10.3.16. a fleet of aeroplanes (35) passed worked Tiste day. towards The german lines amonpt Them any much larger than the Not. We wondered what dawage they meant to do-perhaps were never turn. Sas helmet have been issued 1- us, in face everyone in Detheurs has me us are Supposed to bear it are an shoulder whenever It go as for a walk. I dentily discs too as being prepared file us\_ it seems There are is poismons gas stored has Tip a shell came we on way shit the cylinder we would need to don on helmets at one. There is a German prisoner in one of The wards. he is hot badly wounded & Seews upsie sometimes when he Sees as would men brought in. 12.4.16. I have had no time lately for writing up my bood as work has been exceedingly beary & I have been for for well - however after spending tur days in bed inter tonsilities I proceeded to be come my normal self again . hothing exciting has happened here Ricol wrot except the would visit of taubes when The weather is fine for them. I went for a long walk one survey afternoon along The Canal to Essars & saw one planes being fined at by The Huns & shortly after us began potting at a German taute fist over on heads. We had so openations for the month of march + This nionthe his commenced by having over a hundred the first week. Ekryone is obsessed with the dea that The was will lid soon 5 bets are fast of inins about it. The battle of berden which has been waging In so long now has affected us all along in this for there is straphing every day to keep the evening from

(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.

(Wednesday 12 Apríl 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 became 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.....

10.3.16

12.4.16

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

NOTE: Taube - a type of pre world war 1 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

Concentrating Their troops. The 2nd Australian division is taking the place of the 19th Division on The 20th of this wonth Thistalians have been seen in Bethun wen this hast week of two his so far I have not come across duy. 23. u. 11 Laster Sunday - a florious day & a wicked Sin for a war to be waquip. An feeling happy because I had a good home mail - all well I brisg with Jean's veddug preparations which is over un of conese. Edith is a great deal better & fores out now in a taxi on a fine day. I have signed on for another fear from June the first - or of conner The lud of the was I wonder which will be furt. I must put down That I had my first real bath Since Convie Whis Station In the College there are losty bathrooms all tiled in white white pocelain bathon the new & officers bath here 5 In Sisters have start a at least serve of us the stress Itulk it perfectly dreadful he they ar well serubbed out first & are quite clean 5 us did hijoy them so hered that us are point that ms etty week- different tim field baths. 27. 4.15 a fearful night last night of baths - The noise of shells bursting was dreadful Then This morning at 7 a in the weeping gas neached us. Sensy was being shells\_ it is only 2 nules and 5 we walk This Smetures T the shells contained fas to affect the eyes. The thench populace all had then helmet; n hi as ne were mode he did not was one he ons eyes were harming owers ex treach sa jusi conduct les. all day on eyes have been some his us my smelt the fas for a comple of home.

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.

<u>27.4.16</u> (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.

5.2. W. have had a tremendous take in the bod cases to worse Than The usual Take in I have had 27 openations today in the Theater as many as of surpears foring as and ho letters & This appalling day. I have been reading Tonight the account in the Times of anjac day in Lorda australian weather to - how I would have leked to have been there. We took a couple of hundred prisoners los. night - our 15th Division ( Kitchemis best division ) hearly all Scotchies ware in the thick of it. Many Perman presoners - Helsees have had to be sent further on the Thearment tonephi because we were fully or high 29.5.16. oakday todays the cheshires are wearing a sprig of oak leaves above Their badge on Their capes. It is The anniversary of the Baile of tenter on when the cheshing Reg. Saved King George The loss King of Topland to lead his troops into batte. Tonight a fleet of battleplanes passed workeard 7 fisi & 5 later on-after they passed us he saw Them being shelled by The Huns. this afternoon Stan walker & Br. Brough Called a me W? Brough is a. s. c. to Revered Leggs & they for the Teneral's car to come over in - Star backer was very pleased to Seo a Ballanai gul - I took Them to The here's In afternoon tig & we had it in the fonder sit was So jolly shie. W? Brough was of Course red Tabled as he is an the Staff. 11-6-16 a Meriano afloai Their The Crown Prince has surlendered I That The end of The war is in thew ! I wish I could believe it.

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.

12-6-16 mét a very luter comp man tomphi - a haval office. Staff surgeon a admiral fellicors thips "Iron While " It is visiting Bethuns for two days 5 watched an operation here tonight & The afternard. In UC. into duced me this me talked quite a byom timo. Its has been in This last Bip havaf battle of told us a bit about it. In The Queer many alon us lost 1300 men the same as The whole battle of Thafalfer It's was on The "ande cions" when the was Creak afen months ago Thas rescued. It has never bea in grint nor have The Euglish adulted having lost The audocions' but it is a faci. 27.6.16. all as Bondogue or Nather Writereur at hos Stationary Hospital Situated on The cliffs it is a beautiful place & I am loving the les Tall it's beauty. On Friday the Sad Sad hews came to me of dear little mother's death - oh how desolate I are - if it were not 5 had not been in Betheme lest Friday for my kind kind farends I don't Know what I shoned have done. anxionsy waiting for Them. a terrible tombardment started on Friday night as I was leaving Betheup but So far no wounded have come here. This Kuy bad news today in the papers.

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.

## 105

13.7.16. Winerenz. For The fair formight we have been may not wounded 5 from "The big rush". The last week my have had hendreds of Sermae pris are Through on hard many have been in The openating The ates - a los loss lep because They had been a many days nitrai hearment They were hearly all ns yay gauper ans. When here all our own mee were done frest 5 Leveral nights after working hard all day with doing Permans. The " G os after working all day were as I o'clock some nights asked & whenlie to back german. of The fills of Them was indecretak 8 They all had about 3 week funts a their chin These were some oficers accorpt they were put in the tents accompsi the vitres mee. Today 1 took a sheaphed billet out of a german: temple it had Smached up his masterd & lay piss under the Skin So The M. 6's let us do the removal. They hate leaving here his off they for batches of 100 or so to the enterment Camp at there. Le. It sleeps awful to see The sentries on duty with fixed bayand's autside all The Itrens tests. Some an quite hice boys This have been Kepi for each theatre to do still the bearing horale. all one when who come down from the fine seen delighted & Satisfied with our successed. It has been had leangh here hat I am thankful Ileft is what did. I that here a Hessing for no That I have been So hard at work lately - dear his This has been help my me we the time - Even to wash Serman' feet!

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 though 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.

9.8.16. Hardeloi - all sitting in a foress in The ground of Princess houses Convaluearis Home for sister as Handelor. Yester day it was in pins fortoi - to day accres in road into quit - different on The carts instead of sand & first covered thickly with wild very & other creepen & the Thin hers with lichen covered. grenish green trunks jusi letting The sun light in in Streaks So Thick are they at the lop. Manne, gal preas white hitterflies are flitting about i a sister from Bulanque is wi far away doing a water coloured sketch of a palling purining up the middle of the forest I was theda beside me. Yesterdag we lag an a sand dune 5 This Same sister sketched a sand hill with a calvary on it There is a veter many hospital at The foot of the hill how his she left That one only putting is a strang house or two. Kitcheves one of The dogs from The house cause with us I sday he had other fish they SI feel so for without his there is a lady staring with hady Pifford, a kiedaw O'Portuan who has The only civil hospital under the auspias of The B.R.C.S. She is up near Popercips Thes Quakers to help her I her patients on ale Belgians mostly women a children. Poperings was badly shelled about 3 weeks apo 5 she had a great many women 5 Children bady wounded. The Qualus she does not Think much of - she says They have had drafted into their names hunders of conscientions objectors. Madam Went over to Canada collecting money a month or his ago I she heard when This that in The States There is a project a first duringst a humber of wearthy stifficential people with millions of dollars to back Them ups, 5 draft committees into Permany (some of whom have already gone) to influence the people against a monarch Povernance of to disinticesteady put before them all The

9.8.16 (Wednesday 9 August 1916) Hardelot

Am sitting in a forest in the grounds of Princess Louises' convalescent home for sisters at Hardelot. 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.....

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)

NOTE: 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.

advantages of a republic. The first foreness of the people is a man called culturans an oil magnet. She said 5 of these came are on her steams. They get into Germany this Holland. Then seems more cense in this than the Henry Ford Scheme for peoc. I wish I could skelch for alther it is not allowed in Barlogue or winnereas are here are could do it quite well. had Gifford does beautiful walterforms of the house, three 5 grands - They are hices than photographs of the place because the coloning is so this & the house is The least of any of its kind that I will in the fact only of apple has had poor taste in pictures - there are two lots of wate coloning - Size in a frame about the size of post cards on a little large. They are seened of any flshis t ar purfully well done. The house abounds in work of an out well done. The house abounds in work of an springy chairs 5 wide dwards.

21.17.

I have neglected my drary shamfully the lesifer months- on how 7th I were on u days leave- Stoped a week in Rondon & the remainder in Secilard. Crossing the Channel going over was the worst sea experience I's even had -leave had been stopped for 4 days of Nather the port of Bonlyne had been closed whilst the Channel was being swept for numes. The officers sisters once had accumulated from all our northern trave for these fors days of ustead of Sending 4 boats across they packed us all in one - some said it was for balloot on account of the texable weather - certainly if the ship had been lights I their we should have turned over.

..... 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.

gauchichall ( Capi hewica ) was with me-also Two U.A.D's who were both very very sick - if it hadut been for Sauchie I don't really Know what us should have done. In hondon we after great defranty procured 3 taxis - a V. A j in one lack & Capi. h. I with 3rd He dropped us at the tranhoe is called back ai 6.30 to take up oni to dinner - which to frascation then on to "High finks" I hadn't been able to let anyone know I was to be in Rondon on the The because of The poir being closed so long before made it so idefuite. Horence cause in answer trung Teligram next dag 5 one dag 1 speni with Topping in watte on - Thames. She's 1 Cauce into town is night to a Theatre "Romane." Is allow sI Spent my lasi day in Rondon togethe - he for leave from Salisting Plains for the day when I por to Plagar tracked hidles of femory were no i texied out to Rutherflee. I Specie a few days with them 5 also with the Simo which I engried test of all i a day's night with they- her family. The Sumo took me one day to Edinburgh - it was a day to be reven bred - 51. Siles' Cathedral stands one in my meniory as in war beautiful of course after Sr. Paul's sherimenster after. We had a quick run round valed John Knox's house & the Castle - Holy -Nova unfortunately was closed that day his 1 hope 15 go to Edichorgh again, perhaps heser Summer. Glasgors is a wonderful eits mi wit beautiful - its trans service is the best in the Knigdom - The women drivers & conductors looked very " sonsie "lassies in Blh

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 Frascatis 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.

watch tartan Shirts 5 dark green cloth timics A hals-They looked exceedingly Smart - much not so Than any women in import in horder I wei The two brothers of James Sin andrew -Roberi both of whom had strong personalities hi I was more attracted to andrew - he I'm Sorry & Say has died Since - jusi two days before privas. The Gowans took use in a cants Easi Kilbride & "The flat wors" when hangather allan was torn swhen Live allan lived will he died. We visited the old church hult in 1744, looked up the register his found That The alland grave was underheath the new hall That had lately been mill nest the church yard. Then we motived to Statiaver Thankhill this Cathkin Braes down pasi Castle hilk bach to Ruthugles again. acthough it never actually Rained While I was a Scorland it was always mich 5" obscurd The view & a preas scleut. When we were & Rasi Kilbride, that day we were to have gone on to any to Burn's Counting his The weather Thousands were too unpleasant to do another go miles.

.... 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 Sím, Andrew and Robert both of whom had strong personalíties 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 Larkshill 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 the one mentioned here.

# 110

2.1.12. we had terrific gales a few days before rules and a Ship about 4,000 tons was blown on to the noctes at the fort of the cliffs in which our nospilal is hult: at first we were told it contained plum puddings for the men & we believed That as no puddings wer so late hi areining, late we heard That it was full of animunition. Well, it staged on the Nocks high 5 day when the hide was me - They tried nituri success to floor her & then it was decided to tow her into the harbons - it was a mad idea of the whole Thing has been bungled up. The harbor has the narrower i passage possible only one - it is pror about possible for two boals to get Through together - This ships was towed up to the month & then as it turned togo in Somehow suring nound & lay completely across the month of the passage - it is so still for that it has been then for 2 weeks how & They Say it camor la moved the The huddle of the month. They have taken most of the mechineny & carp. away & intend culling The boat in halves as if they blow her up The whole of the pier & all The buildings ucluding the Casino would be blown up. In the mearthing the English governut has 15 pay heavy compensations to all the 15 hing smochs bying his ide the harborn, unable to get as a ply Their living. There are the hospital ships there also the M. O's & sisters are working at our

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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nospitel till their ship is released. The fact of this ship blocking the port, is holding up Supplies of food ramminition for one half a million of men apart from all The hospitals around This district we have evacuated a hig number of patients as we have no. ford not coal to keep them going & of como "her are wi getting any convoys in. The plo who went to England have been taken by train to Calais or Have to get the ships Iters. All this was supposed to have been the work of Ferman spies & the Captain of the ships is under arrest but lately That numous is discredited is the face of accident is being Kepi as secret às possible. We are provider top is any Thing Concerning it in on letters & if it is found. in any letter all the letters from Doulinge Another houses a an annunition factory as Calais 7 the news did hos filter through to The germans for 2 months Then it was The america I The phan for gave The information was fined \$100. yesterday & boday we have heard haval plus all nothing long - They Seemed very hear I we have heard That they were on funs vombarding The Belgian Coast. Between the days of Tuesday & Friday. Its week before remos it collier ships were torpedoed between England Thank

.... Hospital till their ship is released. The fact of this ship blocking the port, is holding up supplies of food and ammunition for one half a million men apart from all the hospitals around this district - we have evacuated a big number of patients as we have not food nor coal to keep them going and of course we are not getting any convoys in. The pts(?) who went to England have been taken by train to Calais or Harve to get the ships there. All this was supposed to have been the work of German spies and the Captain of the ship is under arrest but lately that rumour is discredited and the fact of accident is being kept as secret as possible.

We are forbidden to put anything concerning it in our letters and if it is found in any letter all the letters from Boulogne and district will be kept back until the port is open again. The Yanks some months ago dropped bombs on an ammunition factory at Calais and the news did not filter through to the Germans for two months and then it was this American and the man who gave the information was fined £100.

Yesterday and today we have heard naval guns all working(?) long - they seemed very near and we have heard that they were our guns bombarding the Belgian Coast.

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