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10.5.16.

A fleet of aeroplanes (35) passed overhead yesterday towards the German lines, amongst them are much larger than the rest. We wondered what damage they meant to do - perhaps we'll never know. Gas helmets have been issued to us, in fact everyone in Bethune has one. We are supposed to wear it over our shoulder whenever we go out for a walk. I identify discs for us being prepared for us - it seems there ~~is~~ is poisonous gas stored here & if a shell came over our way that the cylinders we would need to don our helmets at once.

There is a German prisoner in one of the wards. He is not badly wounded & seems up to something when he sees our wounded men brought in.

12.4.16.

I have had no time lately for writing up my book as work has been exceedingly heavy & I have been far from well - however after spending two days in bed with tonsillitis I proceeded to become my normal self again. Nothing exciting has happened here since I wrote except the usual visit of tanks when the weather is fine for them. I went for a long walk one sunny afternoon along the Canal to Essars & saw our planes being fired at by the Huns & shortly after we began potting at a German tank just over our heads. We had 311 operations for the month of March & this month we commenced by having over a hundred the first week. Everyone is obsessed with the idea that the war will end soon & bets are fast & furious about it. The battle of Verdun which has been raging for so long now has affected us all along the line for there is nothing every day to keep the enemy from

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10.3.16

(Friday 10 March 1916)

A fleet of aeroplanes (35) passed overhead yesterday, towards the German lines, amongst them one much larger than the rest. We wondered what damage they meant to do- perhaps we'll never know. Gas helmets have been issued to us, in fact everyone in Bethune has one. We are supposed to wear it over our shoulder whenever we go out for a walk. Identity discs too are being prepared for us - it seems there is poisonous gas stored here and if a shell came over our way and hit the cylinder we would need to don our helmets at once.

There is a German prisoner in one of the wards - he is not badly wounded and seems upset sometimes when he sees our wounded men brought in.

12.4.16

(Wednesday 12 April 1916)

I have had no time lately for writing up my book as work has been exceedingly busy and I have been far from well - however after spending two days in bed with tonsillitis I proceeded to become my normal self again. Nothing exciting has happened here since I wrote except the usual visit of taubes (see note) when the weather is fine for them. I went for a long walk one sunny afternoon along the canal to Essars and saw our planes being fired at by the Huns and shortly after we began potting at a German taube (see note) just over our heads.

We had 311 operations for the month of March and this month we commenced by having over a hundred the first week. Everyone is obsessed with the idea that the war will end soon and bets are fast of visions (?) about it. The battle of Verdun which has been waging for so long now has affected us all along the line for there is strafing every day and keep the enemy from.....

NOTE: Bethune is a place in France where there was a casualty clearing station CCS.

NOTE: Taube - a type of pre world war I plane. IWM website mentions: 'The Taube (Taube translates as 'Dove', taub as 'death') was a German reconnaissance plane but carried bombs that could be thrown from the cockpit.' Source; Imperial War Museum iwm.org.uk

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Concentrating their troops. The 2nd Australian division is taking the place of the 19th Division on the 20th of this month & Australians have been seen in Bethune even this last week or two but so far I have not come across any.

23.4.16 Easter Sunday - a glorious day & a wicked sin for a war to be waging. Am feeling happy because I had a good home mail - all well & busy with Jean's wedding preparations which is over now of course. Edith is a great deal better & goes out now in a taxi on a fine day. I have signed on for another year from June the first - or of course the end of the war I wonder which will be first.

I must put down that I had my first real bath since coming to this station. In the College there are lovely bathrooms all tiled in white & white porcelain baths - the men & officers bath here & our sisters have started - at least some of us the others I think it perfectly dreadful but they are well scrubbed out first & are quite clean & we did enjoy them so much that we are going to have one every week - different from field baths.

27.4.16 A fearful night last night of battle - the noise of shells bursting was dreadful & then this morning at 7 a.m. the weeping gas reached us. Bessy was being shells - it is only 2 miles out & we walk there sometimes & the shells contained gas to affect the eyes. The French populace all had their helmets on but as we were inside we did not wear ours but our eyes were burning & were extremely sore. Our sister could not do any work for an hour or two - just could not see. All day our eyes have been sore but we only smell the gas for a couple of hours.

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concentrating their troops. The 2nd Australian division is taking the place of the 19th division on the 20th of this month and Australians have been seen in Bethune even this last week or two but so far I have not come across any.

23.4.16 (Sunday 23 April 1916) Easter Sunday - a glorious day and a wicked sin for a war to be waging. Am feeling happy because I had a good home mail - all well and busy with Jean's wedding preparations which is over now of course. Edith is a great deal better and goes out now in a taxi on a fine day. I have signed on for another year from June the first - or of course the end of the war, I wonder which will be first.

I must put down that I had my first real bath since coming to this station. In the College there are lovely bathrooms all tiled in white and white porcelain baths- the men and officers bath here and we sisters have started, at least some of us. The others I think it perfectly dreadful but they are well scrubbed out first and are quite clean to us, did enjoy them so much that we are going to have one every week - different from field baths.

27.4.16 (Thursday 27 April 1916) A fearful night last night of battle - the noise of shells bursting was dreadful and then this morning at 7am the weeping gas reached us. Beuvey was being shelled - it is only 2 miles out and we walk there sometimes - and the shells contained gas to affect the eyes. The French populous all had their helmets on but as we were inside we did not wear ours but our eyes were running and were extremely sore. Our sister could not do any work for an hour or two, just couldn't see. All day our eyes have been sore and we only smelt the gas for a couple of hours.

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We have had a tremendous take in ^{mostly} ~~at~~ bad cases too worse than the usual take in it I have had 29 operations today in the theatre as many as of surgeons going as a no letter & this appalling day. I have been reading tonight the account in the Times of Anzac day in London Australian weather too - how I would have liked to have been there. We took a couple of hundred prisoners last night - our 15th division (Kitchen's best division) nearly all Scotchies were in the thick of it. Many German prisoners - Hesse's have had to be sent further on for treatment tonight because we were full ~~and high~~.

29.5.16. oak day today & the Cheshires are wearing a sprig of oak leaves above their badge on their caps. It is the anniversary of the Battle of Tewkesbury when the Cheshire Reg. saved King George the last King of England to lead his troops into battle.

Tonight a fleet of battleplanes passed overhead 7 first & 5 later on - after they passed us we saw them being shelled by the Huns.

This afternoon Stan Walker & Lt. Brough called on me Mr. Brough is A.D.C. to General Legge & they got the General's car to come over in - Stan Walker was very pleased to see a Ballarat girl. I took them to the mess for afternoon tea & we had it in the garden & it was so jolly nice. Mr. Brough was of course red tabbed as he is on the Staff.

11-6-16 A Memoir affords that the Crown Prince has surrendered & that the end of the war is in view! I wish I could believe it.

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We have had a tremendous 'take in' mostly bad cases too. Worse than the usual 'take in' and I have had 29 operations today in the theatre as many as of snip__s(?) going at a.c. No letters and this appalling day. I have been reading tonight the account in 'The Times' of Anzac Day in London, Australian weather too - how I would have liked to have been there. We took a couple of hundred prisoners last night - our 15th Division (Kitcheners' best division) nearly all Scotchies were in the thick of it. Many German prisoners - blesses (?) have had to be sent further on for treatment tonight because we were full. Hard night.

29.5.16 (Monday 29 May 1916) Oak Day today and the Cheshires are wearing a sprig of oak leaves above their badge on their caps. It is the Anniversary of the Battle of Fonteroy when the Cheshire Regiment saved King George, the last King of England to lead his troops into battle.

Tonight a fleet of battle planes passed overhead, 7 first and 5 later on - after they passed us we saw them being shelled by the Huns.

This afternoon Stan Walker and Lt. Brough called on me. Lt Brough is A.D.C. to General Legge (see note) and they got the General's car to come over in - Stan Walker was very pleased to see a Ballarat girl. I took them to the mess for afternoon tea and we had it in the garden and it was so jolly nice. Mr(?) Brough was of course red tabbed as he is on the staff.

11.6.16 (Sunday 11 June 1916) A rumour afloat that the Crown Prince has surrendered and that the end of the war is in view! I wish I could believe it.

NOTE: The men mentioned here are:

General Legge - would be an Australian General, James Gordon Legge (from AWM)

Stan Walker is mentioned as being from Ballarat. Could be Lt (later Captain) Edward Stanley Walker (from AWM) the nominal roll mentions he was from Redcourt Ballarat. Or could be Captain Stanley Walker listed as being from 1023 Sturt St, Ballarat. Both were in France around this date, source: NAA.

Lt Brough - believed to be Charles Anthony Brough. His war record on NAA shows appointment as ADC to General Officer in May 1916.

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12-6-16 met a very interesting man tonight - a naval officer Staff Surgeon on Admiral Jellicoe's ship "Iron Duke". He is visiting Bethune for two days & watched an operation here tonight & then afterwards the VC. introduced me to him. We talked quite a long time. He has been in the last Big naval battle & told us a bit about it. In the Queen Mary alone we lost 1300 men the same as the whole battle of Trafalgar. He was on the "Audacious" when she was sunk a few months ago & was rescued. It has never been in print nor has the English admitted having lost the "Audacious" but it is a fact.

27-6-16. Am at Boulogne or rather Wimereux at No 8 Stationary Hospital situated on the cliffs it is a beautiful place & I am loving the sea & all its beauty. On Friday the sad sad news came to me of dear little Mother's death - oh how desolate I am - if it were not & had not been in Bethune last Friday for my kind kind friends I don't know what I should have done. Am reading my nice letters from home yet anxiously waiting for them. A terrible bombardment started on Friday night as I was leaving Bethune but so far no wounded have come here. It's my bad news today in the papers.

Priscilla Wardle Diary Transcription

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12.6.16 (Monday 12 June 1916) Met a very interesting man tonight - a naval officer Staff Surgeon on Admiral Jellicoe's ship 'Iron Duke' (see note). He is visiting Bethune for two days and watched an operation in here tonight and then afterwards the OC. introduced me to him. We talked quite a long time. He has been in this last Big Naval battle (see note) and told us a bit about it. In the Queen Mary alone we lost 1300 men, the same as the whole battle of Trafalgar. He was on the 'Audacious' when she was sunk a few months ago and was rescued. It has never been in print nor have the English admitted having lost the 'Audacious' but it is a fact (see note).

27.6.16 (Tuesday 27 June 1916) Am at Boulogne or rather Wimereux at No 8 Stationary Hospital situated on the cliffs. It is a beautiful place and I am loving the sea and all its beauty. On Friday the sad sad news came to me of dear little Mother's death - oh how desolate I am - if were not and had been in Bethune last Friday for my kind, kind friends I don't know what I should have done. Am dreading my next letters from home, yet anxiously waiting for them.

A terrible bombardment started on Friday night as I was leaving Bethune but so far no wounded have come here. 'Tis very bad news today in the papers.

NOTE: HMS Iron Duke was a dreadnought battleship involved in the Battle of Jutland that had recently occurred 31 May-1 June 1916, in which the Queen Mary was sunk.

HMS Audacious was a dreadnought battleship, it was sunk off the northern coast of Ireland on 27 October 2014.

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13.7.16. Wimmerau.

For the last fortnight we have been busy with wounded from "the big rush". The last week we have had hundreds of German prisoners though on hand many have been in the operating theatre - a lot lost legs because they had been so many days without treatment they were nearly all gangrenous. Even here all our own men were down first & several nights after working hard all day with our own men we stayed up till 3 or 4 in the morning doing Germans. The V.C.'s after working all day were at 8 o'clock some nights asked to volunteer to wash German. Oh the filth of them was indescribable & they all had about 3 weeks growth on their chin there were some officers amongst them & they were put in the tents amongst the other men. Today I took a sharp bullet out of a German's temple it had smashed up his mastoid & lay just under the skin so the M.B.'s let me do the removal. They hate leaving here but off they go in batches of 100 or so to the internment camp at Harle. It seems awful to see the sentries on duty with fixed bayonets outside all the 100 men's tents. Some are quite nice boys & they have been kept for each theatre to do sketches, bearing work.

all our men who come down from the front seem delighted & satisfied with our success.

It has been bad enough here but I am thankful I left it when I did.

It has been a blessing for me that I have been so hard at work lately - dear Mother has been helping me all the time - even to wash German feet!

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13.7.16 (Thursday 13 July 1916) Wimereux

For the last fortnight we have been busy with wounded from 'the big push'. The last week we have had hundreds of German prisoners through our hands. Many have been in the operating theatre - a lot lost legs because they had been so many days without treatment and they were nearly all gangrenous. Even here all our own men were done first and several nights after working hard all day with our own men we stayed up till 3 and 4 in the morning doing Germans. The V.G.D.s after working all day were at 8 o'clock some nights asked to volunteer to wash Germans. Oh the filth of them was indescribable and they had about 3 weeks growth on their chins. There were some officers amongst them and they were put in the tents amongst the other men. Today I took a shrapnel bullet out of a German's temple, it had smashed into his mastoid and lay just under the skin so the M.O.'s let me do the removal.

They hate leaving here but off they go in batches of 100 or so to the internment camps at Harve. It seems awful to see the sentries on duty with fixed bayonets outside all the Hun's tents. Some are quite nice boys and two have been kept for each theatre to do stretcher bearing work.

All our men who come down from the front seem delighted and satisfied with our successes.

It has been bad enough here but I am thankful I left 33 (See note) when I did.

It has been a blessing for me that I have been so hard at work lately - dear Mo_th__ has been helping me all the time - even to wash Germans' feet!

NOTE: 33 was 33 Casualty Clearing Station at Bethune as she had recently moved from there to a hospital in Wimereux, just north of Boulogne.

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9.8.16. Hardelei.

Am sitting in a forest in the grounds of Princess Louise's
 Convallescent Home for sisters at Hardelei. Yesterday it was the
 pine forest - to day across the road into quite a different one
 the earth instead of sand is just covered thickly with wild
 ivy & other creepers & the thin trees with lichen covered,
 greyish green trunks just letting the sunlight in, in streaks
 so thick are they at the top. Many, pale green & white
 butterflies are flitting about & a sister from Balwyn is
 not far away doing a water coloured sketch of a pathway
 running up the middle of the forest. I wish it was there
 beside me. Yesterday we lay on a sand dune & this
 same sister sketched a sand hill with a calvary on it
 there is a veterinary hospital at the foot of the hill now
 but she left that one only putting in a stray horse or two.
 Kitchener one of the dogs from the house came with us
 & today he had other fish to fry & I feel so low with no fish
 there is a lady staying with Lady Pifford, a Madam
 O'Porwan who has the only civil hospital under the
 auspices of the B.R.C.S. She is up near Popewick & has
 Quakers to help her & her patients are all Belgians
 mostly women & children. Popewick was badly shelled
 about 3 weeks ago & she had a great many women &
 children badly wounded. The Quakers she does not
 think much of - she says they have had drafted into
 their ranks numbers of conscientious objectors. Madam
 went over to Canada collecting money a month or two ago
 & she heard when there that in the States there is a
 project on foot amongst a number of wealthy influential
 people with millions of dollars to back them up, to
 draft committees into Germany (some of whom have
 already gone) to influence the people against a monarchy
 Government & to disinterestedly put before them all the

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9.8.16 (Wednesday 9 August 1916) Hardelet

Am sitting in a forest in the grounds of Princess Louises' convalescent home for sisters at Hardelet. Yesterday it was the pine forest - today across the road into quite a different one the earth instead of sand and just covered thickly with wild ivy and other creepers and the thin trees with lichen covered, greyish green trunks just letting the sunlight in, in streaks so thick are they at the top. Mauve, pale green and white butterflies are flitting about and a Sister from Boulogne is not far away doing a water coloured sketch of a pathway running up the middle of the forest. I wish it was Hilda beside me. Yesterday we lay on a sand dune and this same sister sketched a sand hill with a calvary (see note) on it. There is a veterinary hospital at the foot of the hill now (?) she left that out only putting in a stray horse or two.

Kitchener, one of the dogs from the house, came with us and today he had other fish to fry and I feel so lost without him. There is a lady staying with Lady Gifford, a Madam O'Gorman(?) who has the only civil hospital under the auspices of the B.R.C.S.(see note). She is up near Poperinge and has Quakers to help her and her patient are all Belgians, mostly women and children. Poperinge was badly shelled about 3 weeks ago and she had a great many women and children badly wounded. The Quakers she does not think much of - she says they have had drafted into their ranks numbers of conscientious objectors. Madam went over to Canada collecting money a month or two ago and she heard when there, that in the States there is a project a first(?) amongst a number of wealthy influential people with millions of dollars to back them up, to draft committees into Germany (some of whom have already gone) to influence the people against a monarchy Government and to disinterestedly put before them all the.....

NOTE: Hardelet - a convalescent home for nurses about 10 miles south of Boulogne. The property was loaned for the purpose by Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, (source: scarlettfinders.co.uk). She was daughter of Queen Victoria.

Calvary is the place Jesus was crucified and means a representation of his crucifixion.

B.R.C.S. is British Red Cross Society

Lady Gifford - Lady superintendent of the home, first name Sophie (source: scarlettfinders.co.uk)

Madam O'Gorman - Madam Flora O'Gorman (source: British Red Cross website vad.redcross.org.uk)

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advantages of a republic. The first foreman of these people is a man called Cullinan an oil magnate. She said 5 of these came over on her steamer. They go into Germany thro' Holland. There seems more sense in this than the Henry Ford scheme for peace. I wish I could sketch for a little it is not allowed in Boulogne or otherwise one here could do it quite well. Lady Gifford does beautiful water colours of the house, terrace & grounds - they are nicer than photographs of the place because the coloring is so true & the house is the loveliest one of its kind that I've lived in. The late Duke of Argyll has had good taste in pictures - there are two lots of water colours - six in a frame about the size of post cards or a little larger. They are scenes of Argyllshire & are awfully well done. The house abounds in works of art - springy chairs & wide divans.

2/1/17.

I have neglected my diary shamefully the last few months - on Nov. 7th I went on 16 days leave - stayed a week in London & the remainder in Scotland. Crossing the Channel going over was the worst sea experience I've ever had - leave had been stopped for 4 days or rather the port of Boulogne had been closed whilst the Channel was being swept for mines. The officers' sisters & men had accumulated from all over northern France for these four days & instead of sending 4 boats across they packed us all in one - some said it was for ballast on account of the terrible weather - certainly if the ship had been lighter I think we should have turned over.

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..... advantages of a republic. The first and foremost of these people is a man called Culliname(?) an oil magnate. She said 5 of these came over on her steamer and they get into Germany thru Holland. There seems more sense in this than the Henry Ford scheme for peace.

I wish I could sketch for ____ it is not allowed in Boulogne or Wimereux , out here one could do it quite well. Lady Gifford does beautiful water colours of the house, terrace and grounds - they are nicer than photographs of the place because the colouring is so true and the houses is the loveliest one of its kind that I've lived in. The late Duke of Argyll has had good taste in pictures - there are two lots of water colours - six in a frame about the size of post cards or a little larger. They are scenic of Argyll Shire and are awfully well done. The house abounds in works of art - springy chairs and wide devans.

2.1.17 (Tuesday 2 January 1917)

I have neglected my diary shamefully the last few months - on Nov 7th I went on 16 days leave - stayed a week in London and the remainder in Scotland. Crossing the Channel going over was the worst sea experience I've ever had - leave had been stopped for 4 days or rather the port of Boulogne had been closed whilst the Channel was being swept for mines. The officers, sisters and men had accumulated from all over Northern France for these four days and instead of sending 4 boats across they packed us all in one - some said it was for ballast on account of the terrible weather - certainly if the ship had been lighter I think it should have turned over.

Hardelot - a convalescent home for nurses about 10 miles south of Boulogne. The property was loaned for the purpose by Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, (source: scarlettfinders.co.uk). She was daughter of Queen Victoria. See also <http://throughtheselines.com.au/research/hardelot-plage>
BRCS is British Red Cross Society who ran some of the hospitals in France.

Sauchiehall (Capt. Hewton) was with me - also
 two V.A.D.'s who were both very very sick. - if it
 hadn't been for Sauchie I don't really know what
 we should have done. In London we after great
 difficulty procured 3 taxis - a V.A.D. in one each
 & Capt. H. & I in the 3rd. He dropped me at the
 Swanhoe & called back at 6.30 to take me out
 to dinner - went to Frascati's then on to "High
 Jinks". I hadn't been able to let anyone know
 I was to be in London on the 7th because of
 the port being closed so long before made it so
 indefinite. Florence came in answer to my telegram
 next day & one day I spent with Poppy at Waltham
 on-Thames. She & I came into town as night to a
 Theatre "Romance." Wallace Allan & I spent my
 last day in London together - he got leave from
 Salisbury Plains for the day. When I got to Glasgow
 Malcolm Miller & Jimmy met me & I staid out
 to Rutherford. I spent a few days with them &
 also with the Sims which I enjoyed best of all
 & a day & night with Meg & her family.
 The Sims took me one day to Edinburgh - it
 was a day to be remembered - St. Giles'
 Cathedral stands out in my memory as the
 most beautiful of course after St. Paul's & West-
 minster Abbey. We had a quick run round
 visited John Knox's house & the Castle - Holy-
 rood unfortunately was closed that day - but
 I hope to go to Edinburgh again, perhaps
 next summer. Glasgow is a wonderful city
 but not beautiful - its tram service is the
 best in the Kingdom - the women drivers & con-
 ductors looked very "sonsie" lassies in Blk

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Sauchiehall (Capt. Newton) was with me - also two V.A.D.s (see note) who were both very very sick - if it hadn't been for Sauchie I don't really know what we should have done.

In London we, after great difficulty, procured 3 taxis - a V.A.D. in one each and Capt N and I in the 3rd. He dropped me at the Ivanhoe and called back at 6.30 to take me out to dinner - went to Frascati then on to 'High Jinks'. I hadn't been able to let anyone know I was to be in London on the 7th because of the port being closed so long before made it so indefinite. Florence came in answer to my telegram next day and one day I spent with Poppy at Walton-on-Thames. She and I came into town the night to a theatre 'Romance'. Wallie Allan (see note) and I spent my last day in London together - he got leave from Salisbury Plains for the day. When I got to Glasgow Matthew Miller and Jenny met me and we taxied out to Rutherglen. I spent a few days with them and also with the Sims which I enjoyed best of all, and a day and night with Meg and her family. The Sims took me one day to Edinburgh - it was a day to be remembered - St Giles Cathedral stands out in my memory as the most beautiful of course after St Paul's and Westminster Abbey. We had a quick run round visited John Knox's house and the Castle - Holyrood unfortunately was closed that day, but I hope to go to Edinburgh again, perhaps next summer. Glasgow is a wonderful city but not beautiful - its train service is the best in the Kingdom - the women drivers and conductors looked very 'sensitive' lassies in blk

NOTE: Captain Newton, later Sir Wilberforce Newton, who was serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps on the Western Front between 1915 and 1917. His diaries are held in the University of Melbourne archive. <https://archives.unimelb.edu.au> He also left Melbourne on the RMS Orontes on 14 April 1915. 'Sauchiehall' and 'Sauchie' appear to be nicknames as I can't find a record for him being called that elsewhere.

VADs stands for Volunteer Aid Detachment, ie volunteer nurses who worked alongside military nurses during the war (source qaranc.co.uk).

Wallie Allan could be Pte Walter Allan (Service no 1658). His war service record shows he was evacuated from France via Boulogne with a gun shot wound in June 1916, had also attended Australian Hospital at Wimereux in Jan 1916. Perhaps he was a relative or had met this nurse during his time injured in France.

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watch tartan shirts & dark green cloth tunics
& hats - they looked exceedingly smart - much
more so than any women in uniform in London.
I met the two brothers of James Sir Andrew -
Robert both of whom had strong personalities
but I was more attracted to Andrew - he I'm
sorry to say has died since - just two days
before Xmas. The Gowans took us in a cart to
East Kilbride to "The Hall Moss" where Graufather
Allan was born where Sir Allan lived until
he died. We visited the old church built in 1744,
looked up the register but found that the Allan's
grave was underneath the new hall that
had lately been built - near the churchyard.
Then we visited to Strathaven & Larkhill then
Cathkin Braes down past Castle Milk back
to Rutherglen again. Although it never actually
rained while I was in Scotland it was always
misty & obscured the view to a great extent.
When we went to East Kilbride, that day we
were to have gone on to day to Burns' country but
the weather & roads were too unpleasant to
do another 80 miles.

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. . . watch tartan skirts and dark green cloth tunics and hats - they looked exceedingly smart - much more so than any women in uniform in London.

I met the two brothers of James Sim, Andrew and Robert both of whom had strong personalities but I was more attracted to Andrew - he, I'm sorry to say, has died since - just two days before Xmas.

The Gowans took me in a car to East Kilbride to 'The Hatt Moss' (?) where Grandfather Allan was born and where Ivie (?) Allan lived until he died. We visited the old church built in 1744, (see note) looked up the register but found that the Allan's grave was underneath the new hall that had lately been built next to the church yard. Then we motored to Strathaven and Larkhill then Cathkins Braes down past Castlemilk back to Rutherglen again. Although it never actually rained while I was in Scotland it was always misty and it obscured the view to a great extent. When we went to East Kilbride, that day we were to have gone on to Ayr to Burns country the weather and roads were too unpleasant to do another 80 miles.

NOTE: The East Kilbride Old Parish Church is possibly the church mentioned here though it dates from 1774 so 1744 could be an date error. Their website mentions a parish hall built in 1912 which could be the one mentioned here.

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2.7.17.

we had terrific gales a few days before Xmas and a ship about 4,000 tons was blown on to the rocks at the foot of the cliffs on which our hospital is built. At first we were told it contained plum puddings for the men & we believed that as the puddings were so late in arriving, later we heard that it was full of ammunition. Well, it stayed on the rocks high & dry when the tide was out - they tried without success to float her & then it was decided to tow her into the harbour - it was a mad idea & the whole thing has been bungled up. The harbour has the narrowest passage possible & only one - it is just about possible for two boats to get through together - this ship was towed up to the mouth & then as it turned to go in somehow swung round & lay completely across the mouth of the passage - it is so stuck fast that it has been there for 2 weeks now & they say it cannot be moved till the middle of the month. They have taken most of the machinery & cargo away & intend cutting the boat in halves as if they blow her up the whole of the pier & all the buildings including the Casino would be blown up. In the meantime the English government has to pay heavy compensations to all the fishing smacks lying inside the harbour, unable to get out & ply their living. There are two hospital ships there also - the M.O's & sisters are working at our

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2.1.17 (Tuesday 2 January 1917)

We had terrific gales a few days before Xmas and a ship about 4,000 tons was blown on to the rocks at the foot of the Cliffs on which our hospital is built. At first we were told it contained plum puddings for the men and we believed that as the puddings were so late in arriving, later we heard that it was full of ammunition. Well, it stayed on the rocks high and dry when the tide was out - they tried without success to float her and then it was decided to tow her into the harbour - it was a mad idea and the whole thing has been bungled up.

The harbour has the narrowest passage possible and only one - it is just about possible for two boats to get through together - this ship was towed up to the mouth and then as it turned to go in somehow swung round and lay completely across the mouth of the passage - it is so stuck fast that it has been there for 2 weeks now and they say it cannot be moved till the middle of the month. They have taken most of the machinery and cargo away and intend cutting the boat in halves as if they blow her up the whole of the pier and all the buildings including the Casino would be blown up.

In the meantime the English government has to pay heavy compensations to all the fishing smacks^(see note) lying inside the harbour, unable to get out and ply their living. There are two hospital ships there also - the M.O.'s and sisters are working at our

NOTE: Smacks are a type of traditional fishing boat.

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hospital till their ship is released. The fact of this ship blocking the port, is holding up supplies of food & ammunition for one half a million of men apart from all the hospitals around this district - we have evacuated a big number of patients as we have no food nor coal to keep them going & of course we are not getting any convoys in. The pts who went to England have been taken by train to Calais or Havre to get the ships there. All this was supposed to have been the work of German spies & the Captain of the ship is under arrest but lately that rumour is discredited & the fact of accident is being kept as secret as possible. We are forbidden to put anything concerning it in our letters & if it is found in any letter all the letters from Doullens district will be kept back until the port is open again. The tanks some months ago dropped bombs on an ammunition factory at Calais & the news did not filter through to the Germans for 2 months & then it was the America & the man who gave the information was fined £100.

Yesterday & today we have heard naval guns all morning long - they seemed very near & we have heard that they were our guns bombarding the Belgian coast.

Between the days of Tuesday & Friday the week before 7 cruisers & 4 collier ships were torpedoed between England & France

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Between the days of Tuesday and Friday the week before Xmas 4 collier ships were torpedoed between England and France.