

**DIARY OF 854 PTE HARRY NUTMAN DERRICK  
A NATIVE OF TALLANGATTA VALLEY NORTHEAST VICTORIA  
AND A SOLDIER OF THE 37th BATTALION, 3rd DIVISION, AIF.**

[ Going into Camp at Seymour]

Wed 16/2/16 I left valley after dinner to go to Tallangatta & stayed there that night at Halls, we got our passes that night, but only as far as Seymour, will have to pay our own fare on to Melbourne.

Thu 17/2/16 I went to town and we stayed at Duke of Wellington hotel. We went to Tivoli theatre that night. J Hunter, A Hunter, K Worthington, Ned Kirk & W Nichol went down together.

Fri 18/2/16 We went through the museum Friday morning. W Nichol, J Hunter & myself went to Luna park at night, had two rides on the switchback railway.

Sat 19/2/16 W Nichol, K Worthington, Horace & myself went to Caulfield races & did not get a winner.

Sun 20/2/16 J Hunter, Ned Kirk, W Nichol & I went to Geelong on the Courier. We met Belle & Emmie Croot on board & had a walk round Geelong with them, we got back to town at 8PM.

Mon 21/2/16 Bill, Ned & I left town for Seymour by the 2.40 train. We had our photo taken at Talma Studios before we left. J Hunter also. We went into camp that night and had bread & jam for tea.

Tue 22/2/16 1st day in camp, did a bit of marching before break-fast, bread & jam for breakfast. Then drill till dinner time, bread & meat for dinner & stew for supper. We were shifted to another tent.

Wed 23/2/16 We did squad drill in morning & afternoon & our papers have not arrived yet & we are still drilling in our good clothes.

Thu 24/2/16 We were examined by doctor & Bill and I passed, but Ned had to go to medical board. We got our rig-out of military clothes in afternoon, did no drill that day.

Fri 25/2/16 We were formed into a platoon & our's is No 9 platoon, No 2 section C company 37th Battalion. We had to shift into another tent before breakfast then went to a lecture after by Major Woods after as it was raining, did about an hours drill before dinner & squad drill after dinner. Concert in Presbyterian tent that night.

Sat 26/2/16 We did physical drill before breakfast, had breakfast at 7.15 & went on parade at 8, then washed our tent floors & had a general clean up. Open camp from 12 till 6 PM. We went into Seymour in motor, back again for tea.

Sun 27/2/16 Parade at 7 o'clock then breakfast. Church parade at 10 o'clock till 10.45 then whole camp went for a route march of about 6 miles, back again at 12.15 then dinner in the mess hut for first time. A lot of visitors turned up after dinner.

- Mon 28/2/16 We were inoculated on Monday morning and did no drill before dinner & we had lectures after dinner & a little drill, about 300 men came into camp that evening. My number is
- Tue 29/2/16 We were on cooks fatigue today & had to peel onions & potatoes & wash up the pots.
- Wed 1/3/16 We scrubbed our tent floors before dinner & did a little drill & more squad drill afterwards. I got a letter from Ada today.
- Thu 2/3/16 We drilled till 11 & after dinner we marched to Seymour races & back again at 7. Backed one winner & lost about 7/6. We were paid up on the race-course when we arrived - 9 days - £ 2-5 [shillings].
- Fri 3/3/16 We started rifle exercise & did a little squad drill as well.
- Sat 4/3/16 We scrubbed our tent floors in the morning & did our washing in the afternoon, no drill that day. I got two letters today, one from Amy Hunter & Belle Croot. Went to a concert in the YMCA tent given by Annie Williams & Co that night.
- Sun 5/3/16 We had church parade at 9.30 & then had a route march to the race-course & back. I went to Presbyterian church that night.
- Mon 6/3/16 I was on quarter-master's fatigue & did nothing much all day. Boxing & wrestling at the stadium at night.
- Tue 7/3/16 We had some rifle drill in the morning & more squad drill in the afternoon. Boxing & wrestling contests at stadium that night.
- Wed 8/3/16 Squad drill all the morning & rifle work in the afternoon. The District Commandant or Brigadier general visited us & seemed well satisfied with the work we are doing. Got three letters today. Pictures on that night. One of the light horse was killed today. An officer ran over him & he was badly hurt as well.
- Thu 9/3/16 We had more squad drill in morning & after dinner all the 37th battalion were marched to river for a swim, we had to carry rifles.
- Fri 10/3/16 We were on fatigue helping at the new Salvation Army in the morning. We were inoculated in the afternoon & had lecturettes afterwards.
- Sat 11/3/16 We had rifle drill in the morning getting ready for guard & went on guard at 6 PM. D Spicer & myself were on guard at the Army Service Corps. Seven of us had our photos taken today. I went on guard from 7.30PM till 11 PM & we all went off at 6 AM Sunday.
- Sun 12/3/16 We came off guard at 6 o'clock & did not have to go on church parade. There were a lot of visitors in the afternoon.
- Mon 13/3/16 We had squad drill & lecture in the morning & ¾ hour lecture after dinner & then were dismissed. We paraded at 7.30 for night work & went to the Trawool bridge about 5 miles.
- Tue 14/3/16 We did not have to get up for physical jerks. we started to learn extended drill

that day.

Wed 15/3/16 We had more extended drill and lecturettes. The salvation army opener their new building tonight. Colonel Semtens gave a good address.

Thu 16/3/16 We had more extended drill in morning & went for a march of about 4 miles in afternoon & went out again that night about 5 miles & carried rifles. We went round by the race-course. Colonel Woods told us they are going to pick our reinforcements from our company.

Fri 17/3/16 I was on cook's fatigue all day. We were paid today £ 3-15 [shillings]

Sat 18/3/16 I got leave but Bill did not, but did not go as I did not get my pass in time. Am going to try next Saturday. We went to Seymour sports today.

Sun 19/3/16 We were on officers mess today. Bill & I had a regular banquet 8 courses for dinner.

Mon 20/3/16 I was on cook's fatigue today & did not get off till after 7 o'clock. About 200 recruits came in and we had to wait on them. Horace came in today.

Tue 21/3/16 We had a lesson on grenade throwing in the morning & a lecture on rifles in afternoon. I joined the class for N.C.O. tonight. Salvation Army gave a concert tonight. I applied for leave today.

Wed 22/3/16 I went on quarter-master's fatigue at 8.30 but was not wanted & went drilling. Reinforcements were picked out today all who had been in 5 wks or over had to go. I was on officers' mess after dinner. Pictures on tonight.

Thu 23/3/16 We started bayonet work this morning. I had two teeth extracted after dinner & one was a brute. I got 24 hours off duty after extraction.

Fri 24/3/16 We marched to the river for a swim in the afternoon & had a short route march that night.

Sat 25/3/16 We got our leave this morning & they issued us with uniforms at half past 6. We left by the 9AM train for T'gatta. Jim met us and we got out at 6 o'clock.

Sun 26/3/16 Alf & I went up to Uncle Wills for dinner & called at Scobies. Coming back we decided to stay till Tuesday morning.

Mon 27/3/16 I went to T'gatta in gig with Aimee [Amy mentioned earlier] Hunter & met Jack at station. He came home on final leave. They held a dance in hall that night. I sold my saddle to Donald for £3.

Tue 28/3/16 We left Valley this morning & went to Wodonga by the early train. We went to Albury to put in time while waiting for train & got to camp at five to nine that night.

Wed 29/3/16 Bill & I had to go up before Colonel Woods for being A.W.L for 24 hours. we both got off & only lost one day's pay. we started out post work this afternoon.

Thu 30/3/16 I was on cook's fatigue today. C Company had a route march tonight. Fatigues did not go on the march.

- Fri 31/3/16 We had platoon drill in morning & afternoon & lectures also. Had a battalion muster after dinner & filling it up again. Two new men came in our tent tonight.
- Sat 1/4/16 We went to Seymour in the afternoon & met Alf in there. Concert in the Y.M.C.A tent tonight Melbourne talent. Horace went to town today on week end leave.
- Sun 2/4/16 Alf came out to camp this afternoon. It poured rain for about two hours in afternoon. Had a concert in Y.M.C.A tent. A big drag got bogged & broke one spring but none were hurt on it. Alf went back to Seymour that night & and went home next day.
- Mon 3/4/16 We had trench digging this morning & a lecture on night work for an hour after dinner. Dismissed at 4 o'clock. Parade tonight at quarter to 8 for a night march. Outposts by night were the positions.
- Tue 4/4/16 We marched to Trawool bridge this afternoon.
- Wed 5/4/16 Brigadier General Williams inspected the battalion this afternoon. There was a bit of trouble about more leave among the men today.
- Thu 6/4/16 Platoon drill & visual training before dinner & 9 & 10 platoons drilled together after dinner.
- Fri 7/4/16 We had grenade throwing in the morning & made some jam tin grenades & exploded them. Had a short lecture in Y.M.C.A tent in the afternoon & lined up at 7 for night operations. Night operations were cancelled.
- Sat 8/4/16 Scrubbed out tents before breakfast then had platoon drill till 11 o'clock. No 10 & 11 platoons got leave today. we played cards all the evening.
- Sun 9/4/16 Church parade at half past nine then tent inspection. We went to Catholic church for a change this morning. Dick Johnson & his wife were up today. We went to Church of England tonight the first time they used the building.
- Mon 10/4/16 We were issued with rifles this morning & started musketry. No rifle 37615. We had instruction in the mess house all day as it was wet. Church of England building was opened tonight.
- Tue 11/4/16 Musketry till half past 11. We marched to races after dinner. I got two winners, came home about 8/- to the good.
- Wed 12/4/16 Trigger pressing and aiming today. I put in for leave today.
- Thu 13/4/16 Muscle exercise with rifle before breakfast. aiming & loading afterwards. We had our throats & noses sprayed in the afternoon, a case on meningitis broke out in camp. Kit inspection afterwards.
- Fri 14/4/16 Aiming & loading & visual training today.
- Sat 15/4/16 We got leave & went up the valley today. Bert met us at the station.
- Sun 16/4/16 I went to Church this afternoon. Mr Tacon preached & [unclear] I went down to Hunters tonight.

Mon 17/4/16 Uncle Will drove us to the station this morning & we got back to camp at half past eight.

Tue 18/4/16 We went to Trawool range for shooting today. I fired my grouping & application & scored 20 & 12. We are all going on final leave tomorrow.

Wed 19/4/16 We went away on leave this morning, had to march to the station. I got out to the valley with Colin Campbell & stayed at Campbell's tonight.

Thu 20/4/16 Bert & I drove up to Uncle Will's today & Bill & Jim & I went up to a pic-nic at Cravensville in the evening. I stayed at Uncle Will's that night.

Fri 21/4/16 I rode back to Aunt Annie's the next morning & it rained nearly all day. I went down to Hunters in the evening.

Sat 22/4/16 I went to Tallangatta today & called at Kirks & Douglas's on the way back. They gave us a send off at the Valley hall tonight. There were 6 soldiers present Bill Supple & Mac & Bill Nichol & J Hunter & Kennedy & I.

Sun 23/4/16 I went up to Mullers, Scobies & Uncle Jim's today, had dinner at Uncle Jim's, went to church after dinner & Bert & I went to Hunters at night.

Mon 24/4/16 I went to Douglas's for dinner & then we drove to the town & went to the races. I went to the concert & dance at night, went & had a lay down at about 3 o'clock.

Tue 25/4/16 I got up at 5 o'clock & Bill & I & Jack Hunter & Bill Supple motored to Wodonga. Cyril Cross drove us. We came down on the second express & got to Seymour at 12.30, then marched to camp & did no work that afternoon.

Wed 26/4/16 We went to Trawool shooting today. I fired snap & rapid & got 13 at each range. We got our web equipment tonight. Cold, sleety weather today, overcoats on all the afternoon.

Thu 27/4/16 We put our web equipment together today & drilled in it. Started bayonet work today. went to pictures tonight.

Fri 28/4/16 Had more bayonet work this morning till 11 o'clock, then knocked off for dinner & marched through Seymour with full equipment on after dinner. It was Anzac day in there.

Sat 29/4/16 We went to Trawool range to finish shooting today. I scored 54 in part II & finished by dinner time, got back by 2 o'clock. Had to scrub out tents after dinner. Concert in Y.M.C.A building tonight, very good, Melbourne talent.

Sun 30/4/16 Went to Church of England Communion service at 8.45 then to Church parade at 10 o'clock. About half the battalion were shooting & bayonet work today. I got out of it.

Mon 1/5/16 We marched through town today, left camp at half past seven & went to town in two specials, got to town at 11 o'clock & started to march at 12-30, finished before 2 o'clock & left about half past three. Got back to camp at about 7 o'clock.

- Tue 2/5/16 I went out to Mackenzie's farm today on field practice, fired 25 rounds & did not get back to camp till after dark.
- Wed 3/5/16 Out at McKenzie's again today & fired about 60 rounds each. We had a bag of apples given to us today. Colonel Semmins & Woods & a few other officers were out watching us. We were paid tonight.
- Thu 4/5/16 We started bayonet fighting today. Another meningitis scare today, all of C company had their nose & Throat sprayed this evening. The tent party in which the case occurred were isolated.
- Fri 5/5/16 I was on pioneer's fatigue today, the pioneers are doing musketry now. I had a very easy day, did about 2 hrs work.
- Sat 6/5/16 Had platoon drill & rifle exercises till 11 o'clock & then were dismissed for day. Did not get leave today but think I will next week. Opening of Y.M.C.A building tonight, had a good concert, talent from Melbourne.
- Sun 7/5/16 Church parade at quarter to 10 & then tent inspection afterwards. A sacred concert in the Y.M.C.A this afternoon.
- Mon 8/5/16 We got our second issue today - sea-kit, uniform, knife & field-service packet.
- Tue 9/5/16 We pulled down our tenets this morning & cleaned floors & limed ground of tent, left them down till dinner time.
- Wed 10/5/16 Extended order drill today. I was not too well today had a bad cold, went up on sick parade tonight. Signed our embarkation papers tonight. Regimental number is 854.
- Thu 11/5/16 I went up on sick parade this morning & then had to march out to McKenzie's farm for field practice, but did no shooting as the others had finished when we got out there.
- Fri 12/5/16 All the battalion marched out to McKenzie's farm this morning & climbed up a mountain there. We got back to the farm at 2 o'clock & had dinner, then we marched back to camp.
- Sat 13/5/16 I got my leave & we had to march to the station. Bert met me at the station & we got out at about half past six. Saw A. Hunter on train at Wodonga, he was off to Ballarat to see Jack.
- Sun 14/5/16 I drove up to Uncle Will's with Bert for dinner & stopped at Scobie's for a couple of hours on the way down. Ned Kirk & I went down to Hunters tonight.
- Mon 15/5/16 I got back from week-end leave tonight & we had to march to camp, got there at half past nine. Albert Lane & I went over to Albury today & saw J Campbell & M Spillain in hospital, while we were waiting for our train.
- Tue 16/5/16 The Governor General inspected the battalion this afternoon at about 4 o'clock & gave us a short address & pulled our legs a bit. They had a banquet in the Church of England building tonight, the Governor General was present.

- Wed 17/5/16 Rifle drill & company drill in morning & a route march in the afternoon. 30 of our platoon had to go into Seymour tonight as street patrol. I was among them, we were only on for 1 hour & got back at half past 10.
- Thu 18/5/16 Reveille at 6-30 from now on. Company drill this morning, we also were paid. Our platoon was vaccinated this afternoon & had no drill to do afterwards.
- Fri 19/5/16 Company drill in morning & kit inspection after dinner. We had an early tea & went out on out post work at 5 o'clock & got back at 8 o'clock. Woods told us we would be going on 1st or 2nd June.
- Sat 20/5/16 I was on cook's fatigue today but finished at 2 o'clock. Bill went down to town today, could not get leave to go home.
- Sun 21/5/16 Went to church parade this morning & wrote a few letters after dinner.
- Mon 22/5/16 We started bayonet fighting this morning under a sergeant-major, the course lasts 4 days.
- Tue 23/5/16 Bayonet work again, had the pads on & used spring bayonets this morning.
- Wed 24/5/16 Still on bayonet fighting. Struck our tents after dinner & came in at 4 o'clock to put up our tents. We had early tea & went out on night operations at 5.30, got back at 9 o'clock.
- Thu 25/5/16 The first reinforcements went away this morning. Horace went with them. They are going on to the boat today & sailing tomorrow.
- Fri 26/5/16 Most of battalion had a sham fight today out near Trawool bridge. I did not go out, was on bayonet fighting, we had competitions today.
- Sat 27/5/16 I went up the valley today on leave, got a lend of W. Ried's pony to go out on. They had a dance in the hall tonight, but there were not many present.
- Sun 28/5/16 I went up to Uncle Will's for dinner & called at Scobies coming back, went to church in the afternoon & down to Hunters at night, then went to Douglas's & stayed there that night.
- Mon 29/5/16 I went back today, did not have to march from station tonight, got back to camp about 9 o'clock.
- Tue 30/5/16 Had battalion drill this morning & had a company muster after dinner, had to sign our musketry cards.
- Wed 31/5/16 I was on engineer's fatigue today, started pulling down the old boob. Had my hair cut off as short as possible. We are to sail on Friday morning.
- Thu 1/6/16 We are not going till Saturday morning now. Had a battalion muster in full marching order & in uniform this afternoon. Billy Blair was sent to the restoration camp tonight & will miss the battalion.
- Fri 2/6/16 We had battalion drill this morning & did nothing after dinner. Reveille goes at 2 AM tomorrow morning & we are going to embark tomorrow.

[Departure for England]

Sat 3/6/16 We got up at 2 o'clock, left camp at 4 o'clock & it rained all the way to station. 1st train left at 6 & 2nd one at 6.15 & got to Port Melbourne at 9.30. We went on board at about 11.30 & sailed at 5 to 1. Had dinner at half past 1 soup, cold meat & beans & rice. Bread & butter, cheese & jam for tea. I slept on floor tonight, could not get room for my hammock. We passed through the heads at about 5 o'clock.

Sun 4/6/16 Steve & I were mess orderlies today. I have not been sick yet, a good many men were down to it today, Nearly half our table missed their meals. It has been wet & windy all day on deck & the sea was fairly rough. Only 5 at table for tea, men sick all over the place. We were paid yesterday £ 4-10, the last full pay I will draw.

Mon 5/6/16 Mulcahy & I are to be permanent orderlies for our table, each man gives us 1/- per wk. We are crossing the bight now & the sea is very rough, but it looks lovely, the sun shone out a little today. Saw a shoal of porpoises today.

Tue 6/6/16 A fine day, the sun shone out today, the ship rolled a good deal & it is lovely to watch the big waves. Some of the men had physical jerks today & some on fatigue & guard, a good many still sick. Parade hours 10 to 12 & 2.30 to 4.30 & Tuesday & Friday washing days.

Wed 7/6/16 Another fine day, the sea is very calm & the boys are gradually getting over their sea sickness. We had to give our letters in by 5 P.M. today to be censored, they expect to reach Albany tomorrow. We passed a ship last night about 8.30.

Thu 8/6/16 We went very steady today & saw land at about 5 P.M. We passed the lighthouse at 8.30 & reached the wharf at a little after 9 P.M. A pilot came on board & steered the ship into harbour. Men are going ashore in morning & will have a short route march & then be dismissed for a couple of hours.

Fri 9/6/16 I posted 4 letters at P.O. so they would not be censored. The men went ashore at 9.30 this morning & 1 orderly went with them & had to be back at 12 & others went then. I went away at 11 & had a good time there, the ladies gave us tea & sandwiches. We fell in at 2 P.M. & marched round to the sandy beach & back round town about 4 mls, then we went on board at about 5 P.M. & ship went at 8.30 P.M. It is the prettiest little town I ever saw. The march was very amusing as a few of [the] men were very full.

Sat 10/6/16 I am giving up being orderly tonight. Tom is taking my place. Land was in sight this morning till about 9.30 & that was the last we will see for some time. I saw some sharks today. C Coy each gave 1/- each bought apples in Albany, we got a good many cases altogether & we get about 2 each second day.

Sun 11/6/16 We had a fire alarm at 11.30 this morning & all had to get life belts & rush on decks. I was guard at one of the boats. Church parade at 2.30 & the C.O. gave us a short address. Played cards all the evening.

Mon 12/6/16 Had jerks for an hour then semaphore signalling & a lecture & signalling after dinner. A French class started tonight.

- Tue 13/6/16 Signalling till 11, then we did our washing, games after dinner & signalling. A suspected case of meningitis today, we all had to keep to our own decks & could not mix up with other companies. We were to have had sports tomorrow but they have been postponed now on account of this. Lovely weather now.
- Wed 14/6/16 another fine day, had exercises & games till 11 o'clock, then we all had a shower before dinner, had games all the afternoon. We were sprayed twice today.
- Thu 15/6/16 Still lovely weather, we had a few jerks & then games all rest of day, had a short lecture on teeth by dentist as well. Held a concert on our deck tonight. Sprayed twice today.
- Fri 16/6/16 Semaphore till 11 & then washing till dinner time. Games & a lecture on guards & sentries in afternoon. Saw school of sharks or whales this afternoon. Sprayed twice today. Two of the men had a box on deck today, one threw in towel in 4th round.
- Sat 17/6/16 Games & Ph Jerks this morning. A short lecture on demolition charges in the afternoon. Started to rain at 2.30 & rained on & off till dark.
- Sun 18/6/16 Had an alarm at 11.30 this morning. They have a permanent guard on boats now with ball cartridges. Church parade at 2.30. A new chaplain preached today. It came up very rough this evening & the boat rolled very much.
- Mon 19/6/16 More signalling & exercises today. We went up to be vaccinated this afternoon but did not get done. There was a big swell on the sea today & she rolled more than she has for a good while. Some of the men got sick again.
- Tue 20/6/16 I was on fatigue today, had to clean out one of the wash houses & the bath room, had a very easy job. Our quartermaster slipped down on deck & hurt his head, he is in hospital.
- Wed 21/6/16 Our sports were held today & the pillow fighting was very amusing, but the other items were not much. We were paid tonight, £7.
- Thu 22/6/16 We were vaccinated this morning. Physical exercises & lecture this afternoon. They put biscuits in the boats today, we are in the danger zone now & travel with lights out at night, must be careful about lighting pipes on deck.
- Fri 23/6/16 Washing day today, had some signalling this evening. Our letters have to be in by tonight to be censored. Steve started duties as a policeman today.
- Sat 24/6/16 Lecture on demolition by Lieut. Stubbs this morning & games & exercises in afternoon. We saw a whale after dinner on port side.
- Sun 25/6/16 An alarm at 11.30 this morning & Church parade at 2.30 P.M. Captain Davidson preached today. Communion at 7 P.M. Got some war news by wireless today. 1st news we have had since we left Albany.
- Mon 26/6/16 We passed 4 ships today, one was in sight when we got up, passed one at 12 o'clock & 2 in the evening, we sighted land at about 5 P.M. just before sunset. Got more war news today by wireless. Had some rifle exercises this morning & bathing

parade, games & lecture by Mr. Cox on paying compliments in afternoon. Passed a whale this morning.

Tue 27/6/16 We passed two ships today, one a sailing ship, it has been drizzling rain all day, no drill today, we expect to reach Cape Town tonight & may go ashore in morning.

Wed 28/6/16 We stopped off the harbour at 7.30 & doctor came aboard. Pulled into harbour at 11 A.M. & were quarantined & not to get any leave. We went off at 2.30 for a route march for a couple of miles & stopped in a paddock for an hour, placed a picket so that we could not get out amongst people, but we soon were buying things from them. We went back on board at about 5 o'clock. They had been coaling all the afternoon & kept on all night, all black labour at this work.

Thu 29/6/16 Went about 12 miles today. We went off for a march at 9.30 A.M. We took our dinner with us & went through towns & out to the Zoo where we halted & had dinner there. They had drinks & refreshments there on sale, we stayed about a couple of hours then marched back through part city to the boat about 5.30. There were hundreds of niggers following us, some of them went all the way & little kiddies too. Got a good reception in streets, fruit, cigarettes, lollies & books wholesale were thrown to us.

Fri 30/6/16 Went on shore at 9 & were all sprayed before leaving as there was a case of meningitis this morning. Went out to sports ground about 3 miles, they had drinks & refreshments on sale there & a few men had permits to sell souvenirs of Cape Town. Went back to ship at 1.30 & had dinner. I posted some letters & packets today, threw some over just as the ship left pier, which was at 4.30 P.M. Very amusing at tea time, some of the port holes were open & soon as she started to roll water came in & drenched some of them at the tables. They put a gun on stern of boat yesterday, a 4.7 gun, in case we met a submarine. Two big ships came in today, Tropic, a sister ship to ours & one from Australia.

Sat 1/7/16 First day on Atlantic Ocean. I had a tooth drawn this morning. Pack drill & rifle exercises this afternoon, our platoon is on guard tomorrow. They had a couple with the gun this evening at a boat about 500 yds & hit it once. One man broke leave in Cape Town & was caught & got 10 days detention.

Sun 2/7/16 No 9 Platoon on guard today, I was on 1st relief & started at 9 & came off at 11, then had to guard prisoners while alarm was on. Had dinner & relieved No 2 while they had dinner, then went off till 3 & was on from 3 to 5 P.M. then on from 9 till 1 at the orderly room with Jim Bearat then went to bed. Got some news by wireless today. I did not go to church parade today.

Mon 3/7/16 Had to report at 8 A.M. & then I relieved one of the guard while he had breakfast. The new guard came on at 9 & then we were inspected & dismissed till 2.30 P.M. We had rifle exercises till smoke-oh then had a bathing parade & were dismissed. One of our guard was up at orderly room today for leaving his post & got 3 days guard duty. Cannot smoke after 6 P.M. now, no lights allowed on deck after 6

P.M. & lights out is at 9 P.M. now, as we are in danger zone now.

Tue 4/7/16 We had some rifle shooting this morning, 5 rounds each at tins, hit most of them, then had semaphore till dinner time. I was inoculated this afternoon on the right arm this time, this is the third time. Had a washing parade afterwards. They put up tarpaulins for shade this morning, it is starting to get hot now. Reveille at 6 A.M. now.

Wed 5/7/16 They placed a permanent guard round ship today to watch for hostile craft, they do three hours on & 8 off & will be on till end of the voyage. The ship was stopped for an hour at 3 P.M. while an operation on a private for appendicitis was performed. Received some news by wireless today, best war news we have had for some time. Had games most of the time today. They opened port holes on our deck today for first time but closed them tonight. Very hot today, in the tropics now.

Thu 6/7/16 A man from the A.M.C. named Edwards died this morning from meningitis, he was buried this morning at 10.30. The ship stopped for about 10 minutes & bugler played the last post, all the men stood at attention during the service. We saw numerous shoals of flying fish today, the first I have seen yet. More war news today very good too. Very sultry today, a lot of men going about in Knickers now. Signalling & games today. Alice's birthday today.

Fri 7/7/16 We passed two ships this morning at 10 A.M. One a cruiser HMS Kent passed quite close to us & sent a message by heliograph as she passed: "Report naval office St Vincent what time saw Kent." Rifle exercise & a lecture by the doctor on field dressing of wounds after dinner.

Sat 8/7/16 Exercises & bayonet fighting before dinner & the boxing competition started after dinner, 5 bouts came off, there are prizes for light, middle & heavy weight of £4 winner, £2 runner up. Good war news by wireless today. Very hot again today, have to wear felt hats with white hats on top of them now.

Sun 9/7/16 An alarm at 11.30, we crossed the equator at 11 A.M. We saw a couple of shoals of porpoises & a shark today. Church parade at 5 P.M. today on account of the heat. Beastly hot on our deck now just as bad at night as day time. We were issued with lime juice today, 1/2 pannichan to each man & will get it every day while in the hot region.

Mon 10/7/16 Got more war news this morning, still very good. Passed two ships today after dinner. Three fresh cases of measles today, there has been a good few cases lately. More boxing contests this evening, all A.M.C., boxers some very good. A concert on deck today. G Castles, a brother of Amy Castles sung very well & the other items were very fair. Very hot today but not too bad on top deck.

Tue 11/7/16 Rained lightly all day, we had a lecture by Stubbs this morning & did our washing after dinner, we passed two ships today in the afternoon. Lieut Cooper fell down stairs & hurt his back tonight, he had to be put to bed. Very sultry below deck today as the hatches were covered to keep the rain out. Had a few dances on hatchway tonight. Mail closes tomorrow at noon for our next port which we will reach about Friday.

- Wed 12/7/16 I was on guard today from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. then from 9 P.M. to 1 A.M. at the orderly room. Second round of boxing 37th came off this afternoon, some very good contests, two men went out 1st round. Passed another ship today, raining a little this morning & still very sultry. Got some war news again today.
- Thu 13/7/16 I was inoculated again this morning & vaccinated again in the afternoon, if it does not take this time I will be immune. A.S.C finished their boxing contests tonight after tea, no very close contests. Not so hot today.
- Fri 14/7/16 We passed between two islands, San Diego & Moyl this morning, they belong to Cape Verde Is & lost sight of them at 10.30 A.M. Saw land again at 3.30 P.M. another of the group and reached St Vincent Is about 9 o'clock & cruised about all night. They are very rough barren looking islands. We passed a ship at 6 this evening & a light house at 8.30 P.M.
- Sat 15/7/16 In harbour at St Vincent when we got up this morning & the doctor boarded it about 8 o'clock & went away again, we lay here all day & took on some sand in afternoon to make a barricade in front of gun. There were three Br cruisers here & *Cumberland* went away before breakfast & the *Sublej* sailed this evening, the *Highflier* is still here. There are 9 interned ships here, mostly German. Two or three ships passed here today, one Br turret ship "*Royal Sceptre*" passed here tonight about 6 o'clock. Some niggers came up the side of ship & dived for coins thrown in water. The sea is full of fish here & the niggers were catching them as fast as they could bait their lines.
- Sun 16/7/16 Still here, we all stood to attention at 8 A.M. while band played national anthem. Four steamers passed here this morning. We steamed off at 11 A.M. & gave three cheers to cruiser *Highflier* as we left which she returned. Some of men caught some red fish this morning before leaving. Had church parade at 2.30 & again at 7 P.M. It is a very rough barren looking island & a peak here with a strong resemblance to a man's face. Cape Verde Is belong to Portugal & there are a large number altogether.
- Mon 17/7/16 Nice & cool today, exercises & a lecture this morning. Bathing parade after dinner & bayonet fighting. A British cruiser signalled us last night.
- Tue 18/7/16 Had a lecture by Stubbs this morning & washing parade after dinner. We passed a sailing ship this evening at 6.30. A & B companies finished the boxing competitions this afternoon, the winners have to fight winners of C & D companies for final. Nice & cool & the sea a bit rougher than usual.
- Wed 19/7/16 Sports day & final of boxing & other sports. King of C Coy won the pillow fighting, D Coy the tug of war, Hannan the light & middle weight won in half a round by. They took a list of shortages of everyone today.
- Thu 20/7/16 Paraded in full marching order with uniforms on today, we have to do this every other day now. Had a surprise alarm at dinner today at 2 P.M. I was playing cards down on our deck when alarm went & and did not know what had happened. There was a rush for belts & some of the men got a great fright. We have to wear our

life belts all the time in day time & sleep with them along side us. Captain Davidson held a short service tonight & they had some singing.

Fri 21/7/16 I was on guard today from 1 P.M. to 5 & then from 11 to 5 A.M., slept in guard room tonight. Two ships passed us today, one this morning at 8.30 & the other this evening at 6 o'clock. Got our universal kit bags out today & packed all our superfluous clothes in them so as to have our sea kit bags as light as possible for carrying when we land. They took in all the ship's cutlery today & we now have to us our own.

Sat 22/7/16 No parade till afternoon as we came off guard this morning. There was a boxing match between Moles of B coy & Weeks of A.S.C for a purse of £30 at 4 o'clock this evening. Weeks won on a foul in the third round as Moles hit him when down. The ship steered a zig-zag course all day & rolled a good deal. We are off Bay of Biscay now & got some German news by wireless today as well as London news. They closed port holes on every deck today.

Sun 23/7/16 Alarm at 11.30 this morning. Church at 2.30 & we are to have thanksgiving service when we are getting into the harbour which will be in two or 3 days. We are going a very zig-zag course still.

Mon 24/7/16 Kit inspection this morning & a parade in full marching order & an inspection by the Colonel after dinner. Expected an alarm tonight, just after lights-out, an officer came down and told us they expected a war-ship alongside at any moment & if we heard 4 or more blasts it would be the alarm, if less than that it would be alright. It was very foggy tonight & they could not have been sure about the war-ship, but we heard no more about it.

[Arrival in England]

Tue 25/7/16 A destroyer met us at 7 o'clock this morning & cruised back & forwards in front of us till we reached Plymouth at 12 noon. We went off on to a smaller boat as our boat to pull into pier called Sir Walter Raleigh & disembarked at 7.15. Left Plymouth & got to Amesbury at 12.30, then got issued with blankets & got to bed at 3 AM. I & 5 others were on guard on the trip out, we had refreshment given to us at Exeter by the Mayor. The scenery was beautiful on the trip out.

Wed 26/7/16 Got up about 9 o'clock had bully beef & biscuits for breakfast, we shifted into another hut before dinner, No 1 & 2 sections are to camp together. Battalion formed up this afternoon & got full instructions about the camp. Some of our officers are going away to schools for further training. Saw Horace this morning & Tom Bowran this evening. Have a wet canteen here. We have our meals in a big mess house, can seat 600. Have bonzer huts to sleep in, each holds 30 men & good beds. Saw some aeroplanes this evening.

Thu 27/7/16 Reveille at 6 & roll call, then jerks from 6.30 to 7.30, breakfast at 8. Out on parade at 9 & drill till 12.30 have smoke-ohs in between. Parade again at 2 till 5.30 with two more smoke-ohs. 50 of our company are off to London tomorrow. We signed our paybooks tonight. L is going to London tomorrow. The food is not too

good yet & get very little.

Fri 28/7/17 Left camp for Amesbury at 8.30 & left station for London at 9.30. Reached Waterloo at 12.30 & marched to Aust Headquarters & were then dismissed at 1 P.M. We went to YMCA club & booked beds & stopped there for trip. We went and saw the German submarine at Temple Pier, U.C.5 is her number. She is a mine layer. We walked around all over place & nearly got lost, got back to YMCA for tea. It is a splendid place. You can get any meal you like & prices are cheap, beds 6<sup>d</sup>, the work is all done voluntarily by ladies.

Sat 29/7/16 A man took a party of us out to Houses of Parliament & we went all through them, then Westminster Abbey, then went back to dinner. Afterwards he took us through Royal stables at Buckingham Palace & they were something lovely especially the state coach & harness. We then went to Wellington barracks where the Princess Mary made a presentation of a silver shield & silk flag to the Australian Forces. We then walked round numerous historical buildings, Queen Victoria's statue & Hyde Park.

Sun 30/7/16 I went out with J Hunter to see the Guards change at Buckingham Palace this morning. After dinner three of us went out with three girls to Hendon[?] by motorbus, about 9 miles out, there is an aerodrome there and the machines were flying about us all the afternoon. We had a very good time & got back about 12 o'clock. Hendon is out in the country & is a very pretty place.

Mon 31/7/16 Went through Tower of London this morning, it is a wonderful old building, went through wax-works this afternoon with A. Lane. The rest of battalion & reinforcements came to London. Had a ride in underground railway this morning. Left Waterloo at 9.45 for camp in the second train & got to camp about 2 o'clock. I met Wallie Dyring[?] today, Horace came in too but only saw him as they marched past. Had a splendid trip & did not like going back to camp.

Tue 1/8/16 Did not get up till about 8 this morning & were detailed for guard, went on at 10 o'clock, 4 hour shifts & 8 off. We had to sleep at guard room & stop there all the time. We were on from 10 A.M. Tuesday till Wednesday 6 P.M. They brought two prisoners here tonight, they got away from the 1st Reinforcements at Exeter & have been away 12 days, The were caught at Bristol, "James & Farmer" are their names.

Wed 2/8/16 Still on guard, had to sleep in our clothes last night & will be on till 6 tonight. Went to the Y.M.C.A. tonight, saw over a dozen aeroplanes in the air at once tonight.

Thu 3/8/16 On quartermaster's fatigue today, had an easy day. Had an hour's physical jerks under an English sergeant-major & he shook us up, this morning.

Fri 4/8/16 We went out to our new parade ground this morning, we drill on the same ground as the 39th, we went back to do our washing as we are to be inspected tomorrow by some General. I was on pioneers fatigue till dinner time & did our washing after dinner.

Sat 5/8/16 The inspection did not come off, we had a solid morning's drill & had the

afternoon off. I went into Amesbury in the afternoon, it is a small town, there is an old church there over 500 years old, got back at 9.30 P.M. Brigadier McNichol inspects battalion every morning now.

- Sun 6/8/16 Church parade at 10 A.M., scrubbed our floors before breakfast & had an inspection after church parade. I went out to Stonehenge with J Hunter after dinner, & then went up to see Tom Bowren, he is about three miles from here, we got back about 8 o'clock.
- Mon 7/8/16 Had an hour's jerks in morning, then extended order work till dinner time, rifle work & a little musketry after dinner. Went up to the Y.M.C.A. tonight.
- Tue 8/8/16 Rifle work & platoon drill also squad drill this morning & battalion drill & bayonet exercises after dinner, the mail for Australia closed tonight. Some of the officers have horses now to do their work on, our second in command has a quiet old nag.
- Wed 9/8/16 Bayonet drill & extended order before dinner & company drill after dinner till 3 o'clock, we then came in & were detailed for fatigue work tomorrow, we were then dismissed for today.
- Thu 10/8/16 I was on fatigue today, 60 of C Coy had to unload 8 trucks of coal & stack it on coal heap, we finished at 4 P.M., it was fairly hot today. I went to picture show tonight, not very good.
- Fri 11/8/16 Battalion drill all the morning & route march after dinner, we round past Amesbury R.S. & then through Bulford & Dorrington & back at 5.30. I went to Maple Leaf cinema tonight, a very good show there. Some of 1st reinforcements transferred to battalion today. Horace has gone into B coy 8 Platoon. I am mess-orderly today & will be for 3 days. Got two Tallangatta papers today & a letter from Les Nichol.
- Sat 12/8/16 Scrubbed our huts out & did our washing this morning & went into Bulford & Dorrington after dinner, got back for tea, the reading & games room opened tonight.
- Sun 13/8/16 Church parade this morning & then a march past & inspection by Brigadier McNichol, hut inspection then before dinner. I went down to Amesbury with Jack Hunter after dinner & saw Fred Walker there, spent the afternoon with him, Jack & I had supper at the Abbey Hotel, a private hotel & rather expensive. We got back to camp at 9.30. Fred is batman to a major at Amesbury House.
- Mon 14/8/16 I was on quartermaster's fatigue today, had a fairly easy day, it rained a fair bit today, first wet day in England. Mail closed for Australia today.
- Tue 15/8/16 On fatigue today, unloading coal all day, we were like niggers when we finished. I got 5 letters from Australia today. Sergeant Robinson took our photos when we came off the coal trucks. Rained on & off today.
- Wed 16/8/16 I was out at rifle range marking for some of 39th Battalion today, finished at 4 o'clock. I got a letter from H M Breckin [?] Edinburgh today. Showery again today.
- Thu 17/8/16 Still raining on & off. We started musketry this morning, also had an hour's

bayonet work under an English Sergeant-major. Had two hours of musketry from 7 to 9 after tea as well as all day, work in hut as it was too wet to go out. Sergeant Robinson has been promoted to 1st Lieutenant now.

Fri 18/8/16 Still on musketry out on parade ground, went away at 10 for an hour's bayonet fighting. Tom Bowran came to see me tonight but I was on musketry from 7 to 9 & only had a few minutes off to see him, he is off to France either tomorrow or Sunday.

Sat 19/8/16 On musketry this morning & did an hour's shooting on miniature range in the afternoon. I went to the Maple Leaf cinema in the evening.

Sun 20/8/16 Church parade in morning & hut inspection afterwards. I went to Fiheldene in the afternoon & saw the chestnut tree & shop of the Village blacksmith & went through the old church the smithy used to go to; Sheppard was his name.

Mon 21/8/16 I started in bombing class today, 9 out of our Coy & same out of every coy in battalion & the same out of 38th & 39th Batt are all in the one class. Lectures on different sorts of Grenades nearly all day, a little throwing in the evening. Concert in the supper room at canteen tonight, London talent, very good. Got five letters from Australia today.

Tue 22/8/16 We went out to trenches this morning & practised a bombing party going through trenches, also had some throwing. At 3.30 P.M. we got word to mobilise, we came in & packed up everything & put on our equipment & marched about a couple of miles round camp & back again, it turned out to be only a rehearsal, preparing us for when we do go. The Brigadier inspected us when we came back & gave us great praise.

Wed 23/8/16 We went out to trenches this morning & took a lot of sand bags & practised making barricades in a trench after having captured part of it, had some throwing & lectures on hand grenades in afternoon & did some throwing also. I got four letters from Australia today.

Thu 24/8/16 Had the gas helmets on this morning & did some trench work with them on. Fired some rifle grenades this afternoon & blew up a barricade with gun cotton also. I got a letter from Ben Cook today.

Fri 25/8/16 Had a throwing test today, did not get on too well, we were also asked a few questions of grenades & whether we liked the job or not & they took the names of all that wanted to be Grenadiers. I gave my name in.

Sat 26/8/16 We threw some live bombs this morning & fired a few rifles grenades. I got afternoon leave to Salisbury & walked to Amesbury, then took train to Salisbury, got there about 5 P.M. & came back at 11 P.M. It is a nice town & has one of the finest cathedrals in England.

Sun 27/8/16 Church parade at 9.30 A.M. & all the C.E had their service together & the Presbyterians & R.Cs had their's on their own also. It rained at start & we went into Church to have it in front of 39th Batt camp. I went with J Hunter this afternoon to see if we could find T Stapleton, but he is out at Parkville Camp about 8 miles away

& we did not see him.

Mon 28/8/16 We drilled this morning & had a lecture for an hour after dinner, then knocked off as we had to go on picket in Amesbury tonight. We left here for Amesbury at 5 P.M. & started picket at 6 & were on till 9.30 then came back, it was very quiet there & no trouble.

Tue 29/8/16 I was on mess hut fatigue today, the company was out digging trenches all day & it rained all day & they were in a nice mess by night. We cut up the sandwiches for us to take on the march for dinner tomorrow. I got 3 letters from Australia today.

Wed 30/8/16 We left camp in full marching order at 9.30 A.M. on a two day march, took our provisions with us, the two cooks went too, stopped for dinner about 10 miles out & reached Wallop about 16 miles away at 4.30, we billeted there for the night & slept in a barn. 50 in our barn. We had a look round village that night, had to be back by 9 o'clock. It is a pretty village about 1[&]1/2 miles long & we were billeted in the far end called Nether Wallop, some of them were billeted about 1 mile back from us. Looked like rain & we had our overcoats on all day.

Thu 31/8/16 We got up at 7 & had breakfast about 8, got out ready to move off at 9, left Wallop about 9.30 & marched about 9 miles then had dinner & left again at 2 & got back to camp at 4.30 Had a little rain but nothing to hurt.

Fri 1/9/16 Trench digging all the morning & about an hour after dinner, then we came back & were inoculated & were off duty the rest of the evening. I went to the Palace Theatre tonight.

Sat 2/9/16 Did not have to get up till 7 o'clock this morning & did our washing after breakfast. I went into Amesbury this afternoon & came back for tea, went up to see J Hunter after tea. Horace went into hospital with mumps today, there were 9 cases in B company & two huts are isolated. Rained a lot last night & is very wet looking today.

Sun 3/9/16 Church Parade at 9.30 over in front of 39th Batt, all the C.E out of Brigade had it together & the other denominations had their's on their own.

Mon 4/9/16 We went out in full marching order this morning to Orcheston about 8 miles out to dig trenches, we started digging at 3 P.M. till 5.30 & it rained all evening, had tea in rain & shifted into a shed at 7 P.M. to sleep as it was too wet to sleep out on ground where we were going to. There were about 200 men in our shed.

Tue 5/9/16 Got up at 5.30 & had breakfast, got to work at 8 o'clock & worked till 12.30, then had dinner & worked after dinner in two hour shifts till 11.30 P.M. then had some coffee & went back to camp, got back at 3 o'clock. The 39th Batt went into trenches when we left & would be there for a couple of days. The two cooks went out with us & we had stews for every meal & not half cooked most of the time.

Wed 6/9/16 Did not get up till 8.30 this morning, then had breakfast & had a spell till 11, then had a lecture on gas attacks by Captain Lambden. We went off for battle practice after dinner out past Stonehenge & got back at 6 o'clock.

- Thu 7/9/16 We went out this morning in full marching order & took our dinner for more battle practice, went out past Stonehenge to Druid's lodge, a big farm with training tracks & golf links. We had a pretty good day & got back at 5 P.M.
- Fri 8/9/16 I was out at range shooting today, fired 65 rounds altogether. They picked out reinforcements again today, they are off to France tomorrow.
- Sat 9/9/16 We were inoculated again at 10.30 this morning & did nothing all day. Paddy Farrell I went up to see Tom Bowran after dinner, he left for France at 10 tonight with 1500 others. The men they picked out for reinforcements went away at 10 this morning to a training camp at Perrim Downs, we gave them a good send-off.
- Sun 10/9/16 I was on mess hut fatigue today. I went up to see German prisoners this afternoon, 150 came in last night, they are a big lot of men.
- Mon 11/9/16 We went out to trenches in full marching order today, to trenches at Orcheston & practised attacking trenches, we got back at 6 o'clock.
- Tue 12/9/16 Battalion drill for a while this morning then snipers instruction. Sir John French visited the camp this afternoon. Had an early tea tonight then marched up to parade ground & had a short lecture by a Salvation Army officer.
- Wed 13/9/16 Went out in full marching order for battle practise today, were out all day & had two sham battles with blank cartridges. Went to Lark Hill cinema tonight.
- Thu 14/9/16 Out at range shooting this morning. Brigade sports this afternoon. I was there for a while, our hut isolated today on account of a case of measles in the hut, have to have our meals in hut & not supposed to go out among the others. There were four huts isolated in our company today.
- Fri 15/9/16 Out at Stonehenge on battle practise today, the 37th against the 39th Battn, had a sham battle with blank cartridges. We got back at 4 P.M.
- Sat 16/9/16 Out on musketry this morning, fired five rounds field practise. I went into Amesbury this afternoon & got my watch which had been there a fortnight. Our reinforcements went away to France today.
- Sun 17/9/16 Church parade at 9.30 then hut inspection, I did not go out this afternoon, wrote a few letters. A group out of our hut had our photos taken this afternoon, went to Lark Hill cinema tonight.
- Mon 18/9/16 Went out past Amesbury on battle practise today, we went with 38th Battalion. There were three Battns out together, it was pouring rain when we started, but cleared up about 10.30 & was fine the rest of the day, we got back about 4 P.M.
- Tue 19/9/16 I was out at the range marking today, very cold all day, had overcoat on all the time, the 39th Batt were shooting.
- Wed 20/9/16 I was on Quartermaster's fatigue this morning. Had a review & march past of the whole brigade this afternoon at Stonehenge. General Monash, the divisional General inspected us & congratulated the Brigade on the work they did.

Thu 21/9/16 On bayonet drill all day.

Fri 22/9/16 We were out all day at Beech's farm about 8 miles away & fired some field practice. Bill Supple died at Brimstead Bottom hospital this morning.

Sat 23/9/16 Out on musketry today & fired at 2 & 300 yards with gas helmets on & 5 & 600 yds application, then at moving men at 500 yds & 5 shots at tiles, patrol practice, we got back at 2 o'clock.

Sun 24/9/16 Church parade at 9.30, I went to Communion after church parade. I went up to see Jack Hunter this evening & he is going to try & get to W Supple's funeral tomorrow. Donald Spicer died this evening at 7.25 at Brimstone hospital, they sent for the chaplain at 3 this afternoon.

Mon 25/9/16 Bill Supple was buried today at 12.30, the body was taken to grave on a gun carriage & firing party fired 3 volleys over grave while band played the dead march. We were learning funeral ceremony for Spicer's funeral, which takes place on Thursday, this morning & after dinner we got our packs squared up & brigade formed up on parade ground.

Tue 26/9/16 All the 3rd Division were out at Bulford for a rehearsal of review to be held tomorrow, there were a good many other troops besides the Div., about 26,000 all told & nearly all the Australian troops will be out tomorrow, about 40,000 they say.

[Inspection by King George V]

Wed 27/9/16 Left camp at 7.30 & marched to Bulford & got ready for inspection. The inspection took place at 11.30 & after that we had a march past, then after the march past had finished, the King rode past on his way back to station & as he passed each battalion they gave him three cheers. We left at 1.30 & got back to camp at 2.45 & were dismissed. It was showery on & off through day but rain kept off well through the inspection & march past. There were about 40,000 troops on review.

Thu 28/9/16 Donald Spicer was buried today at 11.30, I was one of the firing party. We left camp at 10 A.M. & marched to Dorrington Church where we met the gun carriage with coffin, we then marched to cemetery & the service was over about 12, got back to camp for dinner. After dinner had a lecture & a bit of musketry.

Fri 29/9/16 We went out to Druid's lodge on battle practise, a wet miserable day & did not do much, got back to camp at 4.30. I went to pictures tonight at Lark Hill.

Sat 30/9/16 E Briggs & I went on weekend leave to Weston Supermare, got there at 6 P.M., stopped at Oxford Cafe that night, we had a walk round town after tea & went to a play with two friends. Divisional sports were held today.

Sun 1/10/16 I went round & found Mr Lillington's home this morning, stayed there till 1 P.M. & then Mr Lillington took us to the Royal Atlantic Hotel & shouted us dinner & cigars, cigarettes & drinks. We left him at 2 P.M. & had a walk round, caught our train at 5.20 & went back, stopped 20 mins at Bristol & got to Amesbury at 10 P.M., got to camp about 11.30.

Mon 2/10/16 We left camp at 8.30 A.M. in pouring rain on a 5 day's stint in trenches at Bustard, I was on battalion orderly all day, we camped in a room near Bustard hotel that night, about a mile from the trenches. Some of the men went into trenches in the afternoon & did some digging, but all went back to room to camp, our boots & socks were wet through.

Tue 3/10/16 We were up at 5.30 & went up to trenches for breakfast & went in trenches at 7.30 & stopped in them till 10 P.M., then went to bed in dug-outs in trenches, were called up at 2 A.M. to make a night attack, it was very dark & pouring rain & we were out about an hour & were then sent back to our dug-outs & they were very wet so they sent us back to billet in shed at hotel.

Wed 4/10/16 We got up & had breakfast at the billet, they had brought the cookers down, we marched up to trenches at 11 & had dinner & then went to dug-outs for a rest till 5 P.M., when we had to go on duty, at 3.30 we got word to come in & go back to Lark Hill, we got home at 7 P.M.

Thu 5/10/16 We fell in at 8.30 on parade ground & were inspected by the Brigadier then went in & cleaned our rifles & equipment & came out again for another inspection. After dinner we marched out past Stonehenge & had a spell in the woods all afternoon.

Fri 6/10/16 Rained on & off all day, we went out on parade ground for a while & then came in to huts as it was too wet & did some bayonet fighting, after dinner we had more bayonet work & a lecture in the hut.

Sat 7/10/16 Washing parade this morning. I went & saw Jack Hunter this afternoon & met D Gilmore who is married to his cousin. We are getting 4 day's leave & starting next week. Horace & I are going next Saturday. Got some Australian mail today.

Sun 8/10/16 Went to church parade this morning, hut inspection afterwards. I got my colours today. Posted 6 letters today.

Mon 9/10/16 I was on mess hut fatigue today, had a very easy day. Some of them started their leave today.

Tue 10/10/16 I joined the snipers today. Horace is in them also, had a very easy day.

Wed 11/10/16 Lecture on trenches & entanglements today.

Thu 12/10/16 Had a lecture on map reading this morning & kit inspection, did some shooting after dinner at the range & fired 5 rounds with the telescopic rifle, got 3 bulls 2 inners. Concert up at No 9 camp in canteen, the A.S.C. presented our band with a staff, it was a beauty, cost almost £40.

Fri 13/10/16 I was out at range marking today, the 38th & 40th reinforcements were shooting.

Sat 14/10/16 I was on quartermaster's fatigue, went into Amesbury with Jack Hunter this afternoon, saw Fred Walker.

Sun 15/10/16 Church parade this morning. Dr Rentoul preached at the Presbyterian parade.

Heard a good lecture on the war in France by Colonel McNicol, a chaplain who has just returned from the Somme, in Y.M.C.A hut tonight.

Mon 16/10/16 Did some shooting at the miniature range this morning & observing through periscope. We were paid tonight. Had a lecture in mess hut by Dr Rentoul & Colonel Brookston, two chaplains, Brookston has just come from the front in France.

Tue 17/10/16 I went to London today on 4 day's leave, Horace went too, we stopped at Bull-dog club in Edgware rd. It rained all the evening, we went to a picture show in afternoon & to "The Bing Boys" at Allambra Theatre at night, it is a splendid play.

Wed 18/10/16 We went to St Pauls cathedral this morning & walked round streets in the afternoon. We went to Osca Asche's play Chu Chin Chow at night, it was very good.

Thu 19/10/16 Our day in London, they were selling flags & bits of Zeppelin all over place, we went out to Richmond this afternoon.

Fri 20/10/16 Had a walk round Hyde Park this morning & went to Scala Theatre & saw pictures of Battle of Somme in afternoon. We left Waterloo station at 8.15 & got to Amesbury at 11 P.M., got home at 12 o'clock.

Sat 21/10/16 Did our washing this morning & I went into Amesbury & Dorrington in the afternoon, very cold all day.

Sun 22/10/16 Went to church parade this morning, it was bitterly cold today & rained in the afternoon. I wrote letters all afternoon.

Mon 23/10/16 We started on a 12 day's course, a revision of all the work we have done so far on musketry & Lewis gun today. J Hunter & I went up to see Wally Dying tonight.

Tue 24/10/16 On musketry, visual training & judging distance today, very cold all day. Got some Australian mail today.

Wed 25/10/16 We went out to Rollstone range & did some shooting with Lewis automatic gun, we each fired 10 shots, got back to camp at 4.30 P.M. Cold wet weather.

Thu 26/10/16 Our company was on fatigue today, we were digging a drain. Our 2nd reinforcements came in this evening & the battalion was brought up to strength again.

Fri 27/10/16 On musketry & platoon drill today. Raining on & off all day.

Sat 28/10/16 Washing parade this morning. I went into Dorrington in afternoon.

Sun 29/10/16 Very cold, wet, miserable day, had church parade in our mess hut this morning. Wrote letters all the afternoon & sent some Christmas cards.

Mon 30/10/16 Had a lecture on gas in one of the huts this morning. On quartermaster's fatigue this afternoon. Very wet all day.

Tue 31/10/16 Another wet day, squad drill & extended order in morning, we threw one live bomb each in afternoon & had some practice with dummy grenades.

Wed 1/11/16 Wet again today. I was hut orderly this morning.

Thu 2/11/16 Bayonet fighting & close order drill today.

- Fri 3/11/16 Bayonet fighting for an hour, then lectures in hut the rest of the day, raining on & off all day.
- Sat 4/11/16 Paraded this morning with everything ready for mobilisation. I went into Amesbury this afternoon.
- Sun 5/11/16 Wet all day, had church in mess hut. I stopped for communion. Australian mail in today. Inspection in mobilisation order this morning.
- Mon 6/11/16 I was on Q.M.S's fatigue at A company's mess hut today.
- Tue 7/11/16 Cup was postponed to Saturday on account of wet weather. Lecture by Mr Cox today, in the hut nearly all day.
- Wed 8/11/16 Preparing for inspection all morning, were issued with our rifles too, we fell in at 12.45 & marched to our parade ground, the Brigadier then inspected us which lasted about 1[&]1/2 hours & we went back to camp then. No of my rifle 951.
- Thu 9/11/16 Battalion drill this morning, lectures all the afternoon, went to Maple Leaf picture-show tonight.
- Fri 10/11/16 On Q.M's fatigue today, carting coal this morning & went into Amesbury R.S. in transport in the afternoon.
- Sat 11/11/16 Washing parade this morning. An 8 mile race this afternoon, the Artillery team won & the 37th team came second.
- Sun 12/11/16 Church parade at 9.30 & then had a mobilisation inspection & a short speech by Colonel Woods, we expect to leave next week for France.
- Mon 13/11/16 The whole division went on a route march today, went about 16 miles with full packs on. 11th Brigade led, then 10th, then 9th. We left at 9.30 A.M. & got back at 3.30 P.M., they took 6 hours to pass through Amesbury.
- Tue 14/11/16 Bayonet fighting for an hour; an English officer was round inspecting the bayonet fighting this morning. Had a very easy afternoon, did a little squad drill, we were all a bit stiff after the march.
- Wed 15/11/16 Battalion drill for a while then setting up drill till dinner time. I went out with snipers this afternoon, Lieut Carados has charge of them now, they have been reduced to 10 men per company now. Had a lecture in canteen all the afternoon. I went to pictures with Jack Hunter tonight.
- Thu 16/11/16 Lecture on sketching & telescopic sights this morning, had some practice with telescope picking up targets after dinner.
- Fri 17/11/16 Practised putting in loopholes in trenches this morning & went out about 1[&]1/2 miles & dug sniper's holes in afternoon, we were issued with anti-freezing oil tonight for cleaning our rifles in trenches. Freezing all day.
- Sat 18/11/16 No week-end leave this week, expect to leave for France early next week. Bitterly cold all day, snowed a little today.
- Sun 19/11/16 Snowed all last night & was about 4" thick everywhere today, we were out at

range shooting & marking all day. We were issued with a steel helmet, extra blanket, singlet & cake of soap tonight. We are not to leave our lines after 10 o'clock tonight as we may leave anytime now. We were also issued with 2 gas helmets & a mask for tear shells.

Mon 20/11/16 Rained last night & melted the snow. Inspection in embarkation order this morning, have to carry two blankets, gas helmets, steel helmet as well as our usual pack, will also have to carry 150 rounds ammunition when we move off. We were issued with leather jackets tonight.

Tue 21/11/16 We were issued with 150 rounds ammunition. Had a parade with full equipment on & were allotted to our different trains, 3 trains for battalion, I am on the 2nd train. Got our emergency rations tonight - 1 cake of chocolate, 1 packet desiccated soup, 6 tubes oxo.

Wed 22/11/16 Left camp at 11 & left Amesbury on 2nd train at 12.30, got to Southampton at 3 P.M. & embarked at 3.30 on board the "*Lydia*", we steamed out at 6 and reached Harve at 1 A.M. & lay at the pier till morning. I was on guard from 3 to 4 A.M., got very little sleep through night, we were packed like sardines.

[Disembarked in France]

Thu 23/11/16 We disembarked at 8 o'clock this morning and marched through town to a camp about 4 miles out, were issued with 24 hours rations on boat before leaving, got to camp at 12 & rested all the afternoon. Canteen & Y.M.C.A. in camp, slept in tents tonight, 12 in each.

Fri 24/11/16 Got up at 5.30 A.M. & marched to station, entrained in cattle trucks, 30 in each & left at 11, there were 37 in our truck, travelled all day & night, had supper at "Buche" at 5.30, stopped there half an hour. Were issued with bully beef & biscuits for journey this morning. Had a very exciting night.

Sat 25/11/16 Travelled all day till 5 that night, got out at "Balliel" & got into motor transport & went in them about 7 miles to "Stranelle" where we had to wait about 1[&]1/2 hours till they found billets for us, we got to our billets about 1 mile away at 10.30 that night, it is a barn & all No 9 Platoon are camping in it. We were packed like sardines & lay down in our clothes on the floor, did not sleep much as it was very cold.

Sun 26/11/16 Got up at 8 o'clock & had breakfast of Biscuits & bully beef. Had a church parade at 3 P.M. I was put on guard at 4 P.M. & was on till 9 A.M. next morning. I went on from 4 - 6, 10 - 12, 4 - 6 next morning, very cold all night & had very little sleep, had to sleep with our equipment on. A German aeroplane came over our way today & was fired at by our guns but don't know if they got it.

Mon 27/11/16 We were dismissed from guard at 9 A.M. & rested for the rest of the day. Had stewed bully beef & biscuits for breakfast & tea, the first tea we have had since we got here. The guns are firing heavily today, the 9th Brigade went in trenches yesterday. German guns were firing at an observation balloon today. we are shifting

close up to firing line tomorrow.

Tue 28/11/16 Up at 5.30 & had breakfast & packed up & moved off at 8.30, carried all but blankets. We marched from Stranelle to Armentieres about 13 miles & got there at 3 o'clock & billeted in a hospital which had been partly destroyed by the Germans, this town has been damaged a great deal, hardly a window pane left & plenty of buildings destroyed, a lot of town is still deserted. We are less than 3 miles from front line & can be shelled anytime by enemy. We slept up on 2nd storie in a big room with every window broken in it.

Wed 29/11/16 Battalion bombers, some snipers, machine gunners & signallers moved into trenches this morning. Two platoons in each company had a bath today & are moving into trenches tomorrow. We had an easy day, had a bit of a look round, but were not allowed out far. Went to an Estaminet for tea, Had eggs & chips, bread & butter & coffee for 1 franc 4 pence. I broke tooth off plate eating a biscuit for breakfast, have had hardly any bread since we landed in France, nearly all biscuits.

Thu 30/11/16 No 11 & 12 Platoon of C Coy went into trenched this morning & two platoons out of each Coy. We are going in tomorrow. Had a good look round the town this afternoon, it is nearly all deserted & a great part destroyed. We were issued with box respirators & 20 extra rounds tonight.

Fri 1/12/16 Had early breakfast & left billet for trenches at 8, were issued with long gum boots before entering trenches, got in the support trenches at 10 A.M. & stayed there all day. I had to report to sniper's post that night & was sent back to Voppy 30 bank[?] to camp that night as their dug-outs were full. A man of B coy was killed & 1 wounded today.

Sat 2/12/16 Had breakfast in billet & went back to Sniper's abode, but did nothing all day. A fair bit of shelling this afternoon mostly from our batteries, the Germans sent a few minnies over to our lines. Had to go back to billet again tonight. Very cold all day.

Sun 3/12/16 Our 1st Sunday in trenches, did nothing much today. Trench mortars sent a few bombs to Fritz's lines & artillery was fairly active. Cold & foggy weather.

Mon 4/12/16 Did not go out today, no post for me yet, a fair bit of shelling this afternoon, enemy blew up part of B coy's cook house. One of our men was taken away unconscious, suffering from shell-shock. Were issued with cigarettes today, still have to go out in town to billet, heavy shelling at 11.30 tonight on both sides. Were issued with water-proof overcoats tonight.

Tue 5/12/16 Started making a dug-out this afternoon. A 10th Machine Gunner was killed by a rifle grenade this morning & one wounded, several of our men wounded last night. Gas attack at 6.30 this evening, I had just left trenches & got to my billet when the alarm went, kept my helmet on about 20 mins & it was over, another alarm at 11.30 tonight, woke up & put helmet on in bed.

Wed 6/12/16 Worked on dug-out this morning, went out on No 2 Sniper's post after dinner, did not see anything. Enemy dropped 4 pine-apples from his trench mortars about 30

yds from our post, too close to be pleasant. We sent over a lot of shrapnel & shells.

Thu 7/12/16 Worked on dug-out all day. Very quiet all morning, Fritz sent some minnies over this afternoon, one fell on A coy cook house, killed one man & badly wounded another, our artillery fired a fair lot of shells. Got three letters & a parcel today. A lot of our fellows gone to hospital sick.

Fri 8/12/16 Worked on dug-out today, went round to C coy to see about pay this evening, but did not get any.

Sat 9/12/16 Rained lightly all day. About half battalion went out trenches today, the 39th Batt are taking their places, we are going out tomorrow morning.

Sun 10/12/16 Came out trenches for 6 day's spell, the 39th Battn relieved us, we are billeted with A coy. The Huns shelled billet of D coy & killed 1 man & wounded 11 some seriously, this afternoon at 3.30, they sent 4 shells & the last one fell in doorway as men were rushing out, it did the damage. Two snipers who were camped with us, were there seeing their mates & 1 was killed & other wounded, both brothers.

Mon 11/12/16 Two more men wounded yesterday have since died. Enemy fired more than 50 shots at one of our planes this morning but did not hit it. Our guns bombarded heavily about an hour at 3 A.M. I was on cook's fatigue for a while today. A lot of shooting at aeroplanes today but none were hit. We were not allowed out of billet at all today.

Tue 12/12/16 We were detailed for fatigue with C coy in trenches today, but could not find them so did not go. It snowed a little today & was wet & miserable all day, not allowed out of billets today. Got an alarm about 7.30 & everyone had to stand to, we went up to H Q & carried down about 20 boxes ammunition to billet & waited about an hour, then were dismissed.

Wed 13/12/16 We were out digging a drain today, Fritz shelled it, we had to go back for a couple of hours till he knocked off, we went back & did a bit more & came in at 2 P.M. 90 of us had to go out tonight & carried up gas cylinders to the front line of 40th Battn, about 2 miles, we got back at 9.30.

Thu 14/12/16 Out drain digging again this morning, came back at 12.30, had some shrapnel fired at us but no one was hurt, had a spell this afternoon.

Fri 15/12/16 The first lot of men went back to the trenches this morning, we go in tomorrow. We had our bath today & got a clean change of clothes, had a couple of hours in town this afternoon, I met Billy Blair, he is in Pioneers now.

Sat 16/12/16 We went back to trenches again this morning for another 6 days, had to rebuild our dug-out, one wall had fallen in, had to go out to Houpinnes to camp tonight.

Sun 17/12/16 Finished dug-out today & 4 of us camped in it tonight. Very quiet all day, peace rumours about.

Mon 18/12/16 I did not go out today, was on gas-guard tonight for two hours, 12.30 to 2.30. Trench mortars were fairly active today.

Tue 19/12/16 Bitterly cold today & snowed this evening at 4 o'clock for a couple of hours.

A lot of shelling on both sides today.

Wed 20/12/16 I went out on No 5 Post this morning, very cold, snow was frozen, did not melt, sun shone out a bit today & aeroplanes were very busy, there were hundreds of shells fired at planes today but none hit. Half snipers went out this morning & 39th came in, we go out tomorrow.

Thu 21/12/16 We went out this morning & went into a billet well up in town near 11-30 square, went & had a bath after dinner, were allowed out, no guard on this time.

Fri 22/12/16 Wrote a few letters this morning & went on fatigue this afternoon carrying barb wire up to front line.

Sat 23/12/16 We carried 100 plum puddings up to front line this morning for the trench mortars & finished at 12 o'clock, rained a good deal today. A minnie from enemy fell near a trench mortar & exploded their bombs & killed three men & an officer, 9th Brigade T.M.B.

Sun 24/12/16 Were on fatigue revetting in trenches this afternoon. Very heavy shelling all the evening on both sides. A nice clear day today & the aeroplanes were very busy & the anti air-craft guns did a lot of shelling. A minnie landed among a working party of 38th & killed 5 & wounded 4.

Mon 25/12/16 No work for us today, we had a fair dinner, plum pudding & roast meat & all got some chocolate & cigarettes, a lot of them got parcels, mine have not turned up yet. I went up to Y.M.C.A. in afternoon & wrote some letters. The raiding party went in trenches this evening to make a raid. General Monash & some other heads inspected the billets this afternoon.

Tue 26/12/16 The raiding party was a success & got a deal of booty but no prisoners as enemy cleared out of trenches, three killed & 4 wounded. We were on fatigue all the morning, trench digging & went on picket at 4.30 this evening. We go in trenches tomorrow for another go.

Wed 27/12/16 We left billet at 7.30 & got to dug-out in trenches at 9 A.M. All specialists came in this morning. Some of our snipers went on posts, I did not go out today.

Thu 28/12/16 A very hard frost this morning & did not melt all day. I was out on No 3 post this morning & we had 4 shots at enemy, hit one & think we hit another. Most of battalion came in today, a lot of firing at aeroplanes today.

Fri 29/12/16 I went out on No 3 post again this afternoon, but did not get a shot. Trench mortars very active this afternoon & artillery fired a lot of shells, the New Zealand artillery gave him a farewell shelling, British artillery are taking over now. Some of our men gassed by gas shells today but not seriously.

Sat 30/12/16 I was on No 3 post this morning, had a shot & was nearly hit myself, Fritz sent a bullet between me & my mate almost through loophole, I think he must have spotted our position, he very nearly got us. I went up with party to Tissage dump for rations tonight. Got 4 letters today. A lot of bombarding through the night.

Sun 31/12/16 I was on No 2 post this morning but did not get a shot. Artillery & trench mortars very active today, this afternoon was the heaviest bombardment since we came here, Fritz did not return much, he sent a few into the town. I was on gas guard tonight 8 - 10.15. There is to be a raid on Fritz's trenches at 12 tonight right along this front. A pioneer officer killed in town by shrapnel today.

Mon 1/1/17 I was on No 2 post this morning saw one or two but did not get a shot. We had plum pudding for dinner today & each got a tin of lollies. Some of bombers were wounded by a whiz-bang this evening. Mr Hossman[?] was hit on shoulder & arm.

Tue 2/1/17 We came out of trenches this morning & billeted at the rope factory this time. Hun bombarded our trenches this afternoon sent over 30 shells in 1/4 of an hour, we had 5 men killed and several wounded today. George Boon was killed about 4 o'clock this evening by a shell, two others were also killed by same shell.

Wed 3/1/17 The rest of battalion came out today & we had a bath this evening. The Huns shelled our transports tonight & killed one man & two horses & gassed another man. Germans bombarded the 40th Battn heavily tonight.

Thu 4/1/17 We did not do anything today but went out on fatigue tonight at 5 & got back at 10.30, we were filling sand bags up in the Subsidiary trench.

Fri 5/1/17 Aeroplanes very busy this morning & the air-craft guns fired a lot of shells. I got a parcel today but it must have been changed with someone else & he must have got mine, his address was 124 L J Byrnes, 12th Machine Gun Coy & came from Gordonvale friends via Cairns Queensland. Were out again tonight at work in the trenches.

Sat 6/1/17 Did not get up till 8 this morning & went out again tonight on fatigue in trenches. We were paid this afternoon.

Sun 7/1/17 An aeroplane was brought down today, I think it was one of our's. C of E communion service tonight by Chaplain Best.

Mon 8/1/17 We went back to trenches this morning, did not go out on post today. I got a parcel from Ada tonight. One of our fellows killed & one badly wounded today.

Tue 9/1/17 I went out on No 3 post this morning, did not get a shot. There was a heavy bombardment at 6 tonight by both sides & some of our brigade made a raid on Fritz's trenches.

Wed 10/1/17 I was on No 3 post this afternoon, there was a lively bit of shelling at 3 P.M. for about half an hour & again tonight at 6.30, the shells went very close to our post. The 39th made a very successful raid last night.

Thu 11/1/17 I went out to No 3 post this morning, very cold & a little snow fell, did not get a shot.

Fri 12/1/17 I went out to No 3 post this afternoon with Lane. We had all to go out into Subsidiary trenches this evening, we expected a bombardment as we were sending over gas but wind was not favourable & it did not come off.

Sat 13/1/17 We came out of trenches this morning & billeted at half past eleven square. I saw Jack Hunter this evening & we went to a concert at the Y.M.C.A., their battalion goes into trenches tomorrow.

Sun 14/1/17 We did nothing today, had a spell.

Mon 15/1/17 We went to a miniature range & did some shooting this morning. I got nine letters today, very cold all day.

Tue 16/1/17 We were up at miniature range this morning & fired 20 rounds each. It snowed last night & was bitterly cold all day, we were paid this afternoon.

Wed 17/1/17 About 4" of snow on ground this morning & it snowed all day, we are leaving here for Steenwurch in the morning.

Thu 18/1/17 We had breakfast at 5.30 this morning & packed up & left billet at 7.30, got to our new camp near Steenwurch at 11.30, we are camped in small huts 22 in each, it is a very muddy camp. Snow everywhere about 6" deep & very cold, name of camp Jess's farm about 1 1/2 miles from Steenwurch.

Fri 19/1/17 The snow has not melted yet & it was very cold all day, most of company went out on fatigue, 25 of us[?] got leave to go to Steenwurch this evening, must be back at 8.30.

Sat 20/1/17 Snow has frozen hard now & ice everywhere this morning, did not melt all day, did nothing today.

Sun 21/1/17 Snow & ice still here & not likely to melt till we have rain, went for a march to Steenwurch this afternoon. I went into Steenwurch this evening & went to the pictures.

Mon 22/1/17 Still very cold & snow is just same. A very heavy bombardment by artillery. All the afternoon & till late last night.

Tue 23/1/17 A very hard frost last night, the ice on pools of water was hard enough to skate on this morning. Several men injured while skating today, a very clear day but the sun was not strong enough to melt frost.

Wed 24/1/17 Another clear day but very cold, some shooting at aeroplane today, we did a little work digging out frozen duckboards. This afternoon a man broke his collarbone skating on the ice today.

Thu 25/1/17 Had to go on coal fatigue at Steenwurch station today, have to load lorries out of trucks & go into Armentieres & unload it at the dump, I got back to camp at 5.30 & we had to shift into another hut tonight. A fine day but bitterly cold, worked with gloves on all day.

Fri 26/1/17 On coal fatigue at Steenwurch today, got word at 1 o'clock to come back to camp & we packed up ready to move off but did not leave camp till 9 P.M., then we marched to trenches at Chapelle Armentieres, about 10 miles & relieved the Northumberland Fusiliers. I went in with my platoon & camped in a dug-out in the subsidiary line tonight, we got there at 3 A.M. The 39th & 40th are in front line & we

are in support.

Sat 27/1/17 Got up at 6.30 & carried rations from dump to Sub. I got word to report to B.H.Q. & packed up & got there at 12.30, all the snipers are camped there in an old building. Nice & clear but just as cold, Ice & snow has not melted yet. Lieut Robinson is our officer now. Colonel Woods has had a nervous breakdown & is going back to Australia. Major Smith the Brigade Major is to be our C.O.

Sun 28/1/17 Did nothing today, nice & clear but freezing cold. Enemy sent over a good few shells close to our billet, they hit two of our guns this morning. Our guns brought down two enemy planes at Steenwurch today. Our raiders went over to Fritz's trenches tonight, Lieu Parker & Sgt Rodgers killed & some wounded, they got a good few of the enemy.

Mon 29/1/17 Still fine weather but below freezing point, did nothing today, some of battalion moved off to raiding school today.

Tue 30/1/17 Half snipers went away this morning to join company on a special stunt, they are forming a raiding party. We are to go up to trenches in the morning, snowed a little tonight. We are relieving the 39th Battn & going in new trenches from Wellington avenue to Mine avenue.

Wed 31/1/17 Packed up & left billet for trenches at 9 A.M., went into dug-outs in a 1st Support trench. I went on to a post this afternoon, had to go out to a dump for rations tonight, did not get back till 12 o'clock. Enemy bombarded our trenches from 7 to 8 & made a bit of a raid but did not get in our side, had about 30 casualties, this was heaviest barrage I have been in so far.

Thu 1/2/17 I went on No 3 post by myself as we are short-handed, from 12-5. Fritz sent over 120 shells in gap at right of my post this afternoon. We had to shift our quarters to Subsidiary trench tonight. 12 snipers from 38th & 42nd Battn joined us tonight.

Fri 2/2/17 We are to do 2 hour shifts from now on, I went on from 10 to 12 today. Still fine weather but just as cold.

Sat 3/2/17 I went to No 3 post from 8-10 & 4-6 today. Weather fine but cold.

Sun 4/2/17 Went out from 10 to 12 A.M. today, artillery on both sides fairly active today. Clear cold weather & aeroplanes are busy.

Mon 5/2/17 Went out on post from 6 to 8 A.M. then went on sick parade & got permission to go for a bath, went up after dinner to baths & got back at 8 P.M. Weather still fine but no warmer.

Tue 6/2/17 Went out from 6 to 8 A.M. & 2 to 4 P.M. quiet today, aeroplanes active. Fritz sent over a few shells into the Subsidiary tonight.

*[Entries for Mon 5th, Tue 6th and Wed 7th are duplicated on pages for 7th to 9th. Entries for those days are written below them.]*

Wed 7/2/17 I was out from 10 A.M. to 12 & 4 to 6 P.M. Artillery very active all day & a lot of shooting at planes took place. Fritz sent a shell within 20 yds of cookhouse &

nearly got some of our dug-outs also.

Thu 8/2/17 I was out from 8 to 10 & 4 to 6 today, nice clear weather, the sun is getting a little warmer but not strong enough to melt snow yet.

Fri 9/2/17 I was out from 8 to 10 & 2 to 4 today, a lot of shelling on both sides today, our artillery shelled[?] all night. We were supposed to go out tonight but did not.

Sat 10/2/17 I was out from 12 to 2 P.M. today. We went out of trenches tonight at 6.15 & to billets in a big building in Chapelle de Armentieres. Artillery very active all night.

Sun 11/2/17 Gave our pay-books in today, we are getting new ones. I went up to Y.M.C.A this afternoon & wrote a few letters. A heavy barrage by our guns at 10 tonight for about an hour.

Mon 12/2/17 Did nothing today. The Tyneside Scottish made a raid last night, they brought back some prisoners.

Tue 13/2/17 Went on fatigue up in trenches we are going into next, this afternoon. The snow has nearly thawed now, had a little rain last night & this morning & it melted it.

Wed 14/2/17 Three more snipers had to go up to raiding school this morning. I & two other snipers went into trenches tonight, the rest come in tomorrow night, we are relieving 39th Battn & are in new trenches again, sector on left of last sector from Wine avenue to Leith Walk.

Thu 15/2/17 I went out with one of 39th snipers to Cow post from 8 to 10 & 2 to 4. Our men came in tonight, we are camped in an old building behind subsidiary line & have a good camp. Some men were paid today.

("End") *[It is 12 months since Pte Derrick joined up and began his diary. The empty pages at the beginning of the book are now full. The next entry, 16 Feb, is on pages for 'Notes' at the rear of the book.]*

Fri 16/2/17 I went out on post from 10 to 12 today, had to go down to Wine avenue for rations tonight, our artillery gave enemy a very heavy bombardment for about an hour tonight at 8 o'clock. I am going to Mont de Catta[?] to a sniper's school tomorrow morning.

Sat 17/2/17 I left camp at 7 A.M. and went up to 11.30 square, left there by motor lorry at 10 & got to Mt de Cats at 1 P.M., we are billeted in a big shed, we went up to the hospital & had a bath in the afternoon, paraded at 5 P.M. and had our telescopic sights tested, had tea at 5.30.

Sun 18/2/17 Got up at 6, breakfast at 7, lecture in school from 8 to 9, then went up to 100 yds range & tested our rifles & fired 2 lots of grouping, after dinner fired 20 rounds snap shooting, then had a lecture from 4.30 to 5.30, then had tea.

Feb 18th to Friday 23rd was the length of course. School finished on Friday & we left there Friday evening at 2.30 by train for Hazebrouck, we stayed there that night, it is a very nice town.

- Sat 24/2/17 Left Hazebrouck at 6.30 & trained to Steinwurch, got there at 8 A.M., went in a transport from there to Armentieres & went back to trenches that night. P O'Farrell killed tonight.
- Sun 25/2/17 We went out trenches tonight, the 40th Battn relieved us, will be out 4 or 5 days.
- Tue 27/2/17 Our boys raided Fritz last night & had a very successful raid, we had a bath this afternoon.
- Thu 1/3/17 All specialists had to join their companies this evening & will work with companies in future. Our battn is formed up again.
- Fri 2/3/17 Battalion was reorganised today, we are all back in our old platoons again. we went into trenches tonight & I was on patrol in front line all night.
- Sat 3/3/17 I came off patrol at 6.30 & went back to 2nd support line, had breakfast & slept all day, went on patrol again at 5.30.
- Sun 4/3/17 Came off patrol at 6.30, went back & slept all day till evening, went on patrol again at 5.30, very cold.
- Mon 5/3/17 Came off patrol at 6.30, went back to supports for day, 10 & 12 platoons took our place tonight on patrol. I went out with scout tonight from 9.30 to 12.30.
- Tue 6/3/17 Slept all day, went out with scout on listening post from 6.30 to 9.30.
- Wed 7/3/17 Slept through day & went out on listening post with scout from 3.30 to 6.30 A.M. Very cold snowed today.
- Thu 8/3/17 A new British division the 151st Lancashire regiment relieved us today & we left trenches at 2 P.M. & went to Urqueinhem & camped in huts tonight, very cold, snowed a little all day.
- Fri 9/3/17 We had a bath today & shifted up to Blue Blind factory tonight at 7 P.M. & there were about 1000 en camped there in one building tonight, snowed a bit today.
- Sat 10/3/17 Shifted again this morning to 11.30 square, had a spell rest of the day.
- Sun 11/3/17 Did a little fatigue at billet for an hour, free for rest of day, we were paid this evening.
- Mon 12/3/17 Did nothing today, were to go out wiring tonight, but it was cancelled.
- Tue 13/3/17 Did nothing all day, went out wiring tonight from 5.30 to 10.30. Our artillery put up a very heavy barrage tonight at 10.30 lasting 1 & 1/2 hrs. A party of raiders from 11th Brgde went over.
- Wed 14/3/17 Went out on fatigue at 5 P.M. up in front line fixing trench, Fritz shelled us & we left job & got back at 9.30.
- Thu 15/3/17 We were out wiring tonight at 11 P.M., got back at 5 A.M.
- Fri 16/3/17 We went out wiring again tonight, one of our party got a bullet through big toe.

- Sat 17/3/17 We went out wiring tonight from 5.30 to 10.30.
- Sun 18/3/17 Had an early dinner, then left billets for Steenworck, got to camp about a mile past Steenworck.
- Mon 19/3/17 The battalion was reorganised again today, I am in the rifle grenadiers now, we played football after dinner.
- Tue 20/3/17 We were out throwing grenades & firing rifle grenades today till 2 o'clock, it snowed a little today, we are moving off tomorrow morning, we were paid tonight.
- Wed 21/3/17 We left camp at 8.30 with full packs on our 3 days march, went 11 miles today, got to billets at 3 P.M., camped in shed tonight, snowed through night.
- Thu 22/3/17 Left camp at 8 & went 13 & 1/2 miles today, passed through Steenworck & the small towns & got to camp at 3.30, camped in shed again, snowed a good deal today.
- Fri 23/3/17 Left camp at 8 & marched 10 miles & got to our destination at 3 P.M., very cold all day, we passed St Omer today & are billeted in a big shed on a farm 5 miles past St Omer at Lulene.
- Sat 24/3/17 Fell in at 9 o'clock & had a short march till 11. Fell in again at 2 o'clock & had a short march, dismissed at 4 P.M. Very cold wind all day.
- Sun 25/3/17 The clocks were put on 1 hour last night. Had church parade this morning, the whole of Brigade were there, had kit inspection after dinner.
- Mon 26/3/17 Had a lecture on grenades & a bit of throwing today, went down to village tonight.
- Tue 27/3/17 Went into St Omer for a bath today, had a couple of hours leave in town, got back at 4 P.M., wet & cold all day.
- Wed 28/3/17 Went to bootmaker & got my boots mended today, leave to St Omer granted.
- Thu 29/3/17 Very wet this morning, had some battle practise in the new style today.
- Fri 30/3/17 Had gas drill & helmets tested this morning, battle practise in mass formation after dinner.
- Sat 31/3/17 We were out digging trenches to practise new style on. Went on leave, got back at 9.30.
- Sun 1/4/17 Church parade at 9.30, had to cut it short as it started to snow, snowed about an hour. Had lecture in billet after dinner on attacking & taking position. Too wet to practise outside.
- Mon 2/4/17 The whole brigade was out today & practised attacking & taking four lines of trenches, got back at 2 o'clock, bitterly cold wind all day.
- Tue 3/4/17 About 9" of snow on ground this morning & snowed all morning, could not carry out our stunt so had lectures inside billet today.
- Wed 4/4/17 Brigade was out again today at trenches, got back at 1 P.M., plenty of snow

about, over 1 foot deep in places, had plenty of snow-balling today, we were paid tonight. Am going back to Armentieres tomorrow.

Thu 5/4/17 We left billets at 9 A.M. & marched 18 miles today, got to camp at 7 P.M., roads very heavy & sloppy as snow melted today.

Fri 6/4/17 Good Friday. We left billet at 8 A.M. & got to our destination in Armentieres at 8.15 P.M. Marched 24 miles today, we went through Hazebrouck & Balleuil, are billeted in a big linoleum factory now.

Sat 7/4/17 Did nothing today, very tired after the march, went to pictures this evening. went through monastery at Wisques tonight.

Sun 8/4/17 Easter Sunday. Church parade in billets at 9.30. I met W. Dyring at 11 A.M. & went out with him till 2 P.M.

Mon 9/4/17 On fatigue in trenches this morning, went to concert in Y.M.C.A. tonight. The gallery was reserved for 37th Battn. A very good show.

Tue 10/4/17 Went out to parade ground at 9.30 & did some drill, had dinner there & came back at 4.30 P.M., a very cold, windy day & snowed a little.

*(These final three entries are written on the last page in the diary. Pte Derrick turns to the start of the book and begins to fill spaces under previous entries.)*

Wed 11/4/17 We were on fatigue at Y.M.C.A. today, sanitary work finished at 4 P.M., snowed this evening.

Thu 12/4/17 Out on parade ground today, getting instruction on strong posts by engineers, had a bath this evening, very cold today.

Fri 13/4/17 Out all day on parade ground, had some instruction on wiring & did some bayonet fighting, had a concert in our billet tonight & Captain Robinson gave a barrel of beer to company.

Sat 14/4/17 Did some wiring this morning, had a short march after dinner. A German plane flew over us this morning.

Sun 15/4/17 Church parade at 10 A.M. in our billet. I went to communion at 11 A.M. I am going into trenches tonight, specialists go in tonight.

Mon 16/4/17 Went out on post with 39th sniper from 7.30 to 10.30 & 3 to 7 P.M. We are in a fresh sector this time right of Houplines, the rest of battalion came in tonight, rained all night.

Tue 17/4/17 I was out on the observation post this morning, saw several of the enemy & saw some women & children about the houses behind his lines, very cold & windy today.

Wed 18/4/17 I was on post in front line from 6 to 8.30 & 2 to 7.30 P.M. today, snowed this morning. Jagoe was wounded last night.

Thu 19/4/17 I was on the O.P. from 8 till 2 P.M. today. A good deal of shelling on both sides today. Mick Mulvary was killed by a shell this afternoon.

Fri 20/4/17 I gave my rifle in & got a new one with luminous sights this morning, was on post in front line this morning & evening, a good deal of shelling today by both sides. No rifle D32077.

Sat 21/4/17 Out from 8 to 2 P.M. today, Fritz sent over a lot of minnies this morning.

Sun 22/4/17 On was on post from 2 till 7 P.M. Fritz did a lot of shelling today & nearly got our post. Tonight at 12 o'clock, enemy put over a heavy barrage & everyone stood to, we expected a raid, the barrage lasted about an hour but he did not raid, I think our artillery kept him back, we lost 7 men & 15 wounded, Lieut Hunter was killed by shell, had to do fatigue repairing trenches after shelling stopped.

Mon 23/4/17 Our posts were damaged by shells last night & we did not do much observing today. Some of the Tommies (Kings 5th Liverpool) who are relieving us came in tonight.

Tue 24/4/17 I was out on O.P. from 8 to 2 P.M. One of our aeroplanes brought down a Hun plane at 12.30 today, it burst in to flames just before reaching the ground. Some more of Tommies came in tonight, we go out tomorrow night.

Wed 25/4/17 I was out on observation post this morning, we went out at 8 p.m. tonight to billets half a mile past 11.30 square.

Thu 26/4/17 We went up near the Y.M.C.A this morning & had a short lecture by Captain Lambden on consolidating mine craters & shell holes. I went down & saw J Hunter tonight.

Fri 27/4/17 We voted this morning for the federal elections. I went to the Pierrotts[?] at the Y.M.C.A. tonight. We are leaving billets at 1 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Sat 28/4/17 We left billets at 1.30 a.m. & marched to Ploggstet, got there at 3.30, we camped in the catacomb (Woolangarra) did nothing today, lovely warm day. Spring has set in now.

Sun 29/4/17 Went up to front line on fatigue this afternoon. Quite warm today. Church service & communion in Y.M.C.A this morning.

Mon 30/4/17 Fritz bombarded at 4.30 this morning & then raided the 39th, he put over a very heavy barrage. We were up in front line on fatigue this afternoon.

Tue 1/5/17 I was one of escort today, had to go to 38th B.H.Q. to court martial, got back at 4.39 p.m/ Lovely warm weather.

Wed 2/5/17 Went to Pt de Nieppe this morning for a bath, on fatigue up in front line this afternoon, saw J.H. We were paid tonight.

Thu 3/5/17 Were on fatigue this morning up near front line, got back at 2 p.m. Concert in Y.M.C.A. tonight by the N.Z. Bn. Weather getting quite warm.

Fri 4/5/17 I was on gas guard today. Concert at Y.M.C.A. tonight by our Battn. A shell burst in New Zealand canteen this evening & killed 1 & wounded several.

Sat 5/5/17 I came off guard at 4 a.m. Fritz raided the N.Z. this morning & was cut up. He

shelled round our dug-out tonight & several shrapnel went through the roof of Y.M.C.A.

Sun 6/5/17 Did nothing today, went out on fatigue tonight carrying material up to a dug-out near front line, got back at 11.30.

Mon 7/5/17 Went out on fatigue this afternoon, building a dug-out near front line. Our artillery shelled Fritz for a little while all along the line tonight at 8.30.

Tue 8/5/17 I was on light duties today & did not go out on fatigue. Still having lovely weather.

Wed 9/5/17 Out on fatigue up in front line this afternoon; Australian mail in tonight, I got five letters, very warm today.

Thu 10/5/17 Out on fatigue in front line this afternoon. Concert in Y.M.C.A. by our battalion tonight.

Fri 11/5/17 We went out on fatigue up in front line this morning, got back at 2 p.m.

Sat 12/5/17 Out on fatigue up in Subsidiary line this afternoon. Weather still very warm.

Sun 13/5/17 We shifted from the catacomb to the woods this morning & went out on fatigue tonight, some of our men went into trenches tonight, we go in tomorrow night & relieve the 40th Battn; hot & sultry today, a bit of a thunder storm tonight.

Mon 14/5/17 Did a little fatigue today, our artillery were very active all day. We moved into trenches at 9 p.m. tonight & camped in Toronto avenue.

Tue 15/5/17 I did nothing today, may start sniping tomorrow, the 40th did no sniping on this sector. Our artillery & trench mortars very active all day.

Wed 16/5/17 I went up to front line on fatigue this morning. our fellows were straafig[?] & all men had to come back from front line so did not do much.

Thu 17/5/17 Was up in front line building sand bags till dinner time. The N.Zs raided Fritz last night. Raining a bit today & also last night. Enemy put over a heavy barrage & raided the battn on our right but were driven back, hardly a man got into our trenches.

Fri 18/5/17 Went up to front line tonight in bombing bay, was on all night. At 8.50 tonight enemy put over a barrage & raided on our right. D coy the 34th Battn got it all, they drove his raiders back with heavy loss, our fellows had very few casualties, our artillery got on to them quickly & our men in front line put a heavy machine gun & rifle fire on to them, none of them reached our trenches.

Sat 19/5/17 Went back from bombing post at 4.30 a.m. & slept all day, went up again tonight at 8 p.m., enemy quiet tonight, our T.M. & artillery very active all day.

Sun 20/5/17 Slept today, went on again tonight, fairly quiet all night.

Mon 21/5/17 Australian mail in tonight, got 5 letters, went on again tonight, N.Z. raided tonight, a lot of bombarding tonight along line on our left. We are being relieved tomorrow night.

- Tue 22/5/17 Went up to front line tonight, were relieved at 11.15 by 38th & went back to the woods to camp. A number of our planes went over behind enemy lines tonight.
- Wed 23/5/17 Did nothing today, we shifted again tonight at 9.30 about 2 miles towards Pont De Nieppe & are camped in huts.
- Thu 24/5/17 Had a spell today & went on fatigue tonight. Saw some of the 4th Divn today. A heavy bombardment tonight at 11 p.m..
- Fri 25/5/17 One of our planes came down this morning just in front of our camp, was not damaged much & the men in her were not hurt. We went on fatigue tonight, were paid today, one of our platoon was hit by a stray bullet tonight. (*Four symbols: ? h.c ?*)
- Sat 26/5/17 We went for a bath this morning, went out on fatigue tonight digging a communication trench. Our artillery very active now.
- Sun 27/5/17 I went to church in Y.M.C.A this morning, went out on fatigue this afternoon. A lot of shelling on both sides today, a good few casualties today. Enemy fired at our observation balloon tonight, did not hit it.
- Mon 28/5/17 The 38th raided the enemy at 2 a.m. this morning & brought back a couple of prisoners, they had a few casualties. I went into Nieppe this afternoon as one of escort to prisoners.
- Tue 29/5/17 The 39th raided last night, lost a few men. Some of battalion went back to Moorbeck today, they will not be in the advance. We went out on fatigue this afternoon.
- Wed 30/5/17 We went out this afternoon on fatigue, some of our men wounded this afternoon. We were paid tonight, the 40th raided last night.
- Thu 31/5/17 We shifted up 1 & 1/2 miles towards Nieppe this morning at 9 a.m. & and camped in huts, we went up to trenches on fatigue this afternoon. At 9 p.m. tonight and enemy plane came over & brought down one of our balloons, he fired on it & set it on fire & it was burnt up in about 5 mins. The two men came down alright in parachutes. Our raiding party went over last but did not get in, they all got back safely.
- Fri 1/6/17 We went up at 3.30 p.m. & had a look at the model of trenches that we are to take in the advance. We went out to trenches tonight on fatigue, did an hours work & had to leave as enemy was shelling too close to us. A dump of ours at Hyde Park exploded today & caused a number of casualties.
- Sat 2/6/17 All working parties were cancelled today, the bombardment is starting tonight. Had a lecture this afternoon by Mr Stubbs on our plan of attack on trenches we are to take in big advance. I saw two of our new three deck aeroplanes this afternoon. A concert in Y.M.C.A. cinema hall tonight in celebration of anniversary of our leaving Australia, all battn talent & some pictures given by Y.M.C.A.
- Sun 3/6/17 The rest of battn who will be a reserve went away this morning, 5 went out of platoon. I went to church parade at 9 a.m. in cinema hall, stayed to communion. Had a

little drill & a lecture after dinner, went to cinema tonight.

Mon 4/6/17 Went out on fatigue at 8 a.m., but could not get up to trenches as enemy was shelling roads very heavily, we got back at 2 p.m. Our company is sending over a raiding party of 10 men & 1 n.c.o, I am going over with them.

Tue 5/6/17 We are going over to raid at 9.30 tonight, went up to model this morning to see where we are going over. We left camp at 7 & got to trenches at 9 p.m. Our barrage opened at 9.30, but enemy opened up just before our barrage & our sergeant decided not to go over, enemy put over a very heavy barrage & we had to stay in front line till it was over, none of us were hurt, it lasted nearly an hour, we got back to camp at 12.15 p.m. Several other raiding parties went over but only one got in.

Wed 6/6/17 The push starts tomorrow at 3 a.m., we were preparing for it this afternoon & left camp at 11 p.m. for trenches, had to wear gas helmets most of the way as he was putting over gas shells in hundreds, did not reach our trench till 2.40 a.m. & lost several men on the way, our officer was killed on road, & all of us suffered a bit from the gas.

[ Wounded during Battle of Messines

Thu 7/6/17 Mines went up at 3.10 & then the barrage opened & the 1st wave went over. We had to wait in our trench till 10 a.m under bombardment all the time. At 10 am we started off & went across through enemy 1st & 2nd lines which our brigade had captured & moved on past them & waited there till after 3 p.m.. We then started our attack to reach our objective 600 yds further on & got there about 5 p.m. but lost a lot of men. I was knocked over by a bullet just before reaching our position. I got my wound dressed & walked to dressing station then had it properly dressed & went to Steenwiuck [?] in motor & stayed there for night.

Fri 8/6/17 Left Stenwiuck at 7 a.m. & went in hospital train to Etaples, got there at 1 p.m. & put in No 7 Canadian Gen Hospital. Stayed there 8th, 9th, 10th & was treated very well, left there on 11th at 5.30 a.m & went in ambulance to station, put on hospl train which left at 7.30 & reached Calais at 12 noon then put on hospital ship Princess Elizabeth & left Calais at 3.10 p.m & got to Dover at 4.30 p.m, then on to train & down past London to Cheltenham, got to Maunton Park Hospital at 2 a.m on the 12th June.

( *Next entry is June 12th*)

Tue 12/6/17 1st day in this hospital, it is a V.A.D. & seems alright. Today is the 2nd anniversary of the opening of this place, had entertainment outside & took patients out in their beds.

( *Next entry is June 25th*)

Mon 25/6/17 Got a few letters today & got news to day that Horace had died of wounds.

Mon 4/7/17 Two of us went to Gloucester for day, went boating on the Severn River.

[ *No entries for July 5th to 22nd*]

Mon 23/7/17 I left hospital & went to London to go on furlough, stayed at the War Chest Club for a few days. I have 14 days leave.

*[ No entries for July 24,25 & 26th]*

Fri 27/7/17 I met Les Nichol this afternoon, he came over from France today on 10 days leave. We spent a few days in Lond. I met Tom Spurr & Les Abbot also on leave.

*[ No entries for July 28,29 & 30th]*

Tue 31/7/17 We left King's Cross tonight for Falkirk (Scotland) & got there at 11 a.m next morning, stayed with some people named Clark.

Thu 2/8/17 We went to Stirling today, got back to Falkirk at 5 p.m.

Fri 3/8/17 We went through foundry & munitions works this afternoon.

Sat 4/8/17 Mr Clark took us up to Lock Lomond today, we had a few hours in Edinburgh too & got back at 11 p.m.

Sun 5/8/17 Went to church this morning & back to Edinburgh this evening at 6 p.m. Went & saw Brekyrs our cousins & left Edinburgh for London at 10 p.m tonight, got to London at 7.30 & went to the club.

Mon 6/8/17 I left Waterloo at 3.50 p.m for Verham Downs, got to camp at 8.00.

Tue 7/8/17 I was classified today B1 A3 & got my kit. I met Ted Lynch here in camp. I was inoculated today.

Wed 8/8/17 Did nothing today, exempt on account of inoculation.

Thu 9/8/17 Went on parade at 8.30 & had jerks & games till dinner time & short route march after dinner.

Fri 10/8/17 Did the same again today.

Sat 11/8/17 Physical drill till dinner time. I went over to 6th Divn this afternoon & met a lot of old boys. I met Mac & went onto Lugwahall this evening with him.

Sun 12/8/17 Church parade this morning. I met Jack Hart[unclear] this afternoon. A concert in Y.M.C.A. tonight , the Lord Mayor & his wife were out with a Bristol party.

Mon 13/8/17 I was classified today & will go to Dental camp tomorrow.

Tue 14/8/17 I went to dental camp, camped in a tent now.

Wed 15/8/17 Physical jerks this morning, went for mail after dinner.

Thu 16/8/17 Went up to dentist & had a tooth filled & he marked me for teeth.

Fri 17/8/17 Physical drill this morning, medical inspection the afternoon.

Sat 18/8/17 Had a short march this morning, had my impression taken for teeth this afternoon, got 5 letters last night. A concert by a London party last night in C of E.

*[ No entries Aug 19,20,21 & 22nd]*

Thu 23/8/17 I got my teeth today.

Fri 24/8/17 Dental inspection this morning & shifted up to evacuation platoon.

Sat 25/8/17 I shifted over to No 7 camp this afternoon.

Sun 26/8/17 Church parade this morning. Herb Polmear came over this evening but I missed him.

Mon 27/8/17 Got our equipment this morning, drilled all day.

Tue 28/8/17 Up at 6, jerks before breakfast. drill till 4.30 p.m. Rained all week.

Fri 31/8/17 Had an all day route march, got back at 5 p.m. A concert in C. of E. building tonight.

Sat 1/9/17 We shifted up to No 6 camp this morning. I was on picket in Lungershall tonight till 9.30.

*[undated]* Had a week in medium camp & shifted to No 5 camp today, Sept 8th. I met Jack Hunter this evening.

Mon 10/9/17 We were picked out for next draft this afternoon & will be going tomorrow very likely back to France.

Tue 11/9/17 We are not going for a few days now.

*[ No entries Aug 12,13,&14th]*

Sat 15/8/17 Shifted up into tent last night, are all ready to move off now, expect to go on Monday.

Sun 16/9/17 Church parade this morning, did not go today.

Mon 17/9/17 We went today, left camp at 12.30 & marched to Tidworth, left there at 2 p.m. & got to Southampton at 3.30, went on board at 4.30 & boat left at 6 p.m. & reached Harve at about 4 a.m. Stayed out in the harbour till about 12.00.

Tue 18/9/17 We got off boat at 12.30 p.m. & marched out to our base depot about 8 miles out, got to camp at 4.30 p.m., are camped in tents.

Wed 19/9/17 Got up at 5.30, had breakfast at 6.30, then on parade at 7.30. we had a medical inspection & a bath this morning. Went & tested out gas helmets this afternoon through gas.

Thu 20/9/17 Reveille at 5.30, breakfast at 6.30, fall in at 7.15, went up to the bull-ring. Went through 2 lots of gas this morning & afternoon. Got back at 5 p.m.

Fri 21/9/17 At the bull ring all day.

Sat 22/9/17 All day at the bull ring, bombing this morning & bayonet fighting this afternoon, went to pictures tonight.

*[ No entry 23/9 ]*

Mon 24/9/17 Medical inspection this morning, we left camp at 6 p.m. & marched to Harve. entrained there, 38 in our truck & left at 11 p.m.

Wed 26/9/17 We got to Rouon this morning & stopped there till 3.30 p.m. at a rest camp, then got on another train, 8 in a carriage, left at 4 p.m. & travelled all night.

Thu 27/9/17 We got to Gaeske at 6 p.m. then marched to 1st Anzac Reinf camp & camped there, stayed there all the next day.

Sat 29/9/17 We left camp at 2 p.m. & marched 8 miles & there joined up the battn.

Sun 30/9/17 I went back to Moorbecque this afternoon with the reserve battn. The battn is going over in a push in a few days. We got to Moorbecque at 6.30, it is about 12 miles. An enemy aeroplane was over bombing tonight, dropped some [unclear].

Mon 1/10/17 Did not do much today, went into Moorbecque tonight.

Tue 2/10/17 Did a bit of drill today. I went into Hazebruck tonight.

Wed 3/10/17 Went for a swim in canal this morning, drilled all afternoon.

Thu 4/10/17 Drill all day. the push started this morning, our fellows hopped over at 6 a.m.

Fri 5/10/17 Route march this morning, drill this afternoon. The push came off successfully, all objectives were gained.

Sat 6/10/17 Route march this morning & also this afternoon till 3 p.m. Went into Hazebrouck this evening.

Sun 7/10/17 Left camp this afternoon, went to Hazebrouck, entrained there & went to Poperinge, then marched to camp 6 miles away & joined battn, got there at 1 a.m. next morning then had to pitch tents to camp in.

Mon 8/10/17 Went on fatigue up past Eypres carting shells.

Tue 9/10/17 Had an easy day. We are going over in a few days on another big stunt.

Wed 10/10/17 Left camp at 6 a.m. & marched up past Eypres to old trenches, then went on fatigue making a track up to firing line, came back that night & camped out in the open.

Thu 11/10/17 The stunt comes off tomorrow at dawn. We have been preparing all day & left at 11 p.m.. to go up to assembly line.

[Wounded at Battle of Passchendaele ]

Fri 12/10/17 We got to the jumping off line at 3 a.m. & at dawn our barrage opened & we started to advance. I got hit in right foot before we got 50 yds & I went back to dressing station & then by ambulance to the C.C.S. at Poperinghe & stopped there that night.

Sat 13/10/17 I left C.C.S. at 9 a.m. & went by hospital train to 3rd Aust Gen Hosp at Abbeville, got there at 1 a.m. next morning.

Sun 14/10/17 Got to bed at 2 a.m, had my wound dressed today, it is very painful.

[ *Entries are irregular from here to Dec 31st* ]

Fri 26/10/17 Am still in bed. Left Abbeville at 5 p.m. & went on hospital train to Harve got

there at 7 a.m. next morning.

Sat 27/10/17 Went on board hospital ship *Worilda* this morning & steamed out in the harbour & lay there all day till 8 p.m. when she started off for England.

Sun 28/10/17 We anchored off the Isle of Wight at 9 a.m. & stayed there till 7 p.m. when we steamed into Southampton, then we got off on to an hospital train.

Mon 29/10/17 Got to Northhampton at 1 a.m. then went in ambulance to Duston War Hospital 2 miles away & got to bed at 2 a.m. We have a lady doctor in our ward.

Thu 22/11/17 I had an operation on my foot this afternoon.

Tue 11/12/17 I went to Sully Hall auxiliary hospital today, it seems a fine place.

Tue 25/12/17 Had a splendid dinner & had a Christmas tree & a dance at night.

Wed 26/12/17 We went to a whist drive & dance in Welford this evening & had a good time.

Mon 31/12/17 We had a fancy dress ball at the hall, it was a great success.