

Wednesday

June 6th 1917. After leaving Albie this morning I went straight to my Rooms & almost immediately afterwards had to return to the Barracks to get my pass-book & embarkation Papers. As usual one had to wait some time there & I suppose I must consider myself lucky in getting back to SS at 10.45. Jack Mackenzie was there to see me & later Ben dropped in. The dear old chap seemed quite upset. I still had several things to fix up, including some letters & it seemed no time before the Skipper arrived & later on Pap & Ben for lunch. Fortunately Nurse Ruby had everything fixed up - they have been real trumps over the packing. Rus. also came in to lunch early & also brought the sad news that Dr. Hornum's son had been killed in France. It is a sad happening for the old doc. as his son was the apple of his eye. Dr. Hornum came along a few minutes afterwards to say good bye. Poor old chap, he was v. much upset. Ben had a motor car to take the Skipper Pap.

Ben & I down to Port Melbourne & it was a great comfort to me to have them with me. They all stayed until we moved off at 3. It was rather amusing to find about half a dozen military people down at the boat to see that I was properly embarked. The Orient Manager, Mr Sawdell, introduced me to the Captain (Larson) & he invited me this table — After we left I had a good look shoreward & wondered when I should see it again & then went below & put up my things & got a few things in order in my cabin. A couple of my patients had sent down some violets & wallflowers & poppies & some good old green leaves & Nurse T. sent some violets.

I had rather a rum experience than as I was told ^{by a patient} to take some matter all for sea sickness & of course had to follow out the instructions of resting for $\frac{1}{2}$ hr after taking the capsules. I wondered why I couldn't read properly until I started to get dry about the throat. When I got up for a walk I felt quite groggy & had

double vision for a time! I don't know whether it was the distasteful or the heat of the water, because I went down to dinner like an old salt & had a stroll afterwards nothing happened -

June 7th Bit of a swell on today, but I got up & had a good soak in the salt-water & felt OK for breakfast which was negotiated alright. There was a stiff breeze blowing, but most of the people were out walking & I had a long stroll with the ship's doctor, who by the way is a Melbourne man named Cickrig. He finished his course in Canada & America & has been doing some work in France & also transport work. He has had rather a varied experience, especially with submarines & was on the "Argyle" when it was torpedoed.

It roughened up about midday with a nasty cross-sea, which made me very careful of what I had eat for lunch! I stuck to it on deck, knowing full well that I would toss up the sponge - or whatever I had on my stomach - if I went to my cabin.

I couldn't stick to my lunch after
 afternoon tea time any longer. It became
 v. rough & about 6 I went to my cabin.
June 8th We didn't get into smooth water until
 v. early this morning. Came alongside
 the wharf at Outer Harbour at 8 o'clock &
 Madel & Minnie & baby came down an
 hour later. They all look well, especially
 the trip. He is a bonnie kid of 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs for 9 m.
 Later on we went up to Largs by train &
 I had lunch with them & returned
 immediately afterwards to the boat.
 It is a great thing for Madel having that
 baby; it keeps her occupied the whole
 time & I don't think she has time to think
 about the loss of her husband at Poyres.
 I was v. appreciably surprised with her
 place, & she seems to be happy married.
 She has just accepted a position of Quater
 to a new Military San. for Consumptives.
 It was a great compliment to be offered the
 position & as she wanted to do some early
 war work I think she did right in accepting.
 It was really a pleasant, warm day here.

gave me a chance of recovering after yesterday's dusting.

We got away about 3.30 & the sea was absolutely smooth until about 9.30 when we are getting into a bit of a swell. I suppose the tail-end of yesterday's blow. I believe we are promised a fair weather passage across the Bight. I hope so, as I've no keen desire to be a sea-sick hero!

There has been ~~a~~ then a sad occurrence a little while ago. An old gentleman with a nervous breakdown from Africa is missing & it is feared that he went overboard during a fit of depression.

I must write something about the passengers & crew tomorrow if I'm not too sea-sick. In the meantime I think I shall turn in & stick to my good dinner!

June 9th Saturday. It is very rough today, so I have decided to stay in bed. Altho' I have not been seasick since Thursday, yet there is only a small margin of safety! & it will be only risking parting with a meal or two. Somehow, I don't ever get accustomed to

The unpleasant smells of a ship

The disappearance of that old gentleman has cast quite a gloom over everyone. His son who had watched & cared for him every hour since leaving S. Agueda 5 m. ago is v. much distressed poor boy & keeps on reproaching himself -

This is a good seaboard & perhaps it is just as well she is so well laden w. else we sh'd be kicking about much more

Sunday June 10th The weather is much better today & everyone pretty well was up for breakfast. Had a long walk in the morning -

There was a fairly long church service & a clergyman from Barbary preached -

The flag was flown half-mast all day in honour of the old gentleman

In the afternoon we kept running into rain-squalls & as the wind veered to the south it became too cold to remain on deck

I have a lot of letters to write for Remant & so I disposed of a couple this afternoon -

It is getting very rough again, so I suppose we'll be in for a bad time tomorrow.

Monday June 11th It was rough last night & tonight with the tossing about & the various noises I didn't get much sleep. It still is v. rough, so I'm sticking it out in bed. There is so much motion that one gets very giddy, dizzy, & galled.

All the ports & the large windows at the side of my cabin are closed & covered from the outside.

If Chip looks at the diagram I left her of the boat she will see that my cabin overlooks the well-deck, which is rather a small one, so I'm not very far from the bow of the boat. As she dips into the heavy seas she noses up tons of water which strike the side about where my cabin is & even puts it on the deck. A big sea struck us about 7 am & partly wrenched off the cover of my window. I was afraid that another sea would come & stove it in, but it was soon noticed & adjusted.

The ports are still tightly closed & on my side of the ship still remains the weather-sea.

It is not very easy writing in bed, but it is something to do to kill the time, so you must be prepared for all sorts of rubbish written. The theatrical people bound for Durban play

+ sing a good deal — mostly ragtimes. There are some Yankee Jews (members of the troupe I think) who are much in the forefront everytime + I just wonder how Pop would enjoy that part of it. Of course there is some fluff which I know he would enjoy more + perhaps forgive + forget the other. At my table is one of J.C. Williamson's English managers. He brought out The Arcadian Co + more recently the best in the Tuxi Co. He said that it was one continuous romance. Everybody became engaged aboard including all the officers. When the latter appeared in their white ducks that fetched them properly + they were soon engaged (By the way, Pop, I'm rather pleased that Nurse put in a couple of white suits for me: they might come in handy!) As soon as both companies landed all the engagements were forgotten + the officers "as they were". — Speaking of officers, the eldest among them is the Chief Engineer at 42! I should think the Captain is anything between 35-40. All the stewards are mere boys, owing to compulsory service. One was wounded at Ypres.

Many of the officers have been rapidly promoted as so many of their seniors being R.M.R. men

have joined the Navy. They are all jolly young chaps & don't seem to care a fig for the raiders or the submarines. The opinion is that if the Admiralty decides to convoy us, we may be some time held up at Cape Town unless we fortunately strike a convoy ready to leave. I believe that when we pass within 300-400 miles of England a couple of T.P.D.s take us in hand & escort us the remainder of the way. So it would seem as if the cruisers are only the protectors against raiders. There is a useful looking popper on the stern of this ship. We unfortunately don't get any war news in Australian waters as the C'wealth Govt seems to be scrupulous to send any out. I sh'd like to know how the new offensive is getting on. I think I mentioned the precautions that are taken about the light at night time.

No lights are seen on deck & all the windows are shuttered & curtained, even the lights in the smoke room are covered in such a way as to prevent any reflection thru the doors when they are opened. They also ask that the cabin lights sh'd not be used longer than necessary,

Tuesday June 12th Today has been a vast improvement on the weather cond^{ns} of the past few days. We saw land early this morning & altho we were 20-30 miles off it was pleasant here. Our course was "coming up on the slant" and as soon as we got round the corner of Australia the sea improved at once & I might add that my internal cond^{ns} progressively improved! Had a long walk this morning & heard that that wave I spoke of early yesterday morning did a great deal more damage than I knew about at the time. It swept down on the opposite side & thru an open door, down a gangway & swept a steward off his feet & carried him down the alley-way. It flooded several cabins, as high as their mattresses & some amusing scenes took place. Women & children rushed out & shrieked & one woman thought we were torpedoed & flung her arms around one of the stewards & asked him to save her! One man told me he sprang out into open water & in the dark knocked all his clothes into the water. He rushed outside because he

naturally thought we were sinking & hearing
 the pandemonium outside, when he got
 back his trunk was soaked & the photo that
 Marie Tempest asked him to take to her mother in
 London was all pulp. It did look curious
 to see all the various weird garments everywhere
 hanging about downstairs. It reminded me
 very much of a laundry.

I have been writing pretty steadily all
 the afternoon & evening & have got them
 about 18 letters - so it "some go".

We had a lovely sunset & just before the
 sun went down there was great excitement
 on deck, people shouting and "look at the whales".
 It was great there were 2 big chaps within
 40 or 50 yards of us lazily rolling over on the
 surface & occasionally blowing. As a rule
 they are v. shy & make away from the
 steamer, but these kept alongside us,
 like porpoises, for some time.

The women folk were tremendously excited
 each time they came to the surface & stretched
 out & clapped their hands. The whales
 seemed quite bucked with it all & I'd say
 it accounted for them dispatching themselves so long!

I'm looking forward to the run ashore tomorrow to have a spell from the briny, hoped in between 7 & 8 am. & it will take about 1 1/2 hours before we get off as the coal lumpers don't bustle themselves. It has gone 10 bells so I shall turn out my light -

Wednesday June 13th 1917. Have had a splendid day at Fremantle. We were awakened very early & the steward told us that we were going to have an early breakfast. We made fast shortly after 7 o'clock & it wasn't long afterwards before the coaling commenced.

I got up on deck shortly before 8 & felt a bit sad on it as it was so dull & every indication for rain which would have capped everything if it had rained on my last day ashore in Australia for a time.

After breakfast I wrote a couple of letters & then had a stroll around to see if things had altered much since I was here 17 years ago -

The change in the harbour was remarkable. It is wonderful what has been done. A long row of sheds & several steamers alongside

the wharf, made it look a bit like old Hedy's. Just beyond where we pulled up was a Japanese fast light cruiser. Built & much for speed (I believe she can do well) & out in midstream was another larger Jap. cruiser -

I telephoned the Ambassadors' Palace & said I would be up during the morning with Dr. Akroyd (the ship's Dr.). We caught the 11.15 train for Perth. By this time the sun had come out & it turned out to be a ripping day.

We got to Perth at 12 & after I occupied most of the City, the shops & buildings had been vastly improved. The streets were clean & in good order & everybody seemed full of business -

The Perthites claim St. George's Terrace as being the best street in the Colonies & judging by what I saw of it, it would seem as if they were well justified in their claim. We made our way along to the Palace - a most imposing pile of

buildings with the Cathedral
 just above it. Both were built
 53 years ago by the old Spanish
 Benedictine monks, of course
 they beautifully situated well up
 the side of the hill with a magnificent
 view of the Swan River & surrounding
 suburbs. By In those way-back
 times they were built far out in the
 desert where the monks were sent to
 civilize the blacks. The Palace was
 built on plain Moorish lines but
 since Dr. Clune has come into power
 then he has made the front more
 imposing with a fine balcony
 supported by huge pillars.
 The fine hall was quite striking,
 well lighted by beautiful windows
 & the stairway was rather wonder-
 ful with such an easy grade.
 It was of iron-work, all hand-
 beaten by the monks & of simple
 but beautiful design & magnificent
 workmanship.

His Grace's study was most comfortable
 nicely furnished, but all in simple
 taste. It overlooked the Swan River.
 His Grace was very pleased to see us &
 gave us a hearty welcome & after a
 little chat & refreshment (a hem! Pop)
 we went to the Savoy for lunch. This
 is a new hotel built on American
 lines with everything most up to date.
 I did justice to my lunch all right;
 hadn't tasted anything so nice for many
 a long day. The Archbishop told us
 that we were lucky as the slaughtermen
 were going out on strike the next day.
 After lunch Dr. Clune took us for a
 drive in his motor-car & I enjoyed
 every moment of the time. In my
 previous visit 'Athena' I had been many
 times in Perth I had not much
 opportunity of seeing the beauties of
 the place & now since it has grown
 the streets & suburbs greatly improved
 in every way, it has developed into a
 beautiful & everything was seen

to perfection on such a lovely day -
 We drove to King's Park which is a fine
 hill overlooking the junction of the
 Swan & Cannon Rivers & as each river
 opens out into a fine lake you can
 imagine the effect of the view obtained
 from the highest point of the Park.

Looking back over the City great changes
 are seen by the reclamation of the low-
 lying part of the River Swan & converting
 it into a Marine Causeway, with
 lawns & tennis courts &c just
 beyond the fine motor track.

North Perth & other new suburbs some
 extend far back & then at the
 back of all is the Darling Range -
 not unlike the Adelaide Hills in
 their position to the City.

South Perth is across the river & is
 a fine aristocratic suburb now, supplied
 by ferry service & the Archbishop says
 that for years they have talked of
 erecting a bridge across like they
 have to North Shore Sydney -

The only place when I was there was years ago was the Zoo, ^{& gardens} which Le Souef was building up in a wonderful way, as the scrub & bush seemed to be most unpromising -

Further around to the right is pretty little point jutting out into the Cannon R. Sir - Shenton had his residence there. It has been acquired by the Govt & they intend to build the University there. The Park itself is about 1000 acres of natural bush which old Sir Jno. Forrest in his far-seeing way reserved for all time for the Citizens. It is just one of those ideal situations which would have been built over now at any cost.

The drives there are magnificent especially for motoring, being made of that ^{red} iron-stone gravel.

The main entrance drive is very fine. It is planted on either side with the W.A. flowering pines & Dr. Cline says that it is a wonderful sight in November when these trees are

out in bloom with their various
shades of red.

From the gardens we drove to Subiaco
& then back again to the River at
Freshwater Bay where the well-to-do
residents live. They have some fine
houses - the Ampalaw types being
very neat & in keeping with the place.
Pop will be interested to know that the
mosquito pest over there has been
practically banished by regulations
of the Perth Council insisting upon
the people using petrolatum free
on the stagnant waters pools.
From Freshwater Bay we got on to the
Fremantle Rd (it is a splendid
tar-covered surface road all the way)
& then shot off to Collingwood Beach
(which is the Brighton of W.A.). There
is a good marine drive & seaside
residences practically all the
way to Fremantle.

We got back to Fremantle about 3.45
& Dr. Clune came aboard with us.

as it was on the Brontes that he went home with the troops a long time back. The officers + men (Stewards, deck-hands + in fact everybody) were glad to see him. They crowded round to ask how he was + all kinds of questions + of course many jokes + old time yarns. We adjourned to my cabin + a box marked Johnnie Walker (which the Archbishop had thoughtfully sent into my cabin with will say, "more than one battle in it!") was produced from under the settee. We drank the dear old chap's health + he wished us all a safe return etc.

His stories of the trip are most amusing + I wish I could tell you a few. The next cabin to mine (which also overlooks the well deck, where the troops were + swore all day) was occupied by a Mr. Potts. One day there was a trooper coming + swearing (in his polite way) for a cigarette. "I want a B. cigarette" "I want a B. cigarette" - he kept on under

Mr Patts' port. Mr Patts pushed out a cigarette & said "Here is a cigarette for you, but I can't say that it is the brand you are asking for!"

I wish you would remind me to tell you ^{something} about an aged porter at Fremantle who was anxious to get married.

He had many stories to tell of a young tall Aust. officer - a fine chap apparently. His O.C. could never get over his ^(the Capt) lack of discipline with the men as he would often be smoking or having his hands in his pockets when giving orders to the men - & they were wanting in discipline in the same way, altho he controlled them v. well. The O.C. called the young officer down to his cabin & reprimanded him about his ways, & then had some feelings of regret for having spoken to him so sharply, so he gave him a whiskey & soda. The young officer came back to Dr. Cline & said that

he had enjoyed swallowing his
whiskey much more than his lecture.

We were right up to time in moving
off from Fremantle at 5 pm. & moved
down towards Rottnest Island. This
part of the Bay was swept constantly
by a powerful sea breeze from Fremantle.
The water was very smooth & everyone
seemed in good form after the
day's outing. It was quite interesting
picking up the flashes from the
lighthouse at Rottnest & after
dinner we had reached the
end of the island & then turned
at right angles out into the
Indian Ocean. It was a
beautiful night & there was an
easy lazy roll of the steamer
& everyone felt we were in for a
pleasant passage across.
Had a long walk with the B_2 &
then a little read & some writing
before turning in about 11
altogether it was a most pleasant day

These pages were
missed by mistake

Thursday June 14th Every day turns out
 as well as today with this long sea-run
 ahead of us. I don't anyone will
 have anything to complain about.
 The day was fine and warm, the sun
 shining all day so that it was just
 the day for deck games of all sorts.
 Had a long walk in the ^{earlier part of the} morning &
~~then~~ we saw the flying fish for the
 first time, so they were a good indication
 of being in warmer latitudes.
 Later on in the morning I spent in
 the drawing room where the concert
 company, which is bound for
 a tour thro' S. Africa, were practicing.
 They have some good voices & the
 quartettes were splendid. The
 manager, a Mr. Bishop, has a
 fine bass voice & he could biff it
 out. In addition he had good action
 & it was very ^{interesting} to watch
 him instructing the others. He
 would keep them at a certain passage
 over over again until he was satisfied.

We are going to have a concert on Saturday night I believe. So it should be good as there is plenty of talent aboard.

We had our first wireless news this morning at breakfast - quite a lot to read, but rather of an unsavoury nature when one considers the way the Huns are resorting to their brutality & slave-raids once again.

It is satisfactory about the abdication of the King of Greece & I suppose we will have a much freer & safer run at Salonika now - All this will be stale news to you so I'll get back to ship life again.

The quartermaster marked out a tennis court & fixed up a net & also a loop net on 3 sides of the deck. Ordinary covered tennis balls are used, but they are stained red so as to be more easily seen. The rackets are of wood, the ball being about the size of a ping-pong ball & about $\frac{1}{4}$ in or more in thickness.

It is wonderful what a good game it makes: takes some getting into owing to the height of the deck above. With all the disadvantages a good player can serve a very fast ball & returns can be sent back well. Any amount of exercise can be got out of the game in an hour & one can get into a sweat quite freely. The Captain's 1st & 2nd officers & Purser made a very good four all over game was played 6-5. I had a game with the 5th who is very good at it & only made a fair trial at it. I played without my spectacles, as I have not been able to run across my golf ones yet. Glad you put in that tennis shirt & as Nurse put in my tennis boots I was able to rip up in a fairly satisfactory manner. At the end of the tennis the Captain blew the Siren, which is the signal for boat drill & we

all rushed to our various stations,
all the sergeants have to assemble
aft, over the 2nd class quarters & the
firemen man the boats. They are a
pretty rough crowd, but they looked
very amusing with their coal grimed
faces. Their language was in keeping
with the place they work in.

There was also a demonstration of a
couple of boats being lowered
for "man overboard". When one of
the boats was being put back into
position as commanded by one of the
young officers, it didn't seem to meet
altogether with the approval of the
bosun's lieutenant who expressed himself
very forcibly but not too polite language.
It was the case of the picture in Punch
over again - where the remarks
were made out of the hearing
of the officer!

Had a bit of a read after all
this excitement & then just had
time to change for dinner

The sea had been comparatively smooth all day & there was just an occasional lazy roll now & again.

The "tote" for the day's run commenced & there were 3 or 4 "divies" taken out of it. It is a much fairer way than the old way of someone trying to guess the closest to the actual day's run. With the tote just the ten terminal figures (eg 0, 1, 2, 3, ..., 9) are selected & you can place what you like on a figure.

After dinner what with the full day's exercise & excitement I got very sleepy & after making several attempts to read my book I went off to bed.

If this warm weather keeps up I shall have to get into some lighter clothes. It was not necessary to put the pup on my bed. ~~They say~~ I suppose it is due to the wind which blew from the north all day.

Frid. June 15th Today has not been nearly as pleasant as yesterday. There has been a big lumpy swell which the Captain says comes from the S.W. storms. There were also heavy rain showers early in the morning. Just before lunch the swell seemed to lessen, but we ran into it again in the afternoon & it made walking rather difficult. There were plenty of opportunities for anyone like Chip to snap us where we appeared the only heading on to the deck by our boat laces.

There were the usual deck games, but I didn't play any tennis today - I felt rather stiff after my game yesterday. Have been reading most of the day, but had some music in the

drawing-room this morning - By the wireless report this morning I see there has been another air raid over the S. end of London. It is a pity reprisals are not made especially if they worked over Berlin.

Saturday June 16th was a rather day. It was a close, steamy day & the sea was very rough & that the decks were constantly wet & it was practically impossible to exercise at all. Moreover, it was very difficult trying to walk with the heavy pitching & rolling. An idea can be got of the big seas when you know how far the smoke room is above the sea level; we were sitting there just after lunch & one sea crashed over & struck the smoke room windows. The sea seemed to get rougher during the afternoon & evening & at last I stuck it out. I feel very uncomfortable during the evening & was rather glad to go to bed.

Sunday June 17th was a great improvement on yesterday, altho' there was a lumpy swell & over & over again she would dip her nose well into a wave & throw tons of water over into the well-deck. It was fine sight. There was no wind & the sun was shining all day & so we have enjoyed things very much better. It is curious to see us pick up a solitary

bird right out here. It is generally a
 mally hawk I understand in these regions.
 The albatrosses do not come so far north (30°)
 I saw 2 or 3 cases in counsel with the doctor
 today. He has been kept very busy these
 last few days with various cases.
 Rather an amusing thing occurred this
 morning at breakfast time. I sit next
 the Commander - on his left. One of the
 passengers wanted to chat to me while I
 was finishing my meal that in the
 Commander's seat. Immediately a steward
 came up to him with a card & pencil &
 asked him to sign for a bottle of whisky.
 He asked what for & the reply was for
 sitting in the Captain's chair - that is when
 the penalty appears. This passenger
 was very slow in coming up to the scratch
 so another pencil was sent along to
 him with the remark that perhaps
 he could use it better. He signed &
 It has gradually been getting warmer all
 day, so we are all looking forward to a
 quiet night & a good day tomorrow

Monday 18th June Today was a great improvement on yesterday. For the most part the sea has been moderate & calm - at any rate good enough to permit deck games again.

The officers four at tennis gave us a good exhibition just after lunch & then there was some deck cricket which caused a good deal of fun especially with the breaks - caused by the sailing of the ship - we didn't get any wireless news this morning; I suppose we have steamed out of the zone of the Perth station & will not get any until we come into the Mauritius zone. With lazy sort of life one frequently forgets that any war is on -

We managed to get in a good deal of reading of every description during the past few days & have thoroughly enjoyed O'Henry's short stories. They are most original & happy.

The bright sun & the smoother sea brought most of the passengers on deck this morning, but with everyone there was just the feeling that we might at any time run into some more heavy swell weather, & it has turned out pretty right because late this afternoon it began to roughen up & this evening the good ship is trending & rolling about a good deal. I wish it would really get nice this. We had a splendid trial concert this evening & the talent showed up well, altho' a couple of them are still pretty seasick on it.

We have been losing time at the rate of 30-40 minutes each day — the time is generally put on at night time — so I suppose we must be about 4 or 5 hours after Melbourne time now. Wonder what everybody is doing over there now. Going on the same as usual I suppose; sometimes when one is away one imagines that things go on differently.

of black heads. Black cricket is quite a good game. There is a net spread out in three quarters & the wickets are placed well apart & the bowlers bowl overarm as fast as they can. The bats are much narrower than the ordinary ones & the balls are made of rope & are quite good. We began at two o'clock & we made the officers field first. So as not to crowd in too much our bats are allowed to field. They rattled us all out for 12, mostly not being run ~~down~~ out due to faulty backing up. They made 20 & put us in again & we just equalled their score in the 2nd innings. However, we consoled ourselves by having a good afternoon tea. The latter was arranged on deck on tables & we all lined up just as if it were on the grass just outside the pavilion. The ladies were there in force

& we had quite an amusing time. After tea we picked up a team to play the ladies, the conditions being that we bowled underarms & batted left handed. It was very funny, especially in their excitement they used to rush the field when one of their side hit a ball & ~~put~~ either jostled the fieldsmen or kept on kicking it away from his reach. We don't know which side won.

After the first match our photographs were taken by various people on the boat deck.

We had some wireless news this morning from Mauritius.

I felt so sleepy after the cricket that I turned in very early after dinner.

Wednesday 20th June Well we are a fortnight out from Melbourne & also halfway across the Indian Ocean.

No wireless news this morning: supp.

The weather conditions interfered -
It is curious that we don't get two nice
days following -

Today there was rather a strong
breeze from the NW. which made
things sticky again, so the punkahs
fans were going at dinner tonight &
the bedroom fans are going freely
enough everywhere now -

There was just strong enough wind
to make the spray a bit unpleasant
& so the decks were rather on the
cool side & interfered very much
with the games. The balls at tennis
got quite heavy after a time & at
deck games the chalked circles
were quickly obliterated -

Interfering with those discomforts
there was no very uncomfortable
swell & we seem to be making
fair progress -

I again drew a devil and the
sweep today, so I mustn't growl
too much at things!

Thursday 21st June Well the shortest day distinguished
 itself by being unpleasant & rough, in fact
 it has been one of the worst days we've had.
 There was a head wind which developed
 a lumpy sea & it was wonderful the way
 this big boat (heavily laden as she is)
 dipped into the sea every now & then &
 would lift up tons of water. Many
 times the well deck would be half full of
 water & then the scuppers would roar
 with escaping water for some time afterwards.
 The unpleasant part of it all was the
 spray made even the after part of the
 decks a little bit damp, so our games
 were again somewhat interfered with.
 I managed to have some tennis in spite
 of it all, but it was fairly hard serving
 against the wind. The officers usually
 have their "four" immediately after
 lunch & then we have it the
 remainder of the day.
 No walking & reading filled in the
 day otherwise & there was also the
 excitement of drawing another "diver"
 from the sleep - the third day running!

Friday 22nd June. It was a rough night last night and the Bronies pitched & rolled a good deal. But she hasn't any vicious habits & all the reports about her being a good sea boat seem to be well borne out.

It improved considerably this morning so that it has not been half a bad sort of day, and we managed to get in a good many exercises - tennis deck games etc.

One of our concert girls has been sick for several days & put in an appearance at dinner for the first time tonight & was received in great style, one of their company playing to the organ (which is in the dining saloon) & playing a few bars of welcome. She was then presented at her table with a bouquet of flowers (mostly pink paper) & a horseshoe shaped hat or head decoration in which was a red ostrich feather etc. She was in good form & was much cheered up by the welcome.

The swell seems to be increasing again tonight so I think I shall turn in (10pm)

Saturday, 23rd June. Today seems to have been a very full day in all sorts of ways.

To begin with the weather was splendid & the sea, for once, quite smooth, so that we had plenty of tennis, croquet &c.

About midday we had some excitement in watching the gun practice. I went along soon after breakfast with the D^r & inspected the gun & how it was worked, saw the shells recharges &c. How extraordinarily easy the gun is moved about in every direction by means of levers - it is difficult to realize that the gun which weighs several tons can be moved with such ease.

The breech block swings out without any kind of effort & the charge is pushed in & the block replaced & then the gun is ready for the gun to be sighted.

A target was dropped overboard & when it was left behind a certain distance it was shot at - The shooting, considering everything being quite good -

Heard every body went aft & as near as possible to the gun - is as near as they were permitted to go.

Considering the size of the gun it does not make a very loud report & nothing like the ear-splitting quick firing smaller guns. The first 3 shots I watched more particularly for the shot striking the water near the target & then ever so long afterwards (almost on the horizon) a huge column of water could be seen where the shot plunged finally into the water. Sometimes it ricochets several times each time throwing up showers of water. One shot I could distinctly see soon after it left the gun until it struck the water near the target; it looked like round black sheet gradually getting smaller.

This evening the long-looked-for Concert came off & a capital affair. It turned out to be. I shall send a programme so as to give you an idea of the talent & the kind of music we had.

Miss Jewell was pronounced by Guelber
 the one of the best pupils - she has
 a splendid voice & was in very good
 form this evening. Some of the others
 you may recognise as being with
 the Dandies - The comedian Dan Thomas
 is one of the best I've heard & as he
 appeared in costume, his turns
 were very popular.

The takings were in aid of the dependents
 of those who lost their lives when
 the Orceva was torpedoed.

Something like £15 was collected.

The dining saloon was made the
 concert hall & a couple of tables &
 their chairs were removed & a
 little dais fixed up with footlights
 & ~~strong~~ clusters of hip-lights overhead
 made those on the dais when
 the other lights were turned out,
 very much in the limelight.
 At the back of the dais were the
 various flags of the Allies & a couple
 of posts near by were similarly draped.

It was very good work of the stewards & engineers to arrange it all so quickly after dinner. Dinner (at 7⁰⁰) went on just the same as usual, & all the decorations were fixed up in bagan time. Of course the ladies dressed for the occasion so it all looked very gay.

The Concert lasted a couple of hours & no time was lost between each item. The whole of the 2nd saloon passengers came along, making a very crowded attendance altogether.

Sunday 24th June Today was quite the best day we've had so far as regards the sea. There was no wind & the sea was smooth except for the swell which didn't bother anybody. It was a fine bright day & I think most of us were glad that there was only a run of about 3 days more to get us to Durban.

Of course there were the usual games & also a couple of Church Services.

In the afternoon we saw a sailer evidently bound for Durban, far away

on the horizon. It became blatted out later on by a heavy rain squall.

We have a jolly Commodore homeward bound & he has some amusing stories.

He had one serious naval surgeon with him once who was devoid of humor & they used to get a pull on his leg.

You know those ads. that sometimes appear in the papers by steamship lines "Experienced doctor; cow on board." For this chap's benefit they would transpose it to "Experienced cow & doctor on board" - but they could never raise a smile out of him.

Monday 26th June was an even better day than yesterday, the water became a glass smoother. It was such a bright sunny day that we played games all day & consequently I feel very tired tonight & can scarcely keep my eyes open - in fact I'm turning in at 9.30 -

We challenged the officers to a second game of cricket this afternoon.

had a great go with them & beat them by three runs. There was great excitement as you can imagine. We played two innings & in the second innings a heavy tropical shower came up with fine rainbow effects. This is the first cricket match I've seen played thru' a heavy rain & without the latter helping the bowlers by making the wicket heavy & sticky!

We've made a couple of good runs the last 2 days so there is hope of us getting in to Durban on Wednesday afternoon instead of Thursday.

The two fine days have really helped us. Somehow that wretched swell we never seem to get away from, it is getting up a bit tonight. Perhaps it is because we're running more South now.

Tuesday 26th June. The time passes all right after a couple of days out from Fremantle it seemed a decree of a time to have to kill before reaching Durban & tonight we are not many hours off - we

made our best run today 354 miles
 & if all goes well should be at Durban
 about 3 tomorrow afternoon. That's
 a bit cheery, because a few days ago
 we were told that it might be Thursday
 morning before we made that port.
 Tennis was the only game I played
 today. The breeze freshened up
 during the night & it made a cross
 little sea which was far from
 pleasant & would have turned me
 up side down if I hadn't been a
 seasoned old salt as I am by now!
 The Captain has stopped the raffles
 which were commencing to become
 a bore to everyone. You could
 scarcely step outside, or rest a
 minute without being grabbed
 by someone.

Managed to get in a fair amount
 of reading today - suppose that will
 have to stand over while at Durban.
 Looking forward to seeing a few papers
 as we hadn't any wireless today.

Wednesday 27th June Everything was "all
 Kubbah" this morning as we expected to get
 off there about lunch time. There
 was a very fresh breeze which spruced
 the decks a bit early, but no one
 seemed to mind & there were many
 anxious faces (S. Africans of course)
 looking for land. This was seen
 soon after 11.

We passed a couple of steamers out-
 ward bound evidently making for
 India -

As we got nearer to land the sea
 became much smoother & we picked
 up the porpoises once more & then
 again saw a lot of sea-birds. Even during
 those long stretches across the Indian
 we always saw some birds each day - generally
 small ones & very fast fliers. We saw
 some black-fish (a type of small whale)
 but none of the big whales, which they
~~say~~ say are numerous in these ^{waters} ~~numerous~~
 (Excuse mistakes as a raptine chap is
 strumming hard at the piano)

As we went into the Durban harbor, later on we saw numerous steam-whalers ready to make a start. Very curious looking craft, a barrel almost at the top of the mast-head for the look-out man.

The high mountainous coast line was just showing up well when we went down to lunch. When we came up again on deck we were surprised to find that we were lying off the bluff, which is in front of the harbor-entrance & altho' it was then 1:30 we did not get the pilot until an hour or so later. As we came to there we had a good view of the residential part of Durban which is neatly situated on a hill & must have a magnificent view of the ocean & all the shipping coming in & out. The entrance to the harbor is curiously tucked in at the back of the bluff & two breakwaters have been built out (& are still being added to with time

concrete blocks). The entrance is rather narrow — very like a river one — & then it opens into a good broad sheet ^{of water} & plenty of shipping about & a couple of warships made us feel very secure. We did not make alongside the wharf until 4 o'clock — a couple of steamers moving out to give us room; so that accounted for the delay in the pilot coming off for us. The wharf is a magnificent concrete structure with ^{huge} hydraulic cranes which lift the cargo out in a wonderful way. And now we get our first view of the Kappi coolies & rickshaw men. How fine & I thought I had better give you first impressions because they may be considerably altered by longer association with them. They are such fine sturdy fellows, handsome faces & round heads & closely cropped woolly hair. They all seemed to do so jolly & happy & when they started to work it would have done you heart good to have seen them racing along

with their barrows or carrying
 boxes on their shoulders just as if
 they were a lot of school children
 & enjoying it all the while time.
 They do not make a deepening noise
 like a lot of other rigs. do, but
 curious little noises or if you like
 a chant with rather hoarse voices.
 What a contrast to the labour conditions
 in Australia! Here they seemed the
 so willing & rushed along racing each
 other as hard as ever they could.
 We managed to get ashore about 5
 & walked across the square & took a tram.
 On the way we passed crowds of workers
 sitting on the kerbstones quietly waiting
 their turn to start work. The rick-
 shaw men are such splendid fellows
 tall & extremely well made with such
 fine limbs. They are dressed in a
 most picturesque fashion - I must
 send you some picture postcards -
 with curious head-gears, many of
 them having horns & all with

large feathers, arranged red-Indian fashion.
 Curious armlets too, but the dress from
 the knee down was most funny.
 Curious patterns painted on with white
 & other colours. The body dress has
 most painful patterns & colours &
 generally with plenty of streamers.
 The rickshaws are much more roomy
 than those at Colombo & will seat 2
 comfortably & 3 at a pinch. They run
 along with such a curious gait, not
 unlike an ostrich running. They
 can get along too if anybody is in the
 way they shake a bell, sounding
 not unlike a cow bell. There appeared
 to be hundreds of them about.
 We took an electric car into the
 city a little over a mile away &
 being in uniform travelled for nothing!
 It was hum to see all those ruffians about
 in curious torn European clothes &
 looking so happy. They are just like
 children & whenever we passed any
 open lawn we were bound to see some
 of the nigs. lying about kicking their heels about

By the time we got off at the Post Office Square the light was commencing to fail, but it was most interesting & wonderful to be there just at that busy time of the day. The Town Hall faces the Square as well as the P.O., both are magnificent buildings, especially the former which they say cost $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions. It is no good me trying to describe it; you will get a much better idea from the cards I shall send.

We then strolled along West St which is the main one & a great sight it was then with all the magnificent shops brilliantly lit up by electric light. It is a fine broad street with electric cars in the centre & beautiful shops — most prosperous looking places, but everything most expensive. We soon got very weary & made our way back to the P.O. & then caught a car to the Marine Parade. This is most wonderful with splendid very large hotels built in Oriental

garden overlooking the Ocean beach -
 The wide verandahs & porches simply
 extend back into the hotel as the dining
 & reading rooms etc. & they are not
 covered in at the sides in any way, so
 the presumption is that they do not
 get any strong winds here, as no
 provision seems to be made for them.
 The floors are all concrete & the
 pillars & walls & ceilings white.
 The waiters are all Ceylonese.
 We had a nice dinner at the
 Hotel Edward & found the price in
 keeping with everything else - pretty cheap.
 After dinner we sat on the verandah
 & watched the trains unload & the
 motors pass - Pop will be pleased
 to hear that there were a lot of Americans
 after watching for an hour we had
 some more wonderful surprises in
 store for us as we strolled along the
 Parade. It is not unlike St Kilda
 but on a larger scale with all kinds of
 shows, merry go rounds, big wheels, chutes,
 electric ladies, shooting galleries &c

There was a fine bandstand & hundreds of people on deck chairs sitting about. It was a lovely night for entertainment & everyone seemed to be out there. The place is crawling with trades & it was very amusing to see how the rickshaws were used by them. All the same it was very tiring & I was glad to get back to ship again to rest.

Thursday 28th June Took King's pencil this morning & later on we (Ship's Dr, Commissioner of Aust. & Hong. passport & a Mr. Hinch) walked down to the end of the breakwater & back for lunch. Afterwards we went into the City & up to the Durban Club where we were made hon. members. The Club is beautifully situated on the esplanade & has a very fine view of the Harbour. It is built Oriental fashion & has fine lounges. It seemed to be full of officers as they are all made hon. members during their stay here.

Later on we to the Town Hall - at any rate
that part of it in which the Museum
& Art Gallery are. Both are fine, &
we hope we shall have time to pop in
again as v. little can be seen in
a couple of hours.

We strolled across to the Royal Hotel
& had afternoon tea on the fine
veranda & then watched the
passers by until 6 when we
made our way back to the ship.
After dinner we were taken to the
Theatre Royal to see Her Manhattan
which will be played in Australia
some time in August. It is a thin
sort of musical comedy & I don't think
will be much of a success over there.
The theatre was a tiny one & looked
a tiny one compared with the Princess
or Her Majesty's.

We got back again about 11.30 &
found them still busy coaling, discharging
cargo & also fixing up the troop messes
ready for the troops we take on here.

at Cape Town

Friday 29th June Will & coal this morning
 so we shall go ashore rather early.
 Saw one of the older types of battleships
 depart this morning. I believe she is
 the our convoy, so we feel quite
 swank having a battleship to
 escort us, altho I suppose it will
 take us much longer to get home
 as convoy is a slow business.
 It was amusing to see the police boat, with
 a single jack-tar smoking his pipe as if
 nothing in the world worried him, chasing
 the battleship down the harbour to give up
 its prisoner.

When we got to town we caught an electric
 car which does a circular trip to the
 Berea. This is one of the fancy drives of the
 place as it passes thro' the fashionable
 suburbs of the town situated on the
 hillsides. We passed the racecourse &
 then started to mount up - the grade
 being very stiff in places & for this
 reason I sh^d imagine that it would

be a most rare occasion for anyone to miss the last tram home at night. The tropical display of trees & flowers were best seen in the suburbs. — The red coral trees being seen to perfection amongst all the green. There was a beautiful orange-coloured creeper which grew in great profusion & was seen in nearly every garden. Some of the big residences (evidently the seaside houses of the wealthy people from Jo'berg) were very fine & I should imagine comfortable to live in with all the natives ^{as} servants — what a contrast to Australia! We passed Mitchell Park & the Zoo, but had no time to go in.

We returned to town about 12.15 & then made arrangements at Cooks for a motor trip in the afternoon & then the Commadore & I went on to the Club. We had lunch there — the majority of members lunching were officers. The dining room is a fine large one with big windows, so that fine views of the bay can be got. Indian waiters

make the attendance v. good there. We had a good lunch & then met the others at Cooks at 2 o'clock for the motor drive to Samia, Mahern, Pine Tree village &c &c. We wound around the western side of the harbour & then commenced to mount into the hills.

Knab after Knab we passed at great speed in our American car & everywhere getting fine views of hills covered with plantations (bananas chiefly) & a few orange groves (rather poor), but no cleared fields for growing corn. Such crowds of Hindoo natives we passed & only a few Kaffir. After we had been going for about an hour & a half along the Jo'berg road it commenced to rain rather steadily so the remainder of our trip was spoilt as we had no opportunity of getting any farther views.

It was still raining when we got back to town so we had aft^r tea & then did some shopping.

I think I must have told you about the Cape carts drawn by oxen & the

boys driving wagons drawn by teams of six mules. I don't think I have seen a single white driver here - all are negs. Rather interesting to see the native police in blue coats & blue knickers & bare legs & feet & always with a long noosestick which look as if they could be made of convincing sorts of arguments. They are Zulus, like the rickshaw-boys - the Zulus they say will not accept any menial work. We were very amused to see nurse-boys in white coats & knickers edged with red, carrying babies & keeping just one pace behind their mistresses.

The native curiosities was very fascinating & one wished to buy all kinds of things. However I bought belts & armlets & anklets & necklaces & made of beads by the Zulus & are the only form of dress in their real native life. I must postpone telling you of these until I return.

I posted them & hope they will arrive OK. When I was going the Berea drive this morning the Conductor saw Australia on my shoulder & thought there would be an influx of Austrians.

during the day. He said the cars are
packed with troops when a troopship arrives.
all the hotels are closed on these
occasions as the town has been painted
red by them.

Saturday June 30th.

Troops are just coming aboard now.
I shall have to go into town
now & post these notes.

Saturday June 30th 1917. Thanks a great day after yesterday's rain & we were all sorry that we were leaving Durban this morning.

The soldiers started to come on board early & their embarkation was not complete until about 1 o'clock & we started shortly afterwards.

We have about 700 on board so far & pick up another 500 or so at Cape Town, so we shall be a full ship from there on.

Many of the soldiers have come from Mesopotamia & the remainder from S. E. Africa. We also have a great many jack tars.

There are some v. sick men on board - I no wonder considering where they have come from. There are about 8 or more ~~pts~~ aboard so we shall get some interesting news of both places later on in the voyage.

You would have laughed to have seen the various kind of pets brought on board by the soldiers & sailors. One is a goose they call Charlie & who is something of a star performer. They tell him she's dead & he puts his head on the deck & will not get ^{up} until they tell him the police are after him, when he gets up & runs away.

Of course, there are a no. of monkeys including a baboon, also parrots of every description.

We went up to town for an hour or so this morning & left cards at the Club & bought some picture post. It was a topping morning & we enjoyed the run ashore. Most of the passengers who got off at Durban came to see us off. The Durham Castle started off an hour before us, so it is likely that she will come in our company.

It was fine travelling down the coast with a following wind & altho there was something of a sea we didn't notice it at all travelling with it. To overhauled the Durham Castle about 9.

Sunday, 12 July 1917. Our luck for rotten weather still clings to us. There is a very heavy head sea this morning & we are dipping & rising up big seas. All the ports are closed & the decks are too wet & slippery to have any exercise. All the same we did a very good run —

one of our best. This is due to the strong current which runs down the coast, ~~from~~ sweeping in from the Indian Ocean & near the end of Africa it sweeps around across to Australia. It is "same" current as it travels at 4 knots an hour!

Tuesday 2nd July Still very rough, but later in the afternoon the weather moderated a bit. The ports are still closed but we have been able to have some exercise.

We are becoming quite used to the bugle calls, commencing in the very early mornings & at odd times during the day for parades, meals etc. Several of the old soldiers have served their time & look pretty glad to be making home. They look some the worse for wear. The baboon escaped & made up for the top deck & it took quite a troop to catch. Now they have been in a confinement spot as far as warmth goes on the trolley bridge in the engine room.

He is a queer old chap & has been taught some tricks with shake hands & salam boun.

We had a glimpse of the shore again this afternoon for a little while.

There was such a large school of porpoises following us for a time this afternoon & it was very interesting watching them kicking off out of the big waves & diving in again beautifully.

Tuesday 3rd July It was horridly rough last night & cold too. Instead of only a sheet on our beds we now require blankets & rugs. Such a difference to in the light.

At breakfast time we passed the most southerly point - Cape of Good Hope - & are now just making into Cape Town. The Table Mountain has its cloth on!

Later We came in close to the entrance to the docks before lunch & anchored off there & were told we couldn't get in until tomorrow afternoon.

It does seem curious after being hustled around from Durban. However, it is a dashed side better lying quietly here than being tossed about unmercifully outside.

The Tablemount kept its cloth on all day long so we didn't get a glimpse of what the Mount is really like, but what we did see of the place looked v. nice & green.

At night time it reminded me very much of Hong Kong with all the lights up the hill side. It seemed so curious that the sun did not set until nearly six o'clock — about an hour later than it does at Melbourne which I suppose is about the same latitude. I believe the reason of this is due to the fact that the mid-African is the standard time.

The difference is noticed in the morning when the sun doesn't rise until about 8 —

Wednesday, 4th July When we anchored it was nice & fine & the sharp keen wind of yesterday had disappeared, but we couldn't see anything of Cape Town as it was entirely enveloped in cloud. We got word that we were to go into the docks shortly after

breakfast. You will remember the big breakwater & the way the docks are enclosed, so I won't describe them, except to say that the piers are fine & the cranes are well up to date for expeditions loading & discharging cargo. When we got inside we got into the cloud & it drizzled rain all the morning, so there were no points in going ashore. We had a great deal of amusement at the expense of the sailors of an allied cruiser just opposite to where we were berthed. They were taking some bullock on board for food, & their methods of getting them aboard were much the same as loading bags of wheat. Some of the beasts were frightened out of their lives & objected to going aboard by way of the passengers gangway! Then the antics the sailors got up to trying to persuade them. One big black fellow pulled away & started down the pier with a crowd chasing him & we all thought he would take a header into the water, but he turned &

+ ducked around a railway truck & back he came full speed. You sh^d have seen the sailors make for the railway truck! Their agility in climbing in that was ^amuch better show than their running. Then he ran down the pier with most of the ship's crew after him - fearing that they were going to lose a good dinner or two. He made back for Cape Town & as I had to fix up a few postcards &c I went into the writing room. In about an hour's time I heard much laughing outside so I thought they must be all back again. Sure enough he was being pulled back & anchored to a certain extent by means of leashes. The bullock was very blown this hide steaming like anything. Altogether it was a good wild west show.

As it cleared up after lunch the Commodore & I went ashore - our need for our other companion having left us yesterday this being his destination.

The first thing that struck us was the sleek & old hansom cabs & the horses had bells similar to the London cab horses.

We made our way to Adderley St. The main St. - a fine street too, but very short. The people were lined up waiting for the procession - Fete des Nations. We didn't wait for that but walked straight on to the Corporation Gardens in front of Parliament House.

By this time the cloud had lifted from Table Mountain & gave us our first clear view of the top. It is fine - & as you know about the same height as Maccodan. We went on to the Museum, which we found very interesting & then back into Adderley Street & one of the Tea Rooms upstairs on the verandah, so that we could watch the street traffic. Of course there were plenty of soldiers about after the procession.

About 500. we took a train to Wynberg & a most interesting drive it was turning & twisting about mostly through fine avenues of trees. They have taken no end of trouble in planting hundreds & hundreds of trees & we seemed at times to

driving for miles thro' Australian gums. It was grand to see them again & it made us think we were back in good old Australia. Then we got into an avenue of oaks & elms as they had lost their leaves & the streets were wet after the rain we didn't require anything more to remind us that we were in the depth of midwinter.

We passed very many quaint little houses with thatched roofs & it seemed as if we were suddenly thrown back half a century, until we got towards Wynberg where there are some v. nice residences - but I don't think anything to compare with what we saw at Durban.

It took us a full hour to get to Wynberg & as the air was pretty nippy we had a sharp walk part of the way back & returned to Cape Town about 7.20 & had dinner at the Opera House. After a fine smoke we got into a cab (an old London like they have in Tasmania) & drove back to the docks. We were all convinced that an old nigger had been sleeping in the cab & made us decide to take our gas masks next time!

Thursday 5th July. It was a topping day — fine & warm
 & no clouds about, so we saw Table Mount
 to perfection & the high ranges away to the
 east & even the snow on the peaks.

As regards weather conditions nothing better
 could be desired for the famous marine
 drive to Hout Bay so fine & as hired a car
 & made a start immediately after lunch.
 We first went west past some of the fine
 residential places & then beyond where
 the new marine drive commences.

It is cut out of the side of the cliff for miles
 & every tiny little bay that opens up has
 quite a no. of dippy little week-end or
 summer houses, built partly over
 boulders & partly on the soil in between.

The owners must go down there simply
 for the view & a little scurping — they
 can't go inland owing to the mountain
 which rises sheer. We passed Camps
 Bay & then over the Lion's shoulder
 down a steep grade to Hout Bay.

It is evidently a popular resort & is a
 half way house in this circular drive.

The little native half caste children brought us strings of shells & after selling them immediately went off & played pitch & toss with their earnings!

We had afternoon tea at the hotel & then started on our homeward drive ^{around} ~~at~~ the back of the Mount. There is a long valley here & we passed small Dutch farms — many of them growing vegetables — the farm houses being whitewashed & looking very striking amongst the green. One hopes they are as clean inside as they look outside, but their small windows are not very inviting. We mounted up & up & at the turn off (a small bridle track) for the top of the Mount is a military post to protect the waterworks. We got a magnificent view of the valley we were about to enter & also of the flat country for miles beyond.

We ran out of the sunshine (the sun was now behind the Mount) & immediately we noticed the difference in the temperature & we were all glad that we had brought our overcoats.

It was a most interesting run down past numerous small Dutch farms, & nearly all the way ~~between~~ ^{between} fine trees planted often very close on either side of the road. Every now & then we would come across groves of pines or oaks. All the ^{branches of} the pines on the eastern side of the road grow across (as if blown) the top & interlace with those of the other side & in the summer time must make a nice shady roof. The miles of oak avenues must be a picture in the spring & summer time. At present there were no leaves on the trees. On our way we passed thro' Cecil Rhodes magnificent estate which he bequeathed to the Nation. He must have spent thousands on it. Of course it is all on the hill-side & we wound in & out always between every kind of tree (including our eucalyptus) which must have been planted years ago. Every now & then we would pass thro' acres of close planted oaks or pines. Then we turned off the

main track & mounted up steeply past a lot of paddocks containing springboks, wildebeestes & various kinds of African deer. It is an African zoological gardens & in one place there are cages of lions & leopards & monkeys etc.

He must have been fond of the squirrel as they fairly swarmed on the oaks as we passed by. We came at last to the Monument erected to Cecil Rhodes by the nation. It has a superb position overlooking miles & miles of the hinterland. The monument itself is built of granite & you have to mount up a large no. of steps before you reach the huge bronze bust of Rhodes facing out over the plains. On either side of the steps are four large bronze lions & at the base of the monument is a fine equestrian statue. Above the Cecil Rhodes bust is carved "To the memory of this spirit and life work of Cecil John Rhodes ~ re re". The whole conception is a v. fine one & the monument is a worthy one of the Cape's tribute to a great man.

We next travelled thro' old Dutch villages — & the houses looked so quaint with their moss grown thatched roofs.

Then we passed into the suburbs of the well to do — most of the houses were English in type & with the crescents & the English trees planted everyone remarked that it looked like a bit of old England.

We got back to the steamer about 5:45 & all of us felt very hungry after the keen air of the great afternoon. We all had —

I hope you are not all tired of all I have described. You have asked for it so I'm going to inflict it on you!

Remained on board this evening & wrote a letter or two & watched the natives coaling on a steamer close by. It is most amusing to watch & listen to them. There is such a hubbub. They are all in a hurry, running with baskets of coal on their heads which they heave into the coal shutes, & all of them either singing, or yelling or screeching or whistling — so you can imagine the din.

Friday 6th July Today was another beautiful day, something like the beautiful days one is accustomed to get at Moorna.

This morning we strolled into the city & went to the Cape Club & read some of the papers for a time & then returned to lunch. After lunch as the Captⁿ & Commodore went on to Lemon Grove the Dr & I went for a long walk along the seafront to Camps Bay. Some of the rocks are fine & it was great seeing the breakers come over them. We spent nearly an hour watching half a dozen small boys enjoying themselves in a small sheltered bay in small canoes made of corrugated galvanized iron twisted in front & the back, something like an aboriginal bark canoe. They paddled out using flat pieces of wood & then waited until an extra big wave brought them in with a rush. We strolled on then to Camps Bay where they have built out into the water a concrete tea room with a swimming pool in front.

After tea we caught a train back to the City where we spent an hour & then walked back to the ship for dinner. It was a very pleasant outing & we both enjoyed the exercise. Some of the fireman & boys - have been ashore tonight & are now returning in a jocular mood. One chap "goes" is just outside my room talking as well as he can in broad Scotch - & other words. It would take up a lot of space & put down all he has to say!

Saturday 7th July. Altho we are held up here indefinitely we cannot so far complain much of their misdeeds: we had another fine day, but a bit on the hot side, so much so that we didn't do much sightseeing.

Saturday morning is the time knits & flappers meet at Cape Town so we went along to inspect them. We first went into the gardens & read the morning paper & then strolled down Adderley St. The most interesting thing we saw was the

flower selling — the flower girls, being black women! They were in front of the post office & the Ry. Station by the score. There seemed to be plenty of Coolamundra wattle about. Speaking of flowers we saw such a lot of buttercups & daisies on the Common yesterday afternoon.

It was so hot that we did not go out again until after afternoon tea when we strolled up on Green Point common & watched the football. They were playing Soccer — there must have been half a dozen matches going on, & all being played by coloured people.

Those old crocks who were allowed ashore last night took a long time to return. The young sailor boys (crew) seemed to find great amusement in pulling them along & pushing them down the companion way. Still it was good to know the old chaps could be spry enough to get so "springy". Many of them looked a bit weak about the eye this morning when they went out for their morning walk.

A great many of the old jocks are at it again tonight & are anxious to sleep in the alleyway or wherever they can.

Sunday 30th July 1917 I think everybody on board
 took it nicely this morning, altho all
 the sailors & most of the soldiers went off to bed.
 We watched the niggers having drill & exercises.
 I think I told you that there are about 2000 of them
 on board an adjoining boat & how they crowd
 up on deck from early morning until late at
 night watching everything going on. The
 exercises were mostly done at the double,
 running round & round a portion of the
 wharf & varied at times by jumping over bars.
 They were all very willing & caused a great
 deal of amusement even among themselves.
 It was very warm work & their black faces
 shone like anything when they started exercising.
 After lunch the Captain & the Quartermaster
 & I took a tram to Sea Point & then strolled
 on to Camps Bay - a good long walk
 along that Marine drive I told you of the other day.
 We got there about afternoon tea time &
 afterwards we strolled on to watching the people.
 It is a popular place on Sunday as we
 found our cost when we wanted to
 return; it took us an hour before we could

get a tram & then it was packed. We returned by way of the Kloof, the road mounting & winding up the hill side until it reaches the shoulder of Signal Hill. Looking back you get a magnificent view of the coastline & of the 12 apostles of Table Mountain. Then we commenced to descend on Cape Town from a part where we had not been before. It was very fine, but we did not see it at its best as it was a short time after sunset. We took a taxi back to the boat, arriving a little bit late for dinner.

This evening I wrote four letters - I find this is far the best plan of getting this my correspondence by writing a few each day. We have an "oiler" berthed on the other side of us; it is wonderful how quickly they can discharge her cargo by pumping the oil out of her.

I noticed in this evening's paper that there has been another air raid on London. I wish to goodness our men would make reprisals on many of the German towns to harm them.

Monday 9th July We had a trip to Simonstown
 today. We strolled into town & caught the fast
 train to Kalk Bay. It passes through Wynberg
 & then soon afterwards the railway comes
 out on the edge of the beach & winds around
 the numerous small bays. The latter have
 become very popular in the last few
 years as seaside resorts & some fine houses
 have been built, especially at Muizenberg.
 This seems to be much away from the
 others as the sea bathing is particularly
 good. They say that the water is about
 15° warmer than any other part of
 the bay - it is supposed that it is due
 to a small tongue of that warm current
 which comes down from the Indian Ocean.
 There are a couple of nice hotels at
 Kalk Bay & there seemed to be plenty of
 children spending their midwinter
 holidays here. We had lunch there
 & afterwards walked on to Simonstown
 about 6 miles further on - we had to
 camp a couple of times as the rain came
 on. We only had 45 minutes at Simonstown

as we had to catch the 5-30 train back to land
 as at Capetown at 6-15. It is as you know the
 naval base & quite a busy little town -
 all these places are built partly on the side
 of the hills as there is only a v. narrow strip
 of ground between the beach & the steep
 hills at the back.

We returned to the ship for dinner &
 then went to the theatre. "Slightly Married"
 which was performed by amateurs &
 written by very amateurish people. It
 was all very absurd & yet we had a good laugh
 at times at the ridiculousness of it all -
 It all helped to fill in an evening.

Tuesday 10th July These old jocks are amusing old chaps.
 They become very argumentative after they come
 home after a night's carousal, but talk very
 "deliberately" & accuse one another in strong
 language of being inferior persons. And then
 early in the morning when they are on parade after they
 are first wakened up they are all talking as
 loud as ever they can. They seem to have so
 much to say as if they had been separated
 from each other for weeks. The weather

night after they had a few drinks in they called in at a place with a sign outside "Welcome to our Brave lads" & slid under the tables & smashed up a few chairs. They had some trouble in slinging them out & the manager of the Show said they were far worse than the Australians & N Zealanders! The local people must curse these times because whenever a troopship arrives the pubs are all closed. One arrived from NZ yesterday & they were all over the town today - big, fine looking fellows & v. well equipped.

Took it very quietly today. Simply strolled along at the end of the breakwater this morning & after lunch walked into town & up to the Museum & Picture Gallery & afterwards into the Gardens. The NZ's seemed to be everywhere. Later I had afternoon tea with a very nice naval man & then strolled on to Monument Jetty which is built of re-inforced concrete & had a splendid promenade. Towards the end it is a double-decker & provision is made for a picture show & band performance etc.

The pier is at the bottom of Adderly St & at the beginning of it there is a fine bronze statue of the first Dutch Governor of the Colony. As my cabin overlooks the well deck these old jacks congregate in little groups outside all the ports & so one hears all the arguments. At present they are arguing over the sentence on some chap, which they thought was altogether too light! Goodness knows how the poor devil would have fared if he had been sentenced according to their views -

I forgot to mention that when those jacks were at that "Welcome home" the other night & in that madd'ni state they went to the manager & told him that they were sorry that they had missed some of the items on the programme, but they would stay until the last item - of the concert that was held the night before!!!

Wednesday 11th - July It is five weeks today since leaving Melbourne & I suppose in normal time we should have been close up to England now. When we do leave here I suppose it will be anything up to 4-6 weeks before we do it now - We left the docks this morning before breakfast

and come out into the harbour so as to make room for some steamers out here ready to dislay & coal. There is no doubt these docks are kept very busy -

When we were having breakfast we caught a swarm of small fishing boats close by & the fishermen were catching fish like anything, so several of us rigged up some lines & had some very good sport for a couple of hours. When we go ashore again we shall buy some lines in case we are held up some days at Sierra Leone. I believe the fishing is quite good there.

One of our young officers returning sick from Mesopotamia wears the ribbons of the Military Cross & Legion of Honour. He was in the retreat from Mons & in the battle of the Marne & being gassed at Ypres & I think he was at the R. Idles. He has been wounded 7 times so his record is good.

Thursday 12th July. We are still anchored out in the harbour & rumor has it that we shall not go into the Docks again until Sat. morning. It was a cold miserable day, raining most of the time & a strong wind blowing, so there

was nothing doing except read most of the time. A few went ashore but they did not stay long there. I suppose it was more miserable there than here. It is curious how we grieve about anything. When we get to Sierra Leone we'll be bound to be wanting some of the cold we've have had here during the past 2-3 days.

I can hear that Jack is arguing about something or other down the companion way. They ought to be asleep long ago (10.45) as they are awakened at 6 am - so ends their sleep. That is the end of any further sleep for us.

One gets accustomed to being joined now at all times of the day for the various parades.

Better news in the paper this morning about the German political dissensions. Let us hope they are the beginning of the end for the Huns!

Friday 13th July. There was still a big swell out in the harbour, but I don't think it has been quite so bad as yesterday.

I read several letters most of the morning & shortly after 3.00. we made a start to go into the dock once more. When we got inside the Capt. decided to berth alongside Stern first.

and it was interesting to see us turn around in a comparatively narrow space. The tugs here have big rope fenders in front of their bows, & one tug gets up at the bow & another near the stern on the opposite side & they push the steamer round. It is all done in a remarkably short time & we were soon alongside.

I think I told you we have the London agent of J.C. Williamson's on board with us (& incidentally he is a patient of mine) & he arranged to have all the officers on the Arctics at the performance of Millstones to night at the Opera House. There must have been 40-50 of us there & the house was packed.

We at the Captain's table occupied a box in grand style. The performance was excellent & the company a good one, so we had a very enjoyable evening. I had seen it some time ago in Melbourne, but of course it is v. well worth seeing again.

It rained heavily for a few minutes just before we came out, but we got home in a taxi without getting wet hair.

There were a good many Zealanders there, as one of their transports arrived today -

We hear that it is unlikely that we shall be leaving now until Monday. Still it was nice coming in again from the harbour: we felt we had been away for a trip & were due to come in to port again -

We are wondering how the Jaks are going to put up with being sent into a lower deck than the one they occupy at present, as we took aboard some more troops this aftⁿ, & we take more to-morrow & again on Sunday - We are bound to hear plenty of swears & many arguments about it all!

Saturday 14th July. There was some very heavy rain during the night & we found the streets pretty sloppy when we went out to work this morning. There was the usual fine display of flowers being sold by the flower girls, - plenty of wattles blossom today. We had some business to transact, including the buying of fishing tackle in preparation for our stay at Sierra Leone. Then we went up to the Cape Town Club & saw some periodicals

then had lunch there. In comparison with the cost of a meal at an hotel it is absurd ^{low} at the Club, or rather I should say at the hotel the cost is excessively high.

After lunch we caught the train to Rondobosch & walked up an avenue to Gerrit Schuur.

The residence of the late Cecil Rhodes. It is a very fine place & one could imagine that there must have been some great occasions there when Rhodes was in his prime.

Unfortunately we haven't a permit to look over the place — by his will it is the property of the nation & becomes the official residence of the Prime Minister — but we peered in the windows & doors & could see that it was full of wonderful things — tapestries, magnificent vases & antiques of every description. There is a beautiful collection of old Dutch things & on the spacious veranda are fine old Dutch chests, but so massive that they would take 3 or 4 men to move. You must be familiar with the architecture — I sent a pic. of it & the fine bronze above the doorway representing the

Landing of the first Blatchman in Cape Colony.
The gardens are very fine to & old oaks about
simply swarm with squirrels.

We walked up to the top of a small valley to see
the Zoo & came across the animals we saw
the other day when we drove to Hout Bay & back.
We wacked a good part of the way back; it
would have been more enjoyable if we hadn't
been troubled with 2 or 3 showers —

On getting back to the steamer we found the
mgs. busy coaling & then heard that we
shall not be leaving here until next Tuesday!
We are all becoming quite philosophical
now & look upon these delays all in the day's march.
One good thing is that we are not the bothered
by one of our troopers which our arrived at
Durban yesterday —

The Jocks have been allowed ashore again this
aftⁿ & are not commencing to return & are v-
lively. One is on the wharf singing away like a
young'un, others are v. argumentative just outside
my cabin & one is too full to argue. One is
trying between the couples & swears to tell every-
body that this is the worst boat he has been on
in all his life. I suppose it will be v. lively midnight

Sunday 15th July has been a day when most of us have been busy writing & reading. It rained hard all last night & all today, so the decks were all wet & miserable & there was nothing else for but settle down inside -

There was a pause for about half an hour or so, so we ventured out on to the break water & got well drenched for our trouble by a big wave.

We leave the Rocks tomorrow apt^r after lunch so tomorrow morning will be our last chance of a run ashore for some time. We are supposed to depart by Connaught on Tuesday, but I shall believe that when we are actually on our way.

However we must post our letters posted from home. As final leave ceased tonight for all troops on board, I heard some of the jacks say that they will go ashore & get "tight." They were confident about getting the frog - & did get it, because they are just returning now, one fellow declaring that he is not going any further than the alleyway as it is his home. These old crooks are amusing & their attitudes in the town yesterday apt^r when they were sober, would make you laugh - at any rate they made me laugh.

Monday, July 16th 1977 We were told that we sh^d have the aboard by 2 p.m. as that was the time we sh^d leave the docks & go out into the harbour. We went ashore fairly early & posted our letters & did whatever shopping was necessary & then I went & inspected one of the curio stores & was much taken with the rugs & skins — There was a silver jackal rug which was particularly good & the leopard & tiger rugs were also tempting, but I thought I had better wait until the return journey & bring them home with me — besides you might not want to be bothered with the looking after them. I must get them on my return as they are very fine & will look well in one's house. Besides, as far as I know, they are not easily procurable in Australia, unless at a very exorbitant price. Afterwards we strolled in parts of the town we hadn't been before & visited also the Supreme Court & the University. By this time it was time to return & we got back to lunch at 1.30. Punctually to time the 2 tugs came for us & we sawing out & anchored outside. It was blowing hard from

The S.S. was most unpleasantly cold.
 About afternoon tea-time it did our heart
 good to see several vessels arrive - liners &
 troopers & warships. Our own battleship
 came followed by some of an allied nation &
 later on a large liner from England preceded
 by a battleship & then other ships. It was a
 fine sight & the whole scene was a busy one.
 Everything pointed to the prospect at last of
 a moderately early departure.

Table Mount looked v. fine also & had its proper
 white tablecloth on — He closed wound form
 at the eastern end & then roll lazily over the
 side to the far end & then disappear altogether.
 Somehow, when the evening lights appear on
 the hill I'm always reminded of Hong Kong —
 but of course the likeness is wanting in the
 absence of the crowd of launches & sampans
 in the harbour.
Tuesday 17th July. We had orders that we would
 start at 5.30, altho' one of the transports was
 remaining behind for some slight repairs
 & then would come on & catch us up. How-
 ever these repairs were found to take longer
 than expected & we heard about afternoon

to a time that our departure was again postponed until tomorrow at noon.

It was a topping day, cloudless & still & a nice warm sun & I confess that I ~~lay~~ ^{laid} in the sunshine all day long, like I used to at times up at Kroona. It was grand looking over towards Cape Town & the Devil's Peak, The Table Mount & The Lion were seen to perfection. It was also very busy as regards shipping & several steamers arrived & some departed. There was a little fishing, but the recent heavy rains made the water quite muddy & so they didn't bite much.

I bought J.K. Bangs "Hedge Spirits & other Tales" being the "House-boat on the Liffey" series, but I wouldn't advise you to read it as it is absolute bunkum & his own confession is that he has run dry is perfectly true. It is quite warm tonight & I think a blanket will be enough. — We have been here a fortnight & I suppose there is some consolation in not having to spend it at a hotel & shop like Sierra Leone. We should be there in about 13 days.

Wednesday 18th July We had a nice day for our start & punctual at 12 the battleship moved off with the band playing cheerily. It was nice to see the way the rest of us took up our positions following immediately behind the warship — first came ourselves & then followed the three Reg. troopers.

As we passed along Sea Point & Camps Bay the people telegraphed to us Goodbye & Good Luck.

At afternoon tea time the battleship signalled to have 2 lines, so the last 2 troopers moved out a mile starboard of us, but maintaining the same length between each — 4 cables.

At night time the warship showed a small stern light so we were able to follow well in her wake —

About dinner time we ran into a nasty swell which kept a lot away from dinner, myself included.

Thursday 19th July. I really didn't feel comfortable again until after lunch, although I haven't been seasick. We were still in the same order, with the two Reg. troopers well on

our starboard. It is very comfortable to look out & see so many ships about, & especially to see our protector ahead. We only steam about 10 knots, so you can see we are not trying to race each other.

After lunch we had a good game of cricket & found quite a lot of talent among the new men. This took us on to aftⁿ tea time & then we rested & later strolled about. The trooper following came up very close to us on ^{one} occasion & we could see their troops quite plainly & they whistled & coo-ced to us -

Friday 20th July Cheer oh! Chippo, and many Happy Returns of the Day. I hope you've had a good time! As we go farther north it has become much milder; suppose it will be warmish tomorrow. It was a nice sunny day, but there was a good deal of swell wh. made us roll like bill oh. I read most of the morning & afternoon & soon after afternoon tea the warning blast for boat drill was given. The soldiers & sailors lined all the decks with their life belts on & we civilian passengers had to meet in the mess room & landing. We had our life belts on for the first time. I must get out my Greiv waistcoat tomorrow.

all preparations are made in case of an emergency. The bulk-heads are closed, the boats are kept swung out & rope-ladders are rolled up at the sides close to the boats. It is interesting to see the battleship also. She has all her guns ready trained, so as not to be taken by surprise. We still follow in her wake & to see the trossers forming the other line either in the morning or afternoon you would think that we hadn't moved — they appear to be in exactly the same spot.

These firemen kick up a noise when they are coming on & going off duty. They have to pass my ports going along the passageway to & from work & all the time they are whistling or calling out — "hot water" is the chief expression. They do this to prevent collisions in the dark. I believe & the hot water is for their wash. Of course all the lights are covered up, nothing in the way of a light shows from the ship.

Saturday 21st of It was a beautiful day, the water smooth & the weather mild & warm.

I suppose Kialia to be expected as we enter the Tropics sometime tomorrow.

I read most of the morning. The wonderful Bishop (Morley Roberts) not at all bad & I began one of Kipling's *Tiger Handicap*, but am afraid I'm making slow progress with it.

This afternoon we had a lively game of cricket — Military v. Navy + civilians. I played with the latter & did not well, making top score.

The game gave us plenty of exercise, which was the main thing I bucked as up to end. We quite enjoyed our afternoon tea afterwards. Curious what a lot of talk & speculation as to how long we shall be coaling at Sierra Leone.

The closing of the ports of the messie & smoke rooms makes them very close & stuffy at night time & one commences to get sleepy very quickly. I suppose it is a great advantage to sleep so much & I can remember what a lot I used to sleep when I went away on my first trip.

Sunday 22nd July A very different day to last Sunday, which was so wet & miserable. Today it was as fine as one could wish. We still had

a following breeze, but it was much lighter
& therefore we found it warmer today.

It was quite a lazy ^{one} day, everyone lying about
reading & one could imagine hearing Pop
chopping wood! Church service was held
at 10:45 & the men were allowed off their
parades, but somehow there are always
a no. of ship calls.

The old jacks played the whole live long day
at "Hauve", which is the only gambling game
permitted by the Army. It is really ludo.
Our escort & companions seem to be in
exactly the same place & the "Taliti" has not been
trying any more pranks to relieve us of
our stern post. North's ship the "Willock" which
was chartered by the U.S. Govt. heads
the second line & is on a level with ours.

The uppermost deck of all is being much more
frequented the last 2-3 days since the days
have been warmer. I believe when it
gets warmer still the decks become
crowded with officers & men sleeping
out. Altho' my cabin (which I still have to
sleep in) is cool in pump to get a hammock in
case it gets too warm down here.

Monday 23rd July. It wouldn't be so bad if we could expect these sort of days all the way to England. It was a topping day, smooth seas & a tatter. There was an easy long swell, there has been far less rolling today as compared with yesterday. In fact some of the time you could scarcely tell we were moving. The speed of the fleet has been right up to the average of what we are allowed. I noticed that the sailors on the battleship have donned whites, & I suppose our officers will appear in them tomorrow.

Shortly after lunch the battleship went out to sea for a little gun practice & then came back again & then her consort did likewise. This morning the awnings were put up & in the well deck aft they have rigged up a big canvas tank & it has been very well patronised too. The men are very well exercised especially with Swedish drill & while we are at breakfast we generally hear sudden rushes overhead.

The order of the day was reading, cricket & tennis & anything else going.

It does seem curious that while I'm writing these notes (11 p.m.) you are breakfasting in Melbourne!

Tuesday 24th July. All of our officers turned out in white today, but they must have felt a little on the cold side this morning as it was cloudy & considering the latitude quite chilly.

This afternoon we had cricket & during the second innings the skipper went off sick & blew the siren for emergency boat drill. We all had to run as hard as we could and don our lifebelts & get to our proper stations.

It was good practice as it was quite unexpected. After tea we went aft to see our gun shoot at a target dropped overboard. Our whistle blew twice & we fell out of line coming parallel with the "Tabiti" & then blew away five times, three of which were good & the second extremely good & would have knocked out a submarine. One went pretty wide of the mark & the U.S. boys on the "Tabiti" counted us out! However they appreciated the other shots & gave us a cheer. Then we slowly steamed by them & got into line again & they whistled & coo-ed like anything. We have another week off before we get to Sierra Leone!

One of the Naval B's onboard celebrated his wedding anniversary today & his table was duly decorated tonight & different coloured paper-steamers were clustered around their electric lamps & as he entered the saloon one of the wags played the wedding march on the Organ. It had to stand 'fizz' for his table & the polka-dotted was kept up afterwards even to going into the music room & singing, and the majority of them found great difficulty in keeping in tune.

Wednesday 25th July We have been a week out from Cape Town - a week seems a dash long time to look forward to & a short time to look back upon! That seems an ordinary platitude, but somehow as time goes on one seems to get more accustomed to killing & wasting the days. I dare say the six days that it will take to Sierra Leone will pass quickly enough. At any rate one hopes so. Of course, there is always something different happening each day & during the next few days there will be plenty of variety in the way of sports' meetings, even to a

match ahead at Sierra Leone against the
 naval officers & our battleship at cricket!
 The daily round is something like this: -
 as there are so many officers on board the morning
 bath is quite a problem, so I get mine in
 shortly after 7 & then have a stroll on deck
 to see that the troops & our convoy are in
 exactly the same position as if they had all
 anchored during the night. Then I go down
 to my cabin & dress pretty leisurely. That is
 quite a simple matter having one's things
 Then breakfast at 8.30 & we have the
 opportunity of reading the daily wireless
 news being at the Captain's table [Could any-
 thing be worse than the rotten Russian
 news? - falling back along the whole line &
 whole units deserting. It is sickening.]
 I think everybody takes as long as possible
 over all meals. Then a stroll before the
 decks become full with soldiers having
 their morning parades & exercises.
 We generally cut off somewhere & read &
 some mornings it doesn't seem long
 before lunch time arrives. After lunch

The nets are up either for tennis or cricket (today I had some good tennis & feel quite bucked up by it) & these games carry us on till afternoon tea time. After that more walks or camps or yarns or reading & then getting ready for dinner at 7. The dinner generally takes a full hour. After that I usually read until it is time to go to bed - scribbling off these notes just before turning in. So now you have the full programme!

Today we entered the zone proper of the S.B. trades, & we were quite astonished early this morning to find quite a strong following breeze - about twice our speed - & therefore capable of keeping us cool in it, while in it, but out of it as for instance downstairs or in the music room at night when all the ports are chattered, it becomes very hot. The breeze made quite a sea, but it has scarcely affected us as it is a following sea. I think we would pitch a bit if we went the opposite way.

Just before coming down tonight & to get cool after the heat in the music room

I went out on deck. Even with a quarter moon it is difficult to see our troopers, notwithstanding the fact that we know where to look for them. When it clouds up a little it is quite impossible to see them. But the interesting thing is to see the steady small white light ahead of us on our conveyor & to know that there is not the slightest fear of a harder touch going while she is there. It is little wonder we all sleep well.

Please forgive the rambling & I have not been drinking!

Thursday 26th July Today was practically similar to yesterday - good strong following breeze & a little bit of a sea. As long as one remains in the breeze it is quite cool. I suppose we can't premeditate as we are getting pretty close up to the line now.

I got in some reading in the morning & some cricket in the afternoon - but didn't do any good at batting & day. However the running about does one good.

They are getting pretty busy working up the sports & as there is over £25 in hand

for prizes I should think the men will put up
a hard go for them. Even in the hottest part
of the afternoon we can hear them puffing
& blowing over the top of war.

The old jacks seem to play House - all day
long & the bankers never seem to tire of
calling out of the members - I'm wondering
if any of these old chaps will enter for
the boxing -

Friday 27th July I suppose the Dyetts Thos Korman &
Jack Hunt will be wondering when I'm going
to turn up, as I thought I would have been home
long ago. However, we are making along steadily
& unless we are hung up at Sierra Leone for a
long time it will not be so very long now before
we are in England. In peace times we would
have groined like anything at the length of time
of the trip. Now we take things as they come -
By the wireless news this morning there has
been another trip bag by the Submarine.
[REDACTED] is much too heavy in a week.
It is warming up much more & I find I have
bought my fan a good deal, especially in
dressing & undressing. I have not used it
tho' the night so far.

One of the St. African (a Queenslanders) lent me a lot of Sydney Bulletin this morning so I am picking up a lot of Australian news up to the time I left Melbourne!

This afternoon I had a good game of tennis & after tea we had life-boat drill.

It has been a lovely evening & Dr. Evans a well known Liverpool Surgeon who is returning from Mesopotamia & I went up on to the boat deck & garrisoned for an hour or so.

Our battleship today accepted our challenge to a game of cricket at Sierra Leone the day after we arrive there.

Saturday 28th July I suppose you are all having Sunday morning breakfast while I'm writing these few lines. We have steadily been losing time since leaving Cape Town & are now considerably behind Greenwich time. We cross the Line in a few hours' time so we are getting well on. Since yesterday afternoon our leading has put on an extra knot an hour speed so that should bring Sierra Leone a little nearer to us than we expected.

We commenced with our Sports today & jolly
 that it has been for them & as several hundreds
 would crowd in on one deck to see a short
 event (i.e. one not requiring much deck
 space for the competitors) you can imagine
 that at times things were only middling -
 However, the runners were not distressed too
 much & good intervals were given between
 events. One can't say whether it was a
 coincidence or not, but the ship's supply
 of beer completely ran out by lunch time!
 Some of the events were v. amusing & some
 curious collisions & falls occurred in the
 wheelbarrow race, partly caused by the
 ship rolling, but more often by the men's
 arms getting very tired. It was laughable
 to see the driver of the barrow when the
 tape was reached toss his pal (the human
 barrow) into the crowd.

The old vets. potato & spoon race was also
 good, especially to see a wobbly potato
 picked up in a dessert spoon.

The Sports of course interfered with our
 ordinary games so we had to depend on
 walks for our exercise; & it was too hot

to take them at all briskly.

There was very little breeze - at any rate what there was was with us & the smoke just simply went straight up.

Our battleship had good gun practice about lunch time. She moved out of line & the leading trooper in the other line towed a small target to represent a submarine. She blazed away very quickly for about 1 1/2 hours, firing at different angles & different distances. The shooting was ^{very} good.

Then she ran parallel ^{very close} to us for some time, I suppose to see why we were all bumped up on deck. Then she took her proper place again. - One of the troopers had a funeral this afternoon. We don't know who died or the cause of death.

The health of our ship has been good, but I believe a couple of cases of measles were reported.

Couldn't help being amused at one of the stewards while waiting for my bath this morning. One of the naval officers came passing out calling for his steward who was at his elbow. He gave him some order & the steward went muttering "a steward is a noble animal!"

Sunday 29th July. We crossed the line about six this morning. The actual crossing did not disturb me as much as the bugle did to waken up the Jocks. We felt we were in for a hot day & curiously enough the following wind seemed to freshen up which made things a little more unpleasant. Tonight it has veered round so that it is more on our beam & as it is on the port side, it is coming in nicely 'thru' one of my ports.

We have an even better run today than yesterday so our warship seems to be striding out a bit. This ship goes in to Sierra Leone on Tuesday morning. We had to get ahead with our sports this aftⁿ & as I was one of the judges for the Cock-fighting I had to be on deck by 2.00. There were a great many entries & the events were v. amusing, but it was that work being jammed up close of among a lot of men. There were some more tugs of war & they made the officers sweat freely. Those monkeys have been tamed down a lot & the old baboon is a quaint chap. Of course they are teaching him to smoke. He puts the pipe stem in his mouth & one of the sailors puts his mouth over the bowl & blows the smoke into the baboon's mouth & he puffs it out & appears to enjoy it.

Monday 30th July The Sports were continued this morning & we had some most amusing events in the obstacle race. In each event there were 3 competitors & after they were started they rushed at a ~~net~~ stretched across the deck but close to the roof. When they got into this net they were just a heap of legs & arms & bodies writhing & struggling, treading on each others faces. The next obstacle was to crawl under a net, tied down v. close to the deck. Then a great length of wind shuttle & then a small loop of rope suspended from the deck.

I was judging in the next event, the balster bar. There was a big canvas tank in the well deck & a pole stretched across. Two fellows straddled the pole facing each other & banged away at each other with wet balsters until one knocked the other into the water, the best out of 3 tries. It was v. good fun & caused great amusement. This afternoon some of the boxing contests came off & an hour & a half before the first

event the ~~place~~ vantage points were crowded. It was all done v. well, with a proper roped off ring & seconds with their towels & sponges & buckets of water. The seconds looked typical old pups. & he lounged to the navy. The onlookers crowded everywhere, even up in the rigging, on awnings & boats etc. You can easily understand how packed they were round a comparatively small space, as there were several hundreds of them. The referee had his megaphone & the timekeeper his stopwatch & gong.

There were some lively events & some amusing tussles between the navy men.

After ~~that~~ the first rounds it was tea time & the semifinals were postponed. Had some reading & then a little walk & later in the afternoon watched all the vessels get into single file again.

It has been cloudy & rather steamy all today — v. like Colombo heat. By the way, Sierra Leone is practically on the same latitude as Colombo & where we are we are about an hour later than Greenwich time. For some reason or other when we sail here tomorrow we go back to Greenwich time.

They say we sh^d get there about 8 am.
It has been a beautiful moonlight
light & v. enjoyable on the boat deck,
but v. hot down below. I have spent
the evening on the boat deck yarning to
Dr. Evans, a well known Liverpool Surgeon,
who is returning from Mesopot. He told me
he heard of Harry Gardner, but didn't meet him.
We are all looking forward to getting ashore
again, even after it sh^d be v. hot.

Tuesday 31st July. I got up shortly after 6 this morning &
had my bath & then went on the upper (bad) deck.
It was beautifully cool after the v. hot night in the
cabin & at times I found my dressing gown none
too warm. We were in sight of land — which was
mountainous & looked fine with the early morning
mists in the valleys. The other side of the
estuary is low lying & we could not see any
hills anywhere. At the extreme point of the
hilly side is a lighthouse & immediately
at the back of that was a pretty little bay &
a fine sandy beach. The hills which were
wooded with green patches here & there,
where the trees had been cleared, the

cocoanut trees &c made one think of "Treasure Island" — & what a great time school boys would have on that point with the sheltered little bay just at the back of it.

We slowly made our way up to ~~the~~ ^{the} town itself, which nestles under the lip-hills ~~there~~. There are a great many buildings ~~there~~ & the barracks are well situated on the summit of a tall hill overlooking the town. They say there are 50 Europeans & 35,000 nigs. in the town! These nigs. whenever they are asked what countrymen they are promptly say they are English.

Our battleship played some good music as we steamed up & came to anchor. We are about a mile or so from the shore & there are a good many other steamers about, to say nothing of our fighting ships! We were told that there has been a good deal of rain here until 2 days ago when it eased up a bit. Generally the mornings are fine, but towards 3-30 or 4 it rains heavily for a while & then clears up for the evening. That is what happened today. Our

The few officials were allowed ashore this aftⁿ & we were not sorry to stay on board when we saw that great bank of cloud collecting over the hills -

Soon after we were anchored the coal barges came off. The mgs are a well developed lot, coal-black, but are not particularly energetic judging by the rate they coaled. If anything ^{in the way of} was thrown near them they would knock off work & scramble for it. They were arranged in pairs & tilted the coal in bags to the coal shutes. Up on deck the tally-bagp kept calling out the number of bags & every 10 he would call out at the top of his voice. This afternoon when they had finished we amused ourselves by throwing down pennies & 3^d pieces into the hold of the barge. It was screaming & punning & these fellows scrambling for them in the wet coal dust. A good football scream wasn't in it with them. Afterwards we got them dancing & hopping about while some of them kept up a drouing chant. It was interesting to watch

them having their lunch, a small steamer brought them flat baskets full of mealies which was evidently moistened. They squatted around the basket & would grab a fist full of the mealie, give it a bit of a squeeze & then put the whole lot in the mouth. There wasn't much mastication & the process was repeated again & again. They are really like a lot of animals the way they behave. Several of the natives came out in their dugouts but they found it difficult to keep alongside paddling against the strong tide. A few came out in curious bow-shaped canoes as light as outriggers. But ~~these~~ ^{their} sailing boats (gaily painted) with their triangular sails were the most curious of all & they were generally packed with nigs. in most garish coloured prints evidently being taken across to the plantations on the other side of the river.

We continued our sports after 10 this morning & had about 2 hours judging lots of their ordinary ratings - bolster bar. There were some great contests & in 2 or 3 of the fcs the bellows were so

pumped out with snarling at each other that they had to stop watching each other while they regained their wind.

The semi-finals of the boxing will be held in the morning & the finals in the afternoon.

There is a chance of us getting away on Thursday if coaling is completed on all the troopers & battleships.

It is a beautiful night on deck, cool ^{above} but v. close & stuffy down below.

Interesting to see all the shore lights go out shortly after 10, & also interesting to see the various steamers lighted up instead of having our lights shuttered in while at sea - I've been writing letters all the evening, & I shall turn in now.

Wednesday 1st August. It is raining heavily this morning & we only get occasional glimpses of the town. I will have to take up v. considerably before I go ashore as 5 minutes of this rain is sufficient to soak you thoroughly. Am getting a little up in arms in the affairs. According to the degree of tolerance of the cops they will tell you that they won't coach & will you have them fried. If they won't fry them they are scrambled & if they are so bad that they won't be scrambled then they are curried! You might bet that there are boys with eyes of varying ages & looking the result! Cheers!

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Wednesday 1st August 1917 There was a launch going ashore at 11am. So quite a large no. of us decided to go to Freetown & see what it was like, as it is a place run entirely by blacks.

Mr Ackroyd & I were taken possession by a young nigger named Joseph who said he was born in Jamaica & marched us up the street to the post office where I posted my letters. Then we went across the street & bought some postcards, which I hope arrived safely. We were held up there for a time as it rained heavily & the streets were flooded. It is little wonder that the deep rut are worn in the streets as the scour is v. great. It was interesting to see the policemen, of course in blue & wearing unmistakable police caps & boots, looking quite spruce. They appeared to be v. civil & would not allow you to be worried by gaping blacks.

Wandering about the streets were black & white sheep, very like goats in appearance & their wool was short & coarse like hair. In fact one could easily imagine it to be the progenitor of all our woolly sheep in Australia. They were not very numerous.

The streets were fair, ~~but~~ the houses presented the usual appearance in a tropical place viz: - look v. nice at a distance but are v. tawdry when you get close to them, & for the most part they looked dirty inside. There were some v. good & well built houses & shops also. The real native shops tho' were mostly quite open to the street frontage & as far as we could judge the best ones were run by Indians with the usual sickle. In all the shops there were most pearly looking cattons to attract the eye.

As regards the people there were a few swells, well dressed, but most of them did not wear coats & their clothing was rather scanty. A great many of them used umbrellas, but others were quite indifferent to the heavy rain & were soon soaked thro'.

The women had good carriages, perhaps it comes about by carrying everything on their heads.

We went to the gardens & saw different tropical trees such as the spices and also some rubber trees. Next we went with the poorer

streets (one of the pics is typical) & these the ^{ones} were most interesting - & rather smelly - We couldn't help being amused by an undertaker's sign "Sympathetic undertaker" & Dr. Dickraze took a snapshot of it & he will let me ^{have} a photo of it, if it comes out all right. Later on we strolled into the better part of the town where the Governor's residence & the European Clubhouses are. The Law Courts are a splendid pile of buildings & in fact I could not get a photo of them. The houses of the important Govt officials close by are well built & as far as we could judge nicely arranged. They have a big railroad track with a gauge of about a metre & the engine & trucks & carriages look like toys. We intended to have a ride round the mountain, but the rain prevented us. I tried to cable my son that I was well, but the censor forbade all cables to Australia. The hotels were wretched & we got a v. poor lunch at the Royal, while the Grand could only offer us Sardines & bread & jam! Altho' it was wet I am glad I went ashore as the town was v. well worth seeing.

Thursday 2nd Aug. It was a nice cool night for sleeping & there has been a coolish breeze all day, but it has been raining off & on all the time, so we did well in going ashore yesterday. I forgot to mention that there are no horse vehicles & only an occasional rickshaw.

The chief way of getting about is a string of men walking in a line, swinging from a rope which is at each corner of the latter a nigger has a small pad like a rope knot to act as a cushion for his head. It looks v. curious to see them walking along.

The weather wasn't good enough yesterday to take photographs of them, so Dr. Ackroyd said to get some snapshots of them on his outward journey.

We managed to get some spheres up to Jett yesterday which kept us going all this morning & one of the Dr's got a "Nineteenth Century & after" for July, which I'm promised first go. So there was nothing but to read all day.

The Lymanth promised us their band for the evening, but something cropped up to prevent them coming across. However, ~~their~~ a few of their officers came to dinner & made their visit a bit lively afterwards.

with an impromptu concert.

They say that we proceed on our way at daylight tomorrow & have to take another ship with us which has been a lame duck to some of the other convoys so it would seem to be doubtful whether we shall get to England now in 14 days. Of course, when each of us is going it's hardest for the last few hundred miles it is possible we shall make up then some of the lost time. Let us hope so.

Friday 3rd Aug We made an early start this morning. It rained v. heavily during the night & practically off & on all day & I think that it has been our most uncomfortable day so far. The decks were wet, the mess room was also wet & inside passage was close & stuffy. In my cabin this evening both of my ports are closed owing to the rain & the fan is indispensable.

Two other vessels joined our convoy this morning so it looks quite an imposing affair now. One of the steamers is the Suffolk which is some months out from Australia & has been the lame duck of a couple of other convoys. She went off at 13 knots this morning & out—

distanced us all as if to prove that she is a much maligned ship as regards the yarns about her speed. However, we hope she can keep a decent speed until we get to England. We shall be glad when we get out of this rain belt, but I fancy that we shall have another 24 hours of it.

Saturday 4th Aug We are still in the 7 hours rain belt. It rains 7 in the 24 hours during the rainy season, & I understand that we shall run out of it tonight with the 4 in 24 hours. It has rained & rained nearly all day long & as we had a strong blow this morning, the sea was doing its best to rise, but rain & breeze followed rain & breeze & beat it down. The decks were just as wet as yesterday, making walking or any other exercise very difficult. I think we must be almost twelve hours behind our time & it seems rather curious that as I'm writing these few notes you are settling down to your letter writing at home. We have made good time in our run & hope that it will be kept up. We have got the current against us & will have for some days

Even as far south as this we zig-zagged today & it was interesting to see the other ships also altering their course. At times we could not see them at all with the heavy rain, not even our convoy. It was like a dense fog.

It has been much cooler today, except down below & the cabins where the ports are shut become v. stuffy. They are very strict about the lights also & after dinner at night time it is very difficult to find one's way about. Today is the anniversary of the declaration of the war. Let us hope that the fourth year will see the end of it!

Sunday 5th Aug. Balf this morning it broke fine & promising to be nice, but by breakfast time it had clouded over & was steaming again. After breakfast it was raining & continued off on most of the morning. Balf in the afternoon we ran out of the rain & it was a treat to have a clear blue sky & a warm sun. For the first time since leaving the Cape we had a head breeze as we are just getting into the N.E. trades. This evening it has been beautiful - smooth sea, cool breeze & bright moonlight. What a change in 24 hours! I hope you don't mind all these weather reports!

They have been v. busy with evolutions all day long; first the battleship would be on our port bow, then on our starboard. It is interesting to watch all the vessels zigzagging. They are now very strict about all lights & anyone lighting pipes or on deck is liable to arrest. Even the bugle calls are dispensed with. I'm rather pleased that the reveille one is done away with as it used to be played just outside my port. We do not even have our bugle call for meals; it is the gong now. We are making good progress & I suppose this time next week we shall be getting pretty well up. I'm getting quite used to looking a week ahead now: the time seems to go with less of the monotonous drag than during the very early part of the voyage. I suppose I am acquiring a proper lazy habit.

They had one old chap on the string tonight singing away in the music room & he was so bucked up with the praise he was getting that he went on interminably. The stupid old goat I think must have had a bit too much of the sun (& possibly a few drinks) in India -

Monday 6th Aug. Am sports were resumed this morning & we had the semiprofessional boxing & of course there was a bumper house & some very good goes. The finals were held this afternoon & a couple of good battles were witnessed. Then there were a couple of exhibition matches by the naval boys. Just before tea the alarm went suddenly to don our lifebelts & go to our respective stations. A notice was also put up that on Wednesday & until we disembark in England we must constantly have our lifebelts with us, even taking them in with us at meal time. There were the usual evolutions among the ship today & I suppose we must expect that until we arrive.

Today has been fine & cool, in fact quite cold when one considers that we are about on the same latitude as Suey.

I understand that notes & letters posted at Sierra Leone are likely to be censored. I hope they do not go mutilating the notes I've sent you, as what little news I've sent you would not be any use to the enemy. There is every chance now of us arriving in England on Thursday week, so that's fine!

Tuesday 7th Aug There have been the usual manoeuvres today, and it is nice to see all (six) steamers participating headed by the battleship. Interesting to watch the effect of the propeller of the steamer running parallel to us stirring up the phosphorescence. In these waters it doesn't appear to be as brilliant as I've seen it in the Red Sea or Indian Ocean. The moon, which has waxed about half, did not rise until about 9.45 & before that it was v. dark & difficult to get about with the few lights permitted. Even smoking is forbidden on the decks after dark now. Guards are placed everywhere to see that there's no infringement of this rule. Everyone goes about as usual, notwithstanding all these fire precautions, ^{the danger zone} so it has not had the slightest effect of producing any panic. The worst of it is that it has stopped our games, such as cricket & tennis, because the nets would be in the way in case of any emergency. It has been cloudy all today & decided cooler. There has been a little more sea, but nothing to speak of.

Wednesday 8th Aug It is nine weeks today since I left Melbourne! One hadn't any idea that the journey was going to take so long & I suppose you will all be wondering where I've got to, and especially as there will be another week or 8 days before we get to England. From our present position it will be tomorrow (Thurs) week when we sh'd arrive.

The usual fleet manoeuvres were carried out during the day & the N.E. trade winds have been steadily getting stronger, so that the sea has been much heavier, altho' it is by no means bad.

The regulations re constant use of life belts came in after the 10.30 parade this morning. It is rather amusing to see everyone carrying in their hands a life belt & as they exercise on the deck the crowd look like a lot of swappies. The l. belts have to be taken into meals even. I am very pleased to have my Gieve waistcoat, as the ordinary life belt can be dispensed with. Besides ^{the weather} as it is getting colder the additional ~~waistcoat~~ ^{waistcoat} & especially the rubber bag which has the effect of keeping one warm. That reminds me, I must get into warmer things & now rain

Guards are posted everywhere & on the top most deck marines are constant & on the look out for submarines. Anyone who is anxious to ~~know~~ experience what it means to be in the submarine zone & to see the real thing need only drop outboard for 15-30 minutes & he would know that no risks are being taken.

I'm also very pleased to have brought an electric torch with me & for some days past now I've kept it in a handy place. If a torpedo damaged our engines I suppose our electric lights would go & ~~the~~ a torch then would come in very useful.

The old ship's carpenter died early this morning & was buried at 10:30 am. The flags on all ships lying down half mast. Immediately after the burial they flew full mast. He had been ill some days & yesterday did not appear to be doing well. I was asked to see him in consultation in the afternoon, but he was petering out fast & died early this morning.

The poor old chap had for years past a perfect mania to try every ~~black medicine~~ ^{read about} he

Thursday 9th Aug It has been a much nicer day, being sunnier & the sea calmer (at any rate this morning) & the conditions generally were more enjoyable. Of course, there was the usual strict watch & the manoeuvres were kept up. This afternoon about 5-30 we saw a tramp steamer on the horizon going the same way as ourselves but evidently not quite at the same speed. Ours is slow enough.

One soon gets accustomed to the new order of things & today it seemed quite natural to see everyone bringing in his or her pipe & departing it alongside his or her chair at mealtime or eating it about the deck. The only exercise we get now is walking & deck chairs, as they will not allow the nets to be put up for tennis or cricket. Somehow, I never read "Rodney Stone" until just now. It is a great yarn. I have thoroughly enjoyed the reading since being on board & it is years since I had such a good evening, and have read pretty nearly everything. I am also glad I brought some medical books as I have tucked into those also. I suppose this time next week we shall be in London.

Friday 10th Aug. It has been a nice fine day & this evening it is beautiful. How nice these nights would be if the decks & the whole ship was lit up as in peace time!

I don't think I can give you any fresh news today, because our usual routine has been carried out in the way I have already explained to you.

We saw another steamer in the distance late this afternoon.

That old St Kilda man Lt. Campbell knows such a lot of Melbourne I know & we had a chat yarn about them today. He is a very amusing chap & reminds me in many ways of Ben's Mr MacPherson.

By the wireless today I notice that the Commonwealth Govt is compelling the Baccators to enlist or pay heavy taxes. Let us hope this is a further step to an early general conscription.

Saturday 11th Aug. We had some excitement just about breakfast time. The 6th mouth spotted a periscope about 150 yds away.

& promptly warned us all. There were some
 curious manoeuvres while we were having
 breakfast we wondered why the Suffolk was
 right up alongside us & thought that perhaps
 something had gone wrong with her steering.
 However, perhaps I shall be able to describe it
 all more fully before some time later on.
 How we (Brontes) did not get it in the neck
 we can't understand as we immediately
 follow the battleship. I'm pleased to say
 that none of us got it. Of course it is just
 possible that she has been following us
 up all day ready to attack us tonight.
 I hope not, as we're not looking for trouble!
 We saw another steamer this afternoon.
 It will not be very long before we are met by
 our T.P.s, as we are making good headway
 & now expect to get in on Wednes. afternoon.
 We are all getting rather tired of the trip &
 shall be glad when we do get to England.
 Sunday 12th Aug. Today was quiet & uneventful.
 The weather was beautiful & the sea smooth
 except for a long Atlantic swell. I suppose that
 is the expected as we run along the Portuguese
 coast, it's some hundreds of miles out!

The chief topic of day has been the appearance of
 the submarine yesterday morning. As we get
 further away from it the more wonderful the
 stories become. Some of the fellows have been
 doing very well tonight & I daresay the
 submarine stories are hair raising by this time!
 At any rate they have been having a great concert
 & are keeping out the choruses like anything.
 I shall send an urgent cable as soon as I get
 to London because I'm sure you are all
 wondering where I am after these long weeks.
 What a fine long twilight there is here. We found
 it quite light on deck after dinner (8:00)
 tonight. We ran into a heavy rain shower
 about 9 & when we went on the upper deck
 at 10 it was starlight & so bright that we
 could see all the other steamers quite easily.
 We hope that we shall get some warning
 when first the T.P.D.s are sighted as everyone
 is anxious to see them racing towards us,
 & soon after they are first spotted I believe
 it doesn't take long for them to be
 around us. They say that they will pick us
 up at a rendezvous some time tomorrow.
 That remains to be seen.

Monday 13th Aug. We are making steady up I haven't
 v. much further to go to get home. Everyone
 was looking out to see the first of the Kestrel
 today & when the lookout man sounded one bell
 meaning that a boat was visible on our starboard
 how we watched eagerly to see what it would
 turn out to be. She was evidently coming right
 across us, but the breeze made her change
 her course & after passing the last of our skimmers
 she resumed her ordinary course -
 No T.P.D.s have appeared, but they are expected
 early tomorrow some are slowing down for
 the night. There was a strong breeze all
 night most of the day & as there were some
 big Atlantic rollers coming in we moved
 about a good deal - perhaps the most
 since leaving Durban for Cape Town -
 It ^{has been} much colder too & we've had some heavy
 showers during the day, so all these points
 should be helpful for Paps weather records!
 The clock will be advanced 55 minutes
 during the night, so I'm turning in a
 little earlier not to be done out of a
 part of my well earned rest!

Tuesday 14th Aug. It was rough during the night & there was a strong breeze blowing this morning which helped to keep the sea high.

Just as we were finishing breakfast we heard that the destroyers were sighted, so we all rushed up on deck & away on the skyline we could just see a tiny spot. It steadied a few & then we could see the white line it was cutting. We all felt bucked up like an o' ship & were clashed glad to see it overhauling us. So far away we could see it heliographing to our battleship. In about 30 minutes after being spotted it was steaming between our lines, rolling & pitching like billy oh. Of course there was a good sea on & the way it heeled about in it made us wonder what it would be like in a very rough sea. The man in the crow's nest position must have been immune to sea-sickness the way he was slung about. The T.P.D. is a queer looking craft, very much bull-headed & then tapering off quickly almost to the water line. The bow is razor like & my word the water is thrown up. Three thick funnels are placed immediately after the tall bridge.

The TPRs must have missed us during the night because we kept on in a circle until one found us about 9. Then it began to "talk" to the others & in about an hour another couple overhauled us, & at noon another couple. Then the Plymouth wanted to know where the blazes they had got to. By 3 o'clock another three had overtaken us — they all came up from astern. It was most interesting to watch them dodging here, there & everywhere & the zig-zagging that was done in front of us was tip-top. Then at 4 o'clock the Plymouth detailed 3 TPRs to look after the two slowest vessels & the remainder of us cut off at 15 knots with 5 TPRs as an escort. It felt great to be going again at a decent speed after all these weeks. We can't say whether we shall run right into Plymouth in this formation. We should get there tomorrow afternoon sometime. The clock was advanced 55 minutes during the night — this has something to do with the daylight saving bill in England. We had dinner without lights & it wasn't dark until about 9 o'clock. We have seen plenty of steamers about, so it doesn't look as if the German submarines had sunk the lot.

Arrived at Plymouth

Wednesday 15th Aug. It has been a most interesting day.

When we awoke this morning we found the watchful little TPOs dodging & lazing about as if on a pleasure cruise. Then soon after breakfast there was great excitement when we saw a Seaplane bearing down on us, flying very quickly over & around us & then far to the right & then to the left. It was most graceful to see her turn & fly with the greatest ease against the stiff breeze which was blowing. She flew comparatively low down so as to look for submarines. I came down to my cabin to pack my things & soon afterwards I heard the old jacks whistling & calling out & stamping their feet because they had caught sight of old Blighty. We saw the Lizard about 11 & we were told that there was a submarine there last night (the telling being done by other means than whispering), so we kept a look out. It was just as well because we learnt that a steamer outward bound was sunk not so very far from us at the time. The crew were brought in just as we got in here. While I was packing I saw a large cruiser pass us escorted of course by her little terriers (TPOs). Soon afterwards Mr. Ackroyd came down & said I

must come up ^{on deck} as all sorts of things were happening. So up I went & there soaring just in front of us was a huge airship, sailing along as gracefully as you could possibly imagine. I can tell you it made us feel proud to see that airship & a couple of seaplanes & all those T.P.D.s & the old battleships taking very great care of us. It is little wonder the Germans went mad with delight with their Zepps. To see our huge cigar-shaped airship speed along with the greatest ease was something to remember. She appeared to make huge circles around the convoy - I should think the diameter of the circle would be about ten miles, so did some flying. Just before lunch a fleet of fishing boats came out & passed us just as if no war existed! They looked fine with their tan-looking sails. To make things interesting a captive balloon towed by a T.P.D. put in an appearance, & patrol boats seemed to be everywhere. Everything looked as if the German submarine had no chance & yet at a critical time (something went wrong for a few minutes with the ^{engines of} the steamer following us) & a submarine's periscope appeared about 200 yards behind us.

The TPDs, were ready & I rushed up & prowled about the steamer until she went ahead full speed again. The submarine in the meantime thought it wiser to disappear. Soon after lunch Eddystone lighthouse showed up & we rounded that & made a bee line (all of us in single line) for Plymouth Sound. It is only 11 miles from Eddystone light & it was splendid to see the fine coastline open out beautifully.

The wheatfields were all ripe & two or three of the fields had recently been mown because the stalks were still lying about. The Sound was full of shipping & I can tell you that it gave us some more thrills when we steered proudly thro' the breakwater to know that at last we were safe from the submarines. The battleship had its band playing gaily as it slowly went on to Devonport while we anchored well out in the Sound. But we had a great view of everything on shore & it seemed so wonderful to see in the middle of summer so much green grass about. There appeared

to be a picnic of some sort in one of the parks, or else the town people were having a half holiday. The Sound itself had still plenty for us to see & we saw some weird crafts (I must tell you about them when the war is over) Later in the afternoon (we got in about afternoon tea time) we saw a sea plane come racing down & then head against the wind & mount up beautifully & then fly out to sea!

I feel quite tired tonight after all today's excitement & will turn in now, so as to prepare to go ashore early tomorrow & then catch train for London.

Just fancy, it is ten weeks today since I left Melbourne! I didn't think when I started that the trip would take so long.

Thursday 16th Aug Arrived in London

We left the good ship *Cronos* immediately after lunch today i.e. as soon as they had completed the disembarkation of the mails. There were over 4000 bags & they took off as many as they could last night & commenced again this morning. It didn't take us long to run ashore & we soon got our baggage cleared by Customs. Then I went

the Austⁿ Disembarkation office close by & got a
 warrant to travel to London & the next business
 was to get a cab (old London type) & be driven to
 North Road station to catch the Great Western
 train to London (Paddington). The drive thro'
 the quaint old winding streets & every house
 built on exactly the same architectural lines
 had its interest after so much sea travel.
 I saw nothing of the pieces of coral under
 glass shades exposed to view in the
 front rooms!

We started about ten to four — a well placed tip
 secured a compartment to ourselves (4 of us
 from the ship) in an otherwise v. full train.

It was one of the most interesting train rides
 I have ever had & I engaged every moment of it.
 The country looked just at its best & we had
 a fine day to see it all.

It was just grand to pass thro' all that
 checkboard country of wheatfields & green
 grass — such a contrast between the
 ripe wheat & the vivid green grass. The
 latter I could not get over in the middle
 of summer & the green grass like what we

see only in spring & autumn & winter -
 And the well kept hedges instead of fences
 - what a sight they must be in spring when
 the Hawthorn is in flower! The miles
 & miles of these fields with every now & then
 clumps of oaks & elms & birches thro'
 undulating country - well it is little
 wonder that everyone says England is a
 garden - & in Devonshire we saw the
 best of what was to be seen.

The cattle looked magnificent - so clean &
 sleek & fat. The little flocks of sheep
 did one's heart good too, altho' they continually
 made me hark back to Australia &
 Moarna in spirit! The views were never ending
 in variety & after a few miles we suddenly
 found ourselves winding in road along the
 shores of Exmouth & Torquay &c & it was
 great to see the youngsters bathing - the
 bathing boxes &c giving the typical pictures
 one is so accustomed to see in Illust^d papers.
 The fine old homes we passed all seemed
 black (to an Australian of course) the balconies
 & fine broad verandas. I shall have

see to that when I'm building my baronial
 place in England to come to occasionally
 from Australia. It was all so dashed
 interesting & exciting that I couldn't read the
 great war news. viz. - the commencement of the
 summer offensive, the capture of hill 70 & over
 3000 prisoners. I just simply gazed & gazed &
 was sorry I couldn't see both sides of the
 country we were passing thro' at the same time.
 We came up to Exeter - I recognised that quite
 on my own over so far away by the Cathedral.
 How beautiful the situation of the town
 & villages we passed thro'. Then thro'
 Taunton & on to Bristol, which we
 reached shortly after 7. We had a good
 dinner there (word being sent on for us
 down beyond Exeter) & we found some
 nice roast chicken & new potatoes (there is
 practically a glut of vegs now in England)
 & peas & we some draught beer which was
 very thin & tame. The new war-bread
 (something whole-meal) we tasted for the first
 time. An hour's run brought us to Bath
 & then up to 9 o'clock we noticed people

working in the fields. Then we had to draw down the blinds (so as to keep ~~in~~ the light from the carriages giving positions to enemy raiders) for the rest of the trip to London & we arrived at Paddington about 11 - behind time -

Dear old Jack Muir & Mrs Norman were down to meet me - I had telegraphed to Regts & Jack Muir before leaving.

The other chap took my luggage in the only available Taxi & Jack & I saw Mrs Norman home, close by & then we took the "tube" to the Museum & in 20-3 minutes arrived at the Thackeray Hotel which is exactly opposite the entrance gates of the British Museum, so you can guess we are in a nice quiet spot -

Jack & I & the Padre & Dr Mackey (Canadian) yarned on until 1.30 am! Jack is exactly the same, except that he is getting a bit bald - about as much as I am.

It was another red-letter day & I felt that it was a great thing to be alive!

The Thackeray H. is fine; such comfortable airy bedrooms & well arranged in every way.

Friday 17th Aug I didn't get up for my bath until 8.30 & it was great oh to have a fresh water bath & hot to! We got down to breakfast at 9.15 & had the regulation courses & measured quantities — porridge, milk followed by one poached egg (eggs are 8^p each) & cold ham & toast & small pat of butter & coffee & only about a dessertspoonful of sugar to do all this. Then some stewed fruit. Excuse the detail, but these are war allowances.

While I was dressing I forgot to mention that an old Italian organ grinder played faintly airs down below (8m on the 3rd floor) about 11 the faithful old Jack turned up & we went down to the Bank & then on to Peabody's. I saw the submanager there & he was very nice & promised to cable my arrival for an. After this lapse of time I suppose you will be thinking 8m & me in Nancy Jones' locker. Then the subm. invited me to call on Monday next to see the Gen. Manager Mr Beavers at one o'clock on Monday. He seemed very pleased to do anything for me & said he was proud to do show me any attention.

after having travelled all these thousands of miles to keep the Mother Country. So that was nice of him to say so.

Then we travelled back again by the tube & the Thackerays have picked up Padre & Mackay & they (i.e. the 4 of us) dined at the Holborn Restaurant Grill rooms. It was crowded with people. We had soup, a grill of potatoes & apple semolina & a cup of coffee & glass of beer & I think the lot cost me a 50p. which I suppose is not out of the way these times.

We got back here again to meet Pyeth at 3.0. He was glad to see me & I to see him. He has aged a bit, but is still a very cheery little fellow, notwithstanding the fact that he has had more of us — & has only thumb & index finger & half his hand left. After tea we strolled to Jack's digs. at South St Cray's Inn — under the quaint old arches & along narrow alley-ways which I suppose were used by sedan chairs in earlier times. The famous Cray's Inn (for Pop's benefit I might tell you, it is not a pub. but the law place which Bacon made famous & his statue is in the square. Well, Jack's out

is in the attic part of these dwellings which were built in 1738! The 2 little bedrooms are not any bigger than ships cabin's & the sitting room about as large as Boris' sitting room. Of course, everything is neat & clean. I saw Jack's Chemist, Hillman, who was just recovering from a "chill on the liver." He is v. little Jack in appearance & manner.

Then we went down to Mrs Norman's place in Westbourne Terrace & had a yarn & then I took them both on to the Trocadero for dinner. It was packed & we had to wait a few minutes (until 8⁰⁰) before getting a table. It was a great sight & one could scarcely credit (except for the sight of plenty of khaki) that we were only a few miles from the seat of war. We yarned on till 10⁰⁰.

Mrs N. is much the same — wears v. well — & is bright & jolly & v. delighted to see me. Then Jack & I walked back from Piccadilly Circus to St. Russell St (Thack. Hotel) & stood watching the searchlights playing about. It is so curious to see London dimmed down so, but it is v. busy with all this darkness.

Saturday 18th Aug. It drizzled off & on most of the morning so we didn't stroll far away before lunch. We went to Maxim's lunch, where it was much of the same style as the Cafe Denat. After lunch Jack & I took a bus to Marble Arch & then into Hyde Park. The Park was beautiful & one could scarcely realise that there was so much clear space in the heart of London. Of course there were the usual tenets of people listening to all kinds of cranks. We waited for a time & listened to a man arguing with a woman & then he suddenly moved off 2 or 3 yds, pulled a book out of his pocket entitled "Is There a Hell" & began his harangue.

We strolled across the Park, past the "ringed enclosure" where the swells used to fight their duels in the early morning. It is now a tea house. There were plenty of sheep about, & there was any quantity of grass. I wonder if the Australian sheep suddenly dumped down here would feed as quietly as they did when hundreds of people walked about close by! We walked on to the Serpentine & as it was beautiful & sunny we got a couple of chairs in the sun, had a sun bath & a long yarn about all sorts of things & watched the

crowds pass by. There are still plenty of carriages but we saw some old corks in them.

It was an ideal afternoon for boating & there were a great many out. Later on we strolled across to Rotten Row & then out of the Park past the late Duke of Wellington's place & the memorial erected to him & into St James Park.

This was fine & I thoroughly enjoyed watching the motor cars of every description spunk along.

Most of the taxis here by the way have the old 2 cylinder Renault engines & the car in every detail looks exactly like the original taxi we had in Melbourne. We passed most interesting places including the old St James' Palace & finally came to Buckingham Palace. The front of the Palace has been rebuilt in the last four years, I think & looks v. different to the dark dingy looking place of years ago. The roof is supposed to be made bomb-proof with nothing -

The Queen Victoria Memorial in front of the Palace is v. fine & the gates representing & built by the Dominions are grand. We continued our walk past the Gardens

past well known nobles' houses & then came to the Admiralty quarters & the fine Gate erected to the memory of King Ed. VII & Q. Victoria at the entrance to St James Park.

Then we made our way to Trafalgar Square & of course saw crowds of Aust. & Tommies sitting about the fountain, just exactly as they sit on rail-fences in Australia. They are queer birds & most casual. In this part of London you see plenty of them, always spotted by their slouch hats & invariably with young girls! They are a rum lot, & they always make you smile & look at them.

We got back to the Thackeray St. by seven o'clock & after dinner went on to the Queen's Theatre to see Miss Violet Vanbrugh in "Mrs Pomeroy's reputation". She was splendid & her acting magnificent. It was a very enjoyable piece & I've kept the programme to send you -

The theatre is small compared with ours, but very nice inside, altho the ventilation was abominably bad. It was so hot that we were glad to get outside in the intervals. It was interesting to walk home past all the other theatres emptying into the dimly lighted streets.

Sunday 19th Aug We strolled down ~~the~~ ^{the} new road, across Waterloo Bridge to
 Waterloo Station, which is much enlarged since I
 saw it last. There were 2 platforms (perhaps
 there were more). It is an important terminus
 as you know & besides this it was interesting
 to see there the electric trains similar to what
 ours will be like in a few months' time -
 We caught a train shortly after 11 to Staines
 & after about 50 minutes did the 15 or 16 miles -
 It was interesting to pass thro' the miles of
 vegetable gardens & fruit orchards & then
 along the Thames, thro' Richmond, Twickenham
 &c. We had about 15 or 20 minutes stroll to
 Mr Denton's place at Staines. You will remember
 that he was a patient of mine in Melbourn &
 travelled home in the Proton this trip. He
 has a small ^{suburban} farm I suppose it could be called.
 Alasgrate it was a most charming place -
 fine tennis & croquet lawns, orchards &
 paddocks (fields they call them) at the back.
 What a lot of things were to be seen growing
 under glass & how curious it seemed to see
 apricot & peach trees trained up the walls like
 creepers!

The Thames was only a stone's throw from his frontgate so after lunch we went out in a boat & had one of the most enjoyable rows I have ever had in my life - The day was perfect & the River appeared to be crowded with dinghies, skiffs (row-boats) & canoes - I say nothing of the pretty girls! Again one could scarcely credit that there was a war on because it seemed one big picnic - men (old & young & even apparently eligible, but presumably munition & other essential workers) in their white flannels. What caught my fancy were the pretty little river bungalows right down by the river's edge. I wish I could have taken some colored photographs.

A couple of weeks or so of this River life would suit me v. well. We got into a back water & had great difficulty in threading our way thro' the many punts. My word these people know how to enjoy themselves & I agreed with the Banerjee we had with us when he said that they all appeared to be very affectionate over here! Afterwards we went down stream to Laleham & passed an unending crowd of these river quaint River bungalows. I felt I could have stopped at everyone of them. They were fascinating -

Before we got to Laleham we came to the
 Pentland-Stook Lock, but didn't use that but
 took our boat over the rollers, but before getting
 there we were nearly swept over the weir. We
 had no idea the current was so strong, especially
 where the river shallowed -

At Laleham we hitched up & went thru some quaint
 old winding streets & by a v. old church with its
 graveyard & brought up at a funny little inn -
 just such a one that you would expect to meet
 Bob Pretty at. The inn was open from 6-8 pm.
 so we had a mug of beer & then returned to
 the boat & commenced a pretty stiff pull
 back against stream. This time we took
 advantage of the lock. It seemed so curious
 to pass white swans - no one's property.
 We had tea at Kenton's & then caught
 the 9.6 train back to Waterloo & walked
 back to The Thackerays -

It was a splendid day & if, as they say,
 that part of the River can't be compared
 with it higher up, I'm looking forward
 tremendously to the time when I can take
 that famous trip to Oxford - they say
 that it takes about a week -

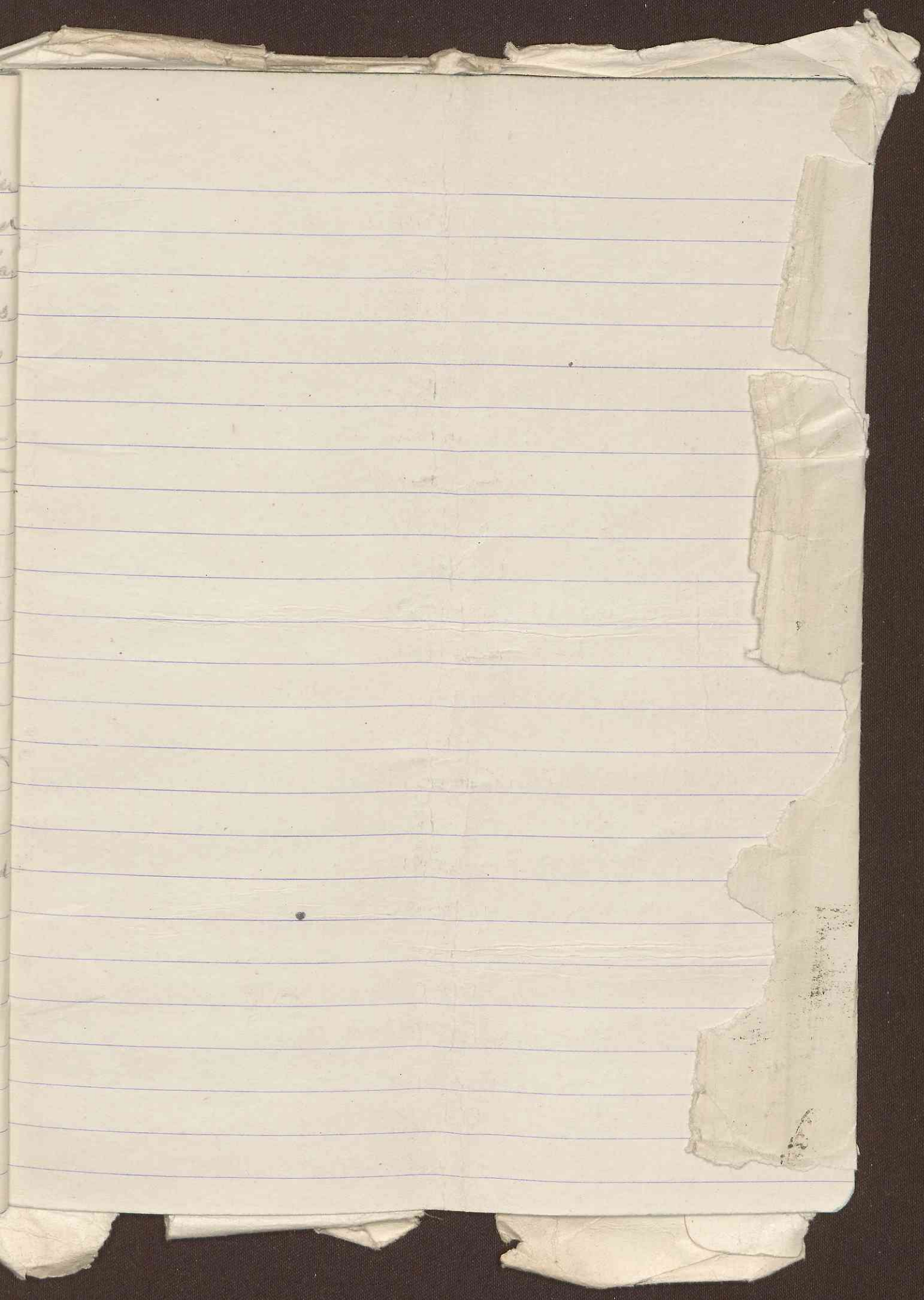
Monday 20th Aug. This morning I went to Gowers St past the
 New Alexandra Hospital (now Military) to see the
 medical books at Lewis'. Then down to Charing Cross & on
 to Aust. H. Quarters at Horseferry Rd. & saw Col. Maudeley,
 Chasgan & Millard; also Major Stb. Lewers - cousin of
 Dr. Alex Lewers. Turnbull had been there that morning
 but returned to Horsefield before I got down there.
 As General House was away for a couple of days I
 do not have to report again until Thurs. morning.
 After my visit to Horseferry Rd. I made my way
 to Barcheap & met Mr. Seearns & his partners
 Messrs. Baylis & Cohen of Peabody & Co. They invited
 me to lunch with them & had a great pow-wow.
 They were v. nice to me & were anxious to show me
 some attention. The cable stating my arrival had
 been sent off safely. — After lunch I took a bus
 to Gray's Inn & picked up Jack Muir. We then
 went by electric train to Hampstead Heath & a
 fine interesting walk we had first to Parliament
 Hill & then to the top of Hampstead where we
 got an excellent view of London — or part of it.
 It was a fine afternoon & we could ^{see} a good distance.
 Then we strolled on to the old historical Inn
 The Spaniards where they show you a table
 said to have belonged to Dick Turpin's horse.

We went into the small courtyard where Mrs Bardell
 of Pickwickian fame once drove & had tea & she called
 "a strange vehicle stop" & some men came & arrested
 her. We had afternoon tea there but managed
 to escape arrest. Old Jack is a most interesting
 chap & can ^{rec}all the events most faithfully
 when he gets to a Dickens place. Afterwards
 we strolled on to see another famous old inn
 the old Bull & Bush. Then turned into the new
 Golder's Park - once the beautiful grounds
 of the late Sir Spencer Wells (surgeon). There ~~was~~ is
 a beautiful mansion overlooking the Heath &
 miles beyond. It was built in 1875. The
 gardens were fine & gave me an excellent idea
 (altho quite familiar in paintings) of a typical
 English Garden - Then we went to Golder's Green
 which is really a continuation of the Heath.
 Golders is a new flourishing suburb since
 they extended the "tube" out there. We returned
 to Tottenham Court Rd. by tube & back to the
 Thackeray Hotel for dinner. Afterwards
 we went to the Palladium - a huge
 music ^{hall} after the style of the Hippodrome & Coliseum
 but not quite as good as these. Altogether I
 have had a very good day thank you

Tuesday 21st Aug. This morning I went to ~~the~~ Morris in
 Sackville St. - The tailor ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~his~~ ^{his} recommended & ordered
 another light suit for summer wear. He has some nice
 flannels & tweeds so I must take out some suits in
 mufti from there before I return to Australia.
 I'm going to get him to look after my trunk if I
 get sent off to France - ^{I saw a better large type of} carry all ^{than the one I have}
 Jack came along & as Miss Corney happened to be at
 the Congee Buffet we went down to Victoria St & took her
 off to lunch. She returns to Australia in a few days.
 We next went to Westbourne Terrace & found that
 Mrs Norman had just gone out, so Jack & I went
 into Kensington Gardens & saw the Peter Pan Statue
 presented by Barry. After that we strolled along
 Hyde Park & of course past Park Lane & saw
 where Doug. Shields' private hospital is. Many of the
 noblemen's houses in Park Lane look very
 dingy. I understand the Govt. will only allow paint
 to be used for essential work. — We left Hyde Park
 & walked along Great Oxford St. It does seem ~~to~~ ^{to} be
 so wonderful to see ^{so} many fine shops for miles
 & miles. Out of curiosity we went into Whiteley's (not
 in Oxford St) & of course had a look at the new
 American shop - Selfridges - when we were

crossing Oxford Circus I was tapped on the shoulder by Mr. Arthur Aitken of Bristol Torak. I often used to play tennis against him at Kent Hughes. He has been here for 2 years & returns to Vic. in a few days. Jack couldn't come to dinner with me this evening so I returned to the Thackerays & picked up Mackey & we went on to Frascati's for dinner & afterwards made another unsuccessful attempt to get into the Oxford Theatre, so we strolled on to the Hippodrome which is a huge place like the Coliseum & Palladium. We had difficulty in getting in there also. It is wonderful the way the theatres are so crowded every night. They have daily matinees & some have 3 performances. It was a good show on at the Hippodrome & the great George Raft was the star attraction. The Stone Age ^{scene} was excruciatingly funny & I could not help thinking how Skipper would have enjoyed the G.T. Reed characters.

It is all very nice, but London can run away with a lot of money & it seems a pity that we are not supplied with an unlimited amount of cash while in England — or anywhere for the matter of that!





alp's diary - Keelowna to London
Aug. 1917.

H

T2!



Mrs Kilburn

Bella Vista

Es Linda

Wednesday 22nd Aug 1917 I had to see to a few things this morning & at 12.0 I had an appointment with the tailor for a fit on of the new Khaki drill I'm having made for Hosp. work. After fixing that up I took a bus to Great Holborn & managed to get to Gray's Inn for Jack without any trouble. I felt pleased with myself striking it without any trouble as the entrances to those various Inns are really small doorways & are a little confusing to the uninitiated - Jack was waiting & we had a yarn before going out to lunch - it is wonderful how much we have to yarn about! We walked into a very old bit of London & saw the house where Dr Samuel Johnson lived for some time. It is being preserved & they are arranging the rooms as nearly as possible to the original state when Johnson lived there. I seemed so curious turning in & out of the small alleys & there made me think that these old streets of 2 or 3 centuries ago were not a great advance on the narrow crooked streets we used to see in the East, especially those old towns in China - Canton & Shanghai. We got into Fleet St & then thro' a doorway into a v. narrow alley - Wine Office alley I think. We soon came to the famous The Old Cheese Inn. It was interesting. Nothing has been altered since Dr Samuel Johnson & Charles Dickens immortalised the place. The same old oak tables & benches, the same old panelling. Even the floors were

covered with sawdust & the old waiter looked like an old Dickens character - The favourite seats of Mr. Johnson & Chas. Dickens have brass tablets just above them - Jack sat in Johnson's & I sat in Dickens' place & we had ye olde time dinner with mugs of beer. Each day they follow the menu according to Dickens' time. After we finished dinner we looked at the Visitors Book & of course put our names down. When we were looking back over some of the names & drawings(?) I couldn't help being struck at once with R. L. Norman's signature - one could have sworn to it at first until we looked at it a little more closely. We told Mrs. R. L. about it this evening & she was much interested - The date was 1908. We inspected the bar & the adjoining room after lunch then got in to Fleet St & had a good view by St. Paul's in the distance. We walked a little distance & came across an old time frontage on which the L. Council spent some £30,000 in renovating to the old original design - much to the annoyance of some taxpayers. The doorway was small as usual & was the entrance to Inner Temple & at once the beautiful old Temple Church was before us. The first portion of it was entirely Norman in design & later was enlarged by the ancient English (of course a later period than the Norman) design - There are some

interesting old graves about — one being Oliver Goldsmith's with the simple inscription "Here lies Oliver Goldsmith". It is very difficult to describe the inside of the Church itself, but it is interesting to note that it is here lie several of the Crusaders. I think there were earls of Pembroke. Those that were killed in battle show the effigy with the legs crossed at the knees — the beautiful colored windows were fine — but I must tell you about all these things when I return. They take too long to write about.

The courtyards & the various lawyers' offices are still there in their original state. While we were looking at Lamb building we were attracted by a loud humming & on looking up saw 6 aeroplanes sailing along v. quickly & v. high up as we could just detect them. There had been an air-raid this morning at Ramspate & these were patrolling. Later we heard that 11 were killed & 13 wounded. By a narrow alley we passed from the Inner to Middle Temple & saw its magnificent Hall. During Session the Benchers & big lawyers lunch there. It is no wonder these lawyers are v. fond & devoted to their old colleges with all their happy associations. The quietness of the life in these Inns is wonderful & they are seen at their best now with all their plane & elm & lime trees all in leaf & looking beautiful. The Hall has a beautiful oaken screen & the roof is grand.

The windows show the crests of the various benches which are most interesting. At the end of the hall are famous paintings of the Stewarts - that of James I by Van der Meer being magnificent. It is interesting to note that the canvas cost £30 + the frame £10. We asked the porter if he would take those amounts with a little advance now, but he didn't anxious for a bargain! From Middle Temple ^{Hall} we did not ~~leave~~ ^{for} ~~leave~~ the beautiful lawns which are famous because of the red + white roses being plucked + used as emblems in the Wars of the Roses. Not far away we entered Lincoln's Inn with its fine courtyards + magnificent lawns. It is also interesting to record that it was close to the Hall where one of the bombs during the June raid of 1916 was dropped + did some damage with its fragments. The brickwork of the houses has been repaired + the hole where it dropped filled in - as you know Lincoln Inn Fields adjoin + after going thro' the gateway we turned to the left into Portico Court + came across The old Curiosity Shop - you must be familiar with the pictures of it. It was grand to see the original. After returning to the Thackeray we telephoned Miss Norman + went down to

Westbourne Avenue & took her to the Regent's Palace Hotel for dinner - The dining hall is huge & it was packed & very gay looking. After dinner we sat & had coffee in the lounge which is an immense place & very interesting to watch the people. Of course there were a lot of Australians there. No matter where you go, you will see the slouch hat of our Tommies - which is a ^{very} distinctive badge of our "Ozzies" as they call themselves. I suppose you are tired of this ripanarole, so I shall stop & go off to bed -

Thursday 23rd Aug. I telephoned Mrs McHarg soon after breakfast this morning & accepted her invitation to dine at Hampstead this evening. I had to prevent myself at H.O.s so I took a taxi & got down there about 10.15 but found that I could not see him until 2.15 tomorrow, so I got my leave extended 2 hours & came away. I saw Hume Turnbull there for a few minutes just before he went in to a Board & then found that Jack Anderson had just been installed at H.O.s since yesterday. He looks very well & we had a yarn for some time. Then I ran across Geoff Owen & as we were both returning to the City we strolled together thro' the Park to the Royal Automobile Club & had a yarn for some time. He looks rather thin (for him) on it & very grey. Of course he was getting grey quickly before he left Australia but he seems to have had a good deal of sickness with Trench Fever & sewer work with the bilious as offensive. He says he feels knocked up & is glad that he is going to Ainst in a few days time. While I was at the Royal

Automobile Club (which is now the Club for Overseas officers) I put my name down on their books & became a member. A very cordial invitation was given to make every use of the Club & enquire if anything can be done by the Committee to make your stay in London pleasant & instructive. I noticed on the list visits to various places - concerts & receptions at certain times. The Club is a large one & a vast amount of money must have been spent on the place to make it comfortable.

I had to meet Dr. Ackroyd (the Broucher Dr.) at 12.30 at the Thackeray, so I left the Club & caught a bus at Piccadilly for New Oxford St & arrived on time. Dr. Ackroyd is staying with his cousins at Highgate & just missed seeing me when he called yesterday. He wanted me to come with them as they had a Napier Car & had a fine drive into the country in the afternoon. He also wanted me to go there to dinner as Doris Carter the Aust. vocalist was there. Her place is quite a rendezvous for Australians. He saw Mrs. Springthorpe & Cahill there.

We went to Maximo's for lunch & afterwards to Gray's Inn, but found Jack out, so we left a note that we would return at 4.00 & then went on to the tailor for a fitting. Jack had not returned when we got back to Gray's Inn, so I did my best to show Dr. Ackroyd over the various courts of Gray's Inn & then we came on here for afternoon tea. Sightseeing makes you very weary & we were both pleased with the rest. Afterwards we went on Lewis in Bowyer's St just beyond London Univ. - University College

I had a long stroll, after a break left for Highgate, down Tottenham Court Rd & then took a "tube" car to Hampstead. The underground "tubes" are very quick & expeditious in getting about, but they are close & stuffy. I think, anyhow they say the ventilation is good. I can't say how far below the surface they are, but the going down or coming is rather interesting. Some stations have huge electric lifts & some have moving staircases which are various nice & as far as I can learn are less expensive to work notwithstanding the fact that they are running continuously. It takes about 20 minutes from Tottenham Court Rd to Hampstead. From there I had only 5 minutes to walk to Mrs McHarg's place. She is wife of Mr Glasgow of M & G & McHarg of Gladders Lane (Papa will know them) & sister Mrs Lawrence & Mrs J. Moffat. She has a very nice place & is very generous in entertaining & looking after Australians. There were a Mr Siddall & his wife at dinner - he is a gentleman who ranks as a private in the army. I had a very pleasant evening there with them - she is a most hospitable hostess. How curious it was receiving the letter from Mrs Chap this morning written on June 4th. I suppose it came by my boat (Orontes) - but there were 4000 mail bags on board so there is little wonder in the delay. Jack Anderson who has just returned from France is not very optimistic of the war ending soon. He says that the G. prisoners are well nourished & are confident that they are not beaten & say that the war will last just as long as we want it to. Even thinks that the dieties are horribly bad in Germany at present -

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Friday 24th Aug This morning Kent Hughes called around after breakfast & we had a chat about things in general & what his next move would be. He is looking very fit on it & very bright & jolly, altho he seems disappointed that his eldest old daughter has married. Kent is going to Petrograd as Surgeon in Chief to the Anglo-Russian Hospital there & is very bucked with the idea of going to a place where there is a revolution!

Dr. Arkrazd came shortly after Kent left & we went around for Jack who took us along High Holborn over the Viaduct, always pointing out interesting places. We passed on old Church where Dickens remarks that Bill Sikes passed past it "when the clock on the tower showed hard on seven"! Jack always knows the appropriate little phrase used by Dickens of any historical spot. Then a little further along we came to the old Church Saint Sepulchre where the bells used to toll all night & warn the prisoners in Newgate Prison opposite that they were to be hanged the next morning & in the morning a little girl would present each victim with a bunch of flowers! All very cheering wasn't it? However, Pop will be pleased to hear that Newgate Prison no longer exists & the massive building of the Criminal Court is built in its place & Old Bailey is opposite to it. We turned up to the left past a portion of the G.P.O. (the yard is immense) to St Bartholomew's Hospital — a portion of the wall is recent & the remainder is the original building. Of course most of the London streets look dingy I think, but they must be kept in the City.

We went thro' the proceeds & out the old gate
 which was struck by fragments of a Zepp-
 bomb during a raid. In the Close nearly
 another bomb was dropped & did a lot of
 damage with its splinters & wrecked a house.
 Another was dropped not so far away by
 an aeroplane & destroyed a house & burnt
 another as far as I could see as the little alley
 way was blocked. I suppose in time they will
 put up brass tablets indicating what the
 damage was due to for future generations
 to gaze at. — Just off the Close was the
 dearest old Norman Church imaginable.
 It was built I think in 1125. The stone
 is showing the wear & tear of age & portions
 of the pillars & walls have crumbled away.
 The old oak carvings are magnificent &
 quite black with age & the Chapel fine &
 stately. There is something magnificent & stately
 about these old places that it is little
 wonder that they are looked upon with
 the greatest reverence. There was a tiny
 burial ground just outside the old Church.
 There is an interesting legend about one
 of the old Priors named Rahere I think
 who had a vision that a Hospital should be
 built close by — hence the origin of St.
 Barth's Hosp. — I think this was in the 14th C.
 We went out of the old St. B. Church into
 Smithfields thro' an old Gate & not so
 very long ago the building above the Gate was
 "discovered" to have its fine old English front
 covered by a false frontage. This has been
 removed & the original plaster & fine old
 beams are now to be seen. Just opposite
 is the spot where a no. of martyrs died —
 I hadn't time to visit Cloth Fair Lane also
 as I had to return & meet Mr. Browne of
 Forest Gate & have lunch with him.

You may remember that Sister Cecilia
 one of the nuns I was treating at St. H. gave
 a beautiful old Cameo ~~for~~ (one of the
 Caesars) into my care to bring home the
 cause as she was afraid of it being
 lost by ^{her own care} posting it. She asked me to use
 it as a mascot. It was originally a ring
 (now a pin) which her father wore at
 Waterloo. I benefited at the Holborn Rest-
 aurant with Mr Browne & had an
 interesting hour & a half with him. He is
 in the office of the late Lord Mayor.

After lunch I went to 14, 15 St James's
 Rd & saw General Hawse. He was very
 pleasant & will be sending me to No 2
 A.G.H. Boulogne in a week's time.

I saw Nurse Murray down there for a few
 minutes. Jack M. & Frank Ackroyd
 called down & waited for me & then we
 walked together thro' St James Park to
 Pall Mall & into Royal Automobile Club
 which you know is the Coercion Officers'
 Club. We had afternoon tea & then as
 Jack had to go Frank & I went out to
 Maida Vale & called on Miss Doris Carter
 who is a Victorian Soprano who has made
 a name for herself over here. She is a friend
 of Frank's & has been over here for 8 years.
 She is v. glad to meet Australians & welcomes
 quite a no. of them every week. She was
 good enough to sing several songs for us.
 We took a tube back to Charing Cross &
 walked up the Strand to the Strand Palace
 Hotel & had dinner. It was 8 o'clock when
 we started & in an hour we strolled on

& the Coliseum but didn't go in after all - but came on here. I wasn't much taken with the Strand Palace Hotel - in fact congratulated myself that I'm staying in a nice quiet clean place like the Thackeray rather than in a noisy turmoil of a place like the Strand. This evening I had a budget of Australian letters up to May 31st - from Skipper, Mrs Kelly, Violet & Belle & Miss Wakley. It was grand to have them, altho' I confess they made me feel somewhat homesick.

I forgot to mention that when we went to Hatton Gardens P.O. just off Holborn we passed along a narrow alley & came across Ye Olde Mike Tavern, mentioned by Dickens. Being the morning we did not go inside, but contented ourselves with the outside inspection!

Saturday 20th Aug. This morning I had to go to 71 Cornhill so I took the "tube" to the Bank. It is interesting to come up "from the earth" & find yourself opposite the Bank of England, St. Pauls & the Mansion House. It isn't far along Cornhill to the Union Bank so I was soon fixed up. I took a bus then back to the west along Cheapside back into Holborn & along Oxford to the c/o of Oxford & Regent Sts. The travelling along Cheapside was very slow, the traffic being very dense. It seemed like old times when they used horse buses. I met Miss Corney at Regent - Oxford Sts & after going to the tailor for my final fitting we went to morning-tea in Bond St. She leaves for Australia in a day or two & I've asked her to telephone you all as soon as she arrives in Melbourne. You will remember that she was on the Arabian last year when it was torpedoed & lost everything including a silk scarf I gave her, so after tea this morning we went to a shop & I got another for her, this one to be her wedding present, as she will be married a few weeks after she arrives.

I went to lunch then at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall with Geoff. Owen & Lieut Hewitt from Comperdown. The R.A.C. is a huge place & it is interesting to see all new arrangements they have for late news - it is being automatically printed off on tape, not unlike the Morseon telegraph tape. After lunch I walked to Trafalgar Square & caught a bus up Tottenham Court Rd to St Russell St (where The Thackerays is). As I was walking pretty briskly I passed a couple of fellows & heard "Hello" from old Jack. I could have kicked myself passing him - I think I must have been thinking of my Aunt's letters which I received this morning - one from Gus Chap (no 4 it was marked, so I suppose 2 & 3 are at the bottom of the sea) & also Henry Lewis & a couple of cards from Madame Abjornsen's children - Jack & I went out to Regent's Park & over the zoo. It was such a delightful afternoon that both of us were keen to be in the park somewhere. It was fine weather & I thoroughly enjoyed the outing - How splendid the cages are arranged there - I don't suppose the zoo area is as big as our apartment - the arrangement of animals is wonderful & I think I could spend days there. There are some very interesting places such as the Insect House, the aquarium portions &c. It was interesting to see the hundreds of people waiting to see the lions & tigers fed. There are long rows of steps so arranged as to give pretty well every one a fair view. The aviaries were fine & it was to see the beautiful birds of paradise. We saw a huge S. American lizard called

The Monitor fed. He was given first a mouse which he swallowed in a second & then a hen's egg, which he swallowed whole & without breaking the shell!

We had dinner at Oxford St with Hillman Jack's stable companion & a yarn afterwards & then I returned to write some letters. The War News is fine & we are told that some are confident that the war will end in two months as the 5th army are sure that they can break Hind in that time. I hope so, as the others think that it will go on for another year.

Sunday 26th Aug Mrs Poole telephoned early this morning from Sutton inviting me down for dinner. The train was to leave Victoria Station at 10.50 & I travelled down there by "tube" & lost a bit of time changing "tubes" twice. Victoria Station is so large that I had some difficulty in finding the ticket office & then the platform for the Sutton train. I arrived just in time to find the train sailing out of the station as I had an hour & 20 minutes to wait & I taxied back to the Thackerays, telephoned Mrs Poole & said I would be down by the 12.30 train & then back again to Victoria. I had to go by a circuitous route - electric train to Crystal Palace, then by another train to Norwood & changing into a third train to Sutton. On the way I saw a couple of aeroplanes hovering over the Wanden Common. Mrs Poole met me at the station & we ~~arrived~~ ^{stayed} at Threlkeld. It is beautifully situated & a good view is got from their place over the downs & numerous veg. gardens. It is interesting to see veg. grown everywhere - they have taken a lot of advice very much to heart & have been very willing in that respect. Later in the afternoon we went out to some tennis closely, but after 6 or 7 p.m. it

commenced again & that was the end of the tennis. The Pooles kindly asked me to stay here the night

Monday 27th Aug. I came into the City with Mrs. Poole arriving at Victoria at 9.30. I was a lovely morning, beautifully sunny & fresh. There were plenty of mountain ash in the street plantations & gardens & they looked v. fine with their clusters of red berries - later on in the morning I went around for Jack & he returned with me to the Thackerays until Mrs. Poole arrived & then we all went to Frascati for lunch, where we had a great chin-wag. Mrs. Dyett looks very well & was in good form, but would like to return to Australia now. Of course, she has been over here now for more than three years. But Mrs. Dyett thinks that his hand is improving - he is still the same old cheerful person. It rained later in the afternoon, so Jack & I went to the Grafton Galleries to see the Canadian War Pictures. They are a wonderful collection, most of them taken during the attack on & capture of Vimy Ridge, so there was real scene there for striking battle scenes. There were also many trophies such as German helmets, trench mortars of every description, bomb-throwers, machine gunned on the field, & aeroplanes & zepps. There were many pieces of the zepp. itself which fell into the Thames estuary & also the wing of a raider recently brought down. We stayed there until dinner time & afterwards went to the Oxford Theatre to see the "Better 'Ole" - written by Bournsfather (of "Fragments" fame) in

conjunction with another chap. I must send you the programme. It was a clever & most amusing way - mostly of being laid out at the front. Pouchick was inimitable. It has taken London by storm & is crowded afternoon & evening. This is the fourth time we have tried to get in & we were fortunate to get seats booked this afternoon.

It is still raining miserably out. Hope it will take up again tomorrow.

Two Melbourne Penes, a Pullerton & an Australasian arrived this morning.

I went to cutter, sailor, of Burg St. this afternoon & see about Ted's suit case which he sent across to London at the beginning of the war & arranged with him to send it to Frank Aspray who has kindly consented to take it back to Melbourne for me.

Tuesday, 2nd Aug It has been raining nearly all day & quite windy, so most of the morning I stayed in & read (another budget of Aust. letters arrived including your No. 3 letter with one from Doris enclosed) & wrote a bit. Then I had to go down to Oxford Circus before returning to Clapham to pick up Jack Muir. After lunch, as it was still raining & too unpleasant for outdoor jaunts, we went down to the Tower of London & spent a very enjoyable time there. I could spend days there pottering about & viewing the wonderful collection of armour & old weapons & the various Halls & keeps. The Beefeaters in their picturesque costumes appear to be quite appropriate in such an old Castle & they were very willing to give us as much information as we were ready to receive. The Bloody Tower (where the two young princes were murdered) is very

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thrown open to the public & we were given a
little lecturette about it all. We also saw
the terrace & dungeons used ^{by} Sir W. Raleigh
& by way of getting from those melancholy
surroundings we next visited the Royal
Jewels which was a great treat.
I shall have to tell you about all the
wonderful things to be seen at the Tower
when I return.

After this we went to Jack's great friend
& stable companion, W. Hellman, at his
City room & spent a very enjoyable two
hours from 6 to 8, the result of which
I hope will give you all some pleasure
when certain things arrive in a few
week's time.

Wednesday 29th Aug. This morning I went to Lewis,
med. bookseller & got some books & then along the
Austin Rd past St Pancras Station down to Craps Inn
& picked up Jack Muir. I had to go to Horseferry Rd
(St. Pancras) to fix up my pay book & back to the Bank.
It was 2.40 then & we had lunch at a famous
old inn (built 1600) off Lombard St called
George & Vulture (Thomas' Chap House) & mentioned
by old Pickwick. There is still the old fireplace
& grill & as we sat down we watched the old
cook grill the chops. The little old bar
was not far from the grill so we sampled
some of the beer. It is curious that this shop
belonged to a German firm which across a
bank close by. But the Govt sold them up recently.
After lunch we decided on seeing a bit of
"old London" - down that way & by queer little
alleys we soon found ourselves in Leadenhall
& Jack was able to give me derivation of both
names, because it is really a market.
Then we went down as far as St. Dunstons ditch &
saw a few typical old yids & could imagine
Pap making that St. his headquarters!

Then past famous old streets such as Minning Lane, Bread St, Milk St, Bishopsgate. When we were going down Bishopsgate Jack turned into a little old Church doorway off the street. The Church was built over in front of 2 shops. You can just see the top of the Church window above the 2 shops. It is a wonderful old Church called St Ethelburga & is about as big as Altadore. It was built as far back as 670 & rebuilt with the same stones about 1420. It is noteworthy (using the words of the usher!) that it was one of the six Churches which escaped the great London Fire. It appears to have been popular with the old navigators, who came to be blessed before undertaking long voyages. We next made our way to London Wall & in two places there are portions of the old London wall still standing, built by the Romans. These old relics seem to stir up bits of one's early school history of the Romans in Britain. Then we came across near the little old St Anne's Church a statue to our own Shakespeare with inscriptions on the stones to the memory of two old English actors (Shakespeare's time) who did much then to popularise his works! After that we got a "tube" & Jack got out at Chancery Lane & I at the Museum. After Jack got out I saw an old man staring hard at me (It is not unusual for people to stare at overseas officers) & he came over & sat alongside me & said he knew my face well & asked where I came from. I said Melbourne & that I was living in the professional quarter there. He asked if I knew his daughter ^{or niece} as she was masseuse at the Chiswick. Miss Rundell. Of course I knew her well. She went to Egypt & is now massaging at Southall. Miss Chiswick will be now her too. The old gentleman was very pleased to see me & gave a chat & showed me photographs of his relative. He had come to London to live close by her.

I afterwards went with Dr. H. Russell's introduction to the Royal Society's Club in St James St (off Pall Mall) & was made an Hon. member there. I also v. nice little Club. Then I strolled on into Pall Mall & down the Strand to the Strand Palace Hotel where I dined with Major Gane of S. Africa. Afterwards we tried to get into the Coliseum & Gaiety Theatre but both were packed. So we went on to the Royal Automobile Club & had a chat -

A telegram arrived for me this aftⁿ informing me that I must present myself at HQs before noon on Friday to embark. So time is getting close up.

Thursday 20th Aug. This morning Major Gane came around for me early & we went on together to Crab Inn for Jack. Jack had some business in the City, so Gane & I decided to go to Greenwich. It was not a very good day, rain threatening. When we got to Charing Cross Station we found we had 40 minutes to wait for the train so we went into the Charing & Restaurant & had lunch. When we got to Greenwich we made our way to the Hospital, as the Naval men call it. There are a fine lot of buildings where the boys are trained & there is an old oak vessel in the cement of one of the huge yards where the boys are taught all about the ship. The latter was erected there almost 50 years ago. The interesting museum with Delton's relics are not to be seen at present. I suppose they have been put away carefully in vaults for fear of air raids. We went down to the River & back thro' Greenwich Park, which is

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beautiful with its fine old oaks & elms &
a magnificent drive thro' horse chestnuts.
There were sheep all over the park & they
were just as tame as those we saw in Hyde Park.
The Park is v. pretty & at the top is Greenwich
Observatory & is curious what a small
space the observatory occupies considering
that it is the most important in the world!
Visitors are not welcomed but we managed
it all right on the plea that we had come
from the other side of the world. On looking
at the Visitors book, I think the Australians
whose names were inscribed must have
used the same old joke.

However we had an interesting couple of
hours there & then we came thro' the
famous Chestnut avenue into Blackheath
Common. All over the Park recruits were
drilling - even a small squad of Italians in
uniform who sang as they marched.

The Blackheath Common is very fine & so
is Blackheath too & there are a great
many fine residences. Blackheath is
one of those nice residential spots which
has not so far been incorporated into
Greater London - I mean not one long
series of shops - We caught a bus
& travelled thro' the interesting S.E. London
back to the Bank of England via the
Old Kent Road. Left Gave Fare & made
my way back to Thackeray via Cheapside
Holborn & Oxford St.

I took Mrs Norman & Jack to the Regent Palace
Hotel to dinner & we all enjoyed it. I got back
early & after writing a bit have put in
two or more solid hours at packing so as to be
ready for Saturday. The packing has been satisfactory
& I shall have v. little to do now for tomorrow night.

Fri Aug 31st 1917 I had off along to HQs this morning to report & get instructions re my passage across the Stream tomorrow. Jack Anderson was there to give me my instructions & handed me my warrant & type-written instructions. I am going across by the Stags train boat & so I don't have to get up so early thank goodness. Jack gave me a tip to go down early so as to book a seat on the Pullman & so to be able to get lunch. Fortunately the sale of the past few days has moderated & today was beautifully fine so that will work well for a nice trip across.

I went lunch with Mrs Bridges & daughters (Admiral Bridges you will remember wished me particularly to see them) at Half-Moon Street off Piccadilly & spent a very pleasant two hours with them. They were most cordial & were very glad to have news of the Admiral. Lady Stawell & Mrs James's sister Lady Eleanor James were both out of town so I was unable to see them this night.

I met Jack at Piccadilly Circus at 3.00 & strolled thru Regent's Park at the back of Downing St & Whitehall & along Queen Ann's Gate to Horseferry Rd again for a few minutes. Then we inspected the outside of Westminster Abbey & the House of Commons because it was so loud in the sun & I didn't want to be inside. Then we went along the Embankment & saw Lambeth Palace & other beautiful buildings & all the bridges. It was all fine. Then up onto the Strand & thro' Covent Gardens back here & then out to dinner with Jack & Hillman. I have some packing to do & some letter writing & I want to get to bed early & have a good rest so I shall wind up early. I shall keep this little diary as full as I'm permitted while. So here ends the second chapter. Cheers to you all.

Saturday 18th September 1917. I suppose today was really the commencement of the third phase of my journey, because I had instructions to go across to France. Even altho' I had everything ready I made an early start from the hotel, leaving there at 10.00, giving myself 65 minutes to catch the Staff train. I had first to go to the tailor (Morris, 28A Sackville St Piccadilly) & leave my leather trunk there with such things as I didn't require in France. It was a wet morning & I left nothing to chance as regards losing time, moreover I was advised to get down 30-35 minutes before the train started, so as to book a seat in the Pullman car. That was a good tip because a seat in the luxurious Pullman gave one an opportunity of having lunch at 12.00. The journey down to F — was interesting but rather spoilt by the rain. Still it was very nice passing thro' the villages & the fields, last perhaps not on the grand scale we had it coming thro' Cornwall & Devonshire. When we arrived at the terminus there was the military formality for detaining & embarking on the steamer, requiring certain tickets. There was a gale blowing & the weather very thick we knew we were in for a dicking & we got it all right. We had the faithful little carriers — the 2 P.S. with us all the way. I felt all right until close to our destination when without much warning I suddenly lost my lunch & within 5 minutes was just as well as ever. I met Lt Col Woolcock & Major Heron both Queenslanders who were returning after leave. The former knew Lou Robertson (Skipper's nephew-in-law) very well at Hornsey — I was still raining & cold & miserable when we got to France & I had to wait some time around at the Officers Club (a v. crowded place) before a car came in to take me out. I got out at the No 2 A.G.H. (about 4 miles out) just in time for dinner & then went around to a 309 the wards afterwards with Mr Yeatman

whose place I'm taking as he goes away on leave. He is a very nice fellow & I should think a valuable man. He comes from Adelaide. The O.C. (Col Powell) is also from P.A. & seems v. courteous & friendly. There was a bit of a dance here this evening at the Nurses' Mess to the officers from the Rest Camp not far away. Saw Sister Northcote who looks v. well & was pleased about the Melbourne news.

The long day has made me very tired & I'm pleased to turn in.

Sunday 2 Sept It has been still blowing hard but quite sunny, all day. I went around the wards & saw a great many cases with Col. Yeatman up till lunch time. There are over 1200 beds here so you can understand that the area occupied is large. Alongside us & across the road are other v. large British Hospitals. Of course we all work in conjunction with each other more or less & we cannot pick & choose our cases as they are sent on to us from "up the line." The large majority of our cases are British & a few Australians. The latter come on here if there happen to be beds available when there is a "push" on.

This afternoon Hub, Boush & Barnett & I walked down to the tennis courts (chip) & watched Vic Hardy & Tozer & the O.C. & Yeatman playing. It was so windy that they found it a tough proposition. Afterwards we walked along the Cliff Tram down into Wimmeroux & along the beach where the bathing spots seemed to be in swarms.

Tea is early on Sunday evening (6pm) & afterwards we made our way down on the cliffs again but found it too windy to remain. I came then to my room & was writing up these notes when suddenly the electric light went out & there were popping of anti-aircraft guns against the Hun raiders. There seemed to be beams of lights all round us.

The Germans, as you will know by the papers, have developed a habit of shelling hospitals, so we thought they were after ours.

Monday 3rd Sept. It was a beautiful day & such a contrast to the previous few days. Ward work absorbed all the morning & after lunch Hubert Bux & Barnett & I walked into Boulogne & saw what there was to be seen in the town. We hadn't time of course to visit the old town & will do that on another occasion -

We walked back part of the way & caught a tram which passes the gates & got back just in time for dinner, feeling pretty tired after the day's outing.

The moonlight nights are evidently what the Hun raider likes because he has been around twice tonight. Part of these notes were written by American lamp light & the lights have just been switched on again now - I have a stable companion tonight from up the line.

Tuesday 4th Sep. I'm just wondering how far I shall get in my writing tonight before the lights are extinguished owing to the approach of Hun raiders. I believe another raider appeared at 1.30 am. but I was not disturbed by the anti-aircraft guns in the distance. While we were busy at our work this morning at 10.30 another came over. I saw a couple of French planes this afternoon. A couple of G.P.W. (Grenade Projector Wounds) ^{the chest} came in late last night into my ward & they required operation this morning, so for the interest & help I gave the anaesthetic to them. These G.P.W. & shrapnel wounds of the chest are extraordinary interesting & present many difficulties -

It is wonderful what structures escape & how apparently comfortable they are. But the apparent comfort is not always a safe guide as not infrequently gas gangrene occurs in the blood clot that is poured out into the chest cavity.

When one chest was opened up we found a piece of omentum from the abdomen protruding thru' a button hole (bullet wound) opening of the diaphragm. Of course, it had closed.

She liked the wound closed. While we were working in the theatre, the other op table - a few feet away - had been used by Vic. Huxley for an amputation of the knee in a leg wound which suddenly developed gas gangrene -

We had to finish our wards this afternoon & after apt tea I went for a stroll with Barnett along the cliffs & then thru' Wincoburn station past some of the fields just ripe with crops. Not very far away was a tall monument erected to Napoleon in memory of the large armies he congregated there ready to invade England!

We passed by some of the large neighbouring hospitals.

It has been a bonzer day - quite warm so much so that I had to change into my summer suit. I don't mind how many months of this weather we get, but that is too much to expect over here - I suppose Ted must have gone on by the transport he spoke of because I have not heard from him since Aug 3rd.

Wednesday 5th Aug. 1919. Isn't it curious that I had
scarcely finished those notes last night when
the lights went out & we knew we were in for
another raid. Some considerable time elapsed
& then there were plenty of reports, both of bombs
& anti-aircraft guns. As soon as the lights
went out I put in the time securing my cases
& then as it seemed it might be an indef.
time before the lights would be on again
for reading, I went to bed. I wasn't in bed
very long before the bombardment commenced.
I didn't get up, but the others say that a
couple of fragments struck the roof of one
our buildings. Of course one can't lose
sight of the fact that the ^{notes} ~~cases~~ & fragments
of our own shells have to land somewhere.
Today we were busy evacuating to England a
lot of the cases so as to be ready for the work
of another "push" which may come off at
any time I suppose with this fine weather.
It is interesting to see how the cases are
classified & each man has his tab-label
& his notes attached. The evacuation must
be all done very well, because stretcher
cases are moved here which perhaps would
not be ordinarily touched in civil life.
But then of course the conditions cannot
be compared.

It was such a warm summer's day that
Hub. Bush & Garnet & I made an expedition
after lunch to see first what damage the
bombs did last night & second to visit the
old walled-city of Paulsen. Three bombs
were dropped in quick succession in one place
& perhaps were not more than 30 or 100 yds from
1st, 2nd & 3rd shots. The first dropped in a small
garden & made a hole a bell-tent could go into
& broke the glass windows of neighbouring
houses. The second smashed a wall & more
window fronts were smashed & the third 100 yds
away fell in the street - all in the one street -

+ smashed more windows. Opposite
 was a large gate with $\frac{1}{2}$ in. iron plates + it
 was fairly riddled with small missiles.
 There were swarms of people visiting the
 spots like we noticed a couple of days ago.
 We next went on to the old city. It has a
 very fine old gate + we mounted up a stone
 staircase to the top of the wall. It is very
 interesting because ~~it really~~ there really
 exists a broad roadway with a fine
 carriage drive with elms on either side
 outside these again broad footpaths.
 The fine old Cathedral abuts on the
 wall. We walked thro' the main street
 of the city - all cobbly stoned, like everywhere
 in old + new Boulogne - to the Boulogne
 Hotel for afternoon tea, because on Tues. +
 Wednesdays the Cafés are shut. We went
 thro' a gateway into a paved courtyard
 there sat in the open + had our tea. It was
 delightfully cool there + was most restful
 after the heat outside. Next we passed one
 of the old public buildings + the Keep of
 Norman structure - a fine old place +
 out of another gate into the newer city.
 I must have many prowls thro' the old
 City as it looks most interesting.
 We made our way to the Market Square
 + then out along the Seafront back to the
 Hospital. It was a hot walk + we were
 all glad to get back in time for dinner +
 a refreshment - It has been clouding up
 this evening + there has been some lightning
 + a little rain, so I suppose we are in for some
 rain again. After dinner we strolled down
 to our Red Cross Chack as one of the Australian
 Bands from the Red Camp was down giving
 the patients a treat. - I believe over 20 new cases
 are due in some time tonight.

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Thursday Sept 6th - We were as busy as usual round the wards this morning, altho I can see with all the empty beds we have been making in the last few days that we shall be extremely busy when the next "push" takes place & the cases come tumbling in. Some of those surgical cases are hideous affairs & the numerous amputations for gas-gangrene & the way they look is enough to make one realise the terrible effects of war. After dinner this evening a fine muscular youth was admitted - having left one of the Casualty clearing stations this morning & apparently well enough to travel to a base, was moribund. His leg had a compound fracture & the thigh was fract^d above the knee & yet when he reached here his foot was cold - so rapid was the progress of gas gangrene. He was too much septic to do anything for!

This morning Lt. Col. Gordon Holmes visited us & saw some cases with Lt. Col. Yeatman & I. He is one of the most famous neurologists & a very fascinating man. Tall, quick, alert & most enthusiastic in his work! He fairly staggers me with the quickness with which he tackles a nervous case of difficult nature & the ease with which he arrives at a diagnosis. He is coming again on Sunday morning. I hope I shall see plenty of him as I'm sure it will be a great privilege to do some case-work with him.

It rained pretty heavily last night, but was mild this morning, but rather threatening. The Huns put in an appearance some time I'm told last night & we were without lights for a time. But Bush, Barnett & I went for about an eight mile walk to Souverain-Moullin - a tiny little village in the country. The country is all undulating about here & as we passed along a winding road mostly with tall

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elm trees on either side + green fields
with hedges you can imagine what a
delight it all was. We passed along a
valley for some distance with a small creek
down below + in a couple of places small
"canals" cut off to fill moats surrounding
a couple of Chateaus. In places the
elms were showing their autumn tints
so we had quite a variety of pinks.

The little inn we pulled up for afternoon
tea, was quite typical of the French Inn +
we were invited to go into the "jardin" where
I should have loved to have taken a
coloured photograph + sent you; it was
so pretty with its flower beds + creepers +
then as a background the wall of the inn
with its red-tiled roof. There was only one
tiny little window along the whole
length of the wall overlooking the garden.
I don't think that would satisfy our
ideas for fresh air + sunlight.

When we were coming away we saw a plump
little baby + were told it was the first baby
+ when Beast asked how it was he was told
3 months, but in such a way that he thought
she said she wanted 3 more babies! We all
had a good laugh over it.

Our homeward trip was hard! The rain
— it came down steadily but not heavily
+ after we were not prepared for it, we
didn't get much wet. At any rate we
didn't notice that it was miserable
as we all had a good deal to talk about
+ amused each other. It is raining very
heavily tonight.

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Friday Sept 17th 1885 I forgot to mention that I saw
 Bull Sherwin's sister yesterday. She has been
 a bit run down & is being sent to England for
 a little spell. She seemed rather vexed that
 she had to report sick.

When I went to breakfast this morning I was
 surprised to see Col. Maudslayi. He has been in
 France today & has been up to the front. He says
 the Australians are all in good fettle & that the
 High Command (whoever they may be!)
 are cheery & confident of beating the wily Ger-
 mans. I think he looked better for his trip over there -
 less drawn & old - albeit he is thinner than
 when in Melbourne.

Major Harry Williams came in today this morn-
 ing & stayed to dinner. No. 2 A. H. is a popular
 place for fellows to run out to just prior
 to or after their return from England.
 After aftⁿ tea today I went out for a brisk
 walk with Lt. Col. Yeatman. We went to Happy
 Valley - part of the way being along the road
 we took yesterday & then we branched off from
 the main road along a narrow lane, thro'
 the small village of Woomile, then thro' some
 farms - some with attempts at post & fences
 - the wire being as thick as a lead pencil -
 perhaps thicker. I suppose they had been
 put up many years ago. The hawthorn hedges
 were the nicest. Yeatman said that they were
 very beautiful in the spring. Some of the beeches
 were just commencing to change color &
 looked v. fine. We had some cider at a little inn
 & then returned by a different track, past
 Nelson's collection but we hadn't time to
 inspect it. That for another time.
 We quite expected it to rain again - this morn-
 ing but it held off. They say you can never
 tell what it will do for any length of time ahead.

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Saturday 8th Sept It is just a week today since I arrived here & I cannot say that the time has been at all. Being busy with cases in the morning it is lunch time before one realises it. I suppose with "big" buses when the men say that they work for hours on end the time must fly then. I believe during the Vimy Ridge battle 600 cases were admitted here in 24 hours! The O.C. said yesterday that at a pinch this Hosp could take in 1500 cases.

My cases seemed to be doing satisfactorily this morning, so I saw a neurological case after lunch in one of the other wards.

After afternoon tea I Mr. Bush & I walked into Boulogne as I wanted to get another military valise from Ordnance Department. This is a fine department & you can purchase articles of clothing &c at good cost price. I only paid 2/- for my valise & it is much wider & more capacious than the one I brought from Melbourn which I paid £4.10 for. Of course, allowance of £1 I suppose has been made for the mattress part which I didn't require in the one I got today. I shall send the batman in for it on Monday. I also got a pair of gum boots. They are absolutely essential in the winter.

There were crowds of people in the town this afternoon. I suppose it is a sort of holiday. I believe Sat. night is very popular for the many medical officers quartered about Boulogne to go in the Clubs, Hotels &c for dinner & then go on to the picture show afterwards.

altho' it was rather misty it was a good day for walking & we both enjoyed the walk. It becomes very cold after sundown & I have just finished my late round, requiring an overcoat. It is now 11.15 so I suppose you people are just rolling out for Sunday breakfast!

Sunday 9th Sept. 187⁷. It has been a beautiful day
& everyone seemed anxious to get their work
& go out in the afternoon.

The work goes on in the hospital just the same on Sunday as every day - in fact it is impossible to distinguish one day from another. — Those gas-gangrene cases are horrible. I saw a case admitted into St. Hubert's ward this morning without any sign of gas-gangrene & yet after lunch he was jaundiced, & one leg as high as the body was swollen & crackling. He was obviously going to die in an hour or two & yet nothing could be done.

Hub. & I started off about three o'clock & walked along the coast to Ambleten, a small village about 6-7 kilometres from here. It was mostly high sand dunes & we couldn't help thinking what difficult country the British & Belgians had to fight their way on the Belgian coast. When we got Ambleten we found quite a no. of people there. It is apparently a popular bathing spot & as the tide was out we saw some people playing croquet on the hard sand. There were a lot of convalescent Portuguese soldiers there also. They seem to be adepts at croquet - using flat stones for pitches. We had afternoon tea close by & then made our way back along the beach & came up on the road again at the Lady Dudley Australian Voluntary Hosp. where Rus. was - It now forms part of the No. 32 General Hospital altho' I fancy Lady D. has still something to do with it. We passed a tennis club where there were at least half a dozen hard earth courts. The French are very keen on tennis & even young boys & girls play a good deal. There were some mixed doubles, some of the British officers played very well. There was one

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French girl played a rattling good game. She was keen on it & got in some good rallies. We would have liked staying much longer, but tea is at 6 o'clock on Sunday evenings so we had to come back early.

I had a letter from Jack Muir this evening. He informed me that he had posted a parcel for me. I hope it will arrive safely. He says Jack Yule has been awarded the Military Cross, but doesn't know what for. Our lights went out again for a little time again tonight & we thought we heard a couple of anti-aircraft guns in the distance. I think the raiders must have been driven back, because the lights appeared again shortly afterwards.

Monday 15th Sept We had another fine warm day & as I was busy in the wards until nearly afternoon tea time, I didn't get any chance of a walk until then. After breakfast some of us strolled across to the cliff to see if we could get anything of a view of England, but we could not manage it as it was so hazy. Barnett & I walked quietly up to Napoleon's Column - it was too close to bust one easily walking hard. We had a closer inspection of the base of the column but did not ascend. We left that for another day when the weather was less hazy. We took another road back & came to the small monument erected on the exact spot where Napoleon had his throne to distribute the crosses of the Legion of Honour to the officers men.

There is on the monument itself a plan of the positions of the various legions to the throne - & ~~called~~ the latter could not be more than $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 mile away from the great Camp of the Grand Army. It ~~must~~ have been a magnificent site for such an occasion, because the throne was almost completely surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills. As we stood there at the exact spot & look around at the positions where thousands of soldiers must have been it seemed all very wonderful. There is a bronze on the monument & several on the base of the Colonne depicting scenes of the occasion. It does seem strange going over all these famous old spots. One thing worth mentioning is that the huge bronze figure on top of the Colonne was originally designed to look towards England (so the story goes) but as the Grand Army was unable to achieve what Nap. wanted, the figure was rotated to the right so to make it gaze over France.

Lt. Col. Greatman went to England today, so I got the batman to move my things into his room, which is more elaborately furnished & moreover contains only one military stretch-bed. I got quite a swell having the room to myself & will have to give you a little description of it tomorrow night.

Tuesday 11th Sept. 1905 It was another topping day & Sub. Bush decided to get our wards finished as soon as possible & have an early lunch & make a trip for the afternoon to the South of Boulogne. We caught a train which landed us at Boulogne about one o'clock & afterwards. We had

to wait 15 or 20 minutes for the other car - set down near the bridge. The tide was well out & it was strange to see people wandering about in bathing costumes on the sands & the curious little shelter tents - something like big over-hanging basket chairs.

The car & its trailer was packed & we had to change half way to Hardelot into a ramshackle of a car. The drive we enjoyed tremendously, especially as everything was seen at its best by the gorgeousness of the day. We travelled along the River Eden valley & I suppose it was about the best day we've had in being able to see a fair distance over the country. No matter how nice the day is there always appears to be a dirty haze which prevents any very great stretching country being seen. However what we did see was most beautiful. The country was all green, except where the crops were uncut & the yellow was a pretty contrast. Likewise on the other day I had crops that were being cut & showed green grass in between the sheaves. We passed from the cultivated into patches of woods - elms, beeches & pines chiefly. After about 3 hour run we got off close to the old Hardelot Castle & went thro' its famous old gates & had a good look over the Castle itself. It dates back to the Charles-magne days & Henry VII stayed there on one occasion. A large part of the castle was destroyed in 1500.

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+ you can see ^{distinctly} where the more modern
portion has been added to the old original
walls. We went up the tower (there are
old time battlements) & had a splendid
view of the country around. In front
there is a small lake & beyond are
wooded hills, so it was a typical old
feudal castle which one is accustomed
to picture in reading thro' those old
romantic yarns of long ago - We went
down into the dungeons & saw the opening
(recently closed up) of a subterranean passage
which led off to some place 7-8 kilometres away.
Then we climbed up on the wall itself.
Much of it grown over with ivy. On the top
of one portion is the tee-ing ground of the
first hole of the Stadelmont Golf Club!
We walked around the old wall & castle
& how romantic it all seemed to be. I wished
I could have got snapshots, especially with
all the colouring. I must try & get some
p. cards & send out.
The Castle is being used now for Instructional
purposes - which I shall tell you about
on my return. Then we walked along
the road for about a mile & came to the
Ple-Catelaire - a garden restaurant. We
sat out on the lawn & had afternoon tea
& watched the people - & avoided bees & wasps
on our table! The latter were attracted by
the jam & fruit. The flowers were very
pretty arranged - some in huge wicker
baskets (~~quite so big~~ about the size of Chip's room)
& wheel-barrows &c (of course they were just
built up around the flower beds).
The trees were beautiful & so was the
colouring of the creepers showing their early

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autumn tents, notwithstanding the fact that they charged us 6 francs for tea & 6 fr. for two we felt that we'd had our money's worth out of the delightful garden.

The train brought us back giving us different peeps of the Dien Valley & its pretty little villages. When we got to Boulonne we were fortunate in being picked up by a A.S.P. car & were whisked out here in no time. The rate at which all motor transport at here - whether maybe huge wagons, ambulances or other cars - is simply remarkable. Close to our gate there is a notice board up with "Speed Limit 50 miles." All the car-drivers that I have seen mistake it for fifty miles! But that is another story, as the old Captain used to say & as it is 11.45 I'm going to bed.

Wednesday 12th Sept. We all thought that the beautiful weather of the past few days was all too good to last long & this morning when we got up it was dull & rather a strong wind blowing. But it didn't turn out as bad as it promised.

I was busy seeing cases until close on lunch time & then I strolled into Boulonne with Bush & Finn about 3pm. They had to make some purchases for the mess - & choosing Bramaphone discs on rotten machines was not the best sort of job we could have undertaken. There was one disc we all plumped for - "What the H - happened to Kelly," not because of its tinyness but because we have an officer in the mess called Kelly & we thought he might make some remarks like the

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man in the song -

A couple of new officers joined our mess this evening. Capt. Trewbell was at the No 5 A.G.H. St Kilda Rd & I often saw him down there when I used to visit there.

He comes from Bay of Plenty & is a nice fellow. The other Capt. Davidson was a theological student at Ormond College in my time & I don't think I've seen him since. He is acting-padre for Capt. Stume Robertson who is going up the line for 3-4 weeks. Davidson has been in some pretty warm corners up at the front & I think the cold weather of last winter rather troubled him. An Australian mail came in last night so I suppose I shall get mine tomorrow as they will be re-addressed on from the Post. One man got 17 letters. That reminds me I have been steadily getting there my correspondence by writing some letters every night. I hope they reach their destination all right.

What a turmoil in Russia. Civil war seems certain. What bad luck them carrying on so when their help at this juncture would have been most useful. However, we've plenty of surprises in store for the Hun yet. It is starting to blow up again tonight, so I shall do my night round & go to bed -

Thursday 13th Sept. It has been a stormy day & tonight the wind must be blowing with the strength of a gale. It is making these wooden structures creak like anything. That is nothing compared with the draught, flapping tents. The latter always remind me of being on board ship, the whistling thru the ropes & the flapping of tent walls.

In going my rounds this evening it was so dashed cold that I had to put my very

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heavy overcoat on - It is not an easy
matter to find one's way about in the
dark & if it were not for the helpful
white lines on either side of the tracks
one might find oneself wandering all over
the shop - A conveyance had arrived when
I was seeing my patients & I suppose there
will be no admissions for me as I do not
wish to get up on such a cold night -
I was busy with cases until after 5 of this
afternoon. Just an officer from up the line
came to see his cousin on the staff here & he
asked me to examine him. Then there
were nearly a dozen other cases in other
wards which I have been to as Senior
Physician when consulted about them -
I had about 15 new cases admitted into
my own wards during last night &
this morning so I was busy seeing
them also. There were gassed cases, D.V.O.
(perforating fever) of unknown origin) which
are evacuated down to the base from
Casualty Clearing Stations. Every day
we are evacuating cases to England which
necessitates a great deal of writing. You
would be amused if you saw each case
leaving here with a tab-label pinned on
one side of his chest & an envelope containing
the history of his wounds or sickness with all
the examⁿ details pinned on the other side.
All the cases are so classified (A, B, C, D, H)
according to the extent of their disability so
that the Ship's surgeons can draft them
at once & they know which ones require
the most assistance in case of accident
such as being torpedoed.

I think I said I would describe my bedroom. It is a very comfortable one & much better than the other (which was for 2 occupants) & this I have to myself. I have the usual military bed & there are a couple of small tables & three chairs! One a deck, the other a wicker one & the third an ordinary one. The washstand has been massively built with four 3 in. posts & one of my predecessors has cleverly fitted on a rail. Another has made a sort of wardrobe with a curtain attached to a high shelf & then a couple of small shelves complete the show. I must get the 2 small curtains at the window & the couple of mats on the floor. So you can see it is quite a swank room.

The Officers' Messroom is about 20 yards away from here & the bathroom say another 20 yds further on. Perhaps that is the worst feature having to go thru' all weathers so far. If you don't care to have a cold bath there you have to walk about 150 ²⁰⁰ yards or more to get a hot-water shower. In the winter when all the water froze in the pipes & water jugs I believe they had to be satisfied with a sponge in their bedrooms.

I can't help thinking that Dr. Kent Hughes must be having a wild time now. I told you I saw him in London & that he was to go to Petrograd about the time that I came here. He was the Surgeon-in-Chief to the Anglo-Russian Hospital. I bet he is getting all the excitement he wants there just now. - Judging by the papers the Germans are getting very tired of the war & would like Peace, so that looks healthy for an early smash thru' their lines.

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Friday 14th Sept 1917 I did blow hard last night & even this morning it was most unpromising & yet by lunch time the wind had dropped very considerably & it turned out to be a beautiful day. I was very busy until about three o'clock in my wards seeing a large no. of new cases - several gassed men & a variety of other med. cases - mostly the chest injuries (whether shrapnel or gas) that come into my wards & one today was interesting. I asked him when he was struck. He said on Aug 10th. I said I suppose you mean Sept 10th - four days ago. His reply was "No Sir I was wounded in a shell hole in No Man's Land over a month ago & as the lights were constantly played about at night time there was no chance for me to crawl out." He said that food was the hardest to him in a pack from one of the neighbouring shell holes. He managed to keep going until the Germans were pushed back a bit. He has a rib broken by the shock & some fluid in his chest. I couldn't discover any fragment in his chest by X-ray. I must see what the nature of the fluid is tomorrow. While I was talking to him he went into his dinner like anything & didn't seem to think his adventure much out of the way. He is a bit thin on it but otherwise well. Bush Barnett & I walked on to Overain & back for afternoon & told them that we would be back for dinner there at 6.30 & then strolled on another 2 or 3 miles. We went thro' several small hamlets & a most delightful walk it was. The road was excellent & winding in road, sometimes thro' small woods & more often thro' farm & agricultural land - many of the crops were being cut & stacked. We saw the old women patiently gleaning afterwards

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These French folk are so thrifty, that I often wish our discontented labourites would come & get a wholesome lesson from them. Some of the hedges were so pretty & instructive, standing the shortage of labour, very well kept. The Hawthorn with their patches of berries made the road look very bright in places. Both Bush & Garnett say that it is such a contrast to a few weeks earlier when all the foliage disappears & everything looks so dreary & miserable. The small stream came quite close to the road in one place so we strolled with one farm where there was a mill, driven by water power. The stream which was crossed above it had a fine plantation of trees on either side of it.

We had a most enjoyable meal at the small Inn at Souvray. We left & started off about 7.45 & arrived here at nine o'clock. We had walked about 12 miles for the afternoon. It was fine to have a nice Australian mail up to July 12th waiting for me & the letters with the Morning Post afterwards took me up to 11 pm, so I went off to bed now.

Saturday 15th Sept It has been a great day here for as the 2nd A.C.H. held their Sports & invited the Australian Boxers at the Rest Camp not very far from here & the officers (Australian) from the neighbouring hospitals. The day was all that one could wish for and the Sports were a great success. I am sending the programme. The last event of the day was the boxing match between men who had fought & a most amusing affair it was. The men were blindfolded & then turned round 2 or 3 times & then they had to say "Hello, are you there?" & the other had to give his whereabouts by saying, "Yes I'm here."

Of course they wanted to get each other
by making orders the voices were -
By a skilful bit of dodging they would
avoid each other for a long time all the
time sparring & hitting with the air.
We had a great dinner afterwards, as you
will see by the Menu Cards, the Officers from
the 32nd General Hosp, & the 1st Camp being
with us, so that we had a bumper banquet
at our mess. Some of the officers had been at
a splendid review up the line this afternoon
& Gen. Haigh & other Generals were present.
After dinner we adjourned to the Gymna-
sium where a splendid programme had
been arranged for us. It is wonderful the
talent there is among the men & several
of the staff have formed an orchestra
which gave a good account of itself -
The O.C. was in very good form in presenting
the various prizes to the winners of the different
events this afternoon, & even our medical
officers who lost the tug of war this got -
were each presented with a hard biscuit.
Of course there was the amusing little speech
about the event & why we lost & therefore
were entitled to a consolation prize -
All together it was a very entertaining
evening & our guests as well as ourselves
thoroughly enjoyed it.

I have been in France a fortnight today -
The time has slipped by very quickly.

I had a letter from Luigi from Rome last
night saying that he was homeward bound.
He evidently had not received my cable & I did
not his cable which he refers to in his letter -

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Sunday 16th Sept There were a few late birds at breakfast this morning & one chap turned up with half his face covered up. He had an interview with a barbed wire fence down near the Y.M.C.A. I sat - so he told us. Some of the others were inclined to think that he thought he was up on the trench parapet making a rush for the Huns.

It seems that the Mess Committee decided at their last meeting that we should have a guest night every fortnight, so as to give us a chance of inviting friends to dinner. The Q.M. told me today that he was very doubtful whether the district would stand it - of course he meant as regards the food supplies!

I didn't go out until afternoon tea time. By then the weather which was most unpromising this morning had cleared up beautifully. I strolled up towards the Coliseum with the Q.M. & we made good walking if in the time of our disposal. There seemed to be quite a number of planes up at different times. They looked very well in the bright sunlight. The hum they make is unmistakable. I don't think a day goes by without seeing or hearing at least one.

I missed seeing England early this morning. It happened to be clear enough for that. Usually we go across to the Capps after breakfast, but this morning one of the Ds wanted me & I'll a couple of pretty bad cases in the wards, so I made an early start. I was to have this afternoon for any distance.

Monday 17th Sept 1917 ²⁰⁰ As this is p. 200 I think
I must end you on these few notes tonight &
I hope that they reach you all safely -

This afternoon I went into Wimmerley with H.
Bush & then we returned & got Barnett & the
three of us started out for Boulogne. We hadn't
gone far before Col. Holmes came along in his
car & took us as far as the Casino. Bush
wanted to buy some things in the town & I
wanted to draw some money - not for the Casino!
While at Boulogne I saw one of Dr. Red Bird's sisters
(can't remember her name) She has been for the
last 8m. on a hospital Red & train & travels all
over the Country & takes it very well. Curious
enough I saw her in London outside the Thackeray
Hotel just before I left & as she was staying with
Jester Johnson the 2 of them came to look me up
the next day (the day I left for France).
Miss Johnson is at one of the Casualty Clearing
Stations near Bethune. I believe -

We witnessed what might have been a serious
accident closely our gates this evening. We had
just got off the train when we heard shouts &
saw a horse bolting towards us down the hill.
I swerved clear of the train & then slipped on the
rails just in front of us & slid for about 20 yds. The
ball was due to the sh' at separating from the wagon
due to the kinphall dropping out -

We are so accustomed to wagons (petrol, steam
horse drawn) passing along this road at break-
neck speed that a little accident of this sort
didn't seem to create much attention.

The wagons which pass along here are huge &
the Red & cars, alttho when they are bringing or
evacuating cases travel along quietly enough,
but when they have no patients they travel
at such a speed as would surprise you. I have
already told you that the sign "Speed limit 5 m.p.h."
outside our gate is also's mistaken for fifty miles -

Tuesday 18th Sept 1917 Today has been rather a miserable day, with rather a light wind and every now and then driving showers, so there was not much inducement to go out this afternoon. Spilled in the time at some X-ray "special meals" with a couple of my patients. We have a good X-ray plant here and one of the young Sydney men this assistant (a nco.) look after it. It is used very much by the surgeons & is invaluable in locating foreign bodies & the extent of bone smashes before an operation is undertaken. Lt Col. Holmes came this morning and had a look at some nerve cases. He is very keen on the work & will be along again in 2 or 3 days' time. The Australasian for July 6th arrived safely & it is interesting to have home news in this way. The London papers are got every day, generally first before or just after lunch, so we are well up in the War & World's News. There is an interesting series of 2 articles in The Times of yesterday & today by Lord Northcliffe on "America & a War" & if you have a chance of reading them please do so, as they will give you a great opportunity of what America is doing. All the papers for days past have been talking of the attempts Germany is making to save her face now by having Peace. She is evidently up against it & knows that she has a great disaster ahead of her. It is very interesting to be so close to all these great happenings. Sometimes it is hard to realise. It all feels so much like a dream.

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Wednesday 19th Sept. There were a couple of cougars during the night which brought in quite a batch of new cases, and there were the usual large no. of evacuations so as to make room for others. In the afternoon an invitation came down to us from Col. Purdy C.E. of the 9th F.A. for the officers & nurses to attend their sports. Al Red + was sent down for us + as our O.C. had another engagement + could not go, Bush + I + 3 other young officers + half a dozen nurses set out. We had a most beautiful drive along the Liame Valley — as we did on the way to Hardebat (+ Bush + I thought the other day when we were on the tram how splendid it would be to travel over the country we actually did this afternoon). We passed thro' several small villages + hamlets + passed fields — some with their corn still standing, others being cut + stacked. Then thro' some small woods which were fine with their early autumn tints. The roads were splendid + we made good speed, perhaps a little more than one altogether enjoys. It is remarkable how these drivers like to go at such breakneck speed. Fortunately he was a splendid man + beyond a blow out of one tyre nothing untoward happened. We got to Senellegues on the St. Omer Rd about 16 miles ~~out~~ + found our men ^{accompanied} belonging to the Field Ambulance billeted in the houses in the village. Near by was the sports ground, so fixed up in an ordinary field + a band playing lively airs. There were the usual sporting running + walking events. I met such a lot of fellows there that I knew — Prince McPhee, an old Unit fellow student. He practices at Seelong. Also McNaughton

Glassford, Wheatley, Davie's Renny (Ted will remember him). We stayed to dinner with them & started off in a drizzling rain about 8 o'clock to return home. I suppose our driver knows the road extremely well, but he seemed to me to travel just as quickly at night time as during the afternoon. When we were about 3 miles out of Boullogne we picked up 3 very wet & miserable men from a neighbouring stop who were trudging back from Hardelos where they had spent the day. I was told that there was a train at 7 pm - which didn't start. We saved them a 6 or 7 miles walk. It was a very pleasant meeting & gave us a little more idea of the country in our neighbourhood.

Thursday 2nd Sept This afternoon about 3 I thought we would walk a good way on towards the point where a steamer is on the rocks after the severe blow of the last few days. It was about 7 miles off roughly. It was still blowing pretty hard but nice & sunny, so we walked on thru the sand dunes to Ambleten. There we saw some Australian tourmies resting & we asked them how far it was on to the next village. They said they didn't know as they were strangers in the district! Then one who seemed to be a spokesman said they had only been there about 7 days & "tell you the truth Sir, we're having a d - good time." They looked it all right & we left them hoping that they would still be on having a good time. We had afternoon tea at the Hotel de la Marine a quaint old place with all their blue plates up on the wall as plaques. They had some queer old furniture & candlesticks. We strolled on a bit further & then turned

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back as we had a pretty strong wind to
battle against. On the road we passed
a great many soldiers going to a Red Camp
swinging along at an easy pace, their
hat nailboots making a curious
crunching sound as they swung in step.
Some had their "tin hats" & one or two
carried pets of young puppies. They had
not long come out of the line, and looked
in fine fettle & well clothed & well nourished.
Further along we passed a company
resting on the side of the road - one or 2 doing
in most uncomfortable positions - like foot
used to -
Further along still in one of the hospitals
where new Russian huts were being put up
we saw a crowd of German prisoners working
& also the big Northern Chechenians. Then
to another place where there were more
prisoners. We climbed up a pretty good hill
& rested ~~out of the~~ being sheltered from the
wind & basked in the sun for a time. Then
we watched a great many prisoners (all
those we had passed) come swinging up the
hill with their guards. When they came
near us I dashed if their Sergeant (guard)
gave them an order in German & (awful fog)
I had to get up & take the salute. I wonder
what they want to take prisoners for!
As we found we were near the internment
camp we thought we would move on & I
dashed if we didn't come across another
squad of them coming in the other direction &
I had to take the salute again. When one goes out
for a walk one's ~~arm~~ ^{arm} is constantly moving
like a puppet hand taking salutes. I often
think that if I take to drink the lifting of the

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elbow would become dead easy, such is one
of the many advantages of Saluting!

Friday 21st Sept This has been a very busy day. We have
evacuating as many of our cases as possible during
the past couple of days & from very early this
morning & all day there has been a constant stream
of Red + cars. Already we have admitted about
200 cases. The Staff at Inverness Camp re
you will already know about & I believe there
are over 4000 prisoners up to lunch time. Our
wounded men came in great good humour
because they had given the Hun a devil of a
punch. Inverness Camp & the other spots like
Potsdam have been practically impregnable &
are now ours & 2 counter attacks already
repulsed. They say the Germans very expert.
came forward with their hand up. From all
accounts ^{the Germans} fear the British troops more than any-
body & little wonder when we give them absolutely
no rest, as they are bombarded pretty continuously
& burnt at night time.

The surgeons are having a pretty busy time
& after dinner this evening there were over 30
ops & 3 tables going continuously. I must go
across now (10.30) & give a hand.

I suppose tomorrow will be equally busy.
Saturday 22nd Sept. The 3 tables were kept very busy until
early this morning. I gave a hand for a little time as
they had plenty of help & so I was able to get to bed
about quarter to one. Hurley & the others got to bed
about 2.15. They commenced again early this
morning seeing their cases already in Hoops &
have ops on, while the skiagraphist was busy
all the morning repairing on cases with
foreign bodies (shrapnel or fragments of metal)
Then later in the morning the ops commenced
again & all the afternoon, with a break for aft-
tea, & again after dinner & are still going.
It is wonderful the way the turnover is

Kept up. A large no. went across to hospital today - many of those who came in yesterday & more have come in at 9pm. & another big conveyance is expected in in a couple of hours' time. So I think I shall go off to bed in case I'm yanked out later on. I kept about all the aftⁿ in case I should be wanted & after aftⁿ tea went out for a stroll with Captⁿ Chatterton Wilson (late M.P. for Warrnambool). We strolled into a tiny little hamlet not far from here, but almost hidden in a dip. There were very few houses there surrounding the feudal lord's Chateau. All these houses have a simple architecture - four plain walls & red tile roofs - & no ornate designs - Of course there is always the smelly manure heaps in the centre of every yard - I think I have told you of the Norman castle within a few hundred yards of this hospital - in fact overlooking it. I think I was supposed to have stayed there when he was attacking Boulaene. The small castle is absorbed in farm buildings & would be easily missed if you were not told of its existence.

Sunday 28th Sept. It was another busy day for the surgeons & they have been going strong fixing up many compound fractures of the thigh & legs. One ward has so many fracture posts & other wooden appliances that they call it the timber yard. One Australian who came into my ward this morning had a crack on his head a big chunk of shrapnel had bored a hole thro' the side of his chest near the armpit & another thro' his arm, I smashed it. He was stunned

for a moment & then got up & walked back to the dressing station. Another had the lower part of his breast bone blown away & a missile coursed along his muscle planes & out the opposite flank. He developed a pneumonia but was as chirpy as anything. Another poor boy had his shoulder & arm shattered, so the arm was amputated at the shoulder joint at the Casualty Clearing Station. In addition he had a shrapnel wound of the chest, so he was in a pretty hopeless condition.

A very large no. of new cases came in during the night but a great many of them were walkers & went up to the tents. I suppose we shall be getting more in as this "push" at the front seems to be developing well. We heard a lot of firing & thunder-like rumble in the distance last night. It was probably due to the fleet's bombardment at Ostend, as the papers report today heavy action there. According to the Observer's review of the week written by Garvin a very sober view is taken of the situation. He is confident that the British will drive the Hun out of Flanders off the Belgian coast, but that too optimistic a view of the war being finished by the end of the year should be deprecated as his opinion was that the end would not be for another 12 months - not until the Spring offensive assisted by America's great army would the German army be greatly shattered. [The lights have gone out again, I am wondering if there is a raid on]. After fixing my hurricane lamp & getting settled down the lights have appeared again. It has been a nice mild day, cloudy but without wind so that is a treat. I didn't get out until 5 o'clock & only had an hour's walk as Sunday tea is at 6 o'clock. Still that was very pleasant & a nice break from hospital.

A couple of Australian letters (dated 19th July) came along today -

This is a busy road in front of our quarters all day long & all night to vehicles of every description - steam driven, oil driven & horse power. The latter are mostly the French peasants turned out, unless it is a garry from Boulogne. All the horses have jingle-bells attached to their harness & remind one of the cab horses in London years ago - At the back of us is a railway bank & the great variety of train which pass along the line daily is wonderful. Red & black, long strings of trucks - the trucks are marked 8 horses or 40 men! And that is the way you see the sheepful fellows either going & or coming from the line for a rest - If they are Australians you generally hear a lot of whistling & cheering as they know this is one of their hospitals - It is wonderful to see the packet boats going to & from Blight. From the cliffs where we are we get a good view of everything that goes on always being cared for by the sturdy little T.P.s. The Sweepers are constant. So what eggs the dirty submarine lars are dug poached by these little boats. I think I had better send on these notes every week, so that should the mail be lost occasionally it will not take down with it a whole batch of these

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Monday 24th Sept 1917. Early this morning I was awakened by the fog hooters. I feel like a fog also + I wasn't particularly keen about getting up at 7.20 as we have to walk some distance from our shack to the bath-room. [Blow Fritz! The lights have gone out again for the second time tonight] The day turned out to be a most perfect one, so I got thro' my work as soon as possible + got away from hospital bath just about 2.45. We strolled very leisurely along the cliffs + watched the shipping + seaplanes for some time + then made our way on to the beach at Pouldigne where there were crowds of people. It was a splendid afternoon for a swim and there were a good many in the water. The small boys ~~built~~^{dig} trenches + had them protected by wire-netting, so they are playing the war game in their way.

We went on into the town + had an ice + did a little shopping + then there was a loud report like a bomb dropping exploding closely + we like the other people rushed a few yards to the market square where we expected to see some damage. But there was nothing there, so we turned + walked back + got in in time for dinner. After dinner we officers entertained the Sergeants at a Concert + we had a very pleasant evening. The Sergeants got their orchestra going + they provided some good items also in the way of songs. Some of our officers have v. good voices + one of our visitors an English Lieut. was a professional in England + sang "Devon" + "Marjorie" in great form. I was curious to see what little effect Fritz's air raids made on the entertainment. Right in the middle of the first item the lights went out

but candles & acetylene lights were provided & there was not the slightest hitch in the performance. After a time there were some explosions close at hand, but we couldn't tell whether they were bombs or our guns. After the Concert we went off & did our wards & just as I was coming in I noticed in the distance a couple of shells bursting & soon after starting to write the lights went out again for a 2nd time, so I suppose they are going to try a second go. It is half-full moon tonight (and a long night too) & moonlight is favourable to Fritz for raiding. He is not so easily spotted. We heard a great deal of distant firing today as if some big bombardment was taking place. I wouldn't be a bit surprised if it were the beginning of another big push. Isn't it curious how one comes across patients. One of my men shot thro' the chest is a son of a patient of mine (let him be the bookmaker). The young fellow was so pleased to know that I had treated his father. We had news today that Jim Nicholas (one of the fellows who used to play tennis at Harry Stephens') was killed a day or two ago while up with his Field Ambulance at the front. He was a v. nice fellow & most capable also.

Tuesday 25th Sept. I got some severe chest injuries in from the early morning convey & one v. bad shell gas poisoning. The poor fellow's both arms & back were v. badly burnt & large blisters were raised. This meant big pieces of skin came away with the dressing. The face was also bad (blistered) & his eyes were bunged up & he was delighted to find out when I opened his eyes that he could see.

Of course he could not open them himself owing to the intense irritation. Some of the chest injuries presented curious conditions. There is nearly always some haemorrhage from the lungs when the missile with high velocity penetrates the chest - sometimes it is small & sometimes large. But what more frequently occurs is a bleeding into the chest cavity (a haemothorax, it is called). Sometimes withdrawing it may be sufficient to get the patient better, but one can never tell whether the contained blood will not become infected by the missile and the chest then will require to be opened by removing a rib & draining away the putrefying blood -

It was another beautiful day so Drewella & I strolled over to the cliffs about 2.30 & basked in the sun for ever so long. We watched the shipping, especially the packets & hospital ship coming from England & having a dirigible as an observer against submarines (the smooth water being most favourable to their activity). When the convoy came near it was met by outpouring convoys & the dirigible turned round & escorted it to England. While it was in sight it was most interesting watching it ^{the ship} manoeuvring. It would turn either side or right about turn or mount upwards or dive quickly towards the water with the greatest ease & every manoeuvre was done gracefully. The long banks of smoke made the visibility poor & but it seemed to mount over the smoke bank. In addition we saw seaplanes & also planes so we had quite an interesting hour or two there. With the haze on a calm sea it was easy to understand how difficult it must have been at the Jutland Battle to discern the enemy fleet.

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We walked in to watch the people on the sand at Boulogne afterwards near the Casino & then across to a cafe opposite the apt? bar. The tables & chairs were out on the footpath so it was interesting to watch the passers-by. The lights have been out for a couple of hours this evening & I heard a bit of firing in the distance. I heard that the Germans had dropped notices to say that they wanted to bombard Boulogne tonight, but I don't know whether it is authentic or not. I see by today's paper that they raided London last night; that accounts for the shell bursts we saw.

Gilbert O'Beckett rang me up from Boulogne tonight on his way to the front after a few days' leave in hospital. He telephoned this apt? but I was out or else I would have had him here to mess with us. He sounded & cheerful & said he was well. He enquired about Cattle.

Wednesday 26th Sept. It is curious how one loses count of the days. Each & every day is the same here & there is really nothing striking to make any one day different. The work on Sundays goes on just the same. The shops are open just the same as any other day. Perhaps there is some advantage in keeping a little diary of this sort to help one!

I had a pretty full morning's work as a night conveyer left me a few new cases. The constant evacuation of cases to daylight means such a lot of waiting up that one runs a fair risk of getting writer's cramps. We could scarcely expect the beautiful weather of the last 2 or 3 days to last, but today was not so bad. It was cloudy & there was a bit of wind, just fresh enough to make one

walk briskly, so Captain Kelly (9 Bookie)
 + I set up for Boulogne. We are up to height
 above sea level here on these cliffs & we have
 to go down a pretty steep dip in going into
 Boulogne & out again - makes a nice walk.
 We hadn't any particular objective so
 we went across the River to the British
 Officers Club for afternoon tea. They have
 a good sized room where young women in
 khaki coats wait at the tables. I don't
 know whether they belong to the big corps
 of W.A.A.C.s, but I'm inclined to think they are.
 After tea we saw a v. large no. of troops
 detaining (just across the road) & marching
 off to a rest camp, I believe. They all looked
 very well & in good form.

By the papers, I see the Huns raided London
 again last night. I suppose the moonlight
 nights are favourable to them.
 I wonder we haven't had the lights out
 to night. I suppose it is too cloudy & too
 windy for them to bother about us.

Thursday 27th Sept. It was such a delightful belmy
 day that it seemed a pity for anyone to be indoors.
 However there was a big admission during the night
 making about 400 new cases since yesterday
 morning! Fortunately they were not serious cases
 & altho' the surgeons were busy this afternoon &
 evening that they did not get the heavy cases
 which usually follow a big strain. The military
 pains have been excellent & at a light cost.
 Three tables were going constantly this evening &
 I went in & gave a hand anæsthetising. As
 one case was nearly finished I went on with the
 next case so that he was completely under by
 the time they were finished the other & ready to go
 straight ahead. And as my case was being

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finished the other and aesthetic went ahead with another. Much time is saved in this way. I daresay it will be very busy tomorrow as the more serious cases come down from the Casualty Clearing Stations.

While at operations tonight the lights went out owing to the fact the Hun planes were raiding us again. It was awkward for a brief time until the lights supplied by our storage battery were switched on. This contingency was foreseen long ago & as the lights are poorer, still they are better than lamps - The small dynamo was originally installed for charging the batteries for the X-ray plant, so it now fulfills a double function. The lights have reappeared a few minutes ago (11 pm), but most of the ops are over now -

Push - I went down into Wimmerieux first & then on Souverain Moulin. There is a walk which we never get tired of. It is just long enough to make one enjoy the tea & the walk back is always fine. Tonight is also beautiful - still & peaceful (now) & as the moon is about $\frac{3}{4}$, it is about as ideal for raiding purposes as could be expected.

I suppose we must expect more raids during the next few nights.

Friday 28th & Saturday 29th Sept. It was after 11:30 last night when I came over to my room & I was tortured to write a few lines. It was a heavy day for everyone as there had been a heavy admission during the night & also day, of course the worst cases were being evacuated from the Casualty Clearing Stations. I found all my beds in the surgical "chest" ward full with severe chest wounds. Most of them are due to penetrating injuries - some where a missile (such as a shrapnel bullet, or worse fragments of shell travelling at high velocity) will pass right thru!

a chest wounding lung, ribs & perhaps tearing thro' important nerve structures. One can never tell the course the fragments will take; sometimes they will lodge in the abdomen. The most frequent complication that occurs in most wounds of the chest (whether they be penetrating or simple contusion of chest wall) is haemothorax or bleeding into the chest cavity. The amount of blood which will collect will vary from a few ounces to 20 or more pints. If the quantity is small & not infected it may absorb naturally in the course of time, but there is always the risk of infection & forming an empyema or abscess on lung. If the quantity is fairly large the pressure symptoms usually give rise to distress in breathing & it is better drawn off. This (Sat.) afternoon I had to take the blood off three cases as they were v. distressed. Yesterday (Friday) I worked on at these new cases from breakfast till lunch & immediately afterwards until dinner time & then again until 11.30. I had one severe nerve case to work out. He had been shot in the roof of the neck & caused partial paralysis of all his limbs. The bullet struck & crushed the roof of the 7th cervical vertebra. He was op'd on same evening & the bullet removed & pieces of khaki cloth & the fragments of bone also. I don't think the outlook for him is very promising. I suppose during the last 2½ days we have had about 600 cases, but we have been the only hospital which has been busy: all the others about here have had v. few. That sounds very promising for the "push" as we heard

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that for the five gains we have made our casualties have been surprisingly small. We have had two more beautiful days & after tea today H. Bush & I strolled along the cliffs & sat in the sun for an hour & enjoyed the rest away from Hospital & ~~the~~ watched the aeroplanes & sea planes manoeuvring. The lights are out again tonight (Sat) & already I've heard some shots but my impression is that there are no more raids on England. They have been travelling across there each night & I think feel a bit welcome each time. Of course these moonlight nights are very favorable to raiders.

These beautiful autumn days are a surprise to me. One had rather the idea that 4 or 5 consecutive fine days would certainly mean rain. We have had about a fortnight's fine weather now & if lasts much longer it is bound to be accompanied by heavy fighting. The surgeons worked incessantly yesterday & until 2.30 this morning. Other things had to be cleaned up by them today. It is difficult to get any sort of idea of the incessant hard work they have to do when these pushes are on unless you are here seeing it all. Dr. Farrow is the giving you so much "shop" - but shop has practically been my only outlook the last couple of days.

Saturday Sunday 30th Sept 1917. The pressure
 of work eased off very considerably this morning
 & so I was able to finish up my wards
 shortly after lunch. We were in luck as it
 was another topping day so Bush & I started
 off for Boulogne about 2.45. It was grand
 walking along the Cliffs & altho' it was such
 a magnificent day we couldn't see very far
 out to sea because it was so hazy. When
 we stralled across to the Cliffs after breakfast
 this morning there was quite a dense sea fog
 & the fog horns were sounding frequently -
 When we got to Boulogne we found a
 crowd of people around the Band stand
 which is close to the Casino. A French military
 band played beautifully & later on when we
 were returning there was a British military
 Band there having a go.
 We stayed there until four o'clock when we
 walked on to the British Officers' Club & had
 afternoon tea. The packet boats with "Leavenworth"
 had just arrived from England, so the room
 was quickly filled up. I heard one officer say
 that he was glad to be back again (i.e. in France).
 The fine day & the music attracted a great
 crowd of people out to that part of the
 Sea Front near the Casino & Band Stand
 was simply packed with people - civilians
 & soldiers - Poles, British troops of every kind,
 Turcos, Park Strains (Portuguese) the Tommies, the
 Melians & other Americans. Of course the
 Clouck hat was to be seen. Our fellows are
 very proud of this distinctive head gear.
 We have early tea on Sunday night - 6.00 -
 so we couldn't go far afield -

I'm the Mess President for this week - my duties beginning today. The Mess President sits next the O.C. (& immediately opposite my permanent seat) & takes precedence over all other officers for the week & has to see to any little social function that may come along during his term of office. An amusing incident happened last week at dinner when one of the officers (the dentist) was rumoured to be engaged to one of the sisters. Another officer got up & asked the President (Capt. Gratton Wilson) if he were in order to propose a health. The President who is an old Victorian & Federal M.P. told him he was out of order & wouldn't permit! The dentist was much rebuffed & I heard that he was enquiring rather anxiously last night who this week's President was, so that he might square him. However I haven't been approached yet & if I am, I must tell him that he must make it very much worth my while!

None of us have any idea when the next mail goes out, so this will be posted tonight & I hope you all receive it safely & that the wily submarine has no chance of getting near the mailboat.

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Monday, 1st October 1917. We've had a good deal of excitement this evening as already the Huns have raided us twice. It is not 10.15. The bombardment has been terrific & the shacks shake like anything when the big "arabees" go off. Just at lunch today there was a pretty good bombardment at a couple of Hun planes. They flew extremely high & there were puffs of smoke everywhere as the shrapnel shells burst but with the exception of 2 or 3 shots I don't think they went anywhere near them. One plane we could see quite distinctly & appeared to be about the size of this. It sailed on quite unconcerned & didn't alter its course at all. We quite expected the raid tonight & the first which started about an hour ago brought on a furious bombardment. We could hear the hum quite distinctly & one of the searchlight beams picked up one for a time. Then there were 3 rapid explosions about 2-300 yds away at the back of our hospital. Our Hun was evidently trying to smash the railway line there. It was not successful because the trains have been going along just as merry as ever. Soon after another furious bombardment started & our shack shook like anything. A bomb was dropped near the tents not far from here & several patients hopped out & ran across here. There is a field alongside the tents & it must have dropped there. The second one seemed to drop at the other end of the hospital. We have been out to investigate but couldn't see anything. It is curious to hear the ping of the pieces

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of shrapnel flying about & some pieces fell
on our shack & on the shack opposite &
even on the pass within a few feet of us.
Everything is quiet again but I suppose it
must have shaken up the patients, I haven't
been around yet.

I had rather a busy day with new cases
& seeing at the cases with others, but I
got out for a stroll after tea - it was such a
lovely day after the cold frosty night. My
the way the bed-socks were a great success
last night & I had a great sleep.
We had some fun at dinner tonight. One of
the officers has become engaged (so the lady says)
to one of the nurses & he was being clipped
about it & we all drank his health, but we
couldn't draw him -

I got some more Australian letters today
I have sent off some more letters myself.
Tuesday 2nd Oct. We were naturally anxious to know
what damage was done last night by the bombs so
after breakfast some of us strolled into the paddock
adjoining our tents (i.e. immediately at the back
of our mess room) & came across two dead horses.
They were struck in several places & each had a
leg broken. There were six bomb holes within
a few feet of each other. Each was like the
hub of a wheel as the radiating marks were
torn in the grass for several feet around.
I haven't ^{yet} seen where the other 3 bombs
fell on the other side of the hospital, but I
understand no damage was caused.
I think the Sten's objective must have been
the railway line which is only about 2-300
yards away from our hospital.

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I forgot to mention last night that rather a large piece of shrapnel fell on the roof of my ward at the pantry end (this is in the centre of the building & separates the ^{cases with} shell wounds of the chest from those purely medical). It evidently shook the walls because some tins of jam were shaken off the shelf onto empty bottles. There was quite a clatter among the medical cases though that the building had crashed in & sprang out of bed & some ran outside.

We were very busy transferring a lot of cases this morning & as I had several new ones I didn't get a chance of running out until after tea, when I went into Boulogne with Captain Stratton Wilson. He took me to some of his old shops for antiques, which were old pawnshops as far as I could judge. The British & American officers have ^{been} buying things up so much that most things are at a prohibitive price now.

The lights were out for a couple of hours this evening & 2 warning guns were given, but nothing has so far eventuated. The same warning was given this aftⁿ just as we were going out & there was some heavy firing for a time. It was supposed that one of the planes was over for observation purposes.

Wednesday 3rd Oct. It is so windy tonight that I don't think there is much chance of a Hun raid. Besides it has been raining & is v. cloudy so the conditions for air raids are most unfavourable. I hope the weather is not going to break completely because after this lapse of time we must be ready for another big push.

As long as the fine weather lasts we have every chance of beating the Hun off the ridges & winning ~~the~~^{the} ~~clouds~~^{the} back.

My wards did not occupy me all the morning & I had a chance of seeing our dentist for a little while - Doesn't it seem curious that he does any work for a lady the other big British Hospitals around & also for the Khaki girls - they seem to come down in swarms for dental work, so that he is a very busy man.

I strolled into Boulogne this afternoon with Major Finn & went to the No 7 General Hospital close to the Casino. There were 2 or 3 wounded Australian officers there whom Finn wanted to see. One was a ~~Red~~ medic named Welch who was struck in the head & another perforated the ~~road~~ his knee & came out about his shoulder blade - you could put a finger in the back wound. And yet he felt full & bright.

It reminds me this morning I got an Australian into my ward ~~his~~ both shoulder blades were smashed by penetrating wounds from just above both collar-bones. The R. wound you could easily put in a rolled-cerviette. Both wounds were tubed & were tightly packed with gauze, which took some time to pull out. He never murmured, so after it was dressed I asked him what he would like best. He said "my word! a glass of beer." So we gave him a mug of beer & he did enjoy it!

It was a windy walk into Boulogne. It rather reminded me of one the worst kinds of N. wind days in Melbourne. The grit & dust fairly hurt your face. We came back on the cliffs - over fields - so it was a much pleasanter return.

Thursday 4th Oct I had such a fine budget of Australian letters this afternoon - several altogether! They were as late as Aug 12th, and some of them were in acknowledgment of my S. African letters. I'm pleased those p.b.s. & baskets ^{are} arrived safely & that the dear old didn't bore you all. If it does bore you I'm afraid that state of affairs must last for some time unless ^{you} send a cable to chase!

In today's Times there was news of the course & the strike in Sydney & ^{in Sydney} the letters there was a hint or two about the raters. Altho the Times cable of a few days ago ~~stated~~ ^{said} that the strike had collapsed & that the agitators & I.W.O. had a very bad set back, it would seem as if these troubles would recur from time to time.

The winter must have been & severe from the ages I had from some of your letters. We seemed to have started off today ^{today} on the trail run of our winter. It rained pretty heavily last night & all today it has been v. cold, stormy & at times with hard driving rain. We have to put on our macks going to the wards & even across to the messroom from our shack. As I'm writing now I have put on my dressing gown to keep warm. The "official" winter has not commenced yet & we are not allowed fuel for the little stoves in our rooms. When the fires are started they will only permit a certain small quantity to each bedroom. The wards seemed to be snug enough tho' altho the windows rattled enough in the strong wind. There are a few cracks in the floor boards which I should imagine give enough ventilation for all purposes for the ward when that a gale is blowing.

Some of the fellows who had gone thro' last

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winter here said that for days these gales
would blow, even when there were severe
frosts. There must have been "some" in the breeze!
Of course it was bound to go out for a walk
this afternoon & I think this is the first day
that I have not been out of the hospital
grounds even for a little time.
Four medics, arrived to add to our strength
(as they speak of the staff in military parlance)
Two are Sydney men, one from W.A. & one is
from Melbourne. I can remember him attending
my Clinics at the Children's Hospital last year.
His name is Henderson & I fancy that he
comes from Rutherglen.

The suggestion that Chip should type 3 or
4 copies of these notes is a good one, & I'm sure
she would like the practice of typewriting them.
Speaking of the diary makes me regret that
I posted one lot at Sierra Leone, because I
would feel doubtful whether you received
them & if you have they may be "heavily
censored" by some nigger there who
might imagine that there was information
there for the enemy! However, let's hope
that you got them.

We all feel pretty sick about the break in
the weather as it will probably interfere with
our offensive "up the line."

It is very interesting reading the important
big London dailies on the war (of course
other things). There is so much to read that
Pop. could easily settle down to 3-4 hours
each day comfortable reading. This might be
an inducement for him to enlist & come to
France! In the Times there is always a column
"Two German eyes" giving the views of their
principal journals on the war, so we get some
sort of idea of how they are feeling - at any rate
what is allowed to be published by the M. dictators.

When I get such a fine lot of letters in like
 the had today I always feel inclined (I wish I
 had the time to do so) to sit down & write
 long letters to each one & refer to each matter
 touched upon. However you must take
 the will for the deed.

Friday 5th Oct. Isn't it splendid news about the
 new offensive commenced yesterday morning -
 word came down early this morning & then of course
 the papers brought the welcome news. The Germans
 it appears, had prepared to attack us & try to reach
 their last positions but our offensive started
 a quarter of an hour before theirs, completely upset
 their calculations & knocked them about badly -
 We don't know what our casualties are, but judging
 by the remarks of some of the men our objectives will
 have been achieved like those of Sept 20 last &
 small casualties. One of the young med officers
 (Major Mitchell - I think I know him as he was in
 Gallipoli) who came from the front last night said
 that the Germans often come in in 30 to 40 at a
 time as prisoners in between the stumps. They
 get such a grueling now from our guns that
 they are glad to come over. Probably for every one
 shell fired by the Hun we fire ten! That is
 something like a reversal of what we read in
 the early days in Boyd Cable's "Between the Lines".
 I suppose we shall be receiving big crowds in the
 next couple of days. In fact while at dinner I
 heard that there were a couple of Red & Brown at
 the station, so we may get busy during the
 night. I pity the poor wounded fellows this cold
 weather. It is bad enough to keep warm while
 in robust health.

My young Scotch jock who was shot in the neck
 & partly paralyzed is improving. He is fine specimen
 of manhood & a good lad. I hope he pulls thro' &
 everyone likes him so much. He has quite a small
 army to turn him & assist while ^{being} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{process} ^{of} ^{being} ^{dressed}.

I went into Boulogne this afternoon with Padre Davidson - he was a v. keen ^{football} theolog. at Ormond when I was there - and, Major Finn. Finn is good sport & keen upon a bit of exercise. When we got down the hill leading to the Plage we found quite a number of motor cars & pedestrians hung up by the waves dashing over the sea wall & across the road. There must have been 18 in to 2 ft. of water in one spot & every now & then there would be a fine lot of spray come over. Plenty of shingles & sand were washed up on the road & even up against the house-fronts. Some of the cars ventured there & others turned back. We waited our opportunity & got across. On the way back it was all right as the tide had gone out considerably - so Davidson & I went into Boulogne then saw a hospital being loaded up with stretcher cases. A large bevy of stretcher bearers stand near the gangways & as each Red Cross Car carrying 4 stretcher cases comes up these are rapidly unloaded, pass along the gangway & a ^{Dr.} & his 2 N.C.O.s check their tabs, pinned on to them & send them on. It is all done so quick & smooth by that no long strings of cars are waiting. You invariably see the patient smoking a cigarette, it doesn't matter what the case is. It is so curious too in hospital that as soon as the wound is dressed before you can get to the next case, the last one has at his cigarette & puffing away, even altho he may be short of breath or partly paralysed. That is one of the things that the men like about the Aust. Troops is that they can smoke in the morning after the M.O. has seen them & each of the patients like each of the members of the staff of the Hospital, gets his issue of two packets

9 cigarettes & a box of matches. There had been such a shortage of the latter that the flint strikes & a cotton fuse are all the value & v. good they are to bore light. Very amusing incidents occur in that play of Bairnsfather's - the "Better 'ole" in trying to use the cigarette-lighter. I possess one & always use it now instead of matches.

We have had a further influx of new M. O. S. (med officers). Major Drummond (an old S. Vincent Hosp. student of mine) has returned, after being sent to No. 13 Stationary Hosp. for some weeks.

The scene in Mess Room at dinner & night was quite bright as there must have been 40 men there being some two or three visitors. This is also a sort of springing off place for men up the line coming from Bapaix or going off on leave.

The weather improved v. much today: there has been no rain since last night & it was even sunny for a time today. But the wind was still v. cold. However it was a good drying wind & will keep matters up the line so that's a good thing. It is most interesting to read the papers & the times. There appears to be no doubt that Germany is v. much up against it & is endeavouring to gain a place to save her face. The apes which come there from these papers are sufficient to show that. I must do my round now. Then try & get warmed up a bit in bed -

Saturday 6th October It was another bitterly cold day & I was glad to have that chamarr waistcoat top on. It certainly is a very nice thing to keep out the cold but I am anxious to keep it for use when the very severe cold comes, so I shall go to Ordnance & try if I can buy one of those Cardigan jackets similar to the issue one I left behind. There are some nice ones made of fine wool like Jaeger. If there any to be had Ordnance will have them. The difficulty is to know whether they have them in stock as the official winter hasn't started yet. I did not get out until after tea & then

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Capt. Kelly & Henderson & I started off two ^{old} bagways to Ambleton. We were almost shivering when we started but we soon got warmed up. It was really a beautiful fresh day for a brisk walk and perhaps a nice end up would have been to get alongside a cosy fire for the evening. Instead I have been amusing myself with looking thro' a wonderful set (I think) of postcards. I'm sure you'll all agree with me when you see them. Several of them are from famous old masters rather well known artists. The others are quite new to me, depicting nursery rhymes, and are the quaintest and daintiest little 'pictures' I've seen for a long time. I've only looked roughly thro' them in a couple of hours. They will take several evenings to see them all properly.

The news from up the line is quite good. We have 4,500 prisoners & have achieved our object at least. The Germans say that we've only got a narrow strip of land. The Australians took 3,000 & counted another 1000 dead, so they feel quite bucked about what the Times declares to be the biggest & most important battle (of Brookrun) of the year. The other aspect is seen in the work our engineers are doing. They were finished at 2.30 & went on again before ^{coffee} lunch & after dinner this evening & are still at it.

I have a regular - who has been in the Army for 14-15 years. These men are old soldiers in more ways than one. They are up to all the dodges in the way of symptoms imaginable - & easy on the lips & the new army man in getting left billets &c. In fact a lot of these chaps fall "sick" just before a stunt. This particular man had new symptoms every day, the most recent was that he could not move his right arm & that it was withering. I couldn't move it either. He held it so stiffly, so I told Sister that unless he worked very hard in the ward & forgot his symptoms & otherwise gave a good %

of himself, he had no chance of getting to daylight
 (which was quite a fair thing as he had been about
 3 years up the line). This morning Sister says he was
 waiting for her when she went on duty & was polishing
 & dusting in places which had probably never been
 touched since the ward was built. I asked him
 what about his withered arm. He said it was
 still there! They work up some great stunts
 on you at times. They would make you laugh.
 Sunday 7th October. It has been a wild & stormy day with
 hard driving rain at times, making it dashed un-
 pleasant moving about. We have to cover a good deal
 of ground in going to our wards & this morning I had
 to wait some time just before lunch before I could come
 across as there was a heavy storm on at the time.
 It took up for about an hour after tea but I didn't
 manage to get a walk in. It is blowing great
 puffs of wind but is smug enough in our shack
 until we have to go across to our wards.
 We had an extra hour in bed last night as an
 order came that we were to go back to the
 proper time. We quite appreciate the daylight
 saving business when it gives us a longer afternoon
 but in these cold mornings one would like to stay
 in bed until about 10 or 11.
 We had a few more cases in during the night &
 my surgical chest cases were added to. It is remark-
 able how fellows can escape from such serious
 consequences with these penetrating chest wounds.
 They are very interesting & present most
 unusual features at times. All these men are
 convinced that the Germans are keen about
 surrendering & when our fellows are advancing
 the G. run like anything. Those concrete forts
 or pill boxes are often crammed with 30-40 men
 who surrender at once. The way, these same
 pill boxes are used by our ^{medical} men as advanced
 dressing stations for the wounded.
 One of the officers who was right up in the front
 during that Broodseinde Battle of 3 days ago says
 that the G. were hopelessly beaten. [He was in to
 lunch today & gave us an interesting acc of it]

The men who were captured were v. hungry & gave away any of their possessions for pieces of bread. of course they may not have been 24-36 hours without provisions. But it is curious that many of them come across without weapons, overcoats or any surplus equipment. I suppose they despoil them all in their anxiety to be taken. The G. always declare that our Australian men only fight for souvenirs. It is no good being accused of such things without some justification. So it is remarked that they helped themselves to buttons etc. - The G. all declared that our artillery played havoc & was v. accurate.

Sister Northgate told me today that Ed. & Gladys N. will be married on Oct 16th. I shall send word across to Peabody & Co London & ask Mr Seearns to cable out congratulations. By the time my letter gets across the Channel & the cable is sent, they should get it on the eve or the day of their marriage.

One would have thought this was far too stormy for aviators, yet this morning I saw one travelling at a great speed with the wind - & in the rain! I often think what a great time we are going to have in Australia with these aeroplanes after the war. I'm sure Ben will have a fleet of them & "Moorna" will have its aerodrome without any risk of being bombed.

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Monday 8th October 1917 Well it has been a miserable
 wintry day, wasn't so bad this morning early, a bit
 windy but in doing one's round it was passable.
 I had rather a busy day in my ward this morning &
 evacuated several. A few new cases required histories
 taken. There is a great deal of clerical work attached
 to the evacuation of several cases because the
 histories of the cases have to be re-written in their
 field cards which go on with them to England.
 I arranged to go down to Oranance with Capt.
 Trewella about 3.0^{pm} after the ominous black
 clouds over the SW. foretold a big rain ahead.
 We couldn't get on to the first train it was so
 packed so we waited & presently a Belgian officer's
 car pulled up & took us right in to the R.
 Station. We got in double quick time too. It's
 wonderful how all these cars race along the
 roads. We hadn't very far to go to Oranance,
 but by this time it had commenced to
 rain pretty steadily, so we were not surprised
 to find a good many officers (British, American
 & Portuguese) waiting. It is not a big room &
 there were only a couple of men serving, so
 I should think we were over an hour before
~~that~~ we could get what we wanted. There
 is always a big run on various certain
 articles of clothing with changes in the
 weather. I got a tunic & a British warm (short
 overcoat) & they had run out of the Mackintoshes
 to cover those B. warm. I suppose they will
 have them in a day or two & also the
 cardigan jackets & several other things they were out of.
 I'm going to send over to the Army & Navy stores
 for a woollen sleeping bag. Those who possess them
 here say they are splendid in the v. cold weather.
 I saw the Oranance S. bag, but they were
 rough coarse things & not the kind I wanted
 here -

By the time we got back it was tarning, but it's
wonderful how little wet one gets with the thick
soles & leggings. My light rubbery is almost
useless to stand the hard driving rain.
I have my gumboots on now to go & do my
late round so it doesn't matter how
much slush & how many puddles I have to
thru.

Captain Captain A. Irving Davidson returned
from England today on his way to Australia.
I asked him bring up Pap & give him any
news. He is an old Simon Coll. man & if
you had him out to dinner you would find
him very interesting as he has been at the
Front for a long time. He was going to take
some pos back for me, but when I had them
ready he had already gone.

Tuesday 9th Oct. I'm afraid I haven't much
news for you tonight as I worked steadily in my
ward until five this afternoon. I had several
new cases admitted into my ward from three
convays last night, so I was pretty busy taking
notes. Some of the cases are interesting. One had
had the song a B. there, was that thru' one side of the
chest & came out the other side & in its course it
went thru' the spine & injured it at certain level.
Another was shot thru' the back of the chest, thru' the lung
thru' the front wall of the chest & then nearly bored its
way thru' his wallet & papers in his breast pocket
where it was found. Another one had rather a
serious course & did a lot of damage on the way
viz: thru' the left loin (opening the large intestine thru')
& then up thru' the diaphragm & out of the chest near
the top of the armpit & then lodged in the arm.
He is in rather a bad way poor chap.

I We had a little excitement just before five. There was a terrific explosion & the window just above the patient I was examining smashed with the explosion. We all thought it was a Hun raid dropped near us, especially as we could see the smoke drifting away. Four of us went out for a stroll before dinner & went into the adjoining paddock where the explosion occurred. It was a cone shaped hole & a bell tent could easily be put in it. While we were there an officer from one of the hospitals alongside us came & had a look too & told us that it was one of the French dud shells which they fired off with a time fuse & set ridg it. The authorities had warned this place so I suppose they did ours too. The vibration shook some things off the shelves in our rooms.

We had a good smart walk almost as far as the Calverton & returned for dinner, feeling all the better in getting away from patients even for a little time.

I must do my round now & get to bed early as I feel rather tired.

Wednesday 1st Oct. There were over a couple hundred admitted during the night & orders were given for some trolley beds & given mattresses to be fixed up as emergency beds. I have been busy all the morning, mostly in seeing my old patients, but taking the histories of new cases and evacuating over 20 cases, or rather writing them up for evacuation. The weather has been so stormy the past few days that the evacuation of cases has been rather held up. The writing up of cases when discharged takes a long time, & I think I must have been a good hour or half doing this this morning. It is hard to see how this can be avoided because the boat & train medical officers must have a diagnosis & the base hospitals at home a history of what has occurred to the cases. To our surprise (because it was so wet & stormy) our "men" went over yesterday morning early. "Went

over "means over the trench parapet to attack. From all eyes it has been a fresh start over a wide area & I believe we have advanced $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile. The weather conditions must have been vile as it was bad enough here, but up there in all the mud it must have been worse. I was speaking to a P.O. Knight who was in one of those advances a fortnight ago. Most interesting & thrilling. Our artillery is wonderful & as they advance under good barrage fire they came across dead Germans everywhere. The Germans would come into them crying.

The concrete pill-boxes (which in front were 2-4 ft. thick) were death traps. A direct hit from a heavy would splinter them, or might plunge thro' the roof, but usually a well placed shell would dig a big hole in front & the next one would topple the pill box over. This P.O. (who was with the Australians) said it was wonderful during all these advances to see a long string of our men digging trenches for cables & making roads & taking not the slightest bit of notice of shells bursting everywhere about them.

It was much milder today as the first as I went off to my shower it commenced to rain pretty steadily & looked as if it had settled in for the day. It is a nuisance having to travel out in the rain for a bath - & some distance too. It is bad enough now, but when it settles in & cools it will be a terror. I suppose a sponge in one's room will have to do then. After lunch the sun came out, so Jim & I started off just before afternoon tea & walked into old Boulogne by a different route we had left tea there & then walked down into the modern town & out along the Plage home. It was fine for a walk & we both enjoyed it altho' I felt a bit leg weary because I put on my heavy blucher issue boots & issue leggings.

I + what with the weight + breaking in of them I was glad to take them off a little while ago. Still they sh'd be all right when properly broken in. When we came to the Plage we saw a small steamer of some 3-400 tons high & dry on the beach having been driven there in the recent storm. I suppose they'll pull it off tomorrow.

I have 3 med. officers of the day to look after tonight. One has been off colour since Sunday, but the others are just sickening. The last two have been much overworked as they are our surgeons & they have been awfully busy for the past fortnight.

Thursday #1 Oct. altho I have my words full the work was much lighter today because there were only a few new casts + the others I had well classified + got pretty well in hand. The penetrating wounds of the chest still come along - these are mostly the cases which are held for a day or two or even longer at the Casualty Clearing Stations because they have been too bad to send on. One chap who came in this morning had a chunk of shrapnel removed from his chest (back) up the line the size of a watch about double its thickness. Of course it was obvious pretty well spent in its velocity or otherwise it would have shattered his chest badly. He brought it on with him & as he was well enough I evacuated him at once to Blighty. It is interesting to note that the foreign bodies (doesn't matter what size or) are always kept for the patient. At first sight you might think that they would get mixed up when one after another case is being done (+ 2 ops. always going on at once in the one theatre). The foreign body when removed is at once wrapped in gauze & pinned to the pyjama jacket of the patient before he leaves the theatre. When patients are brought in to the theatre they are always labelled + have their history notes pinned to them.

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It has been a much milder & sunnier day & Jim & I went out for some exercise a little after 3-15-3-30 - viz - a walk to Baulagne - On the way we passed a ground where the boys of a French School were playing a football match (soccer). They played v. well. We afterwards went down on to the beach & as the tide was out went all around the little stranded steamer. As far as we could judge she was not damaged in any way - We went thro' streets in Baulagne quite new to me - always of the same type - narrow, winding & cobbled. This part of the town was very clean & the houses evidently belonged to the better class of Baulagnais - We made our way up to the old City again. I say up - because Baulagne is built on the hillside of the cliffs & the old town is practically on the summit of the highland. There is always something interesting to see & ferret out in this old spot & so far I am not at all tired of wandering around in the way I have done since I landed six weeks ago.

In the old city we went to a tiny restaurant there & had some chocolate & gateaux & watched the soldiers & people pass by. Every now & then a company of soldiers would march by making good "clicking" time on the cobblestones with their hob-nail boots -

We left the old city by the Calais gate & kept on the high road towards the Calverne & in that way passed the big Canadian Hospital & a couple of Convalescent Homes Camps & then back along the railway line to No 20 & 14. It was pretty well dark then, but we had had a pleasant outing.

Friday 12th Oct

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While I'm writing these notes for you it is blowing hard outside & it must be a heavy storm in the Channel & in the Bay of Biscay. I pity the poor beggars on the sea tonight with the cold driving rain to contend against & the perils undersea. It must be vile for the poor devils in the trenches up the line. How on earth they can stick it is wonderful to me. Of course, our fellows must be in fine form compared with the first winter's campaign because they are relieved so frequently. I believe they went across last night. We shall know if that is true tomorrow because Casualty Clearing Stations evacuate them as soon as they are able to travel i.e. as soon as they have got over the shock of their injury.

It wasn't such a bad morning here & I went across to my ward without an overcoat. About lunch time it commenced to rain & it set in for a miserable afternoon. So I spent most of the afternoon in St. Bush's room. He hasn't very fit the last couple of days so I made him stick it out quietly in his room. He had a fire there so we spent the afternoon as easily as possible, while it rained & started to blow heavily. This was our quiet night to night & we have a more elaborate dinner on these occasions — something more than the ordinary routine which makes the dinner more interesting. The wild squally afternoon prevented us from having any of the other Hospital men across for our mess. After dinner we had some music & later on some of us went across to Bush's room & had a yarn with him. I must go across & do my ward now after donning my gum-bats & my big overcoat. The preparations that are made for these trips are something like those made for the Antarctic. Unfortunately the ward can't be 'done' by telephons as I have several very bad cases in at present & require looking at from time to time.

Saturday 13th Oct I have been here six weeks & day
 + perhaps there is some similarity in the types of
 day of landing + now — both were exceedingly
 stormy. It blew like blue blazes last night
 + was a great test on the strength of this shack.
 In between the gusts were some heavy falls of
 rain + hail. They made a din of a noise on
 our iron roof. Still it was a great comfort to be
 snugly tucked away in bed + in looking forward
 to a better night tonight as my hot water
 bottle arrived from London during the day —
 This stormy + cold weather makes one feel
 very sorry for the poor chap up in the line, +
 fighting his war + how the shock + wind. There is
 another advance being made at present —
 the fifth in a month — + according to the papers
 the advance is being stiffly resisted. Yet our
 fellows are coming down in a most cheerful
 way. One of my penetrating wounds of the chest
 cases admitted this morning told me that he was
 out in a shell hole for 3 nights, with his feet in
 water the whole time. In addition to his
 chest wound as he has trench feet. One curly
 N.Y. miner was v. distressed with every breath
 that he took with a shrapnel hole in his side asked
 what he had + I told him a couple of ribs smashed.
 He remarked — Is that all? That's nothing!
 The new cases are coming in in numbers + I
 would ^{not} be at all surprised to find a very big
 admission during the night. Of course we
 are constantly evacuating + I think the
 last one was at 8.45 this evening.
 After tea this afternoon I + Rust, + Finn + I
 went for a little walk. We couldn't go
 far because the weather was too
 unfavourable. Still it was a treat of

get away from the place for even a little time. The electric torch I have is most useful espec^{ly} in doing my late round as you can never see where you are splashing. Most of the fellows have them also & it looks rather weird if 2 or 3 of them are moving in different directions. Besides our electric lights have a curious way of going out for an indefinite time, even when there is no air raid & the torch comes in handy to find my camp.

Sunday 14th Oct It turned out the sunniest day after all the boisterous days of the past week. Scarcely any wind & the sun came out about 10. We all felt we should like to be having a walk into the country, but most of us had a pretty big day ahead of us. With the two convoys which came in during the night I had 17 penetrating wounds of the chest admitted into my ward & at lunch time another 3 came in - I suppose there will be more during tonight. There were quite a no. of N.Z. & Australians & they seem the so pleased to be in their own hospital. If you ask them a few questions about where they come from & can go within a few miles of the place they live at or know anyone there they are greatly bucked.

I think I've told you that our men pal up mostly with the jocks. If you go into Boulapne, or the old bar or near the rest camp or convalescent camp you will invariably see 2 or 3 ozzies (Australians) & a kiltie or 2, or vice-versa. When we were out for our little tramp yesterday in the rain & mud we came across an intoxicated Scot walking about 3 times as far as was really necessary. When he was several yards off he spat at us & pulled himself together ready for the salute, which he gave us in grandiose style. When he had passed us he commenced to soliloquise & tell the world in general that he didn't care a tinker's cuss for anyone - but in a little more lurid language.

I was glad to get out about 3.30 this aftⁿ with Capt. Watch for a stroll as the close continuous work of the morning had given me an extremely headache. There was a soccer game going on in the paddock adjoining us & it drew quite a crowd. It was lovely afternoon for a game - in fact for anything & everybody seemed to be out taking advantage of the sunny afternoon. Even the aeroplanes were out enjoying themselves. We walked up to the Column & then returned via Wimille to the cliffs & then back to the Hospital. It was grand to be out again & both of us thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

There has scarcely been any autumn - at least as far as the trees are concerned. You will remember me saying about a month back when the leaves were beginning to turn, how nice these walks would be in a few weeks' time. Well, the gales we've had simply tore all the leaves off & left a good many of the trees as bare as they are likely to be until next spring.

It is a clear still night, so I suppose we will have a frosty night. I'm dashed glad that my hot water bag arrived from London yesterday.

I suppose you are all very excited & making great preparations for Ed's wedding on Tuesday.

I sent him & Gladys a cable thro' Peabody's & this evening I got a letter from Mr. Seaverns (of St. P.O.) saying that he had sent the cable on for me. I hope it arrives there on the morning of their wedding day.

Monday Oct 15th 1917 ²⁴¹ & Tuesday Oct 16th

I was so busy yesterday (Mon) that I was unable to write any notes before turning in - in fact it was 1:30 a.m. - this Tues. morning & I didn't feel like settling down for 20 or 30 minutes writing. I had a great many admissions & several cases to see in the afternoon about the other wards & as it was a fine sunny afternoon, Finn & I left a little work & got out for a good 2 hours stroll. It was delightful! altho there was a sharp nip in the air it was fine for walking. We went up on to the hill past the Column & then by a road we hadn't been before found ourselves after a time making down into Happy Valley. It is wonderful how the trees in that dip have been protected from the gales lately & there still many green leaves on the elms, elders & oaks etc which will later on show us their autumn tints. We got down on to the stream at the cascade of the second mill & as there was a small place to have tea we pulled up & rested 15 minutes. We got back to Hospital just in time for dinner & as the Surgeons had a great many cases still to do I lent a hand in giving some anaesthetics in the no 2 theatre. Altogether we had 4 tables going - 4 instrument Sisters & their staff of 5 gals etc & quite a no. of stretcher bearers bringing the men to & from the theatre. Everyone was kept very busy & I managed to get to bed at 1:30, but some of the staffs did not finish up till 3 a.m.

If one really had the time to enquire of the men coming in wounded their experiences much interesting material could be collected. Very few of them appear to volunteer

information about the fight unless questioned. I don't know whether they think we know all about it or can't be bothered. One Aust chap who was shot thro' the chest told me that he & 2 comrades were pinged at once by a machine gun. One crawled away, but he & the third (who was killed immediately, being shot thro' the head) fell into a shell hole. The water was up to his knees & he couldn't move for 30 hours. Between 6 & 7 am a German shell landed right in the shell hole on top of the dead man (who was blown to smithereens). He (my patient) was thrown out 6 or 7 yards away, but was not hurt any further! He said he thought it was time to ~~crawl~~ get so he crawled about 50 yds. & was picked up! Another chap who came in yesterday was shot thro' the lung the bullet lodging in the wall of the right ventricle of his heart. It doesn't appear to be causing any trouble there so far, so we shall leave well alone & let it remain there.

Today (Tuesday) I was much less busy with patients & managed to read some of my Australian papers, as it was again very wet & miserable & out of the question about a walk. You would have smiled if you had seen me later on in the afternoon. I had taken off my leggings & heavy issue-boots & put on another pair of socks, so as to take a tracing on paper of each foot with 2 pairs of socks on, so as to send the pattern to Mansfield in Piccadilly for a pair of heavy boots for the winter. Just as I was getting into my boots again there was a knock at the door & Capt. Wilson brought in Sir Bertrand Dawson (one of the British Consulting Physicians) to introduce to me. He didn't seem

found a bit & we had quite a long chat about penetrating chest wounds &c & he had quite a no. of questions to ask — & I in my turn had a few to ask of him! He was a very pleasant fellow & left me a personally signed monograph he has just written on Infective Jaundice.

One other little item (since you say you are all interested in any old happening). That ordinance tunic which I got the other day requires just a little altering & as "our tailor" is the mortuary man (you may remember me mentioning the other day about the Russian named Peter). I made my way to the mortuary: there were some deaders there, but no Peter until I opened a door leading into a small ^{room} & there was Peter sitting at a machine at several times about him, all in various stages of alteration. It was certainly a spot where he was not likely to be molested & he could read his Russian paper at leisure! We had a talk about the Russian situation & then settled down to business — He's a queer looking old bird & has that sort of worried expression as if the point of his best jokes are messed altogether by his patients.

This is Cuttle's wedding day! When the batman awoke me this morning it was just about the time when he & Gladys were getting hitched up. So I thought that at such an hour a good many others besides myself were wishing them both good luck &c — & perhaps also some of you at the same time were wondering how the other chap was getting on at the other side of the world. Well I'm all right — so you see it was all a good rest of brains to the head! I'm wondering how long it will be before another Aust'n mail comes in, but I don't think I'll wonder very long, but go off & do my late round & then wander off to bed.

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Wednesday Oct 17th This morning was one of those mornings which started off nice but was raining by lunch time. However, it cleared up after tea for us to get out for a walk & actually it was on for about 1 hr 15 to 1 hr 30 min. It was v. nice, & we got back nice & warmed up in time for dinner.

There were a couple of young Aust. officers in for dinner last night who had come from the Passchendaele Ridge sector. This is where as you know all the heavy fighting has been as the possession of the ridge is indispensable but before we ~~drive~~ the can compel the Hun to withdraw from gladders. They said that we were beaten by a day, another fine day would have been sufficient for us to complete what we wanted. We have smashed thro' their concrete pill-box system which had a depth of about 5 miles & that they haven't time to build another series of them. They were both unanimous about our superiority in artillery, not only in effectiveness but greatly in numbers. That we can throw 100 or more to their one - Their opinion is that we are bound to push ahead. That attack (etc) which occurred about 10 days ago when we anticipated a big attack by them by about 15 minutes did them much damage as there must have been thousands killed by our guns as the Germans were already massed up ready for an attack when our shells plunged in among them.

There have been several of mos rendered hors de combat & we have sent up about 10 reinforcements during the past couple of weeks also.

I must try & get to bed before ten tonight so I shall do an early night round. Had my stove burning for a little time before dinner this evening but as it was smelling of Brunswick black I had to go out & burn it off tomorrow.

Thursday 18th Oct 1917. It has been a topping day & gives us all a little hope that perhaps we may have some more during the next month. I can remember some very nice days even in the second & third week in December in Paris - they were cold, but nice & sunny during the best part of the day. This is such a windy spot that it is not wise to expect too much.

I had some very bad chest cases admitted this morning. The high explosive shells do knock them about, and the gas-shells are very irritating to their eyes & air passages besides creating nasty blisters of the skin - One of our young men who went up the line about a fortnight or so ago was pretty badly gassed by one of the shells. I think the greater proportion of those gassed was among the stretcher bearers & those dressing wounds. It is practically impossible to dress wounds while the masks are on - besides the fumes from the clothes of those gassed often affects those attending to them -

It was such a lovely day that the Col & I went down to the Golf Links immediately after lunch. The Golf House is the officers' quarters for No 32 Stationary Hospital. The links are very nice & in good order considering the amount of labour that can be given to them in war time. They were a bit heavy after all the rain lately, but the game was very enjoyable. Col. Barnes & Col. Powell & I and another played a four ball & considering the length of time I've not played & the use of someone else's clubs I managed to play a fair game & get in some good drives occasionally. It seemed like old Sandringham days to be out on the links once more.

Friday 19th Oct 1917 ²⁴⁶ I finished up my work rather early this morning & Captain Kelly & I had a stroll along cliffs for an hour. It is such a treat to be without the wind that we thoroughly enjoyed our walk, even altho it was not sunny. It warmed us up & made us feel quite perked up. The tide was at its highest & the waves dashing against the foot of the cliffs looked fine. Captain Kelly is a man I may remember as he was with him for a time with the 3rd Light Horse in Egypt at the time when old Bean was O.C.

Dr Kelly is an elderly man, very companionable & likes to get out for exercise & therefore always on for a walk anywhere.

After lunch I had to tap a chap's chest & then see to a sick med. officer, so that I was about free again at three o'clock. Captⁿ Gratton Wilson & Kelly & I walked in to Boulogne. Saw the pocket boats coming in, went to have some tea & then did some shopping. There is a little shop in a street some distance from the main thoroughfares where most curious odds & ends can be bought, so Captⁿ Wilson & I had a good delve in. We got several rows made of the French .66 cartridge cases, burnished up & the coats of arms of different places embossed on them. They are the nicest things I've seen for a long time. Of course they are reduced very considerably in size, is not the original length of .66. The paper cutters made with cartridge handles & embossed with coats of arms removed from buttons! The interesting part about such quaint articles is that they are made by F. soldiers in the trenches in their spare time. I saw 2 3rd 75 cartridge cases the other day - full size - highly burnished & a wounded French ~~soldier~~ ^{officer} & a pretty girl engraved on each. The soldier had one arm in a sling, but the other was otherwise occupied.

I feel so tired after all the walking today that I'm going to be my round camp & try & turn in by ten o'clock.

Saturday 20th Oct 1917 247

I think I must have slept pretty sound last night when I was not awakened by the anti-aircraft guns about midnight. They say that the raiders were a couple of Zeppelins probably returning from a raid on England.

Whatever the kind of airship our Archie's made some noise, but evidently their very big guns did not go off because I should certainly have been awakened by the vibration. One of our fellows this morning evidently has a pretty short memory because he slept hard all night & yet later on he was ready to argue with the others as to how many bombs he heard explode! They (the raiders) didn't do any damage.

I had a short stroll along the cliffs this morning just before lunch & this afternoon Major Ginn, Culper & Capt. C. P. Bush & I went in to Boulogne. Being Saturday the city seemed the full of civilians during their shopping. There were also a great many soldiers & quite a number of American officers who look v. like the N. Zealanders in their style of hat.

We went up to the old town & close by the old wall there was a fair in what looked like the old market place. It was quite interesting to see all the poorer folks making their bargains. We stayed quite a long time watching the fishermen taking in their long nets & the steam & sail trawlers discharging their cargoes of salted herrings. I have a picture which shows this well which I shall send out. We had some tea at our little tea shop in the old town & then walked out home in time for dinner.

There is an Australian mail in, Hurrah & I'm looking forward to my letters which I'd arrive in a couple of days now.

Sunday 21st Oct 1917. ²⁴⁸ There was a rumour that there were 2 Zepps which passed over us the night before last when we were raided & it would seem as if the report is true because the Observer says that five Zepps were brought down in France after having raided England. I suppose we shall have more reliable news in tomorrow's papers.

It was a nice clear sunny morning without much wind & just the sort of day for observation by aircraft & sure enough about 11 a plane came across & was bombarded pretty merrily. It was flying very high but even so photographs taken from a great height give excellent information. There is a rumour that it was brought down. I hope it is correct. As a rule, after an observation raid of that sort we are generally subjected on the same evening by definite bombing raids, but so far (9.30 p.m.) we have not been disturbed.

Did I tell you what one of the soldiers told me of? Not knowing this was an Australian Hospital, after he was wounded he was out 5 nights & said he couldn't have stuck it nearly that length of time if it hadn't been for some wounded Ozzy's (Australians) who were nearly who kept bucking him with jokes etc. That was a nice tribute for the men was it?

I went out for a walk with Capt. Reddy & Page (N.W.) about 3.30 & we first went to the Column & then down into Happy Valley. The few remaining leaves on the elms & beeches down there were showing nice autumn tints. It was a lovely day for a walk & as soon as the sun went down the air was sharp enough & made ~~the~~ us peg along quite briskly.

I suppose these few fine days will improve matters up the line so much that I shouldn't be a bit surprised if another stunt was impending.

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Monday 22nd Dec 1917. The wind seems to be getting up outside tonight & as the it is very snug sitting along side my stove (which is making me drowsily sleep) I think I had better go across & fix up my wards for the night. I still have a bit of clerical work to do there also, which I left over from this afternoon.

We have all been rather excited today about the no. of Zepps brought down two nights ago in France. It is quite possible that 3 or 4 others are missing when the tally comes to be made.

I bet Pemberton Billing will be asking questions in the House tonight why airships were not brought down in Eng. while they were in France. It is so easy for people to make comparisons & afterwards there was only a distance of 20 odd miles of Eng. as compared with a couple of hundred of France that some of the Zepps had to travel.

The rumour that the aeroplane which came across here yesterday was brought down 3 or 4 miles away from here seems to be correct.

It would look as if the Huns had rather a bad day in the air.

A well known American Major (Finney) was around our wards today & seemed to be rather pleased with things.

Had a busy day in my wards, but managed to get out after tea with Capt. Wilson for a walk thro' Wimille & along a road to the Column which I had not been along before. Part of it was sunken & then opened up in front of a v. nice Chateau. We also passed the Comte of Wimille's place which is quite an old historical place & the Rosnys are frequently mentioned in old French history. There was a good nip in the late afternoon air, which made walking very pleasant & we both thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

Tuesday 23rd Oct

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I haven't much news to give you today, except that Ed's & Bladys' cablegram sent on 16th (a week ago) arrived by registered mail this evening.

It was very wet & miserable early this morning but cleared up just before lunch & as the sun was peeping out a bit, Captⁿ Wilson & I had a quarter of an hour or 20 minutes stroll just before lunch. Afterwards I had a few cases to see for the other men & then went into Boulton by myself. I called in at the Casino (No 13 General) to see Captain Oswald Childs & found him in the operating theatre. So I went on to Ordnance, but couldn't get what I wanted there, returned to No. 13 & found Childs just finishing up there. A few minutes later we came on to Willemeux together. Childs left some time ago & joined the R.A.M.C. & was for a long time opposite here at No 8 General. Soon after I came here I called over to see him, but he had gone to England for 3 months owing to a septic finger. He will be coming to dinner with me on Friday night - Next night.

We've not had the papers today, I suppose because it has been too stormy. Our evacuation conveyance was also sent back, presumably because some of the mines had been blown in the storm. I hear that both French & British "went over" yesterday & secured all objectives over a good big area, according to French papers today. We shall know tomorrow by a fresh lot of patients coming in.

These little stoves in our bedrooms are very nice, but are burnt up coal like anything & we are only allowed a scuttle full each night. Plumus stoves are almost at prohibitive prices now - 49fr. for a small one. I must go & see my wards now.