worthy of recording in this country.

Some of the members of our writing room party having received a lot of parcels lately, we had a great spread here to-night. It was some class; rather rich for troops.

30/1/18.

On the 28th, we moved off from Sec-Bois and marching via. Vieux-Berquin and Steenwerch, arrived here at Port d'Aschelles M.D.S., early in the afternoon and took over from the 7th Field Ambulance; I was surprised to find Simons who went to Hawthorn College and used to live in Riversdale Road among them, but I was much more surprised that evening when, on going into a little Canteen near here in search of something wet, I met Geof. Crocker there; we got a lot of gas off our chests together and I learnt quite a lot of the doings of Hawthorn people that was new to me. Members of "B" Tent Div. who are here, I among them, have been put on night ward duty - not a bad job; usually get a fair sleep at night on this job and nothing to do in the day. Had an hour at a picture show near here before going on duty to-night. Received a parcel from Kit a day or two ago that was ~~was~~ very acceptable.

31/1/18 -
1/2/18.

Nothing doing, Major Chaplin - now of 11th - received a letter to-day asking for particulars of Gordon Dow's death - Gordon was very sore about it costing him 10/- for a cable to let them know he was far from dead. New arrangements for A.M.C. details to come into force soon - present details to rejoin their respective Field Ambulances or transfer to Infantry and then "carry on as usual".

2-3/2/18.

Went to bed early this morning but Les. Robinson turned up to see us so I soon turned out again. Kelso, Robey and I started out in one of the cars for a day trip to St. Omer but had an accident just after we had passed through Strazelle, and had to return as the car was damaged too much to risk going on - the road was very greasy and though the brakes were put on about 40 yards before we got to the point of calamity, the car skidded the whole way and struck two horses in the rear and a G. S. Wagon in the flank (The G. S. was passing some Artillery transport drawn up on the side of the road). Nothing got damaged but our car and it not so badly as we got back in it alright.

Hugh Cain who was of our Tent party at Broadmeadows Camp, paid us a visit to-day.

4-6/2/18.

Had a couple of good entertainments here this week; yesterday evening the 10th Bgde. Pierrots - The Bandicoots - came along and gave us and the patients a very good show and to-night our own Pierrots - The Y's Owls - gave us a show in which they included a new set of items. We are going to have a Fancy Dress Ball here on Friday night - some job getting costumes.

7/2/18.

Went to see the 3rd. Div. Pierrot Show "The Cooees" in the Hall at Nieffe this evening and enjoyed the show as well as those we used to go to and enjoy so much, given by the N. Z. "Kewi" Pierrots in the same hall, when we were in camp at L'Estrade running the D. R. S. last year. The "Cooees" Orchestra includes most of our original unit orchestra who were transferred to Hdq. staff for that purpose when we were at Sec.-Bois. Received a dec. parcel from the Augustine Congregational Church to-day.

8/2/18.

The Fancy Dress Ball went off very well this evening. Kelso went as a pirate and pulled off a prize. It is a marvel where the chaps scrape up the dresses from - some of them were good enough for a town Fancy Dress Ball. I am not feeling up to scraping around for fancy dresses etc. yet, so was just a "looker on".
Hear that Rupert Hutton who has been away at a Senior Officers School in England is now back with the 39th Bn. and is second in command - near here so should see him soon.
The youngest Fordyce came along to see me when here on Dental Parade to-day; I was surprised and very sorry to hear from him that Harry Fordyce, who I fixed up when he passed through "The Mill" wounded at Ypres, had lost the sight of the Left Eye and was not much better off with the Right. A piece of shell it seems, went through behind the eyes and caught the optic nerves. I thought when dressing his face, that the cuts were just scratches.

- 9/2/18. Les Robinson visited us again to-day and is staying the night with us and walking "home" again in the morning. The luck of Bod., Kel and I is stiff for Blighty leave for awhile as we are just "runners up" on the new list that has been made out on account of the Paris leave we had - we are 101, 102, 103 on the list.
- 10/2/18. Raid by 200 10th Bgde. boys to-night at 10 o'clock so I'm switched to Dressing Room for to-night.
- 11/ 2/18. Raid - an "information" stunt - was a great success last night. Our total casualties were about 35 and the haul of prisoners alone the boys got was about 40. Lt. Eastman who was often of our parties when we were at L'Estrade and went from 2nd A.C.C.S. to O.T.C. in England is now attached to 36th Btn. and "went over" for first time last night and got back alright. Our delayed Xmas Dinner is to come off on Thursday evening next.
- 12-23/18. Went to "Cooees" Pierrots last night. Clarrie Greenwood goes on Blighty leave to-morrow and I am getting him to take a completed volume of my diary over to Roy Duckett to take home for me.
- 14/2/18. Our postponed Xmas Dinner to-night and it was some affair - the menu was excellent and the serving arrangements great. A lot of our best-looking chaps were rigged up as waitresses - Kelso amongst them - and they put quite a polish on the affair until later on in the evening when they degenerated into thirsty diggers and "got in for their out" with the best of the crowd. The end of the evening was some mix up. Parcels to-day from Ethel, Stella and home.
- 15-19/2/18. Been in bed with Flu for a few days - no luck since Paris. Sun has had a little warmth this last few days so it looks like an early spring. A few of Fritz's propaganda - pamphlet - dropping balloons been floating over this last few days - red affairs and they seemed to come down fairly near here. Increase in heavy gun fire last few days but still fairly quiet at the trenches - on our sector anyway. Frank Coy and Laurie Woods have been along to see me once or twice lately - Laurie W. is on the dentist's list here so is along fairly often at present; both look A.I. and have just returned from Paris leave.
- 23/2/18. Got up too soon on the 19th apparently, for I had a relapse and am up again for the first time to-day - frontal Synovitis was the trouble this time and I haven't got a good word for it; I'm not feeling too "patent" yet. We had another fancy-dress ball here to-night and some of the costumes were brilliant, especially H. Hawkins as a Knight in complete armour, made by himself out of biscuit tins, and S. Sievright as an Indian Warrior in full war dress. Not being well, I just had a look on for awhile and had a word with Rup. Hutton who was a visitor; he tells me that our Div. will probably be going back round Deavres way in the country for awhile early next month. Charlie G. Smith and Beecham were also among the visitors this evening.
- 24/2/18. Start Night Ward Duty again this evening.
- 25-27/2/18. Alec Eade brought me back from Paris a little souvenir knife which I have sent on to Trina. "Good oil" we leave about Wednesday next for our old "country camp" area and that we will be quartered at Lumbres this time we hear, where the 11th were last time the Div. was out; we will be going by rail apparently as we are to roll our blankets in 100 lots issued with putties to-day on muster parade worst luck - more to carry; we are busy at present reducing our packs in view of the coming move. Note to-day from Roy Duckett from Bedford Hotel, London; he is on 14 days leave and intends spending most of it in Scotland. Some "Comforts" Xmas presents reissued to-day - just 120 parcels came along for the unit so they were broken up and divided amongst all the boys.

1/6/18.

Just 10 P.M. and we are waiting prepared for a lot of work, for we were warned that a big raid was to come off on our sector to-night and judging by the intense bombardment on at present, the raid is on alright.

2/3/18.

No raid on our sector last night and though we had to get everything ready again to-night, we have been told that once again it is not to come off - very likely on account of weather for we had snow this morning and it is now bitterly cold again with piercing March winds. As the Div. is due to pull out of the line on Mond. it is probable that the raid will not eventuate now. Clarrie Greenwood arrived back from Blighty leave today; he saw Roy Duckett in Edinburgh and tells me that Roy did not get the whole of his leave as he was recalled by "Wire" - he fortunately had had the most of it.

3/3/18.

St. Sgt. Reid and a few others together with the greater part of the Horse Transport left for our new Billeting quarters to get things ready to-day. The forward Section of the 5th Field Amb. have arrived and take over to-morrow morning. We leave here about midday to-morrow morning. The raid takes place to-night. A party of our bearers have gone up the line. Alec. Eade went up this morning with Capt. McPhee. I am to "go on" in the Casualty Room when things get busy. Les. Robinson visited us to-day and stayed for tea; his Ambulance - 12th - is quartered at Baillieux.

4/3/18.

Raid very successful, our casualties being only 20 or so. Our bearers were taken to wrong A.D.S. so returned about midnight and retired to bed. Had about half an hour's sleep this morning and then had to get up again; we fell in at 11.30 and after just 1 hour's standing about in the cold, set out for Steenwerch station which we didn't reach until about 2 o'clock on account of frequent hold-ups by troops "marching in"; however, as soon as we got to the station we got away and reached Lumbres at 6 o'clock. "A" and "C" sections are quartered in Lumbres itself and are in for a decent time as they have permission from the Colonel to billet out. A few of "B" Sect. are at Lumbres but the rest of us crashed and have had to march out to "The Chateau" to run a Fld. Clearing Hosp. "The Chateau" is now a broken-down farm house and a poor one at that - well surrounded with mud at present and mud only for there are no other houses about. We have the best rooms in the "Chateau" for the Wards - and they are not much; we ourselves have one of the stable lofts to sleep in that has a nice brick floor.

5-6/3/18.

Been getting the wards in order this last couple of days. I'm nominally on day duty at present. Went into Lumbres for a walk with Alec. this afternoon mainly to hunt up a bath.

7/3/18.

I am to run the "contagious" tent here so did a bit of work rigging it up this morning and went to Lumbres for a walk again this afternoon for the weather is beautiful at present and so walking a treat. The mud has just about dried up and the country round about is beginning to look very pretty. A silly scheme "on the boards" to make the Tent Divisions do the wagon loading when moving and this afternoon Captain McDermot came from Lumbres to give our Tent Div. a lecture on the subject - labour lost for such a scheme could never work.

9/3/18.

Note from Roy Duckett to-day; on arrival in London from Edinburgh on his way back to Weymouth in response to the telegram recalling him from leave, he received a 2nd telegram telling him to finish his leave - should hear from him from Weymouth soon and learn whether he is likely to sail.

14/3/18.

A little rain to interrupt the long spell of beautiful weather to-day. There was a 3 mile competition run to-day from Lumbres here to The Chateau; Kelso and I intended running but got to the starting point too late. Walters, a new man on the Q. M. S. won the race. Our unit sports are to take place on the 18th and I intend running in the 1/2 mile. The programme for the 10th Bgde. Sports is out; entries close on the 18th and the meeting will take place about the 23rd - I will probably be running in the mile.

Div. Sports will probably follow the Sgds. Sports but no details known yet.

Possible that Sgt. O'Keefe will change over with Kelso for places on the leave list which will mean Kelso getting away in a week or so. Our Pierrots are showing at St. Omer and from all reports have been getting a good hearing.

Day leave to Boulogne has opened so we may get a trip one day soon. A note from Duckett written on the 9th, to say he was embarking next morning so he is probably well away for Aussie now.

15-19/3/18.

A little rain to-day after a fine stretch of good weather which happily lasted "over" our sports yesterday which however were no great success from my point of view, as I was accused of "running stiff" in one race. I ran, as was my intention all along, in the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and under the following unfortunate conditions :- Stone and Bodington were so placed in their competition for the championship of the unit that if Bod. won the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and Stone got 3rd they would tie for the Championship, for this $\frac{1}{2}$ mile was the last event of the Championship events - At the last minute Greenwood decided to run in the event and the race resulted in Bodington 1st, myself 2nd and Greenwood 3rd, which gave Bodington the Championship by 1 point; I led the race up to 100 yards of the finish where Bod. passed me and it was contended by many that I fell back to allow Bod. to win and a protest was entered to that effect, which however was not sustained - all I've got out of the sports is heaps of abuse, so darn them.

22/3/18.

Our boys won their first match in the Brigade Football Competition on Wed. but the Competition has come a crash now as have the Brigade and Divisional Sports for orders came through in the early hours of this morning that we are to pack up and move to the lines to-morrow. There has been very heavy firing and official reports are already to hand, that the Germans have at last launched their great and long expected attack - only rumours about as to how things are going and they are many and varied.

We move early to-morrow morning, our immediate destination being round about Winnezeele in the Epres Sector; we have cleared up the hospital and have everything in readiness for moving in the morning. Some excitement here on Wednesday evening last; it was a fine moonlight night and Fritz's planes were very active, one wandered as far as here and dropped a couple of very large bombs quite close smashing a couple of windows and greatly surprising us in our quiet country retreat - got plenty of surprises soon now though I expect. Kelso and I just got our day-leave to Boulogne in time - we had it yesterday; we went all the way there and back in motor lorries and the trip was nothing to write home about - we visited our Pierrot troupe who were staying at the 2nd A. G. H. giving a few entertainments and had a word with Bod.

25/3/18.

On the morning of the 23rd June we broke camp and marched to Lumbres where we joined up with the main body of the Ambulance and there entrained for Caestre from where we marched to Winnezeele. On arrival at Winnezeele we found that the German attack in the south had met with great success; that we were immediately to start off down there as were the N. Zs., whom we met at Winnezeele, and the 4th Aust. Div. Things were in a very upset state on account of the change in destination of so many troops, so we had to march that night until well after 10 O'clock before we reached ~~our~~ billets in a little village called Wallen-Chapelle near Morheaque. Yesterday - the 24th - was a jolly hard day as we had to carry our blankets; we came part of the way by motor buses, but we marched such a round-about way to get the buses that I think we may just about as well have walked altogether; we billeted last night in a little village near St. Omer and here we are still, thought expecting to move any minute. To-day, all surplus kit has been called in, so that we may travel as light as possible, which is alright, but it is creak that the weather should turn cold just as we are relieved of all but 1 blanket; my kit, though well pruned, is jolly heavy still, but I'm darned if I know what to sacrifice next.

All the N. C. Os. including us L./Cpls. were called out this evening and told that we move to the battle area any time now, but most probably tomorrow, that we would have open fighting conditions in cultivated country and given a general idea of the part of the country we would be working in.

By some lucky chance a good Aust. mail came along to-day. Weather pretty good. The Colonel who was away on leave arrived back to-day. Some of the boys going on Blighty leave were actually on the boats and on the point of leaving the pier when the order arrived cancelling sailing of boats and they were sent back to the unit; others we hear even got as far as Blighty and were sent back - stiff. Our forward billeting party left late this evening.

26/3/18.

We marched to St. Omer Station this morning and there entrained about 3 o'clock in the afternoon; we had dinner in the town on the footpath and afterwards got about 40 mins. leave before entraining to have a look around.

During the last couple of days I have met Sgt. Basil Davies of the 39th Blighty for some months after being wounded at Messines and is A.I. again now.

We sleep in the train to-night and as there are 24 of us to be down in the truck, it will be fairly crowded. - 24 is alright standing and sitting up, but it is pretty thick lying down. However, it is an empty house compared to our trip up from Le Havre when we first arrived over, on which occasion we were about 35 to a truck - two layers lying down. We passed through Lillers Station just before dark and it was a very decent mess - a bomb had caught an ammunition train standing in the station a few days before and the havoc was terrible.

27/3/18.

Had a good night on the train all considered, for I got a couple of hours sleep.

We arrived at Mondecourt early in the morning and rested close by until after dinner.

This is the news we gathered on detraining :- The Germans were temporarily held up before Albert though their patrols had penetrated much further on the previous day and the rumour of their coming had caused such panic that many people of this village had fled - The arrival of the Australian troops seemed to reassure them again for we saw many returning and putting their furniture back in the houses again. Rumours are that the Americans and British have captured Ostend, that a landing was attempted at Zeebrughes, the Canadians have taken Lens and the French recaptured Peronne.

After dinner we marched to Thieves where we embussed, debussing again at Franvilliers. We passed many tanks on our way up in the buses; the trip was very slow as the road was choked with traffic of every description.

It was pitiful to see the old French people, many of whom must have been 80 and more, slowly making their way back along the road with all that they could take of their household goods, which they took in carts, wheelbarrows and even on their backs in great bundles that looked a load for a young man - bar an ancient woman.

From Franvilliers we marched again - too tired to care a damn where the Germans were - to our present quarters in the village of Bonnay, arriving late in the evening. We found the village almost completely deserted, for a German armoured car had passed through it the day before and so the poor old civies had gone for their lives, leaving everything just as it stood except that the disorder of the houses had been even increased by some troops who had passed through the village just before our arrival there - we billeted anywhere in the best houses and barns we could find; Kelso and I found a bed.

The 11th Fld. Ambulance were established here in the village and were manning the A. D. S's. up in that part of the line that the 10th Brigade established themselves on this afternoon, but they are to go back somewhere, as soon as we can take over from them.

28/3/18.

Slept some last night after our 5 days move. No rations through to-day, so the fowls, rabbits, potatoes, eggs, etc. have had to pay heavy toll to feed the troops - feathers everywhere. A lot of our bearers went up the line to-day and took over from the 11th Chaps.

29/3/18.

Late last night, at short intervals, the remainder of our bearers went up the line for things were busy, as our boys tackled Fritz straight away before he could get time to "settle down"; the 10th Bde. "went over" at 4.30, followed by the 11th Bde. at 7.30 and so far as we can make out, from the usual confused reports that the wounded bring in, our chaps gained the positions that were their objective and are digging in. Casualties were fairly severe - the greatest number by far being sustained by the unlucky 40th Bn.

We hear that the 4th Aust. Div. and the 39th British Div. have advanced also done very well.
Our "B" Sect. Tent Div. has been and still is on the loading and un-

30/3/18.

It appears from the clearer reports available this morning that our chaps advanced about 2 miles last night to the desired positions, without establishing contact with Fritz, and there dug in ----- casualties due to "shelling" and machine gun fire.

Our 5th Div. put in an appearance this morning.

Very heavy artillery fire; over the ridge on our sector this morning - sounds like Fritz's though out guns are arguing the point a little too. Saw Thursday's paper yesterday and the news therein knocks the Ostend landing, and most of the other sensational Furphy's of the last day or two, well on the head - see also that Albert fell to the Germans on Wed. night last.

This morning's bombardment was Fritz's alright; we have been working hard all day from 11.30 clearing the cases through. For three hours the Germans attacked with great persistence and in dense formation but never once got into our lines; our position is very strong and the Germans suffered terribly; our own casualties have been heavy but not serious at all. Our artillery ran out of ammunition very early in the piece but the machine guns proved sufficient to keep Fritz in check most effectively; the Germans had to attack in the open down the one side of the valley and then up the other to reach our positions so that they were under machine-gun fire the whole time and wave after wave was practically wiped out. The 11th Ambulance bearers reported here this evening and are being held in reserve.

A. Cpl. Hunter passing through sounded to-day, gave me a very decent rain-coat which Kelso "bags" as I already have one.

Saw Dave Doyle to-night; he is billeted here in the village and is coming over to see us in the morning all going well.

31/3/18.

Quiet day. A little "Froggie" brought in here to-day to be passed further back to his people - wherever they may now be; apparently he was visiting friends in Amiens when the Germans advanced this far and nearly to his home; this morning, the news having gone abroad that Fritz was well held, and the "line" quieter, he rode up on his bicycle to see if he could find his house, mother etc; he found of course that his mother had long since fled so he collected what remained of the family treasures and started back for Amiens but was taken in hand by the A.I.F., as he was in an evacuated area, closed to civilians. I took him in hand here as I could parley with him a bit and he stuck to me like a leech until he started off for Amiens this afternoon, for the French interpreter here having seen his papers, he was allowed to proceed. He took the wrong road, got pulled up by the sentry and landed back here in tears a while later, but Harry Angwin put him on the right road and sent him off again.

Hard to realize that to-day is Easter Sunday:

Dave Doyle came over to see me this evening and we had a very pleasant yarn; he is on General Staff work in 60th Bn. and having a good time though plenty of work at present - he salvaged a kind of a sort of a motor car somewhere in Corbie yesterday and is getting it put in order to jerk him about the country in style.
Len Stillman, who was with the 60th Bn., acquired a broken collar-bone in a football match about three months ago and is still away in Blighty.
Lex Bradshaw is somewhere near in French Morters so I must try and hunt him up.

1/4/18.

Easter Monday. Two of our boys wounded by a bomb to-day - both were new boys in the Ambulance having come in with the Bn. Detail crowd; One of them - Robinson - died soon after arrival here but the other - Gilbert - less seriously wounded has been sent on.

Fritz very busy with the bombs to-day.

A German dispatch rider took the wrong road this morning and was wounded and brought in by our chaps; he carried valuable dispatches including orders to a big gun battery, to which he belonged re the shelling of Amiens.

He laughed at the suggestion that the German offensive was finished which was but natural I suppose.

2/4/18.

Fine again to-day.

The river Ancre runs through the grounds of the school in which we have the A. D. S. here and we have two or three boats of the flat-bottomed variety, which the departed villagers left behind, so we go paddling up the historic stream and have a great time shooting under the numerous little bridges which requires a little skill as the river though narrow is swift flowing.

All civilians have now been evacuated from the surrounding villages. The general opinion here is that, should Fritz assume the offensive again, at this part of the line in another "try" for Arras, it will be the Flank sectors and not this one we are on that he will attack. Pte. Peter Horan, who was one of our Sgts. at Seymour, came along to see our Seymour party this afternoon; he is in the 15th Fld. Amb. now; his visit was short as he had to get back to their A. D. S. at Heilly for night duty but I expect we will see him again in a day or two - he has not lost his genial smile.

3-4/4/18.

Yesterday was quiet but to-day far from it. From 5.30 a.m. until 8.30 the bombardment on our right was very heavy; at first it was thought here that it was just a bombardment of our Artillery by Fritz, but it is now certain that Fritz launched heavy attacks on the mixed Tommy Div. on our right (R.R.R. and 21st Div.) and on the 9th Aust. Bgde. on their left. Our latest news here up to 2 p.m. is that Fritz broke through the Tommies to a depth of 900 yards or so and was still attacking but was held by the 9th Brigade on the L. flank.

A lot of the Tommies have been through our A.D.S. and seem pretty knocked up and despondent - it is said that the R.R.R. fought very well.

Our 15th Aust. Brigade boys, at present attached to us, have been going up the line in Companies for the last few hours.

Saw Dave Doyle pass on horseback going linwards and young Barter driving a G.S.W. pass the other way but just had time to shout good-day to them.

5/4/18.

Many reports since yesterday on the position on our part of the line, by the wounded going through but as usual they are very contradictory and vague.

The following seems to be the true course that the fighting has taken - Yesterday the Tommies on our right were forced to fall back a little and the 15th Brigade of our 5th Div. took over from those immediately on our R. flank in the evening and then our 9th Brigade men fell back a little to adjust and straighten up the line.

To-day the Germans massed behind a smoke screen to attack our 10th and 11th Bgde. troops on our sector but their luck was out for the wind varied; made their smoke screens a failure and our artillery exacted heavy toll from their massed troops.

Further along it appears that the 9th and 15th Brigades were twice heavily attacked but held their ground and inflicted severe casualties. Still further along the attack on the British troops is reported to have met with some success but the extent of such success, if any, is unknown to us.

Busy to-day, the casualties early in the morning being mostly from the surrounding villages, which Fritz "cleaned up" this morning and in the latter part of the morning and this afternoon from the lines, which he shelled heavily preparatory to the attack which failed to eventuate. One of our boys - Robertson - who joined us up not very long ago, was killed this morning up at the lines.

Two of our boys have got into hot water with the A.P.M. for helping themselves to "forbidden fruit" in at Corbie - both original and popular members so we are all hoping they will wriggle out light; it is always the way somehow, the least guilty of a crowd gets into the soup while the others get scot free, with "the goods" thrown in.

6/4/18.

Quiet day. Fair amount of air activity - four German planes being brought down on this sector. We were to have been relieved and gone back for a few days rest to-morrow but such order has been cancelled and we are here for a few days yet anyway - our 2nd. Div. which has arrived in these parts was to have relieved us but we hear that it has relieved the 4th Div. instead. Our 1st Div. is on its way down here so soon we will all be together again.

7-8/4/18.

Quiet. Raining steadily so the mud in the lines is bad again. The old civilians of Vaux were evacuated through us to-day.

- 9/4/18. More biz. to-day as Fritz threw a good deal of iron about - especially Merriecourt way.
- 10/4/18. Quiet. Sid. Morey and Perry Pratt who were grabbed by the A.P.M. in Corbie last week for commandeering a bottle or two of "vin rouge" - for some patients of course - escaped with a caution.
- 11/4/18. Official news to-day that Fritz has broken through the Portuguese on the Fleurbaix sector and that Reichburg, St. Qaast and Laventie are no longer ours.
- 12/4/18. Fine weather again. The N. Z. Div. and our own 1st. Div. that had just arrived here to relieve us have gone north again on account of Fritz push up there which has now become serious. Official news to-day that the line now runs west of Wyschaete, Messines, Ploystaert, Steenwerch, Merville which of course means that Fritz now holds our old L'Estrade home, the Steenwerch station and dump Bac St. Maiz Estaires, Erquinghem and Armentiers. Bailleul is seriously menaced now but it is to be hoped that our great railway centre of Hazebrouck can be kept clear, for otherwise Ypres and all that it means will probably have to be evacuated. It seems hard that all the old familiar places and ground that it cost us so dear to take last year, should be overrun by Fritz again. Our "B" Section was reorganized to-day, the chief changes being that Angwin and Brent have been transferred to the Bearers for the time being, Dow and Anson taking their places. Goodness knows how Brent will get on in the Bearers - Angwin will be alright except that he is no Hercules. A big party of our chaps, who were away on leave when we moved down here from the north, rejoined to-day so we are just about at full strength again. Alan Webster, who left us with a dose of measles when we were at Port d'Aschelles, came back with them.
- 13/4/18. Quiet on our sector. From to-day on, "A" Sect, Tent Div. will run the Casualty Room in the day and "B" Tent Div. in the night - the whole of the Tent Div. will be on duty and do stretcher duty as well as the dressing; we in "B" Tent Div. start duty to-night.
- 14-15/4/18. Quiet here so we have had a lazy time this last couple of nights. Latest official news of the position in the North is of the 13th and on that day the line was reported to have run East Wyschaete, West Messines, Ploystaert through Neuve Eglise and then the line curved to Nieffe ^{NIEFFE} Steenwerch, Station, Bailleul and west of Merville - Hard fighting was in progress. It is reported that our 1st Div. counter-attacked successfully immediately on detraining outside Bailleul. Rumoured and feared here that our 12th Brigade Artillery (Mobile) has been captured in the North. Received a note from Cousin Jim Lonie, who is with a Training Bn. in England and expecting to come over soon now.
- 15-16/4/18. News to the effect that Steenwerch, ^{NIEFFE} Nieffe and Bailleul have been evacuated and that Neuve Eglise is no longer ours.
- 17-18/4/18. Decent Aust. mail to-day. The position in the North is the great topic at present; it seems rather critical at present as the news has come through officially that Wyschaete and the heights about Bailleul have become Fritz ground after heavy fighting. Fritz has been sending a lot of mixed Gas and H. E. over round about here lately so in case we get a big dose here, we have been making preparations lately. Dow, Eade and Luke of our Sub-Section, together with some of Blanchard, leave here to-morrow to fix up a reserve receiving and dressing post near Franvilliers in case we are shelled out of this place.
- 19/4/18. Things up North not too good yet by latest reports, even though French troops have now got well into action there to strengthen the line. In consequence of the fall of Wyschaete it has been found necessary to fall back to another line of defence and in doing so to evacuate Paschendaele, Polecaple and Langemack. There is news of a French offensive in the Verdun sector.

In our own immediate neighbourhood, Villiers Breteaux, the billeting village of the 9th Brigade was very heavily shelled with Gas and H. E. yesterday, 17,000 shells being pumped into the place in two doses - casualties were high. In case this village should be treated to a dose of the same, all arrangements have now been completed for immediate evacuation; the arrangements affecting our unit and ourselves personally are: Every man is now to keep handy full water bottle, gas-pirator, tin lid ground sheet, Iron rations and anything else he may want to get away with in a hurry.

Whichever "Tent Div." is on duty in the Casualty Ward, will remain on duty until further orders, the other "Tent Div." moving straight off with Capt. McPhee to the reserve Dressing Station being prepared near Franvilliers by "Blanchard Eade & Co." who left here for that purpose yesterday; the bearers and others go to the railway embankment outside the village and dig in or go back Franvilliers way. Went for a stroll with Val Woff and Alec. Kelso as far as the outskirts of Corbie this evening - Corbie does not look much war-worn as yet.

20/4/18.

Latest news indicates that Fritz is "held" in the North for the present at least.

Fine weather continues.

Our guns have been very busy the last 48 hours - especially last night. Aeroplanes thick lately. A German air-man forced and followed a British plane down this morning over our lines but in his eagerness to get the British plane, came too low and caught a burst himself from one of our aeroplane machine-guns on the ground; his plane crashed in our lines and the aviator was found to be shot through head and chest and he appears to be the famous German air-man Cavalry Captain Baron von Richthofen, who has accounted for 80 of our machines.

Went for a walk with Kelso and Woff to the top of the ridge this evening as things were quiet and had a good look over the valley on the opposite side, through which flows the Somme and watched our shells bursting in Fritz's trenches on the further side of the ruined village of Hammel - Vaux, near to us, looked in good repair but of course was quite deserted while daylight lasted.

22/4/18.

Took a walk along to Franvilliers this afternoon to see Blanchard & Co. at the reserve A.D.S.

23/4/18.

Went up to the ridge again this evening with Kelso, Bert Reid and a couple of others for a look around with the help of a big telescope borrowed from one of the motor drivers; we found Fritz in a nasty mood for he started to shell our observation post a minute or two after we got there so we had to get out "toute de suite". See by to-night's bulletin that the air-man brought down here a day or two ago was Germany's "crack" - Baron von Richthofen - alright and that an Aust. Artillery machine gunner has been awarded the credit of bringing him down.

The following entries were made by L/Cpl. Alec. Kelso, who took charge of my "effects" when I was evacuated and later sent those of value to me, on to me in Hospital in England.

24/4/18.

At 4 a.m. shelling of the village of Bonny where our A.D.S. was situated commenced. The shelling was particularly heavy, being H. E. and Gas; casualties from neighbouring horse-lines were quickly brought to us and for four hours we worked with Gas Masks on. At 8 o'clock a lull occurred and as the place was clear of casualties the main body moved out to reserve A. D. S. which Blanchard & Co. had established. Four men and M. O. were left on duty in dressing room - Major Metcalfe, L/Cpls. Werner & Baker and Pts. Brent and Hillier - and besides these

/RWINS

Sgt. Wren and Tom Lee of Motor Transport, Q.M.S. Thompson and Cpl. Hillier remained on duty - the village by now was deserted. At 8.15 a.m. shelling of the village recommenced (news as per L/Cpl. Baker). L/Cpl. Werner and Major Metcalfe remained on duty in the dressing room, the remainder being advised to seek shelter in cellar over the road until called for. A casualty arrived and while Major Metcalfe and L/Cpl. Werner were dressing the case, L/Cpl. Baker and Pts. Hillier returned to the cellar; just then a shell landed at the front of station and others close by. L/Cpl. Werner and Major Metcalfe however, stuck to their case; finally however, the A. D. S. was hit and everyone

within was killed or wounded - Sgt. ^{IRWIN}Wison was killed outright, a stretcher bearer, Tom Lee, L/Cpl. Werner and Major M. were wounded. On calls for help Q.M.S. Thompson, Cpl. Hilton, L/Cpl. Baker, Pte. Brent and Pte. Hillier returned to render aid and owing to their combined work, the cases were fixed up & finally sent off by car. Our other A.D.S. at Heilly was also shelled - H. E. & Gas. Casualties - Pte. Bond Gassed, Ptes. Greenwood and Pearce wounded. Besides these other casualties on the day were Ptes. Lauer and Pearce at the Q. M. S. store at Bonnay. An attack followed the bombardment but was repulsed everywhere, At Villiers - Brettoneaux where temporary success was gained; however, a brilliant counter-attack by Australians recaptured the position with many prisoners. The fighting continued until Anzac Day - the 25th - when we were firmly re-established - total prisoners 900 and estimated enemy casualties 10,000.

25/4/18. and Major Metcalfe died of wounds after having both legs amputated; no later news of the others up to 5/5/18. No further casualties but an epidemic of Influenza about - S/Sgt. Reid, Ptes Woff. Jones, and Williams evacuated while Ptes. Ede and Dow are treated at A.D.S. Capt. Glassford returned to unit Capt. Cookburn on 1/5/18. Major Hardy joined unit in place of Major Kenny attached to Corp. W. O. Porter evacuated, broken bone in foot caused by throw from horse.

11/5/18.

Note: (Hospital England).

My diary, written up to about the 23/4/18, having been left in France, along with my other personal effects, when I was evacuated wounded, the following is a summary of events from then to the present day.

On the night of the 23-24/4/18 six of us were playing poker to while away the time as there was little biz. doing; I was doing exceedingly well but the game ended extremely abruptly about 3 o'clock when heavy shelling began. I was busily arguing with Frank Hartigan that the "row" was Fritz's shells and not our guns when a couple landed too near to leave any doubt - fini poker. From 3 o'clock on, the shelling of the village was constant and at times intense, right up till the time the last of us left or was helped leave the village - about 10 o'clock.

In accordance with orders previously issued, in the event of bombardment, the village was evacuated immediately the bombardment commenced by all troops save our unit and the Engineer picket in charge of the brigade mines.

Right from the commencement of the bombardment we had to put and keep our Gas-masks in commission, for Fritz "mixed them" as is now usual with him.

As the shelling became more violent about 9 o'clock in the morning, it was decided to evacuate the village except for a temporary clearing party of 4, one M. O., car and driver and one of the Q. M. staff and so the chaps moved back to the reserve A. D. S. prepared near Franvilliers. The party left behind were Major Metcalfe, Brent, Hillier, L/Cpls. Baker and Werner, Sgt. ^{WILSON}Wison and Pte. Lee of the motor transport and Sgt. Thompson and Cpl. Hilton of the Q. M. S. There being little doing, I suggested that the other three in the dressing-room should retire to the cellar across the road, until wanted and this they fortunately did.

The shelling seemed about this time to concentrate around us and first our billet got hit, then the cook-house and at last our turn came. Major Metcalfe and I were dressing a chap from the Artillery, who had been brought in slightly wounded, when a couple landed close enough to raise the dust and then one scored a hit, filling the room with brick dust and dirt and slightly wounding Tommy Lee who happened to be in the dressing room at the time and also "knocking" a chap, who was just coming in the door.

I saw Tommy Lee struggle from under a lot of charts etc. which had come down from the well on top of him and belt out of the door like a rabbit and lucky for him that he could and did; Major Metcalfe left me to finish bandaging the Artillery chap and went towards the door to have a look at the chap who had got knocked there; I saw him grab a stretcher and then just as he got to the door, in came another shell, right through the door and in between us. I was blown right over the man I was dressing, whom we had placed on the floor fortunately, to shelter as much as possible, and was quite helpless for a few seconds and just wondered how long the roof was going to take to fall in and finish the job off. When, after a few seconds it showed no signs of falling in, I began to think of my own immediate troubles; I felt my thigh first - the dust etc. was too thick to see - and finding it still there, which I had hardly expected as it didn't feel there, my next thought was to get out; I tried to stand up but found R. leg no good so tried crawling and got on fairly well; at the door I came across Major Metcalfe and I will never forget the sight; he lay half in and half out of the door with the R. leg blown off below the knee and the L. fearfully mutilated. I told him I was not of much use and having noted that there did not seem to be much bleeding, crawled to the gate and yell -ed for the others to the best of my ability, as I found my R. lung also "somewhat out of action". The others didn't take long to turn up though my word wasn't I glad; Baker fixed me up and plastered me all over with bandages and it wasn't long before a car arrived from Franvilliers and carted the lot of us out of the place.

We did not stay long at our Franvillier's A. D. S. as it was not in working order, but were hurried on to the M. D. S. at Equiers which the 11th Fld. Ambulance were running.

I saw Kelso at our A. D. S. and left my Fld. Glasses with him.

At the M. D. S. I saw Tommy Lee who did not appear to be too bad and then I said good-bye to "Dangles" who had come along in the car with us. After getting patched up a bit more I went on to the 4th British C. C.S. and there I stayed for the night.

My troubles were four little pieces in the R. side of face, 2 in R. arm, one in R. lung (entering under arm), four little pieces in R. thigh and a decent crack in R. ankle.

Next day I was entrained for Rouen, which we reached after an 18-hour journey and there I was taken to No. 12. "St. Louis" American General Hospital, where I passed the night, entraining again next day for Le Havre.

When we arrived at St. Louis Hospital and were being sorted out in the receiving tent I found myself next to Charlie Bond who gurgled to me that he was the only one of our chaps, so far as he knew, who had got knocked in the bombardment of Helly where we had an A. D. S. He had a decent issue of gas and so was taken to a different ward than myself and I have not seen him since.

The train journey to Le Havre was not a very long one, taking about four hours; we were all on board the hospital ship by 4 o'clock but it did not start until about 9.30 that night. The boat journey was a smooth, comfortable one and we arrived early next morning (Sunday) at Southampton; here we were sorted out and I found that I was to separate from the rest of the Australians and was to go to some London Hospital on account of the lung wound.

We had a long time to wait before the train got a move on so did not arrive at Waterloo Station until the afternoon. Our reception and treatment on arrival at Waterloo was all that one could ask for but no less than one could ask for when one now considers it a prologue to entry into this Hospital - Lewisham Military Hospital, which is not too good but still it is war time and for all one knows others may be worse. There are no orderlies here which is rather annoying when one wants things and has to ask other patients to do it for him and apart from this attention, does not seem to me to be of the best - it was eight days before an M. O. so much as looked at my wounds; the nurse no doubt knows what to do but all the same it seems a funny way of running a hospital to me.

The branch of the hospital that I am in used to be part of the Workhouse before it was annexed for Hospital use during the war and so it is not well fitted up as a hospital though it serves - we still use a lot of the workhouse material. Three weeks have now passed since I got knocked and bar my ankle I am in fairly good repair again; the lung wound at first thought serious does not appear to have been so, for after the first few days it gave little

trouble and seems quite right now, the air outside the ribs having been absorbed.

My ankle has given me a bad time; a few little pieces of bone have been extracted but the bones do not seem to have suffered much and it is quite possible the joint is not much injured. I sent a letter to James Tait and a couple of others a day or two after arrival here and a cable home to let them know I was far from dead.

Jim Tait came along to see me a day or two after (2/5/18) and very glad was to see him too; he is still awaiting a vacancy in one of the Training Squadrons to finish his course and in the meantime is having a good time.

On Sunday last, Vina came along to see me and I'm to have the pleasure of further Sunday afternoon visits while here.

I had a note from Mr. Sherwood to say that he would be along one afternoon this week to see me but he has not put in an appearance so far. I received a cable from home to-day; I have not got any letters (Australian) here yet.

There are a few other Australians here but most are Tommies who talk various kinds of English.

15/5/18.

Not much to enter; having a jolly bad time with my foot.

Received a lot of Australian and other mail from France yesterday that has given me something to think about. Kelso tells me in his letter that Major Metcalfe died at C.C.S. and I am surprised and shocked to learn from his letter, that Sgt. Wilson was in the dressing-room at Bonray when we got caught and that he was killed outright; he tells me that Tommy Lee, Clarrie Greenwood, Ted Pierce and Lou Lauer have all got over to Blighty and were doing well when last heard of but he does not mention Charlie Bond, whom I saw at 12th American General Hospital, Rouen. Baker, Dow, Drivers Moss & Fen Phillips have secured M. Ms. Received letters this morning from two of Bert Reid's London friends - Miss Strange and Miss Pfaar - who say they will be along to see me on Sunday afternoon next.

"Minnie" has written to say that she may be along to see me to-morrow afternoon - Alec had written to her to say that I was in the "repair-shop" here.

Vina came to see me last Sunday - getting quite a decent issue of visitors at present.

20/5/18.

Very little sleep yet on account of my foot - it seems to be improving though Morphia is "off" my menu so they tried "mental effect" with mock dope last night; I asked him did he ever get a sleep on it this morning and he just smiled so I don't think I will have it served up to me again.

Fritz "raided" last night and for a long time the "Antis" went their hardest; we could hear Fritz's planes once or twice.

Only one bomb landed here.

"Minnie" visited me last Thursday afternoon; I wasn't very clever so she did not stay long.

I had three visitors on Sunday - Bert Reid's two friends, Miss Pfaar and Miss Strange and Vina.

Have had quite a few letters from France.

Went out into the garden on one of the wheel-couches this afternoon for awhile as the weather was warm and fine.

22/5/18.

Out in the garden again yesterday as the weather continues fine and warm.

Received a parcel of my most valued little personal belongings from France per Alec yesterday, including an uncompleted volume of my diary.

25/5/18.

Feeling rather weak for want of sleep as my ankle is troublesome. "Minnie" came along to see me on Thursday last and a minute or two after she left Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Griffiths arrived and stayed yarning for awhile, promising me the pleasure of another visit next week. Had another note from Miss Strange and one also from Mrs. Curry of Acton.

I have written cancelling all visits for to-morrow, as I'm not feeling too sociable.

8/6/18.

Had rather more sleep lately so feeling somewhat better. The Dr. made some remark about my going on to Aust. Hospital, when doing his rounds this morning. Nothing to record bar a visit from Vina and Minnie now and then.

Two very decent Canadian chaps in this ward now - Jock Lakie and Caldwell.

A lot of Air-force Cadets are in this hospital at present for tonsil-extraction and nasal-filleting. Winne-Tighe of their number, is a very sociable sort of the love-lorn Scot; who makes love to all the nurses; contributes a fair share of amusement. A Cpl. Long in this ward has been exceptionally good to me in the way of moving me about in the wheel-couch affair and in many and various other ways.

16/7/18.

Have been slowly improving during the last month and have now reached the stage where I go out on my own on crutches; I usually stay in bed most of the day - just get up in the afternoons for a while or in the evenings - for bed has become somewhat of a habit and not altogether an unpleasant one. I have filled in most of the time reading and writing - I took up fancy work for a few days last week just to win a wager.

My foot feels much better now but it is altogether a "passenger" and will be some time I think before it goes on duty again.

On Sunday morning last I got up and went to church and when coming back my crutch skidded and let me down rather hard on my "dud" foot which has been rather swollen since.

Vina came along on Sunday afternoon and guided me to her place where I spent a very pleasant afternoon for her sisters and mere are an unusual and lively lot.

Minnie has usually been along to see me on Thursday afternoons but having had a dose of the prevalent "Spanish Flu", took herself off to Hastings a couple of weeks ago to effect a recovery.

Other visitors have been Jim Tate and Mrs. Sherwood.

A welcome parcel, sent for May 26th, arrived a day or two ago - helps out the "Menu" here a little.

Have been told that I will be leaving here soon for one of the Aust. Convalescent Hospitals in the London district.

I have been out to one or other of the local picture shows a few times lately and intend an afternoon trip to London in the near future.

Met Jock Lakie, who is at one of the Canadian Conv. Hospitals near here now, last night, and went to the local Hippodrome with him to see "Two Little Vagabonds".

Had a note from Clarrie Greenwood, who is now at Sutton Veny Camp, to say he will call on me here should he get the change when on leave.

Charlie Caldwell-Smith informs me from Wandsworth Hospital that he is progressing favourably; I expect to visit or be visited by him one of these times soon.

I have heard frequently from France - when last I heard, our unit was out for a rest after a decent quiet time in the lines.

When out resting just before going in this last time, Fritz bombed their billets and Sgt. Alec. Wilson, Cpl. Porter, Pte Wakeling and two of the newer boys were killed.

Hear that Ted Pierce has developed tetanus.

22/7/18.

Took a trip up to London a day or two ago to see the Dentist and immediately made a call on Mr. Sherwood for some "lucre", and on Vina to arrange to meet her at the theatre next afternoon.

Yesterday morning I got up early and while roaming around chasing a late pass for that evening, came my second crash, which knocked my ankle about again to some order; I managed to crawl back to my ward with my crutches while a Dr., who witnessed my downfall was away looking for a stretcher - I knew that I got carted back to the ward on a stretcher, it would be all up with my theatre trip to London that afternoon; I don't know what he said when he arrived back with the stretcher.

I met Vina in at the Palladium in the afternoon and enjoyed the show very much; on the way back to the hospital in the bus who should I see in one of the suburban streets, but Clarrie Greenwood, so we got out of the bus at the next stop and caught a car back and I found him outside a Variety Theatre and had speech with him and arranged to see him again.

Alec Kelso tells me in his last letter that he has put in for O. T. C. as the unit is getting so "bust up".

Major Frank Wheatland unexpectedly came in to see me on Thursday evening last; he is over on leave and looks in need of it, i.e., a rest. He is the last of our old Officers, bar Capt. Webster, now with the unit as our "B" Section's "Last Survivor" - Capt. McPhee - has left, so Alec tells me in his last letter.

27/7/17.

Clarrie Greenwood came along last Monday Morning to see me and as they wouldn't let him in, I had to leave bed for a while and go out to meet him - we yapped like a couple of "flappers"; being A.L. again now, he expects to go back to France soon.

Had a note from Charlie Coldville-Smith from Wandsworth Hospital, just to let me know that he had been notified of an immediate start for Aust., so I suppose the lucky boulder is well on the way now.

On Wednesday afternoon last, I went up to London with Cadet Winne-tighe to see the Matinee of Chow-Chin-Chow, which was great. Thursday evening I went to see "Odds On" at the local Hippo - haven't laughed so much for months; one of the funniest little plays I have ever seen.

I have been marked out to Southall Hospital (Aust.) and move on there when a vacancy occurs and I am sent for.

Word from Mary of Bournemouth that she will probably be up on London for a few days next month so I hope that I do not get moved to "Southall" before that.

My location seeming to be a little uncertain I have advised Vina not to visit next Sunday (to-morrow) and should I still be here I will visit the Sherwood family at Cheam.

Have been trying to get some teeth fixed up in London but not being able to make definite appointments, progress is slow.

My ward friend - Cpl. Long - has been discharged to his depot for "boarding" as he cannot be boarded here, being a Home Service man.

31/7/18.

On Sunday, I visited Sherwoods at Cheam and spent a very pleasant afternoon.

Made my way to Newcross Station yesterday afternoon (Tuesday) to meet Mary from Bournemouth but unfortunately missed her as it appears that there are two Newcross Stations and I chose the wrong one; I went on to London and met Vina and had tea with her before returning to the hospital, where I found May waiting to see me - the unlucky maid had been waiting for hours at the Station and then came on here and awaited my return for a few more hours; I will see her for awhile this afternoon before she goes on to her brother's place at St. Albans.

My luck was out altogether yesterday it appears, for just after I left, Val Woff came along to see me; he left a note to say he was over on leave and unfortunately would not have another chance to call.

All patients marked "fit" by the ward Doctors are to be given extended week-end leave until the Tuesday evening next week-end and the Sister here, who treats me well, has fixed it alright for me - fits in beautifully for me with May in town.

8/8/18.

The week-end well over and a jolly decent one it was. May being in town, I had to divide the time and though I had to "tell a few", it was diplomacy and that no doubt excuses them - especially as they were successful.

I spent Saturday and Sunday with Vina, May thinking I was at Cheam - I had to ring up "Cheam", explain the situation and arrange for a possible ring from May for me there.

On Saturday afternoon I went out to Vina's for a while and then we went in to see "Fair and Warmer" which we enjoyed very much. I stayed at the Bedford Hotel and met Vina in town at 12 o'clock on Sunday and we "bused" it out to Richmond and had a row on the river. Vina did most of the rowing and got a decent number of blisters.

On Monday morning I rang up "Cheam" and found that May had phoned me there and left a message to the effect that she was staying over the week-end at the West Central Hotel and would meet me at Waterloo Station at 10.30 a.m. - The West Central and Bedford Hotels being all in the one building, I thanked my lucky stars that I had not run into her during the week end; I waylaid her along with her sister Millicent and a Lt. Howe of the R. F. C. - a very decent Sth. African chap - as they came out of the West Central Hotel and as it was raining, we taxied to "Madam Tussards" just to fill in the morning; I got rather weary of wandering about on crutches, so sat down for a while and I'm dashed if two girls from Bournemouth - who May recognised when I pointed them out later - didn't take me for the latest exhibit and try to place me in the catalogue. I got up and moved about after that and the two girls disappeared very much embarrassed.

The weather clearing, we went out to Richmond in the afternoon and though there was a shower or two, we put in the time very pleasantly on the river and strolling about.

We all stayed the night at the West Central Hotel, Lt. Howe and I sharing a room; I was surprised to find that he was only 18, for he has

already seen quite a lot of service and has experienced more than once both "bringing down" and "being brought down" - being colonial if he is then "Heaven help him" I say. On Tuesday morning we just messed about fixing up the girls luggage, etc. I dined with May at Lyons Popular and we then went to see "The Maid of the Mountains" which we both thought great; we met the other two at tea and I then made my way back to the hospital, well satisfied with my 4 days' leave. On two occasions during the weekend, I met Len Stillman who was on leave from Wandsworth Hospital; I was surprised to meet him as I was not aware that he had been wounded; his wounds, he said, were not very serious and progressing well and though he did not look at all clever, he said that he expected to see France again in a few months time. On the Tuesday afternoon, I met Whiting of the 10th Fld. Ambulance in Leicester Square and he gave me a little news of the Ambulance and a lot of his wonderful adventures in London - in his rainbow style. Went up to London yesterday afternoon and got the photos I took during the week-end which are very satisfactory on the whole. I had a word or two with Vina over the tea cups before returning; she is going to Eastbourne for a couple of weeks on Saturday next so I may visit Chean next week-end.

- 9/8/18. Made a trip to London this afternoon to leave my camera with Vina who is taking a holiday at Eastbourne for a couple of weeks - commencing to-morrow.
- 10/8/18. Minnie paid me a visit this afternoon.
- 11/8/18. Went down to Chean to visit the Sherwoods this afternoon as I am to go to Harefield Convalescent Hospital (Australian) tomorrow - had a very pleasant afternoon and snap-shoted the family.
- 12/8/18. Moved here to Harefield Park No. 1. A.A.H. this afternoon; only two of us came and we did the whole journey direct by car which was a rattle-trap concern and broke down four miles from here; a private car came to the rescue and took the two of us on to the hospital where we reported that a rescue car was needed. I hope a car was sent out to give a hand as Cadet Wynne-Tighe was out for a pleasure ride on the broken-down bus.
- 13/8/18. This place is "the Carlton" for food after and in comparison with Lewisham Hospital and is better in every way. The Hospital grounds are very nice so that there is little inducement for one on crutches to go wandering about the country here. The country hereabouts is pretty, but there is nothing special to see; the little village of Harefield is quite unattractive itself and is the only one close to us. It is open camp from 2 until 8 p.m. each day and leave by application may be obtained one day a week to go to London. Met young Barrett, once of Burwood Road Hawthorn, at a concert this afternoon, in the Hospital Concert Room, for crutch and bed patients; he has a wound in the back which is getting on very well. Expect to be boarded in a week or two and learn my future movements.
- 19/8/18. Received the first Aust. letter addressed direct to England yesterday - forwarded from Sherwood & Co. Got the M. O. to have a good look at a skin rash that has been troubling me a lot yesterday and as a result have been transferred to the skin-trouble ward. Met, to my surprise, W. Carroll of 10th Field Amb. in the corridor this afternoon; he came over with the "push rush" slightly wounded in the head and is just about right again now, though it is only a couple of weeks since he got "knocked". He passed me on the said news that Cpl. Harry Baker was killed a couple of weeks ago - it was Baker that plastered me up so decently when I got "tug".
- 30/8/18. I moved back to my old ward No. 43. three days ago, where I am comfortably installed again; on that same day (Tuesday), Percy Brett arrived here, evacuated from the unit on account of his health and skin trouble of some kind - I have had some pleasant yarns with him. Mr. & Mrs. Waldeck came out here to see me yesterday and seem very nice people - had written them to say I had been wounded.

Learn in a letter from Alec to-day that Arthur Frazer is missing and believed killed. Alec and Bod. expect to get over on leave about the end of October. Carroll was telling me to-day that he has managed to get posted for a trip to Australia on one of the Hospital ships as a masseur and will probably be leaving in a couple of weeks. Major Curtain was talking to me re boarding me yesterday morning and the sister tells me I didn't make nearly enough fuss but I expect to be boarded all the same very soon now. I'm going up to London on Tuesday next and will lunch with the Waldecks and in the afternoon hope to see James Tait who expects to be in London on "final leave".

3/9/18.

On Sunday Vina came out to see me in the afternoon and we spent the afternoon pleasantly enough wandering about. On Monday I spent most of the day at the Electrical ward and got my feet tickled all over with electrical jiggers to see how various muscles would re-act, which they did fairly satisfactorily I believe, though I myself can't make much of the M. O's notes - I have to go daily now for massage and some other treatment. I went up to London yesterday and after calling on Sherwood & Co. went on to Mrs. Waldeck's in Russell Sqr.; I found Mrs. Waldeck's sister at home and a cousin of Dorrie's (Ware) there, visiting like myself - a young chap called Hunter, just over and now on embarkation leave for France. I had arranged to meet Jim at one o'clock so Miss Ware insisted on my bringing him back to lunch with me, which I did. After lunch Jim and I made our "adieux" and after a couple of unsuccessful tries, finally finished up at the Hippodrome, where Box o' Tricks was being played - not much. I left Jim after tea as he had to meet a friend and I myself made a call on Vina after which I made my way home, feeling tired enough to be very pleased to get there.

5/9/18.

Gala Day yesterday. After a glance at my "Electric Test" report, Major Curtain made out my board papers in the morning and I was boarded and marked B2B (6 months to Australia) in the afternoon, so have made the first jump alright. I go on leave to-morrow morning and have been successful in drawing my kit to-day so as to save me doing it in the rush of to-morrow morning. I have not planned the way in which I will spend the two weeks yet - I have to report straight to Weymouth at the end of my leave.

6/9/18.

Left Harefield Park this morning at 9 o'clock and got to Horseferry Road about 11 o'clock where we were fixed up nice and quickly with Passes, Cash, Warrants, etc. At Horseferry Road I saw Alec Campbell who was on his way down to Weymouth and also Carrington who is on his way back to Australia on the 1914 stunt; just as I was leaving, in a taxi, I saw another of the 10th Boys out of the window and learnt from him the sad news that Von Schele had died of his wounds. I put up at the Bedford Hotel. In the afternoon I called on Mr. Sherwood and in the evening I met Vina and after we went and saw "The Boy" which we both enjoyed very much. During the afternoon I met Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Laurence in Holborn and I am to visit them at their house in Guilford Place one evening next week.

7/9/18.

Rang up Minnie this morning, and having got her Dept. at the War Trade Office, asked to speak to Miss Stone and nearly turned a back-somer-sault when I received the reply that Mrs. Stone - now Mrs. Gunning - was away on her honeymoon; I laughed so much then that I think the girl at the other end thought the news had been too much for me but I couldn't help it when I thought of the sad, broken-hearted Minnie of three weeks ago, away honey-mooning. I will send her heart-breaker some condolences. I found on phoning Mrs. Waldeck that she was out of town so left a message. I phoned Mrs. Curry and am to pay them a visit on Tuesday evening - and learn "Solo" again. This afternoon I met Vina and we repaired to Hyde Park to listen to the band and watch "the barges go by"; after tea we went to "Shanghai" at Drury Lane which is a very enjoyable musical play in which Ivy Shilling supplies the dancing.

- 8/9/18. Spent a lazy morning; met Vina for lunch and then as the weather was bad, we very reluctantly gave up our projected trip to Richmond and spent the afternoon at Nell.
- 9/9/18. Weather good - bad luck it wasn't yesterday. Had lunch at the "Old Bell" with Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Griffiths and there I met again Mr. Salt and Mr. Bittner whom I knew when formerly in England. Vina and I went to the Holborn Restaurant for dinner and then on to "Going Up" at the "Gaiety".
- 10/9/18. Did nothing much this morning. In the afternoon I went out to Acton and visited the Curry's at "Rosemead". Mr. Curry I unfortunately did not see, as he was detained in town. The children were all A.I. and seem to have grown a great deal since my last visit; before going over to France, I picked up the trousers of the uniform I left there before going to France, but left the coat as it is out of fashion these days, being much shorter than those made now.
- 11/9/18. Mr. & Mrs. Waldeck called and found me at breakfast this morning and after calling at Sherwood's and collecting a note from Percy Brett, containing some snaps of Vina's that I had left to be printed at Harefield Park, I went round to No. 11 and had lunch with Mrs. Waldeck. Vina's snaps turned out exceptionally well and I took them round to her in the afternoon and then collected Mr. Sherwood and having dined, went to see "Yes Uncle", which was very good.
- 12/9/18. Have a very bad cold in the head; I stayed in bed this morning for I couldn't have gone out, even had I felt inclined, my nose was bleeding so continuously. After dinner I assayed a trip out but had not gone far before my nose started to bleed again so I had to return and clean up again. After 4 o'clock I started out again and this time with more success; I called on Mr. & Mrs. Laurence at No. 2, Guilford Place and finding them in, spent the evening with them - One of Mr. Laurence's present pupils (Jewellers of Melbourne) evidently wishes to see me and was going to look me up at the hotel Mr. L. said. Have made arrangements to go to Bournemouth to-morrow and will return here again on Tuesday next.
- 13/9/18. Called at Sherwoods for letter this morning and then after lunch at the Bedford, caught the 2 o'clock train for Bournemouth. May met me at the station and had a room engaged for me at the Waverley Hotel where I stayed down here before; we went down to the beach for a while after tea but did not stay long as the weather was squally.
- 14/9/18. Raining hard to-day so did not go out this morning; it cleared a little in the afternoon and May and I went to Boscombe and in the evening, went to the show at the Hippodrome - a war product labelled "Going Over" which proved genuinely amusing.
- 15/9/18. Fine weather to-day. May and I met a Lieutenant Jim Darling and Millicent down at the bathing tent and we spent the day there, just going up to the town for lunch; in the afternoon we went in bathing and I got on very well with my one effective leg until it came to getting out and dressed, which proved rather troublesome. We had tea in the tent, May having brought rations down for the purpose.
- 16/9/18. May being at work, I just had a look around on my own to-day, meeting May at "Bobbie's" in the evening for tea after which we went to a show called "Smile" at the Boscombe Hippodrome, which was very good; we finished up the evening down at the tent with Jim Darling and Millicent.
- 17/9/18. Came up from Bournemouth to-day by the 11.20 a.m. train with Jim Darling and we lunched together at the "Popular". At Waterloo Station I met Lieut. Howe who accompanied Millicent when in town with May at the time of my 4 days' leave from Lewisham Hospital; he was over from France again and was going down to see Millicent after a day or two in Salisbury on the way.

I met Vina this evening and knew as soon as I saw her that something was wrong and indeed it was, for word had come through to-day that the second boy of the family had been killed in Action in France. Vina naturally was in no mood for amusements, so after seeing her home, I went along to the Criterion to see "You never know y'know." on my own - I thought the show very poor but the mood I was in may have had much to do with that. I had a note to-day from Wallie Pensford conveying the sad news of Colin McKay's death.

- 18/9/18. Had a look over "Australia House" this morning and like the fine Main Hall very well. Caught the train down here to Mrs. Waldeck's place at Hatfield this afternoon; Mr. Waldeck's house and grounds are very fine and the country hereabouts very pretty.
- 19/9/18. The last day of my leave. Spent this morning in the grounds at Hatfield and came up to London with Mrs. Waldeck and her sister along with the other two guests - Capt. D. L. Davis and Capt. (Dr.) Hunter about midday and after lunch with them, took my leave and set out to put my house in order before going down to Weymouth to-morrow. I went out to Vina's place this evening and spent a quiet time; found her more cheerful again.
- 20/9/18. Reported at Horseferry Road this morning at 10.30, and with a crowd of others caught the 12.30 train for Weymouth where I now am. I had arranged to see May at Bournemouth Station through which the train passed, should I come down by the 2 o'clock train from Waterloo, but as I came by the 12.30, I of course missed seeing her. Cars met us at Weymouth Station and took us to Western Camp where we are to stay to-night; we are to be classified and drafted to one or other of the camps here at Weymouth.
- 21/9/18. Classified this morning and along with others moved up to Monte Video Camp this morning - will probably be boarded finally by Ryan Friday next. A big crowd go on board D23 for Australia tonight - though rumours are about in plenty, no one knows when the next boat goes. One of the Bissetts of Manningtree Rd. Hawthorn came through from Horseferry Road with me and is in same camp here - he is a sure passenger for Australia. One of the two MacDonald brothers, ex motor-driver in the 10th Fld. Amb. is in camp here but is only a doubtful candidate for a trip back.
- 22/9/18. (Sunday) Church in the morning and a lot of letter writing yesterday.
- 23/9/18. Classified this morning and have been fixed up with a surgical boot and put on Gym. list for exercises every day - to get ~~gax~~ off crutches and to sticks now soon as possible. Made a search for some of our boys here this morning and found Tommy Lee, Dobson and Jorwell all in the Massage Ward training for duty on the Hospital ships between here and Australia.
- 24/9/18. Had a car trip to Littlemore Camp about five miles distant to see the Dentist this morning; the ride was quite an enjoyable one; we passed through Weymouth on the way and it looked a very decent place. I looked up Cleal at Littlemore Camp and found him the same ---- chap as before.
- 30/9/18. On Friday last I went up before Ryan for my final "Board" and being classes B2B just await shipment home now. I thought I had crashed this morning; 5 of us were called out on parade and told to report to S. M. O., the first three to go in found that they had been crashed by Ryan on the Friday's board, but I found that I was wanted just to see if I was fit for duty on the trip back - of course not. I found that the S. M. O. was Major Smith, late of our own unit and so would have got a good hearing in any case. Notified on muster parade to-day that as the next prospective hospital ship had been sunk, "Aust." class men who wished to make sure of getting home before Xmas could apply for permission to travel via America or Canada - the military authorities would book passages and pay towards expense £55 Officers; £27 Sgts.; £23 Others; which was the estimated cost per Ordinary Hospital Troop Ship - I have applied.

On Saturday morning last when at Littlemore Camp again for Dental Treatment, I found that Claude Ponsford had arrived there to take over command of Dental Corps. at Weymouth; I had a talk with him and expect to see him there again to-morrow.

On Saturday afternoon I went into Weymouth with another "cripple" to have a look at the place, as the weather was decent for a change; the town I thought rather a nice one and the harbour as seen from the "Promenade" returning to camp early after a "table-cloth" tea which contrasts very much with meals here which are particularly rough. Rained hard all yesterday.

Received a tea and sugar parcel from home yesterday - not very useful to me here.

I have met Jennings, Peter Sheppard and Tom Fields of the 10th about the camp in the last few days and though I have not come across them yet, I believe that Boscombe and Albey were among the staff here and at present on night duty.

- 1/10/18. Met Leo Sherry, who used to be a Cpl. at Seymour camp, here last night; he was with the 12th Fld. Amb. but has been on staff here since he came over wounded some time back.
Had a yarn with Claude Ponsford when at "Littlemore" this morning and have accepted his invitation to dinner and the theater in at Weymouth next Friday evening.
- 2/10/18. Boat roll read out this morning re D24; it included from our company only about 20 non treatment cases.
The Dr. at the Gym. had a look at my leg this morning and sent me to the Massage Ward for treatment - I have to report there again to-morrow morning.
- 4/10/18. After a couple of "dud" visits, got examined at the "Massage" department and have been put on daily treatment.
Weather very "off" so I stayed in camp this week-end.
Jorwell, Dobson, and some of the others on the Massage Staff have been told off for duty, so expect another boat roll will soon be out.
Heard from Alec Kelso to-day and the news was not bright; the unit had been in "heavy work" again and casualties were - Chalmers killed; Bright and Cpl. Wilman badly wounded. Leave being messed up again, he does not expect to get over before the end of the month now.
- 7/10/18. At the Camp Pictures this evening I found myself sitting next to Wilson formerly of the 10th Field Ambulance - he got a slight crack and came over shortly after myself and is now on the Staff here.
- 8/10/18. Met Claude Ponsford in Weymouth this evening and after dinner with him, went and saw "Dr. Jaykell and Mr. Hyde" at the local theatre; it was well played and so worth seeing.
- 9/10/18. Met Hamilton - formerly of the 10th Fld. Amb. - in camp this afternoon, and he asked me to have tea with himself and runaway wife at the village of Chickerell near here where his wife is staying until their passports come through from "Horseferry Road" when they will be off for Sydney, via America per Passenger Steamer - I had an enjoyable evening - very amusing.
- 10/10/18. Boat roll for D27 read out this morning.
Very enjoyable musical concert in the "Y.M.C.A." this evening.
- 11/10/18. Boat roll of D28 read out this morning and I'm jolly glad to be able to record that my name was on the list; it will probably leave about the 20th as the latest day for special leave for those going on it is the 16th.
Snowy Lee is the only one on the staff here that I know who is detailed for homeward duty on the D28.
- 12/10/18. Medical Examination of D28 men this morning for allotment to berth or hammock - I am marked off for berth, good luck.
Went into Weymouth this afternoon for one or two little things I wanted - ran wild and went to the "movies".
- 15/10/18. Surprised to meet Frank Hartigan here this evening - just the same as ever and with two stars "up"; he got his promotion and came straight over from the unit to take on Lt. Dispenser on the D28, so I should see a good deal of him on the way out. Learnt from him that Les. Wilman had got a serious wound in the thigh, that Bright had lost a foot, and that

Gray Cameron had died of his wounds some little time ago in France. Bod. and Kelso. may be over soon as leave had opened again just before Frank left.

- 16/10/18. Frank Hartigan left this morning with the forward A. M. C. staff for D28. so we should leave here in a few days.
- 17/10/18. "D27's" got their "Temperance Bands" today. Started out to get to Weymouth this evening with Wilson but competition for the car seats was too heavy for me, so I had to stay in camp and be satisfied with the Y. M. C. A. Concert.
- 18-19/10/18. A busy day. Parade for "Temperance bands" etc. this morning and another this afternoon for medical inspection and boat-tickets. Camp was closed until 5 o'clock to-day and no mail given out until then; my mail included a note from May B. to say that she would arrive in Weymouth that afternoon; camp having been closed and her letter not delivered in time, I, of course, did not meet the train that she came by, so I went straight to the address she gave in Weymouth but found her out; on my return to the camp I found her there awaiting me. By a happy coincidence she had, on her arrival at the camp, met Wilson and asked him to direct her to my hut and he, finding that she was looking for me, took charge of her until I arrived, for which I was truly thankful; I had a good last talk with her and then saw her on to a car back to Weymouth.
- "Visual Optics" that I have repeatedly written asking Mr. Sherwood to send me, has not put in an appearance, which is bad luck, as I could have gone through it at my leisure on the way back. Wrote crowds of farewell notes to-day and heard from Vina and Alec, who expects to be over on leave on the 25th.
- 20/10/18. Reveille at 3.30 this morning, so we washed by moon-light (it was a beautiful night with full-moon), had breakfast and left camp by the cars at 5 o'clock; we got straight into the train at Weymouth but did not move out until after 6.30. Fair ladies brought us coffee in the train and distributed Aust. Journals. At Exeter station, where we stopped for half an hour, we were provided with refreshments by the ladies of Exeter, as was the case when we passed through that city on the way to Salisbury Plains, when we just arrived over here.
- At Plymouth, which proved our destination, the train ran us right alongside the boat and we went on board with very little delay; I have a comfortable lower berth but so near the stern of the ship, I'm afraid the screw vibration will be a bit unpleasant and I'm not in love with the flight of stairs down to the deck, which I anticipate will be a nuisance to negotiate on crutches when the boat "gets a roll on". We arrived on board at 1 o'clock and after tea at 4.30, I got into my bunk as there was no "better Hole" I could find.
- The ship is the "Borda" of about 8 - 9000 tons. We have a very mixed crowd, including Wounded (in big majority), 1914 leave men, munition workers (unfit), nurses, Aust. naval officers and men, marines going to join their ship at South Africa and about 105 officers.
- In the food line we hope for the best - rather dazzled at present by the white bread and evidence of a good supply of sugar and decent butter.
- 21/10/18. We "pulled out" into the stream this afternoon and joined "D24" - The Gardinia - which had already loaded up and preceded us out; "D27" was still at the wharf when we came out and will probably "fellow on" to-night. - D27 is the Marathon.
- Had a "fall in" on our respective boat stations to-night, just to see that everyone knew where to go; I am assigned to a canvas-side blighter that will do a slow "get-away" in the event of trouble, as it is under neather another boat that must be launched first from the "davits" that launch it.
- Met Roy Smith, who used to be in "Matric." at Hawthorn College at same time as myself, on board to-day; he got a bullet through the thigh but is progressing well.
- Came across Tommy Lee during the day - having an idle time as the massage department does not open for a few days; he told me that Frank Hartigan changed over with Lt. Macleod on arrival at Portsmouth and so is on "D27".

24/10/18.

After two or three days in the harbour, reading and "falling in" occasionally on our boat station, we got away this afternoon at 3 o'clock and found ourselves one of a convoy of 10 vessels chaperoned by four destroyers and an Auxiliary cruiser; the weather is calm so we should have very little sea-sickness to begin with. A little mail came on board just before we left and I got a note from Alice Ross and a parcel containing a kit-bag and a pair of strides from Mrs. Curry, that I had written asking her to send me while at Mont Video camp - also a farewell note from her.

25/10/18.

Weather calm and making good headway. "D27" (Marathon) went back to port and into Quarantine last night, because of an outbreak of this influenza that is so widespread at present, and in so many cases fatal - bad luck for them as they will in all probability miss Xmas in Australia now. The Red-Cross bags of clothing were dealt out yesterday and include very useful articles for the voyage. We have a library on board, so will be able to get books to help pass the time away.

26/10/18.

Weather continues good. The Convoying Destroyers left us in the early hours of this morning and all the boats bar three and the Auxiliary Cruiser. Massage treatment started to-day and provides another little break to the day's monotony.

27-30/10/18.

Rather rough weather lately and we are all tired of the incessant roll; thank Heaven I don't get sea-sick, for even without that evil, I have had a bad enough time getting from one place to another on my "sticks" - having slippery decks are the very devil for a man on "sticks", for whom a ship is bad enough under the very best of conditions. Submarine restrictions are strict and will be in force until we round the cape. "D24" - Gardinia - has had a few deaths on board so is probably having some trouble with the "Flu" epidemic. Wireless news was posted up a day or so ago that Austria-Hungary had accepted terms, but gave no details as to terms. Another boat has "floated" off so but three of us and the Aux. Cruisers now remain.

1/11/18.

Getting calm again; also hot so clothing getting few and thin. Burial this morning of one of the munition-workers - died of pneumonia. Just after mid-day to-day the convoy split up and we have now lost sight of all the other boats; we are now travelling at a greatly increased speed and feel that we are "getting on" with the business. Good war news through to-day re operations on all fronts, including a "Reuter" report that Turkey had surrendered unconditionally.

6-7/11/18.

Had a mild dose of "Flu" the last couple of days but am pretty right again now. Been very hot but two nights ago the rain came down in buckets-full for hours and it has been cooler since. Confirmed by wireless to-day that Austria has "thrown in the towel" but no confirmation of Turkey's surrender thought it may be correct. News of German retreat on seventy mile front. Having borrowed a book, I am filling in a little time "stewing" French. Feet improving and I use my crutches just as sticks now.

11/11/18.

Didn't get rid of the "Flu" as easily as I had hoped; had a rotten time last few days, but kept out of the hospital and am taking a mild interest in life again to-day. Expect to reach Cape Town about Sunday next, the 17th, so everyone is on the job with pencil and paper now. Alas! our hopes of the first few days - meals are the limit and the water supply in quality and quantity bad. Stored life belts to-day so we are evidently considered out of the danger-zone now.

12-14/11/18.

On the 12th, we got the news by wireless that Germany had signed the Armistice terms for an Armistice of 31 days and since then we have got details of the terms and we haven't quite got over the fact yet of our being able to exact such terms which are undoubtedly those of a conqueror to a crushed and beaten enemy. It is fairly evident that the

war is now over, for though "Peace" yet remains to be declared, such seems just a matter of arranging and dictating the terms. We have heard something of the internal break-up of Germany but news is scrappy and incomplete.

I have fairly shaken off the "Flu" now.

My foot progresses well and I have now discarded the surgical boot for a shoe.

Nothing doing on board; weather continues good and we expect to reach Cape Town in three days.

The gun crew had two or three practice shots a day or two back - I'm glad we didn't meet any "subs".

- 15-18/11/18. On the night of the 16th, trouble that had been brewing for some time, matured. The beer on board - there shouldn't be any, this being a "prescribed" dry ship - is (was) kept on the deck below us and is reached by a short flight of steps down and continually open hatchway. On the evening of the 16th, at 11 o'clock all the beer-eaters on board under able leaders raided the store and got away with about 16 cases of the stuff; all night long they drank and the morning scenes beggar description; one could only describe it as a brutish orgy and the criminal element of which we have more than a fair share on board, were well in evidence and upheld their reputation - my disgust was complete when one of the crowd saw fit to vomit all over me in bed.

It is believed that one man is "missing" but such has not been definitely ascertained yet - the facts of the case are sordid enough for any "true-blue".

Yesterday was Sunday and we travelled at a very reduced speed so as not to arrive at Cape Town that day; we got into port early this morning and the weather being beautiful, the view of Cape Town with Table Mount, etc. behind it was very fine. All day long we have hung out in the harbour in company with quite a number of other vessels, one of which is the "Wyreema" carrying 1919 starters to England - doubtful now whether they will get any further.

Doubtful whether we will coal out here or go in yet but in any case it is practically certain that we will not get any shore leave here on account of the "Flu" Epidemic here.

A "Y.M.C.A." representative came on board to-day and took orders from the troops for fruit, etc.

I got a great surprise when I went along to find that the Y.M.C.A. chap was Will ("Mighty") Turner of our old dinner party at the "Troaders" in Melbourne. I only had time to give him a list of things I wanted and to say good-day to him.

- 19/11/18. Still out in the harbour, though we moved to a different position this afternoon. A tug came out and put some water, of which we were badly in need, on board this afternoon.

- 20/11/18. Still out in the harbour. It appears that the Aust. Govt. has cabled refusing permission for Aust. Troop Ships to go into the docks to coal and the Authorities here refuse to coal us out in the harbour as no labour is available, so many of the nigger coal lumpers having been carried away by the "Flu" Epidemic - we must have coal so await here until the problem is solved.
- This morning there were five Aust. Troop Ships here in the harbour - Ourselves and "Gardinia" with wounded, the "Durham" and "Port Lyttleton" with returning 1914 Furlough men and the "Wyreema" with 1919 "Starters". The "Durham" left for Durban this evening to coal there.
- Our orders per Will Turner the Y.M.C.A. man came on board to-day; I got my parcels alright, together with a nice assortment of fruit from Will himself; I did not get a word with him as he was not allowed on board, all intercourse with shore people being at present strictly forbidden.

- 21/11/18. Moved in to the coaling wharf this morning and have been coaling all afternoon; no one from shore being allowed on board, some of the 1914 men on board are attending to the unloading of the coal baskets into the bunkers.
- The "Port Lyttleton" is coaling in the same way on the other side of the wharf and friends have been yelling to each other all afternoon.

- 24/11/18. The "Port Lyttleton" finished coaling and went out this afternoon; ours is the only Aust. Troop Ship now left in this port, all of the others having left here in the last day or two.
- The 1914 Sailors that we had on board, have all been transferred to the "Wyreema", which has gone back so far as we know to Fremantle. The sailors were all under open arrest for refusing some guard duty between Fly-

Cape Town.

25/11/18.

Finished coaling this afternoon and left Cape Town at about 6 o'clock and are now well out and rolling well, the which I am by no means enjoying.

I saw Will Turner this afternoon and just had time to say good-bye to him. For the last two of three days I have been in Colonel Strangeman's hands and find his treatment rather rough; I have exchanged my crutches for sticks now and though they seem very awkward after the crutches, I have no doubt that I will soon get used to them.

25/11/18-
6/12/18.

Eleven days out from Cape Town now and enjoying! a second spell of rough weather. The first four days out from Cape Town were rough and uncomfortable; we then had five days' good travelling and now the old boat is rolling its darrest again.

We do not know which Australian Port we touch at first and so have but a general idea when we should sight land.

I have been in very much better health this second half of the trip and so have found it less irksome, especially as I am now able to move about fairly well just using one stick.

There has been a lot of fuss over the "Beer night" of 16-17/11/18. The Chief Steward handed the O. C. a "knock-out" account for damage, loss, etc. Inquiry has shown that he charged up for a lot more than was taken and quite a fight is going on over the matter, which is one of the chief topics of conversation.

7-9/12/18.

Good, calm weather again; to-night is one of those beautiful, mild, clear, moon-lit nights that make even the most prejudiced (and we are about of that class at present) admit that sometime beauty of the sea, but all the same we will all be mighty glad to see the last of it for awhile as soon as possible now.

Adelaide, Friday - latest favourite and crowds of the boys are preening their feathers and keeping both eyes on them too - an absolute necessity.

16/12/18.

Reached Adelaide this afternoon and are alongside the wharf along which we were jolly glad to stretch our legs after 8 weeks and five days of discomfort and crushing on board.

This evening a Concert Party came down from Adelaide and gave us an entertainment in one of the sheds, fixed up for the purpose, on the wharf; we were also provided with a very decent tea by the Adelaide people in the same quarters and we very much appreciated it.

18/12/12.

HOME.

On the morning of the 17th everyone was given leave to visit Adelaide and I do not think that there were many who did not take advantage of the opportunity.

Special trains took us from the Harbour up to Adelaide and there we found motors and char-a-bancs (provided by the Adelaide people) awaiting us to take us a drive through the outer suburbs of the town. The weather being fine, the drive was very enjoyable and on arrival back in Adelaide, we found lunch prepared and awaiting us; I and a few others preferred to visit one of the restaurants, just to get a meal away from the crowd.

After lunch I paid George Kohler a visit and found him well and satisfied with business.

Stella Leader at the Commonwealth Bank, I also called on; I found her all right and had a few minutes pleasant conversation with her.

About 3 o'clock we returned to the boat and almost immediately boarded the train for Melbourne - two special trains were run and I managed to get on the first of them.

At all stopping stations on the way through to Melbourne, notably Murray Bridge, Ballarat & Bacchus Marsh, we received a great welcome and abundant refreshments of all kinds - we could hardly look a cream cake in the face by the time we got to Melbourne.

On arrival at Melbourne early in the afternoon on the 18th, cars loaned and driven by the Automobile Club members, took us on board and drove us to the Finalization Depot in Sturt Street; we were accorded a great reception by the Melbourne people who had foregathered in such numbers that the cars had difficulty in getting through; the car I was in stopped just outside our premises in Collins Street, just long enough for me to say good-day to Fred, Max and the members of the staff.

At the Finalization Depot I met Mother, Father, Trina (whom I had just seen at the window of the shop on the way through) and Roy Duckett.

Our "Finalization" was the only quick "red-tape" business we ever experienced in the army - within an hour we were all fixed up and transformed from A.I.F. soldiers to

"Civilians once again".

5832 5141 30012

5141

O. H. M. S.



VICTORIA

VICTORIA

Mr. C.H.F. Werner,

"Doon"

38 Riversdale Road,

HAWTHORN, V.

If not Delivered within 7 Days please return to
Officer in Charge, Base Records,
Victoria Barracks, Melbourne.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

B.R. Form No. 9.

In all communications regimental number, rank, full name, and unit of Soldier referred to are to be stated.

BASE RECORDS OFFICE,
XR VICTORIA BARRACKS,
MELBOURNE. 29th. May, 1918/

Dear Sir,

I now beg to advise you that Pte. L.R.C. Werner
has been reported progressing favorably.

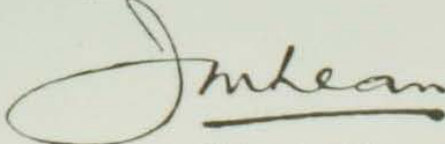
His postal address will be—

No 12429 Private L.R.C. Werner,
"Staff" 10th. Field Ambulance,
Australian Imperial Force,
Abroad.

Don't fail to send change of address to Base Records, Melbourne.

In the absence of further reports it is to be assumed that satisfactory progress is being maintained, but anything later received will be promptly transmitted, **it being clearly understood that if no further advice is forwarded this department has no more information to supply.**

Yours faithfully,

 Major,
Officer in Charge, Base Records.