

**Papers of Hugh Dalton:**  
**Original Manuscript Diary**

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DALTON DIARY

No 3

FOR

MRS HUGH DALTON

107 ALBERT BRIDGE

Road

LONDON S.W. 11

Rome. Messaggero. (Democrat. anti-clerical, Pontremoli, Bissolati.)

giornale d'Italia. (Sonnino)

Tribuna. (Fioliti)

Corriere d'Italia. (Clerical. Albani)

Idea Nazionale (Imperialist) (Pr. Ferrarini)  
Corriere della Sera. (Good & in corruptible. anti-filitti. Torre.)

Milan.

Secolo. (Pontremoli & Bissolati. Good.)

Avanti. (Official socialist. anti-War.)

Turin.

Stampa. (Good)

Momento. (Clerical)

Venetia. Gazzettino.

Istituto Italo-Italiano

Milano. Via Silvio Pellico 6.

Mr. Lombardi.

Quindici.

Vent of Turin  
Corriere della Sera.

~ via Milan

V. Canorale Piccadilly

Car. Mar. Vittorini  
Via Fiumi 12  
Bologna

Verona. Giandino Giusti.  
Amphitheatre.

Castelfranco. Giorgione's Madonna.

Vicenza. Palladian architecture  
(Palace, Theatre.)

Brescia. } Moretto & Morone. (Gallerie  
Bergamo. } Mantova  
Cassano)

Venice. St Mark's.  
S Maria dei Miracoli (Piemontese)  
S Giorgio degli Schiavoni (Carpaccio picture)  
Accademia (Bellini & Carpaccio  
Cassano & Venice.)  
[Bellini - Carpaccio - Titian - Veronese -  
Tintoretto.]

Padua. Giotto frescoes. (Great Italian  
Painting)



E. M. Traveler.  
 Villa Trentino.  
 S. Giovanni di  
 Lanzano  
 Udine.

Scotty Young  
 Elliott Seabrook  
 P. J. Baker.

Modane. Capt Clarence R. D.  
 Lazzarini, Intelligence  
 Officer.

18 Tenet, W. H. Haslam  
 40 British Embassy  
 Rome

Rome Restaurant Ulpia.

Destree.  
 Legation de Belgique.  
 Rome.

Palmamura. Rua D'Or.  
 Prado. Several hotels.

Ed. 42 Sanjour's fake  
 (S.W. 7)

C. Traveler.  
 14 Great College St.  
 S.W. 1.

The British Mission in Italy.

Palmamura.  
 The Countess of the Italian offensive.  
 Day with the Italian Army  
 1. Richard King.  
 2. in Italian front line trenches.  
 3. The offensive of -  
 4. a 1000 men

The British & the Italian Soldier  
 at Valley Park in the course.  
 at Milera & Prado

photo at head of class.  
 From Carlo's speech at head of descent.  
 1 hour. From Dickinson at

end. Report "Dust & a filthy  
 smell." First fellows found  
 next afternoon "Austria from letter  
 home."

Description exact to on the leg  
 down with a sharp bump any of the  
 vicious people were being taken down



3/7/17 6  
Tues Press to write lunch. 4 miles. 3/.

Travelling M.C.  
R<sup>n</sup> all the.

6/7/17. Tues Exeter to Victoria.

Breakfast. Train Victoria to Folkestone.  
Lunch. Folkestone. Mill Pond evening  
Tea. Brompton. Officers Club.  
Dinner) Modane. 9.50. Swamy  
permissions. Day ahead. To Paris  
with summer of Egypt. also Scott &  
Capt R.W.F. Discussions on Gaza,  
taken & evacuated.

Carriage & ourselves till

7/7/17

2.15 am. Amiens, when a  
French soldier enters. Summer  
behind a new population at Aeil.  
woods of Chantilly.

Write Paris 6 AM. Drop the  
capt who is not really Welsh.  
Stick to the other two who are  
quite good companions.  
Spends time & money in  
Paris. Louvre (Musée  
Museum). Bastille, Tuileries

place de la Concorde  
Champ Elysee. Arc de  
Triomphe. Chamber des  
Deputés. Trocadero, Invalides.  
Nafodess (Bout of Swamy -  
very impressive).  
Waldeck Rousseau ~~is~~ <sup>but</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>his</sup>  
only bit of bad art in Tuileries  
gardens, ~~but~~ (bored myself  
being redundant). but with  
wonderful inscription  
... ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~mirrored~~ <sup>mirrored</sup> ~~...~~  
Moulin de la Ville  
fait avec de (outamps  
libre. le legislation a  
fait en dehors; le temps.  
Pera son oeuvre.  
Went to Paris, knock  
off London. I remained  
Cafe de la Paix, next door  
to the opera, to Café  
Rigori - female attention.  
Train leaves for Modane  
at 8.25 AM. we

nearly miss it owing to  
 time taken in registering  
 luggage. Riv Laffan y  
 Ehon, Ballin & Queen's Cambridge  
 on the train, for Salonica.  
 I beat Seckopit but with  
 his faint y his title  
 One waiter at lunch advised  
 me not to go to Notre Dame,  
 which is "Simplément une  
 Eglise".

8/7/17.

I wake at Bourg. Through Savoy  
 the poplar dominates the valleys.  
 We run along the shore of Lake Bourget,  
 in the Arc valley in misty rain.  
 Petit déjeuner with Riv Laffan.  
 The Serbs, he says, like the English  
 because they greatly prefer them  
 to the French. Serb law makes  
 2 hectares of land, implements &  
 beasts free from liability to  
 death. Everyone in Grandson &

peasant. The consuls are  
 murdered <sup>to the Serbs</sup> Uskok in 1512 after  
 Kumanovo. Their march, in  
 uniform, hundreded towards the  
 mud. Their leaving of ten returns  
 of the Turk. Pashalik settlements  
 law in Macedonia. One Serb  
 Major says about the Serb  
 Colonel. Italian territorial  
 claims. Italian army lost  
 equipped in Balkans. Some have  
 a lack of discipline in their fighting.  
 The Army contempt for the Navy.  
 Arrive Modane 10 A.M. (Italian 11.)  
 Share in an annex to the station  
 Buffet. See my first Italians.  
 Go on 11.15 (Italian 12.15.) Reached  
 Turin & Palmanova. Have two  
 attempts whether or not to go to  
 Rome & back next day. That  
 decide not. Good Italian meal,  
 including fruit, as we slide down  
 through the Alps. It gets  
 gradually warmer. Arrive  
 Turin 2.00 <sup>30 min.</sup> Next train  
 to Milan 8.15, arriving 11.

Walk about Torino. Fine wooded  
 hill vistas in most directions. The  
 corsi are spacious & well fixed & the  
 city excellently laid out. The fountains  
 are multitudinous... I like the plan,  
 but it lacks animation - a little by the  
 standard of my expectations. I am  
 an object of interest in the streets.  
 Some think I am Russian & give  
 me little bags ash for a route. One  
 group of women think me Spanish.  
 Who says I look English? I lose  
 my way & buy a map. I am  
 continually saluted by Italians  
 & Spaniards. I enter a church &  
 find a priest declaiming &  
 festalating at a crowd of  
 pushing people, so I become  
 very an all family member.  
~~The~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~super~~ <sup>super</sup> leave 8.10 for Milan.  
 Find the train goes right out  
 Venice, arriving there next  
 morning. Brescia & Verona  
 are passed in the dark, so I

decide for Venice. One Puglisi  
 engages me in conversation. An  
 infantry officer. He is to be transferred  
 from S.B.'s as interpreter. He  
 shows me a photo of Gen. Hamilton  
 Spain & Treachery of Austrian  
 prisoner. He claims Dalmatian  
 as a matter of course. Other  
 officers catch two cavalry, one  
 cavalry attached flying corps,  
 one infantry, one a colonel,  
 all unknown. We converse  
 in French, mainly. Of the  
 war, of guns, of aeroplanes, of  
 women. One of the cavalry  
 officers, who has been rather  
 quiet, & talks only a little  
 French, wakes up. When he  
 can't inject some <sup>or</sup> <sup>to</sup>  
 keep he has managed "left for"  
 two nights ago. This lot



get out at Milan <sup>at midnight</sup> I am in  
 1st pt in. But I am <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~  
 too sleepy to try fence  
 with <sup>me</sup> ~~me~~ I see many  
 of them about the platform &  
 corridors, largely mounted  
 officers. ~~But~~ The majority  
 of them are quite elegant &  
 many ~~of~~ being handsome  
 in the bulk & being charming  
 men. But I suspect that  
 the softness of the charming  
 & some of them ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup>  
 efficient.

9/7/17.

I walk several times in the  
~~at~~ early morning, &  
 half asleep see wonderful  
 sights. A railway platform  
 like a terrace in an Italian

garden, with beautifully shaped  
 bars, & vines in festoons, &  
 oak trees behind & then a downward  
 slope, <sup>little</sup> white <sup>houses</sup> ~~houses~~ in the distance.  
 Then Desanzano, & what I  
 take to be the distant <sup>view</sup> ~~view~~  
 of Lake Garda under the stars.  
 Verona, <sup>passing my sleep</sup> ~~Vicenza~~ <sup>Vicenza</sup> & Padua are  
 nothing to see from the train.  
 Puffosi gets out at Mestre,  
 the junction of the Front, &  
 I go on to Venice. <sup>or</sup>  
 and I find it is an  
 area forbidden to travel  
 without passports.  
 By means of friendly talk  
 with officials, I get permission  
 to stay. They advise me to  
 wait till 5.55 train  
 tomorrow morning. I take

a roommate - Hotel Terminus,  
 having had coffee & an cigarette,  
 & a wash & shave at the Starbuck  
 Buffet. I then walk round <sup>any</sup>  
 little narrow street, until  
 I reach St Mark's. Nearly  
 everything inside & out is <sup>grounded</sup>  
 up. I sit & drink & watch  
 the crowd till 12.30. Different  
 Italian regiments, and different  
~~the~~ <sup>different</sup> regiments  
 of different  
 colors & patterns in collars.

Completely baffled by the top of the  
 evening - a map of the  
 good map. Walk for hours  
 looking for the Academia, with-out  
 success. Lunch in the  
 Riatta, looking out on the Grand  
 Canal. Saw at least 20  
 hotels closed or taking only <sup>foreign</sup>  
 mostly closed - <sup>motor boats</sup>.  
 Wednesday out on Grand Canal.  
 (Beware of head like those near  
 St Mark's!)  
 Found my way back to Hotel  
 Terminus at 3.30. Under

stay all over, but on my way  
 I made a map of the  
 horns.

Proceed to a gondola to the Rialto  
 market on Friday, with the help of  
 3 boys & 2 priests, S. Maria del  
 Miracoli! Most of the cars are  
 covered, but when the visit is very  
 fine. Dine at Terminus.

Very hot, Jay Pannell. Thought  
 I'd like to go down to S. Marco in a  
 gondola. The buildings along the  
 Grand Canal are wonderful, both  
 from the front & from the side. I  
 sit in a cafe on  
 S. Marco, where music is being  
 played. Engaged in conversation by two  
 naval officers, with British monitors  
 they have had on for some time  
 but they are doing a lot of firing  
 but their traps are pretty quiet at  
 present. Both on land & sea the  
 Italians have in the <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup>  
 the American but, this said, are  
 talking absolutely no risks. Some  
 call this "not saying." 36

hours leave is beginning to happen  
on the 150201 this day.

Venice is dark now at night, &  
I have a job finding my way back.

I take a motor boat from the Rialto  
to the Fenicia.

(Napoli arrived last night  
and I had a job finding my way back  
to the Fenicia.)

10/7/17 wonderful panorama of hills  
leave Venia 5.55. a Pelicani on 10.30

A lovely view from the  
shaded hills of the Venetian  
staff. Arrived  
unexpected.

316 S.B. at Rec.

Arrive 2.30. Merions encampment on  
Viffacco. very in front of broad

waterfall. charming. very Italian  
in Venetian. Corto.

to be very quiet on both sides of  
mount. We could fire twice a 5

days. When only about 2000.

Major, Capt & 3 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut.

First impressions mildly favourable.  
It is cooler than usual at this

time of year. The smells & sights

round on mass might be in heavy

only the Italians, who come & go.

The three Batteries Clusta which  
found some of the Castello di

~~the~~ across the water, knocked  
about a little but not very much,

break this occasional illusion.  
11/7/17.

I walk to the sound of the Viffacco  
waterfall.

Lunch group HQ. at night, williamson  
They have an Italian cook. Lt. Gianni.

of Venia. I tell him that I know  
well of Venia, Sestri, Venia & Monte

Allegro. The Italian strikers come in  
to lunch. Their machine having come

down near by owing to engine trouble.

They are splendidly self possessed, these  
handsome young Italian officers. They

~~are~~ simply ooze distinction, vitality  
& charm. Splendid fellows to

talk to. To live with, - if need  
be, to die with. They are better

looking than the French, (partly:  
more often clean shaven.) Their minds

are less quick & lucid than the  
French, but their civilisation though less

perfect, is also less self-centred than  
the French, owing to the fact that

they see more of the French in their  
country.

They see more of the French in their  
country.



Our people, I think, like them better  
a lot more than better than  
French.

on duty at the 13<sup>th</sup>, among the occasion.  
Friendly talk with Nottley. First  
wife of his is still favorable. I  
to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, Egan, to give a good meal,  
seem rather pussy old womanism,  
that Swiss is a queer little fellow  
always calls me "Sir", by Shantini,  
how is up at the new post most  
of the time, seems a nice fellow  
to be at the 3.

Italian tactics are to do nothing for  
a long while, & then simply to fling  
in <sup>importance</sup> ~~importance~~ at the desired objectives.  
They count to have the same number  
of killed or wounded. When the  
S. Michele, they <sup>lost</sup> 70,000 killed. In  
an attack on ~~the~~ their front  
was ignored by our Div<sup>l</sup> General, who  
exhilarated by the spectacle of large  
reserves, flung them at a certain  
hill a day in advance of plan.  
He took the hill, but the reserves

allotted to

A few other Generals had to be  
given to him to enable him to  
keep it. Cadorna retired him  
& other after <sup>was 3-</sup> ~~the~~.

Neither Austrians nor Italians join  
much of counter battery work, for  
technical reasons. Nor do the

Austrians often use gas.  
Heavy rain. Talk to Still after  
men, a very good fellow with some  
healthy prejudices

12/7/17. <sup>regist</sup>  
Go up to ~~the~~ O.P. with Still to do a  
shoot. A great climb & a tremendous  
panoramic view - Gorizia, shining  
white; - Monte Santo, where some  
of the bloodiest infantry fighting  
in whole war took place in the  
last Italian offensive, Monte Sabotino,  
San Marco, & Monte Cucco. A  
good view of the Austrian trenches. The  
Austrian have sent us a message  
"We have evacuated Hill 94 &  
Hill 126 for a week in order to  
enable the British Batteries to  
~~move~~ <sup>move</sup> on them."  
Come back from San Grado with  
Corte, after a tremendous  
thunder storm, in which we melted

(I saw from the O.P. a lot of Italian sharpshooters at the H.Q. of an Italian F.A. BDE.)

I ask C how the Besenlyer got  
& we double along the road for half  
a mile. C says we should

have gone to Dalmatia, but doubt if  
they'd get me to Trieste & the  
Trentino. He says the Austrians killed

10,000 Italian air gas clouds on  
St. Michele in the last offensive. The  
Italians had no gas masks then,  
but have them now.

Manjus! Still a very good fellow.  
But notley rather a feeble, finicky  
person.

Work is progressing with our  
forward position at S. Prado. 3000 ft  
behind the front line. An engine for  
Hesting & Cabene in the rock is in  
use, but always breaking down.

The O.P. below I went to on the top  
of Nad Hofen, approaching up a steep  
water course, new dug, & along old  
Austrian trenches in the rock.

The light & shade in the distance is  
wonderful. C's studied economist  
with him at  
13/7/17. Milano ~~from~~ University.

Noticing. Slightly feverish.  
14/7/17. We took fire in the stream.  
Recovered. I am told that Italian

use these small bombs, sometimes,  
in the following way. They take  
20 (gelatinous & milky?)

captured Austrian tie him to a  
stick in their front trenches. They  
then fasten this stick above the parapet  
in view of his comrades opposite &  
insert one of these small bombs, with  
a 1-minute fuse attached, into his  
fundament. (One bomb itself is really  
not large enough for him to be a  
painful operation.) They then  
light the fuse & retreat to short  
distance down the trench. It is  
an instantaneous death, but  
seems barbaric. C says he  
has seen this done, & Cochis, the  
more vivacious interpreter who  
dined here the other night &  
said his religion was "Confucius  
& Sex", has actually affixed a  
bomb & fired the fuse.

These practices, <sup>in captivity</sup> ~~in captivity~~ probably  
in modern war, show how wide  
Wilson was not to protest against  
Belgian atrocities on humanitarian  
grounds, if he desired to remain  
consistent & yet not be under  
obligation to protest against the  
proceedings of each belligerent in  
turn.

I spent the night at the Battery  
for the first time August of  
15/7/17. Peace. 21  
Story of a Christ walk on the ~~cross~~

An English officer, anticipating no  
danger, suddenly sees in <sup>face</sup> the head  
of an Italian officer bob up  
from behind a rock, whose cry  
"Now shoots the mine!" &  
disappears again. One  
Englishman runs for his  
life & after 40 sec's later  
there is a large explosion  
of one of the Italian machines  
of starting the car's rock.

A wonderful cloudless morning.  
Got to S. Andrea on back of still's  
motorbike. I spent 5 hours in  
O.P. there. O.P. is beautifully  
easy on the high hills & in the  
clear air. Some 100 rounds fired  
by the British or French & a dozen  
said to contain Austrian T.M.'s.  
Good results. Italian Staff  
quite in large number during the  
proceedings & watch of 2 hours, &  
apparently gratified, a General, 2

(A Czech, a Staff Capt etc.  
~~that~~ In Sabogna Lohar village  
formed away to O.P. names  
etc are all Slav ("stři  
Skidism", "Ljubaska Sora, etc)  
Corti says the Austrians have  
been deliberately pushing out  
Italians & planting Slav in their  
place in this district. He says  
they want Smyrna, because of their  
trade. The Czechs are a nation of  
traitors.

The Austrians were <sup>very</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>W. valley</sup> <sup>near</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>O.P.</sup> <sup>there</sup> <sup>would</sup>  
heavily attacked <sup>by</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>Italians</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>Veinosa</sup>.  
I have been a fine boy in our O.P.  
if they had liked 800 lbs  
first letter re copied from Pif  
16/7/17. <sup>much</sup> <sup>later</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>other</sup> <sup>about</sup> <sup>only</sup> <sup>if</sup> <sup>I</sup> <sup>am</sup>  
happily exempt at present.

I have, I think, a touch of the  
sun & lie about all day  
cursing the Pies!

(17/7/17)

Better.

~~S. Andrea~~ The French 3/4 way up.  
has been in sufficient with  
help. Current water out <sup>at</sup> <sup>10/7</sup>





The rest. Arsenals, Artillery, Cavalry, Infantry, some red, some white, Infantry Venices.

Pututar Key, <sup>at the end of my,</sup> Cap. D'oro.

(After last offensive, Cadorna <sup>said</sup> that "amid the roar of battle was heard the voice of British gunners", that humanity. We are not here <sup>to</sup> pile up force so much as a symbol of friendship & hope of the future of <sup>the</sup> world. <sup>What</sup> Austria wants of the vital necessity to dismember Austria & Lloyd George. <sup>It</sup> is <sup>the</sup> <sup>interest</sup> of British statesmen & the struggle of Italian unity.)

18/7/17

Superior loading of shell.

Greene, or "Officer of P", is a great enthusiast of Italy, & quite correct, my enthusiasm mounts & mounts. I shall write a book if I survive, & call it "The British Guns in Italy". It will be a work that will sell well, & with my later book on Italian economists will establish me as an Italian "authority". It will contain <sup>some</sup> humble passages & some home truths about war.

A some indelicate descriptions of sights, sounds & smells.

I shall dedicate it to ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> man who died for Italy in <sup>the</sup> war.

If I am hit, I hope some one else will write the book, though it won't be quite so good; & dedicate it my way. <sup>In</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>case</sup> I shall still come into it, but my child of mine, I hope, will have the choice to marry a Latin, preferably an Italian, & not be consigned for choice to stodgy, damned Grosse-Tentons, with their <sup>fair</sup> ugliness, & their <sup>last</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>awful</sup> manner, & their unbecomingly speech, & their <sup>un</sup> <sup>our</sup> <sup>many</sup> <sup>country</sup>, & their lack of "joz" life (but only <sup>in</sup> <sup>fact</sup>?) & of art of life (but only had <sup>in</sup> <sup>fact</sup>?) but war is becoming an anti-historic tirade!

Greene, now has known Italian <sup>and</sup> <sup>other</sup> <sup>hordes</sup> of Egyptina. <sup>and</sup> <sup>we</sup> <sup>get</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>with</sup> <sup>them</sup> <sup>better</sup> <sup>than</sup> <sup>with</sup> <sup>any</sup> <sup>other</sup> European race. I hate a whole

code of written 2 unwritten rules  
 to prevent friction. The <sup>to the commission</sup> tells a  
 story that I shall often tell of  
 a young British Capt in Abyssinia  
 (with an <sup>person</sup> ~~person~~ very badly,  
 who had had ~~the~~ <sup>stroke</sup> ~~stroke~~ <sup>of</sup>  
 which the Italians gave a sort of  
 homage to the sea, & had a mule  
 with a load of ice waiting at every halting  
 place on the road (when they had  
 their mules muffled out of him &  
 had furnished a mule for) he saved  
 his life, treating him with an  
 care & tenderness as a member of their  
 own Royal family.

Have I said yet how the young  
 Italian officers are far <sup>more</sup> ~~more~~  
 than ours, with far less effort, ~~discovery~~  
 work they remind me even of the  
 broken Bandiera <sup>men</sup> whom  
 the damned Austrians did to  
 death when Italy was free, &

lost the two Englishmen who have  
 made me realize Italy by their  
 writing me George Meredith &  
 George Trevelyan, - all thanks to  
 them.

Since my "L'Espresso" and "L'Unità" has  
 no Italian permission to  
 send news & stuff to subscribers  
 through Italy. At Verona the  
 station staff ~~had~~ presented a  
 beautiful bouquet of flowers,  
 & I was at Turin with the young  
 weathered with flowers  
 & cheering crowds. Always  
 an W.O. authority had wrapped  
 in whole ~~my~~ project up as a  
 "Secret mission," no one knows  
 whether they were going to Italian  
 or the other at the frontier  
 hearing British flags on their  
 & left them flying all the way.  
 It is 8 pm & <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>dark</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>border</sup> with  
 bells has made me weep.  
 I am on the very edge of tears  
 like as it is this a day <sup>ago</sup>  
 by reason of the beauty



30  
I know of it all but  
since there is nothing in the  
contract to show what I am  
wanting, people imagine what  
I am thinking my eyes &  
recommend me to wear goggles  
to ~~keep~~ <sup>keep</sup> the Italian  
motor driven on the road  
fradition to Palermo yesterday  
I said yes the first way <sup>rather</sup>  
trying.

Dina was given a gutteridge, in  
later, or the least, was born in Naples  
& has like much in Italy & married  
a French wife. Says the Italians  
have little surplus capital, &  
prefer to have their commercial  
affairs run by others. They all  
most of them, rather grateful to  
the Germans. They say they bear  
the English in enmity, but that  
they have never helped them  
commercially. They like a  
Mussolini & staff return on their  
money. They & the French are the  
safe, careful, cautious people, in

31  
War is in peace. We are the  
slapdash. Further results in the  
Latin out of life.  
(1) the out of conversation.  
Bridg has killed conversation  
in England, & also private music.  
(2) simple <sup>& cheap</sup> apparatus of amusements  
Compare one of these <sup>really</sup> native  
watering places with one of ours.  
We sit on the ramparts & talk  
to two little ~~girls~~ girls, who  
speak with perfect articulation,  
& watch the Austrian searchlights  
on Hermada, Stoll & S. Gabriele.  
1917/17. P was originally  
fortified in the 16<sup>th</sup>  
century by the Venetian  
Republic & again by Napoleon.  
The trees round the Piazza,  
which I can smell, are thought  
to be elderberries.  
Very warm. We load today

shell onto the light railway.

Visit 2 Italian houses after dinner

(1) with friends, the parents of the 2 little girls (a 3<sup>rd</sup> now added) whom we met last night. Charming, natural, happy & beautiful child. Their parents very friendly & sit in champagne.

(2) The Lazzeroni's, the wealthiest family in P. The old man rather a stick. The old woman rather handsome with a mass of white hair. Two daughters. One went with God knows why to marry a British officer. I talk to her in French all the time. She is attractive, but I'd say rather selfish & self-centred & accustomed to admiration. Her husband is married. The present one is an old General, with a humorous brown face, & a chest covered

with ribbons, & a fat tail bulging over <sup>the edge of</sup> a small chair. He wags his fingers to the ~~room~~ music, which is continuing beyond at the piano by an Italian. 4 other Italian officers are present, one of whom has an ~~amazing~~ <sup>endless</sup> repertoire of songs & a wonderful twinkling & beautiful yet morose - all done with perfect grace, in between conversation, seated in a chair. He a corporal, quite at his ease.

Queen V.C.O.'s & officers always frequent the same restaurant, but don't mix there.

There is a big, smart class distinction in Ferrara, esp. throughout Italy, & less in the North about professions or religion. Many in the better class, in esp. practically, seem to be Venetian, being born to

their women, but are not commonly anti-clerical.)

Also the lower orders know better how to stand up for themselves,

without being offensive. <sup>the two families</sup>

20/7/17.

Temp 100° in shade. I went to drink buckets! At evening a cool breeze stir in dusk & I sit

outside the Alps down Doria & talk with Roman in habitant.

There is no bright lightning but, as yet, no rain. Then a tremor understood to wind about 11 pm.

21/7/17.

much cooler. Begin to learn to ride a motor bike. <sup>again</sup>

visit the Lazzaronis in the evening & hear a very fine Italian talk till midnight. <sup>10 o'clock</sup>

22/7/17.

Take a long lie. <sup>one high temp.</sup>  
 ("Smashed" luffs. <sup>wanted to</sup>  
 trust "unsoldable" & <sup>was ruled.</sup>  
 return men.

~~23/7/17.~~

Visit Aquileia & Grado. At A a church with wonderful mosaic floor, said to be the best example of its kind in the country. Flowers in shell cases to signify reconquest. Italians said to be going to make it a national monument after the war. A group of glorious cypresses by the church, the best I have yet seen. Also a few little new cypress avenue, planted by the Italians since reconquest, which reminds me of the Villa. Also a museum of Roman antiquities, which I had not time to visit. <sup>steamer for Belvedere</sup>  
 Grado is charming. A watering place on one of several islands. I bathe in deliciously warm water, & look at Trieste. one can see quite clearly round to Capodistria. The gulf of Trieste is very beautiful. Meet one of Trieste's men at Grado. A bit of a fool, who would easily become a bore. Aquileia & Grado should have a great future for visitors after the war. Tamarisks & pollards acacias destroy pines.



23/7/17.

Return to Valt?

(NOTE Pair Daily Mail with <sup>character</sup> usual  
 good taste & <sup>influence</sup> ~~influence~~ on  
 our foreign set, reference to the May  
 Alliance to "British-Italian victory"  
 Our press imbecility & our Allies who  
 almost have obliterated the good effects of  
 our diplomatic stroke.

Italian Vicent a May Month.

Total prizes (May 14-28) 23,681 out  
 604 Vicent

at least  
 that in add returned with 100,000 but  
 put out of act "Our brute infantry  
 fought indefatigably for 18 days, without  
 pause without proper food supplies, on  
 difficult ground in almost midsummer  
 heat impetuous in attack & tenacious  
 in defence. More effective at all times  
 was the fraternal co-operation of  
 the Italian field or mountain, on  
 excellent cooperation & work in  
 medium calibre of the British Army by  
 the Italian Navy."

24/7/17.

W up to new post on edge  
 of old trench above  
 it in smell of dung & death.  
 Sleep in by.

25/7/17

Awakened by chorus of telephonists in  
 dugout below. ... It's not got but for a

ments..... That's why the Princess  
 Victoria's 'alf Moody Daff, too much  
 intermarriage. They seem to be dipping  
 I go to sleep again.

In the evening we run to the new  
 post, near Camp edge. It is rather  
 a long business, getting guns off &  
 still longer getting them in again, in  
 the dark & without lights. Italian  
 tractors work well, but with a little  
 too much talking. ...  
 to believe heath! ... till 2 am.

26/7/17.

New post in midst of Italian batteries, &  
 with rocky ridge all round. Italian  
 guns hopping off all night, & blasting  
 operations, echoing round the  
 surrounding rocks, give the suggestion  
 to me in my sleep that I am  
 sleeping beside a storm sea  
 breaking on a rocky coast.  
 I visit Italian front line trenches on  
 Volcorvic in the afternoon. Start  
 3.15. Back 7.30. Accompanied by  
 Gunner Brown from Naples. He was  
 in the Austrian Trenches post, where  
 all his guns were taken most of his Battalion  
 killed or captured. He was a waiter

in our Italian restaurant at New York before the war. A steep climb up. I wear right breeches very thin. We stop & have a drink of water on the hillside from 14<sup>th</sup> infantry. Trenches very interesting. Masked in rock, & sometimes a wall of stone & sand bags built up. Talk to an officer in a Florentine blouse one holding his trench opposite Trench ~~number~~. I take 3 photos of him & his men & one of their machine guns. Things very quiet on this part of the line this afternoon. ~~and~~ going along trench (marked by various English & American) speaking Italian. "Hallo, John!" "How are you?" etc. On this way down meet an end of spring of pack mules going up. Also put up party of about 60 men drawing a big Mackay engine. No mortar except a little common gas, & pins, mostly masked by shell fire. Mills come down from mountain on the way back to rain in tent, with some

A lot of rather strong wind &

the officer man a 187 generally at new post, being only 300x behind front line. <sup>his position not</sup> Aust-attach said to be selected. H<sup>th</sup> T.M. by said to have been shelled to pieces here sometime ago. They had not, however, one gun position which we have shelled ourselves a bit practically complete post, except perhaps a few enfilade fire from S. Marco. They are some 14<sup>th</sup> miles in the orchard behind the line pits. Spend the night in the <sup>Unloading area</sup> 27/7/17

1.15 AM. to 6 AM. Rifle fire active all this time just across the river & many rockets lighting up the whole landscape. <sup>The field gun fire a good deal.</sup> Aust-attach <sup>seems to be on</sup> hill just to right of our post. This catches the baron once or twice. Relieved for breakfast 8.45. Sleep 10-12.30 in afternoon. Austrians do some shelling, at 317 SB. & an adjacent Italian Battery. Magnificent burst. We ring up Lata but hear that no damage. Lata 317 short again.

Gun blast in this dry country raises  
 huge clouds of inevitable dust,  
 tending to grip away from us.  
 We can only fire at very few targets  
 here, owing to high crest & forward  
 position. The plane drops a  
 booklet, intended for enemy but  
 blown back into our position. Contains  
 history of Austrian prisoners, with  
 in supplies & Italian, German, & Russian  
 & several star troops. These  
 men were yesterday were <sup>Greenhouse</sup> ~~unlucky~~  
 of death now waiting happily & calmly  
 for the end of the war, when they shall  
 return to their homes to ~~reunite~~  
 their wives & children once more.  
 Goodbye propaganda for murderers.

28/7/17.

Austrian again need a bit. We  
 get an order to fire 12 rounds at  
 5 min intervals <sup>stop on battery</sup>  
 still to stop <sup>we do a battery</sup> ~~bombing today~~  
 KPa tea soup S. grass, dumplings,  
 above our huts. Kward at  
 view from a shell crater

men staying. <sup>my open air</sup>  
 In evening play <sup>phone</sup> ~~phone~~  
 excellent Italian records. Italian  
 soldiers sit around in evident  
 enjoyment. Several of them, at  
 critical points, rush down  
 stop ladders & carts, making  
 rubble on the stones!

29/7/17. <sup>prisoner</sup>  
 An Italian officer, a funny little  
 man, who is a keen student of  
 engineering, comes in a fraternity  
 for an hour & a half in the  
 Battery position. He takes photographs  
 & leaves his card. His name is  
 Marino Urbani.  
 I watch in detail drilling & blasting  
 operations in our B.C. post.  
~~At about 10 pm.~~ a <sup>quad</sup> ~~quad~~  
 enemy plane comes over. My  
 signal to one another <sup>to move camp</sup>  
 & are heavily shelled <sup>several fragments from the sky</sup> ~~the sky~~  
 full of bursts, & a dozen of our  
 searchlights' fusils get very  
 over all our anti-aircraft <sup>begin to go</sup>  
 off & there is a deafening <sup>burst</sup> ~~burst~~ <sup>of</sup>  
 all calibres, for about 5 minutes.



Perhaps it was a raid; perhaps  
~~30/7/17~~ <sup>only in fear of some</sup> settling down to love <sup>I am</sup>  
<sup>murdering</sup> <sup>murdering</sup> <sup>not to be</sup>  
 let <sup>it</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>midday</sup> <sup>!</sup>  
 shall miss it when I leave it.

Two slips from my letter home.  
 (1) "Some of these Italians are the finest  
 fellows you could wish to meet. I'm sure  
 get on very well with them."

(2) "The other day I was out  
 laying wire in a graveyard.  
 We saw some Italian soldiers  
 carrying a tombstone for their loved  
 one who had recently been killed.  
 The Italians took after their  
 graves very well. A Sergeant, who  
 had spent most of his life in  
 England, asked us in a friendly  
 way some coffee & cigars, which were  
 jolly acceptable. He asked if  
 we had any old English papers,  
 as he was collecting all his  
 English, as he had been away  
 from England for 5 years."

30/7/17.

(3) "The great majority of them <sup>men</sup>  
 have been in all parts of  
 America. <sup>They are very</sup>  
<sup>friendly & very</sup>  
<sup>enough.</sup>

delighted to have a chat. In  
 fact, I think the Italian people  
 are very sociable. Nearly all  
 the boys can begin to make themselves  
 understood. But these are all

clock full of war - weariness. I'm  
 letters, & his idea was "let's"  
 run from his business town.  
 Apart from strong physical or  
 mental pain, & his strange  
 emotions of annoyance or disgust  
 to home, modern war, as an  
~~branch~~ officer was decorated  
 for bravery in the field, consists of  
 short periods of these border-line  
 in ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> middle between long  
 periods of absolute boredom.  
 & gentlemanly war? Yes,

seriously. Difficulties about  
 gas. Gulls between battles,  
 which remain real distinct  
 not in blood in a continuing  
 horror as in France.

In normal times, practically no C-13 work.  
 on either side, in <sup>mindful</sup> clearing up.  
 occasional atrocities. Contractions

Alfieri. Relations of nippers.  
 our job to fraternize, no  
 less than to fight.  
 our self to the Army. In practice,  
 administrative.

The except' incident of the drunk  
 British soldiers & its available report.  
 Talk with Stewart of command.  
 Up the crowd, heavy Hipsburg, &  
 as they passed, covered with turbans  
 on open fields, with German,  
 sitting out in the sun.

(31/7/17)

Discomfort is easy morning, 1st 2  
 an orange peach. Disturbed by  
 Urban <sup>deeper</sup> <sup>Italian</sup> <sup>pleasant</sup> with <sup>stagnant</sup> <sup>affair</sup>.  
 Some heavy rain & delicious meal  
 of coffee & tea.  
 I break my camera.

1/8/17.

Go to S. Andrea to Dr. Geronzi  
 to dine with G. Young. The

members of g badly knocked about, but  
 the centre of the town not much.  
 It lies in an absurd <sup>of details,</sup> patient, with  
 the Austrians looking down from the top  
 of most of them. Still hoping to  
 recover it, they don't shell badly.  
 The <sup>bridge</sup> bridge over the town could not  
 be repaired in an hour or two. It  
 was the Austrian Chertenhau, full  
 of retired Austrian officers. Well  
 laid <sup>out</sup>, town, with large public parks, &  
 good buildings. (I notice <sup>that</sup> all  
 the architecture, lay out, etc., is a  
 continuation of the Italian. In the  
 little wretched stone villages, all the  
 houses have had large windows & plenty  
 of air space. Nothing white in <sup>any</sup> <sup>way</sup>  
 than <sup>one</sup> housing.)

Young & party at 16 Via Ponte  
 Monzo. in peace time a large banding  
 here. About 20 of them, all acting  
 as car drivers. G. Trevelyan & P. Baker  
 were his afternoon, but I have just  
 missed them. Young's drivers are a  
 mixed lot, a handsome young Belgian,  
 wounded at Antwerp, was the same train at

Cambridge, & has some knowledge of medicine, - various rather common people, & also pilots under military app. who go as twin motor to be midshipmen or flying pilots. They have some rather nervous driving to do, in the dark, without lights & under fire.

G.Y. is pleasant & interesting, but I have never very much liked him & don't know <sup>interesting on</sup> his work <sup>at this</sup> <sup>level</sup> <sup>here.</sup>

Vanderelde, his speech & Flemish peasants making in the rain <sup>his frequent</sup> <sup>interest</sup> <sup>in it?</sup> been made in peace time. Likewise Albert's letters. Like a man who has got to the 4<sup>th</sup> degree

Enclid of himself. France rather left behind by America & Russia. Italian very sensitive to outside opinion. Beginning to feel their feet on a nation. <sup>North & South</sup> <sup>in sympathy</sup> <sup>with</sup> Florence. <sup>Medicine</sup> <sup>long</sup> <sup>time</sup> <sup>then</sup>

Florentines. Their personal beauty, & grace, & good manners. Their quickness in conversation. Their regionalism, & lack of patriotism. <sup>and strong</sup> <sup>spirit</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>energy</sup>. Kisselati & Cadorna. <sup>the day</sup> <sup>book</sup>. The six copies had been to have been made. The Colonel, was left it in a Postoffice. Its return to it, some & the time to shoot.

Has ceased to think critically of the past & the future. Just to work like in the present. Rather an artist's view of politics. Not a strong brain. Difficulty of intercourse with Charles T. Optimism as to <sup>state</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>world</sup> <sup>after</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>war</sup>. It is so <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>long</sup> <sup>run</sup>. Nothing that happens at home important. <sup>the</sup> <sup>progress</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>fronts</sup>. Changing looking in <sup>the</sup> <sup>direction</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>democracy</sup>. Russian <sup>is</sup> <sup>comparable</sup>. It is far better <sup>good</sup> <sup>out</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>war</sup> already. In England the leaders are mainly vile at present. But we shall all know what we want the world to look like after the war & leaders will appear sincere & sincere. <sup>our</sup> <sup>gen</sup> <sup>will</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>make</sup> <sup>personal</sup> <sup>peace</sup> <sup>with</sup> <sup>germans</sup>, seeing that they have <sup>not</sup> <sup>killed</sup> <sup>themselves</sup> <sup>malicious</sup> <sup>not</sup> & we have to live the rest of our lives



Wilson's name. And Germany will be no  
 must be. Wilson's name is in the world.

Wilson's name is in the world.  
 Best last day a luncheon "last night"  
 2d he looked at himself.

Austrian described Subj. party: he  
 didn't much care, party: he had  
 temporarily lost command of the Austrian  
 but didn't like to see it.

11th Army went there to 11th Navy,  
 4th Army exaggerated its casualties.  
 British work in war. "make racial  
 inferiority" manifest, to say not  
 believed in before. Norwegian first  
 catch.

2/8/17. Austrian Federalism - Centralized

See an Austrian plan brought  
 down by 2 Italians. They got  
 down at him from above & shot  
 his legs. He gradually loses his  
 head, begins to turn over, recovers,  
 then enters & then comes down  
 first into his own trenches.

Austrian built a few miles on the  
 road through Sabie about 7-8000.  
 Go to Versa for a few days as  
 Miller in charge of fatigue parties.  
 Live with KATHE officers. A  
 dusty & rather featureless little  
 town.

to 2 1/2 hrs dinner. Reminds me of Cannon

a little. His story of 11th capture of  
 month Nov. 29 Alpini climb  
 up precipitous face at night, to the  
 tents & throw them over the edge  
 without a sound. One man body  
 come up the path.

3/8/17.

These medicals are not an exciting  
 lot. About the last is a little  
 Welshman, somewhat in demitition.  
 A person, of the Talbot family, for  
 Oxford arrives for a night. Brighter  
 than the rest of those here. Reads  
 the new Statesman. I read his  
 copy, mine, as usual, being days  
 late. We discuss territorial  
 peace terms. He, in complete ignorance  
 of ~~that~~ racial geography involved  
 the disaffection of dissolving Austria-  
 Hungary. I suggest that Czechs,  
 if to be federated with anyone,  
 instead of to be independent, will  
 prefer to be federated with Russia.  
 He thinks they have no practical  
 with Russia. When we discuss  
 Jug-Slavia, he doesn't realize  
 that it would include Serbia.  
 When I say the Yugoslavs want  
 part of the Adriatic coast line, he  
 says "would not ~~be~~ Albanian?"

These medicals impress me by their  
"cultiness, & their cleanliness in military. They  
England is an island, & every Englishman is  
an island." One can of the Italian papers.

Seeing Tommy on 11<sup>th</sup> generals & train  
with a ride in ambulances.

Italian band plays here, & Italian  
infantry come back from the trenches  
tired but singing. They march  
two on each side of the road, with 4's  
on the side.

11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Officer to dinner.

4/8/17

Someone now 6 Hutcheon, have  
arrived & some French (names  
unknown.)

Rev Talbot on "massive impressions"  
won't will survive the war, &  
the practicability of spending money  
on social reforms.

I have never seen a collection, even  
of Britons, with wax muzzles like the  
doctors. Their <sup>domestic</sup> combats at meal time is that  
spatula, faces, for jam & their own  
seniority - intake.

5/8/17.

Being tired with the doctors, I set off  
about 10 am. for Udine. It is not  
too hot. I walk about 3 miles & then  
pick up a ferry. (One can generally  
pick up an 11<sup>th</sup> ferry by halting one or  
two. This takes me past Moggio,  
& then stop. I then walk about  
3 miles. Just Treviso, & at a  
distance of 15 kilometers for Udine get a  
ferry to take me all the rest of the way.  
Distributing a Trio, a madman, who makes  
gestures of weeping & ~~keeps~~ asking "How long?"  
He is slightly cheered by American interest,  
but much upset over Russia.  
When says he, England & France & Italy are  
all helping Serbia, it is disgraceful that  
the Serbs' own brothers the Russians do  
nothing.

Udine attracted large  
long accented plane trees. Sunday nearly  
all shops shut. Lunch well kept to a minimum.  
Run into most of war - cars, headsets &  
journalists - Music Vivanti (also Chantley,  
Quasi-alien Caudaccio), Gibbon & Price.  
A.D. now declined into a pushing nation  
of old middle age. Visited by number of  
11<sup>th</sup> ladies. The incident of the dead  
youth & his pocket. "I'm not a soldier,  
"La guerra." Alleged museum over 10-catal  
"maccaroni medal."

ribbon, in spite of pattern, rather  
 pleasant surprise. Fully varied inform.  
 the little <sup>circles</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>map</sup>. Leads <sup>to</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>same</sup> <sup>place</sup>.  
 One Southern <sup>is</sup> <sup>not</sup>.  
 this splend? brutally thin intellect.  
 kindling partiled isolated Englishman. in  
 Warsaw, in Egypt, in Sofia (once) Romania!  
 Adamello French in eternal ice. French  
 long given from Trentino to Torino. War  
 might end <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>case</sup> of 20 men in Camp  
 were shut? <sup>the</sup> <sup>rest</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>world</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>like</sup> <sup>it</sup>.  
 few banks. <sup>is</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>like</sup> <sup>it</sup>.

We Netherlands are a misty lot, 3  
 comparison.

"Admiralty industrial enterprises, with <sup>the</sup> <sup>view</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>fact</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>factory</sup> <sup>machine</sup>." Ed. from. Longman.  
 7/6.1917

6/8/17.

left a man 12.30 am at home di. Malte,  
 of 4 hours. Set out 5 am <sup>to</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>station</sup>.  
 Train due to leave 5.30 for Palermo.  
 Have coffee & biscuits in station. Standing  
 on the platform, further station lights, dull  
 orange, 2 red signals beyond (long in <sup>the</sup> <sup>distance</sup>)  
 hospital (in) & beyond <sup>the</sup> <sup>station</sup> <sup>lights</sup>  
 of trees & the <sup>dark</sup> <sup>night</sup> <sup>lights</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>station</sup> <sup>lights</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>station</sup>  
 You want help id <sup>the</sup> <sup>distance</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>station</sup> <sup>lights</sup>  
 combined. Train doesn't start  
 till nearly 7. <sup>the</sup> <sup>train</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>like</sup> <sup>it</sup>

strike light, 2 in 2 in has found  
~~it~~ <sup>course</sup> <sup>also</sup> <sup>into</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>distance</sup>  
 Cadore <sup>to</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>side</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>mountain</sup>.  
 very <sup>much</sup> <sup>like</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>mountain</sup>  
 with <sup>the</sup> <sup>same</sup> <sup>height</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>mountain</sup>  
 of <sup>the</sup> <sup>mountain</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>morning</sup> <sup>sky</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>distance</sup>,  
<sup>the</sup> <sup>mountain</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>like</sup> <sup>it</sup>  
 beside the track <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>distance</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>mountain</sup>  
 some little village of Friuli <sup>is</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>like</sup> <sup>it</sup>  
<sup>is</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>like</sup> <sup>it</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>like</sup> <sup>it</sup>  
 heavy heart of the way from Palermo to  
 Vena.

The failure of the Italian, in case of  
 the "maccanni medal", like the  
 Frenchman, in case of the "Yvon" of  
 1916, to understand even themselves.  
 Italians march fast with a hard,  
 little sturdy dark men.

An evening impression by the <sup>stars</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>night</sup>  
 to it - dead.

7/8/17.

4 dead bodies from 317 brought down.  
 Two died in the ambulances on the  
 way down. One medical rather  
 absent their coming. They will have to  
 journey as long ambulance take them  
 back to Gradisca this afternoon, &  
 his ambulance has had hoped to use



for getting the mess stores for luncheon  
on Udiue. "They should be  
buried at the Battery, my own," but  
soon a dug out. There is a burial  
place at Gradisca for the dead.

8/8/17.

Visit Udiue. Unsuccessful <sup>to get on Gradisca</sup>

9/8/17.

Go up to Battery for mails.  
Notley very agreeable.

Saturday  
to get it  
from the  
a lump.

10/8/17.

Return to the Battery in the evening.  
A good change.

11/8/17.

Make an outburst at lunch against  
the Rev Talbot, who says he  
"enjoyed being with a Boni Francis."  
Said I "what did you enjoy? Being  
the poor bugger get hit?" (Sensation.)

After tea go a climb up the  
side of the Vallone to a high point  
whence one can see from horizon  
to sea, including the Hermitage, a  
wonderful clear view.

After dinner Austrians put a  
sharp sharped tunnel through the  
road below.

Strong, shattered but quickly  
resurgent pits, war roads, to

Wiley in Vallone.

12/8/17.

To "officer next for duty" take a  
church parade. Rev Talbot of Oxford.  
The woman I have talked a good deal  
at odd times, a good wife, a good  
hearted fellow, human, kindly,  
moderately liberal minded, a interested  
in many of the new things as myself,  
quite an address. He was wounded  
at the moment last the war, in  
some mind, discredited the notion  
of an all good all powerful God. He  
struggled to abide in the name of God's  
defence. "God does not make things too  
easy for us... He gives us the effort which  
if we work not to use them...  
A loving father sets up a tremendous  
high standard for his son, & judges him  
severely, not in spite of, but because  
his love for him... Three or four  
years of war may be tremendously profitable  
while." I would like to put him  
down to work with the change in  
conscience, before the war in  
various ways, (1) the dead,  
(2) the maimed, (3) the bereaved,  
(4) the financially ruined, etc.  
with special reference to the  
poverty of hatred, bitterness &  
callousness, the destruction

inwaiting of human movements, <sup>and</sup>  
 a work of art, etc, etc.  
 And, if "benefits" do come, God is  
 evidently a believer in ~~Washington~~  
 house down to let roast pig!

13/8/17.

Niente.

14/8/17.

Niente. Rather hotter than usual

15/8/17.

Operation order indicates one zone  
 in first & second phase, after first  
 objectives of infantry in the coming open  
 walk to & from S. Andrea before tea  
 & dinner, & come back "all in the  
 water" with an enormous appetite

~~16/8/17~~ Italian deserters being met

in Sabogna & all traffic held up  
 as a <sup>A crowd of idle soldiery</sup> ~~pass~~ <sup>was on</sup>  
 A mass of blood & flesh  
 on the ground & wall, after the  
 remains of them caused upon sketches.  
 much infantry going up Vallone &  
 Volcognac in the dusk.

16/8/17.

Italian papers contain Pope's Peace Note to  
 his Powers. ∴ no supplies allowed to be on  
 sale to the troops! But some get through.  
 Italian Generals & Colonels, have a pleasant  
 habit of pulling their men's ears on parade &  
 smacking their cheeks ~~in a most~~ (in a most  
 friendly way) & saying "Bad boy!" There's  
 Major Genl. did his & curie when inspecting  
 one by

Huskies shell a good deal in the  
 evening. See shells on Meana,  
 across to Vissacco

17/8/17.

Temporarily attached to 302 S.B. (Belgium)  
 Tomorrow at 6 am. We begin

18/8/17.

Get up 4.30. Firing begins at 6,  
 stops on all day, gentle, normal,  
 vibrant & double vibrant & tens.  
 It is most awfully boring, everyone  
 soon gets used to the noise,  
 just a sort of subconscious  
 prying of the news, when it is  
 serious.

My dog will run all  
 evening. Then lying nearby but

She was & shell shore a man  
 from 307 in road. One Italian  
 bombardment is very heavy. What  
 a mad exhibit, *Sturzeri*  
 in mind & places, such "preparation"  
 are. <sup>Telephone</sup> was down  
 11 km. relief major *Jahan*.  
 Questioning all night.

19/8/17.

There is the small hours & reflect on  
 nature of war. Italian *2* starting attack  
 at 5.30. Tremendous crescendo of  
 gunfire at this time. ~~then~~ <sup>then</sup> of  
 through the village about 6, towards O.P.  
 but everything is a total mess.  
 Sleep 8-10 am. In O.P. 10-30 - 7.30 am.  
 continuous bombardment. Unofficial  
 reports of very conflicting, but seem to  
 show some progress. Possibility of (par) 1  
 sleep is doubtful.

20/8/17. <sup>Work</sup> was been in *France* since "high"  
 in *unofficial* like it, in "to *Jahan* at 6 am  
 group to the 6 km. *STK* *Thompson* at 5.  
 go back to bed 8.30-11.

gun fire (at) very heavy about 9.  
 Firing (mostly <sup>3 km</sup> *at*) all  
 afternoon. Also evening, with good  
 reported effect. Still on *unofficial* *damm*  
 at 464's Rumors of food

Italian advances to north *unofficial*  
 of this sector, but apparent lack of  
 go here. P to be *Stellenbosch*. They  
 has been *unofficial* back *unofficial* & *unofficial* request  
 (referred with *unofficial*) 1/25.

21/8/17.

small hours some *unofficial* <sup>4.2's</sup> ~~4.2's~~ come  
 raking over my dugout, & burst at the  
 foot of the hill. *unofficial* bursts, so small  
 in to make me suspect gas shells, but *unofficial*  
 don't worry me as gas can't run  
 up hill! In the morning I put one  
 shell hole 15' <sup>for</sup> *unofficial* & another  
 on path. They were "double events"  
 Heavy firing in morning, but  
 cessation in the afternoon. Great  
*unofficial* on our sector. *unofficial* again  
 on first *unofficial*. *unofficial* *unofficial*  
 make head against *unofficial* *unofficial*  
 on 464 & *Tamboro*. They *unofficial*  
 had 9126. Italian don't use  
 creeping *unofficial*, which would have  
 our *unofficial* *unofficial*. *unofficial* *unofficial*  
 later from N & S. But difficult  
 to distinguish *unofficial* & *unofficial*.  
 on duty to be at *unofficial*.



22/8/17. Rather warmer than usual.  
 Fine news of Italian advance on  
 Bainsizza Plateau. No news from  
 Genta. On our Sect - 81<sup>st</sup> Co, no  
 well known. 464 down. Put 3 times, L  
 368, to the south <sup>of</sup> also. There  
 must be a shocking slaughter of them.  
 One can't see these details through  
 glasses. Capello commanding the second  
 Army, 2 of the Viffallo, is said to be  
 a fine general. It is claimed for  
 Cadorna's Communism, I wish faintly,  
 but they are the most moderate  
 part of them all. No long is claimed  
 or won till it is securely held.  
 Italian by force in mass brought  
 to hand. I talk to a couple  
 of men before departing &  
 they explain the working of things.  
 They are very delighted to have  
 make myself understood in Italian,  
 & I want a fraternal letter.  
 Their officers, they say, never do this, but  
 are very stand offish.  
 Tomorrow our left section moves  
 out into a position in the park

Shell San Marco. This is a  
 compliment, for S.M. is in Capello's  
 Army, but a dangerous one. One  
 hopes there won't be trouble.  
 I have a hideous dread that the  
 Italians may run out of ammunition  
 in a day or two. If they can  
 keep on for a week with-out  
 shattering fire, I think they will  
 have done by us.

23/8/17.

Half all on S. Maria  
 A day of lull. B2 switched to S. Marco.  
 At 5 am. a scout & 2 men in 315  
 by killed by a shell.  
 In listening to Graham & Mayne  
 talking on Mesopotamia, India  
 & Indiang, Indian "Portuguese" in staff  
 I am more than ever astonished  
 at the ignorance, prejudice, laziness,  
 & general dispiritment of mind of  
 the Regular Soldier.

24/8/17.

Fraternal wire Lieut Francia  
 from Sandvica at S. Andrea.

We sit in the open, as the Italian habit at O.P.'s is, in distinctive E or W. & drink a bottle of Vermont. We discuss with enthusiasm the past, present & future of Anglo-Italian relations. After 1/2 a bottle of Vermont, my Italian becomes perceptibly more fluent. Monte Santo officially reported taken. All British forces in Camp B2 now switched out to San Marco. Little firing. Letter received from G & John! 25/8/17.

Still a lull. We are temporarily under command of Capello in 2nd div, which is a powder. Visit main O.P. above Podgora. Muntellous panorama, but no better view of S. Marco than from our position. French officers, with 15 in gun also firing on S. Marco, on Podgora. A Colonel de la Roche. The reputation of gunners of the 3rd is all looking down from his height. The Frenchmen, of whom in my

joy over the Italian I had almost forgotten the existence, have in most beautiful manner the most elegant appearance of the three. We see Italian patches out under Southern Hills of S. Gabriele, the next great objective after Santo, & French cars allied shelling on Gabriele, S. Caterina & S. Marco, but ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> low hill, in the ~~area~~ <sup>area</sup> above S. Marco, in the ~~area~~ <sup>area</sup> below to east are visible, mostly called "San Marco" is almost completely obscured by the French shell which we watch. Another shell causes a high water spout in the mountainous region. The precipitous descent to Podgora, with its "clac" & a ruined ancient parish, in the side of the ridge, in distance with gutted factories, on the backbone ridge of the Casso, Dorsso Fanti to still, beautifully visible, quiet on ridges. The great Italian effort is being made to the north at present, 65-7000 ft is line, apart from

(The <sup>me</sup> <sup>was</sup> <sup>con-</sup> <sup>tinued</sup> <sup>dusk</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>out</sup> <sup>was</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>not</sup>  
can & 12 <sup>miles</sup> <sup>Italy</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>hung</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>miles</sup>.  
reserves - <sup>problem</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>water</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>the</sup>  
Bunizza plateau. <sup>at</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>San</sup> <sup>Gabriele</sup>!  
Gatto <sup>at</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>San</sup> <sup>Gabriele</sup> <sup>rather</sup> <sup>write</sup>  
a <sup>little</sup> <sup>note</sup> <sup>for</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>little</sup> <sup>party</sup>  
some <sup>think</sup> <sup>unfairly</sup>, <sup>over</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>Turkish</sup>  
hidden trench.

The <sup>5th</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>315</sup> <sup>who</sup> <sup>was</sup> <sup>killed</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>days</sup>  
ago. <sup>landed</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>part</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>top</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup>  
Mice's <sup>men</sup>, <sup>in</sup> <sup>part</sup> <sup>150</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>very</sup>  
of <sup>an</sup> <sup>it</sup>. <sup>They</sup> <sup>couldn't</sup> <sup>find</sup> <sup>one</sup>  
of <sup>the</sup> <sup>guns</sup> <sup>had</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>buy</sup> <sup>them</sup> <sup>at</sup>  
incomplete <sup>payments</sup>. <sup>But</sup> <sup>today</sup>  
small <sup>of</sup> <sup>it</sup> <sup>came</sup> <sup>drifting</sup> <sup>down</sup> <sup>the</sup>  
valley, <sup>the</sup> <sup>following</sup> <sup>was</sup> <sup>found</sup> <sup>by</sup>  
found it.

in 316 <sup>two</sup> <sup>cartridges</sup> <sup>went</sup> <sup>up</sup> <sup>with</sup>  
a <sup>direct</sup> <sup>hit</sup>, <sup>the</sup> <sup>Austrian</sup> <sup>shells</sup>  
in <sup>smoke</sup>. <sup>The</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>inch</sup>, <sup>then</sup>  
was <sup>badly</sup> <sup>shattered</sup> <sup>by</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>inch</sup>  
which <sup>burst</sup> <sup>150</sup> <sup>yards</sup> <sup>from</sup> <sup>them</sup>.  
The <sup>12</sup> <sup>inch</sup> <sup>burst</sup> <sup>close</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>the</sup>  
men, <sup>landed</sup> <sup>among</sup> <sup>Italian</sup>  
telephonists, etc <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>west</sup> <sup>of</sup>,  
killing <sup>a</sup> <sup>number</sup>.

Tremendous <sup>fire</sup> <sup>from</sup> <sup>our</sup> <sup>side</sup>  
from <sup>about</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>pm</sup>. <sup>Can</sup> <sup>hear</sup>  
mystical <sup>of</sup> <sup>every</sup> <sup>altitude</sup>

26/8/17.

Quiet. Rain in morning  
Cadorna's Communique of 25th admits  
captured <sup>the</sup> <sup>Saint</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>a</sup>  
number <sup>with</sup> <sup>S. Gabriello</sup> <sup>was</sup> <sup>taken</sup>  
lost <sup>with</sup> <sup>gravel</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>San</sup> <sup>Gabriele</sup>  
27/8/17. <sup>See</sup> <sup>also</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>San</sup> <sup>Gabriele</sup> <sup>Journal</sup>

How disgracefully Cadorna's communiques  
are translated into English!

Out at 10 am. in side car to  
S. Andrea O.P. of 24 hours  
on arrival but expected  
effensive against S. Marco but  
off for a day. High <sup>level</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>water</sup> <sup>and</sup>  
but danger mounting in any case.  
Evacuated & aborted by proposal  
of fighting. Great <sup>the</sup> <sup>strong</sup> <sup>song</sup> <sup>of</sup>  
the <sup>heroes</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>air</sup>. "The <sup>Victory</sup>  
was <sup>from</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>summit</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>Saint</sup>,"  
already we can see 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
firing from the top of Gabriello &  
S. Marco. Spend a lot of time

with Franja, & have (rather  
unwisely) to drink some Strega.  
He doesn't risk to Gabriello, holding  
to the old theory but there are  
no great men but only lucky  
ones (vide death, wounds)



This view of history has elements of  
 understanding of the small dictum of Rassen  
 & de la abiora in. War - )  
 We visit together an Italian  
 Field HQ 200 yds away across  
 the railway. Good view,  
 (Kuff). Discuss with an officer  
 then the necessity to make his  
 the last war. Discuss with a  
 explain to the Indian reforms.  
 know a little already. In  
 racial problems of Austria Hungary.  
 Remembered at the Sabri 6.30  
 to by a back to side car  
 dinner. One turn in the  
 return journey. Heavy rain in afternoon

28/8/17. (more or less in a chain  
 2 to 6 am.

Offensive really beginning again  
 today. The 1st Lt on S.  
 Marco 6 to 7, Vivace 2 to 3 am.  
 Gift & continue Vivace at noon.  
 S. Marco is not rocky, so would  
 be bombardable with shells.  
 In early morning hills clearly  
 outlined from S. Andrea, with great  
 belts of motionless, low lying white  
 clouds partly hiding the Faith-stool  
 range. Later, with sun up, a warm  
 haze hides everything.  
 Heavy firing till 6 am. Then  
 slow down.

29/8/17.

Brigades in Italy as at beginning of  
 Veneto - Brescia, Bologna, Ferrara,  
 Livorno, Pisa, Reggina.

A good deal of shelling today & some  
 farcical showers. We set fire to  
 some woods on the lower slopes of S.  
 Daniele with a high wind blowing.

30/8/17.

Battery's good luck continues.

At 7.45 AM a 5.9 burst  
 close to No 4 gun, smashing in  
 shelter trench, & covering with earth  
 the gun detachment at their breakfast  
 which disappears! No one hurt &  
 no ammunition exploded. Many shells  
 thrown about.

8.45 AM firing & hot, rather  
 damp. Day after yesterday's rain  
 orders at night to shift all gun  
 back to old targets S of Viffacco  
 then counter order one section  
 Graham unengaged with the 2nd  
 medals. It was her loss of  
 to Sabotini, report "S. Gabriele  
 following."

French were taken from Kristina  
 or Italian because of their health. (21  
 country occupied, (31) memory of '70.

French order looking down Italians,  
 partly many party party large  
 necessity. More Italians clean than.  
 31/8/17.

Quietish. Guns moved back again, so  
 as to fire over Mance to  
 Graham says "we are living up to our  
 motto 'ulique.' But it is amazing  
 how the precedents of the relative  
 immobility of Siege Artillery are being  
 destroyed, as if we were mere Field  
 Gunners!

1/9/17.

B.C.A.'s joke about Mayne, (commanded  
 by Graham, "where did he get one for  
 to B.I.U? Where did he get one for?"  
 9 on in fearless man of the West.

2/9/17.

Niente. Gabriele still "trotting".

3/9/17.

Further evidence, from British doctor,  
 of Sect dislike of French & approval  
 of British. French, for some reason,  
 treat Sects like dogs & Sects are  
 included in French Army ~~units~~  
 Macedonia.

Guns switched back to R 64, this

vacillation, I fear, indicates  
 unexpected obstacles to unimpeded  
 march of Messire up north.

4/9/17.

Up 5.30. Register Battery in early  
 morning light on ~~front~~ 464. Graham,  
 on empty stomach, in state of nervous  
 excitement with everyone. ~~State~~  
 again in afternoon. Wonderful clear  
 twilight.

News of Capture of  
 Gabriele in morning. Evening, while  
 on duty, Austrian attack Hill 126.

order to switch to new zone (61) &  
 fire gun fire. Carry out lightning  
 calculations. Graham, throwing  
 down heavy kitchen telephone, "lets it"  
 at high speed from Mori to Battery.

Other Officers feel Mayne will  
 join with Austrians have broken  
 through. I had we have order to  
 get our out & retreat at top speed!  
 Some shelling in the afternoon, but  
 no one hit.

Sleep in Battery

5/9/17.

Niente.

6/9/17.

with Udine with Graham & Mazzoni  
 away 7.30 to 6.30 pm. All ai.

radiant spirits, owing to his bread  
in our habits! Udine Cross on me.  
I di sera in Castello, with its  
pink whitewashed arcade, & cypress &  
hemeramic views & historic motto.

Già vinta la rivoltz  
marzial esse dell' Austria  
Sui detentori d' armi

Impierando  
Quarta Golt di finlano  
Samphe vafpo.  
Mid CCCXIX.

Lunch Mlejo grande d'Udine, Kizotte  
Friedeok. ~~Udine~~ Udine, ~~Feather~~  
Faber, Collet, beer. ~~Mid~~ ~~reclancom~~  
Crying. Very good tea at ~~Udine~~  
di Talpa. ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~ caps  
Manning at Perotto.  
Meet Gibson at U. who says fishing  
taken, extra rakuten. Wonderful  
hombus by Anno 1802. Cadorna  
Udine Lufiana before Trieste.  
Wonderful road making on ~~Udine~~  
M. Santo etc. Tank road to  
here. Graham trips ~~Udine~~  
to ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~  
Udine front to ~~Udine~~ Vicenza!  
I take a look at ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~  
Supremo. No Italian ~~Udine~~

may sit in cafes visible from the  
street between 2 & 6 pm. This  
for the sake of troops going up the  
line. ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~  
7/9/17.

Several calls for artillery assistance.  
we are very hard at getting ~~Udine~~  
it quickly in ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~  
in the evening a ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~  
are difficulty of finding ones way over  
a ramp slope in the dark with a  
respiration! 307 think it's a real  
heat ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~

8/9/17.

Kuzend interrupted breakfast &  
says to J.S. fabricale is held out  
not yet S. Catania & lower ~~Udine~~  
which are still ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~  
from behind S. Marco.

Cartis maps lot of the ~~Udine~~  
Kuzend & Talbot ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~  
Conservation & C's announcement &  
assurance but "in our Church"  
such things are often done. His  
arrival in ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~ ~~Udine~~

Graham went with Somerville  
Marzano at 4.30 am to ~~Udine~~ 126,



new Italian front line. Held by  
Parma brigade. The large T.M. some  
telling the infantry there. They lost 7  
men last night. Their Colonel asks  
suppression, & is very delighted at  
Graham's promise of this. They are to  
ring us up direct, without the  
intervention of group. On their way

back a dead man is laid out,  
with only the hands showing.

Don't at dinner, we get a call,  
saying the T.M. is firing again. Graham  
darts out, leaving food uneaten, although  
there was another on duty at duty,  
& makes arrangements for 5rd for fire.  
The infantry anywhere will be taken on  
rounds whistling on their way  
in. "Near death, we must  
everything we can to help her." Then  
he returned into reflection. I had  
mine of his attitude to be wide wing.

9/9/17.

Mrs. Gadd of 3 to 7 pm, met an  
Italian from Sicily, & another from the  
Lipari Isles.

10/9/17.

Nicola. Duty, Adjutant - Cent, 12

expected, but do not arrive.  
11/9/17.

More hanging about for the new winter  
soldier as well. Who you pick & turn  
up. I hear that Italian soldiers  
at Corone & elsewhere say that they  
see & the English are protecting them.

12/9/17.

Dine with 316. Quite very charming.  
Heavy rain.

13/9/17.

Graham visits Infantry on Hill 123.  
Very keen to get on special job with  
them in next Messin. This will be  
rather risky but worth while.  
Dillon tells me that Geoffrey Young has  
lost a leg & ~~two~~ <sup>one</sup> Red Cross Order  
likewise & a hand wounded.  
The ~~halt~~ <sup>halt</sup> now has Solo, one in  
Arpinati left of all main officers. He  
is in command. Keenly note that he will  
be not if he abandons post. He holds  
it.

Colonel who, having come with bombs,  
leads his halt on the top.  
The chance of publication in the  
of money order to England. Graham at  
once came to help. A long  
discussion.

Daily Japanese war will last 2 years  
Run over of the complaints of our <sup>long</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>at</sup>

Venice, <sup>the</sup> disaffection of central Italian (Moral head)  
14/9/17.

Talbot on Belg's speech, at a time of  
war "let each man look in his  
own heart & consider... <sup>where</sup> <sup>lay</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>secret</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>war</sup>!"  
Open diplomacy. People should know,  
I should help to decide. <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>war</sup> <sup>what</sup>  
contingencies their country will, & will  
not, have to wait.

3 to 7 pm. Robinson O.M. Woodgate  
view. 6.30 smoke rocket, burst  
of fire all along Hill 126  
near Uffia. Then, after 2 mins,  
2 silver rain rockets & release  
again.

All the afternoon the  
Field Battery in cones big shells,  
but continuing to fire. Much  
smoke but on successive hills.  
The extraordinary fertility &  
high state of cultivation of the  
Vissacco valley.

15/9/17.

Niente.

16/9/17.

To St Andrea is done for 24 hours.

Watching on Fanti side, with  
<sup>imph...</sup> presents me from looking up Fregia.  
Companions  
No loss of note.  
Hol... &... from

Marina Italiana.

17/9/17.

A fine sunrise. Return from OP to  
Battery 10.15 am. Sleep in afternoon.  
order went "all batteries must be  
ready to move at short notice", orders  
to neighborhood of Monfalcone, for a  
push of north the Hermada in 3 weeks'  
time. This district will be interesting  
with eastward & also <sup>westward</sup> <sup>wards</sup> <sup>and</sup>  
Grado & Aquileia, but <sup>less</sup> <sup>healthy</sup>  
than this, both militarily & medically.

18/9/17.

Niente.

19/9/17.

Graham compliments me on my  
"reliability" & proposes to move me to  
the left section in case of a split  
up & moving warfare.  
Still to lunch. I go to look at  
new Battery positions near Monfalcone.  
Venturian Centre reopens. I affix pit.

20/9/17.

Niente.

21/9/17.

To Venice with Magne. Leave  
Udine 3.40 pm. Via Treviso.  
Arrive Venice 8.5. Put up at  
Terminus. A/Va <sup>including</sup> <sup>near</sup> <sup>st...</sup>  
dinner in Fondola.

by Rii, to S. Marco. The beauty of Venice, by day or night, tugs at one's heartstrings. Maybe, a complete Philistine, says he has always wondered why people talk so much about Venice, but now he understands! One cafe all night goes at 11 by order. The Comandante Infelmo, including Florian's, which before had never been closed for many years. The S.C. has always forbidden all singing at night! This order is not strictly observed. Return at 11.30 in a gondola.

22/9/17.

Coffee homeletter & bed. Down Grand Canal to S. Marco. Am trying to recognize a certain number of buildings on either side. Interfret for maybe in various shops, though in most English is spoken. ~~to~~ Stand about an hour in S. Marco. One blending of colors in the floor & wall murals is very beautiful. But I hate the faces of the priests.

Select of some coffee cups & mugs in Venetian glass. ~~And~~ Am

Thron a large mirror with inlaid dairy pattern around it, which has been specially made for Sri John Forest. I don't admire his taste... Lunch at "Maurine Pilsen" (why his damned addition to a famous name!) Place full of Italian officers, mainly naval. Admirable fish. Return by steamer to Terminal & deposit purchases. Note Casa Petrarca, first below P. Rialto on left hand side going away from Marco as a possible place to stay in future. Am told that Padua's name is Cristo. It has <sup>in front</sup> of the big gardens which are such a joy to the eye. (Kazzard, who is something of a discriminating traveler remembers Casa Bianchetti Biondelti also on G.) I begin to distinguish the Venetian accent, which is very pleasing to the ear! (though, as has been remarked, rather "rattles" & has many t's in all consonants!) Take a steamer from San Felovio to the lido, arriving there about 6. The lido is, as a whole, of no merit, but there are some very delicious



Villas, and ~~the~~ the Jewish cemetery  
is faintly attractive. Also it is  
a good place for bathing.

French aviators are stationed here, &  
there are a number of Italian  
warships lying off the Venetian  
Giardini, which are closed to the  
public. Dine at Mannin, & talk  
to some of our monitor officers.

Sit out in the Piazza S. Marco.  
Listening to music till 10 o'clock  
then take a gondola and spend  
time in the lagoons till midnight.

23/9/17.

Catch 9.25 train from Venice for  
Vdnie, via Treviso. Talk to an  
Italian naval captain who trains  
our monitors, visiting also a  
magnificently built lighthouse of Alpin,  
which is covered with ribbons, medals  
for British military work, awarded  
for work on the Adriatic plateau last  
year, also to a cheerful Colonel  
of the Siena Brigade, also to a  
most interesting captain in the Italian  
medical service. - named Vera,  
who speaks 8 languages, including  
modern Greek, Serb, Spanish & Turkish.

Also Roumanian, which he says  
doesn't count for an Italian. The  
Roumanians are trying to get rid  
of all Slav words, but they speak  
with a Slav accent. He was  
born in Smyrna, and has lived a  
large part of his life there. He was  
10 ten years in Paris & 15 months in  
England, studying & practicing medicine.  
One of the main features of British, especially  
Scottish, hospitals is very good. He  
likes the Greeks, especially men of  
high mind and intellect. They are  
the most intelligent of the Balkan  
peoples. The Roumanians coming second.  
The antagonism of the Greeks & Italians  
is regrettable. Smyrna is a Greek  
town & he does not think the  
Italians will have it after the war,  
though there is much talk of it. The  
Dodecanese is undoubtedly Greek.  
Valona is essential to Italy & the Greeks  
realize this. N. Epirus is disputable.  
The Albanians are divided into tribes  
which hate one another bitterly. They  
have no national sense. He  
spent some time in Athens soon after  
Italy came into the war. Having left

Suez Canal when the Egyptian became  
 unmistakable. He likes Athens.  
 He met <sup>the first time in incident, "y" last year.</sup> a much admired Venizelos.  
 Italian support of Constantinian was  
 designed to keep Greece weak &  
 divided & to prevent her acquiring  
 merit. It was a ~~great~~ great pity.

Dalmatia is Italian on the coast, but  
 flat when one gets 2 kilometers from  
 inland. It would not be a  
 desirable acquisition for Italy. The  
 eastern Italian frontier would stop  
 north of Fiume, but run northward  
 from just the eastern boundary of Trieste  
 20 or 30 miles Trieste some inland.  
 The Trentino is very important strategically  
 to Italy, & quite Italian. Slovenes  
 have now entered Italy already, round  
 Cividale, but these are quite  
 Italian now. Traces of Slavic speech  
 may be found, however, in the Friuli  
 dialect.

One of the Van Lemmet girls married  
 an Italian officer & went with him  
 to Salernica, but they are now  
 divorced.

He was also in Serbia & Montenegrin in  
 the First Balkan War & entered Scutari with  
 He wanted to be sent to Salernica owing  
 to his (campaigns, but has been put in a  
 Field Ambulance at Foggiano. He is  
 unmarried & a wanderer. His Italian  
 home is at Florence, where some of his  
 relatives live. He has written on  
 tuberculosis & is interested in the disease  
 of children. He is half republican &  
 half amused when speaking of the  
 Dodecanese, etc. he says "Had we an  
 identity of the nationalities, you know!"  
 We lunch with him at Udine,  
 drinking some excellent Asti  
 Spumanti, & take him to a shop at  
 Foggiano in our car.

24/9/17.

Niente.

25/9/17.

My first lot of photos come from  
 Miami. On the whole very good,  
 though I have often too much  
 irrelevant foreground. Register  
 Long argument over effort of  
 M.V. we fire heavily for him.  
 The first publication about 126.

26/9/17  
 Show over adjoining gallery of 105'.

by the Capt commanding, a frank & attractive person, with brown eyes & heart vitality. I like two of his subalterns, one very dinky, the other very clean.

As to pleasing rumors that all British subalterns are leaving Italy. I gather that the V.O. have the wind up about the Turks.

Koussand's practical joke on Nolly last night, during the actual, "Specher so deutsch?"

"Christians" on the mendline with the man & the dark blue sky

27/9/17.

Graham's leave to Venice cancelled orders to be prepared to move at a moment's notice with 3 days' respite rations. Chiffell has resigned writing that we are bound for Egypt. Wild speculation as to destruction, Mesopotamia, Palestine, landings on north Palestine coast, Gulf of Alexandria, Dardanelles again!

I speak to Graham of personal preferences. He is perfectly charming & will speak to me

Colonel Tomarou morning.

28/9/17.

A fine mess! It appears that our W.O. wired to Cadorna "Can you spare any British Batteries?" C, very angry at this, after Dealy's visit & then promising additional help, wired back "Yes, I can spare them all" & gave orders for them all to be pulled out & replaced by Italian. DeLinc-Radcliffe, our representative at Cadorna's H.Q. at Udine, who does not want us to go, is now vainly attempting to get in touch with Cadorna, who has gone off to Rome! Meanwhile most B.I. are pulled out on the road, & Italians have taken their places. It is said that Klenby, who is about to push vigorously on the Palestine Front, has demanded more guns with the least possible delay. But the W.O. have obviously behaved very



tactless to Cadorna, who is probably  
beginning to wish that British military  
assistance ~~with~~ in kind is more.  
trouble than it's worth.

Meanwhile Graham, at my request  
has ~~asked~~ <sup>told</sup> Buzzard ~~whether~~ <sup>what</sup> ~~he~~ <sup>for</sup> ~~he~~ <sup>family</sup>  
reasons I should like to be within  
easy reach of England, & has asked  
but I may, if possible, remain in  
Italy, or, failing this, may be transferred  
to France. Buzzard will raise  
his point at Gradisca this morning  
Everything is, meanwhile, in a state of  
wild uncertainty. <sup>Does</sup> ~~Does~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>mean</sup> ~~mean~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>us</sup> ~~us~~  
English make war.

Interrupted in the middle of our  
meal at 11.30 to be inspected by  
Cappello's Commanding Second Army, who  
looks like an Eastern potentate & a  
is said to want some British  
Batteries in the Second Army.  
Hamilton says on the same point  
still uncertain. We fire 2nd  
to Cappello.

in contrabando, in some extent.  
Dearly too, on their recent visit,  
formed in view that the Italian  
"credit" performed their part of the  
contract" that the British batteries  
were being wasted here.

the story of tactlessness on the  
part of Hamilton, in handling Cadorna,  
who on his part is <sup>evidently</sup> rather Tactful.  
etc." We will send you a lot more  
British batteries, & if you would  
be able to supply us with a number  
of Italian or <sup>other</sup> <sup>fatigue</sup> men, etc."  
"My soldiers are <sup>fatigue</sup> men, but  
I will <sup>send</sup> <sup>you</sup> <sup>some</sup> <sup>more</sup> <sup>British</sup> <sup>batteries</sup> <sup>if</sup> <sup>you</sup> <sup>would</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>able</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>supply</sup> <sup>us</sup> <sup>with</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>number</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>Italian</sup> <sup>or</sup> <sup>other</sup> <sup>fatigue</sup> <sup>men</sup>, <sup>etc.</sup>"  
Graham goes in the afternoon to  
Gradisca for a presentation by the  
Duke of Aosta. 9 & also the Major  
is 2nd silver medal, a mechanical  
award. Let us see what comes  
of it.

is 1 & 2 all for each & one battery  
from 1 & 2 the rest remaining.  
Chama <sup>is</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>best</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>1st</sup> <sup>British</sup> <sup>Army</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>Italy</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>said</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>have</sup> <sup>expressed</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>wish</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>send</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>French</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>also</sup> <sup>said</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>leaving</sup> <sup>Italy</sup> <sup>with</sup> <sup>more</sup> <sup>troops</sup> <sup>than</sup> <sup>before</sup> <sup>with</sup> <sup>Cadorna</sup> <sup>what</sup> <sup>proposals</sup> <sup>direct</sup> <sup>is!</sup>

29/9/17.

Oshorne said yesterday that at the presentation, he felt sorry for Satto, standing there at the head of the detachments for the 16 British batteries he was to have commanded, & whom at least 12 are not to go away.

307 to go, a tin out of our pocket to stay.

Intrigue for transfers from us to them, & conversely. Bozio, in hearing explain about W.O. Wire to Cardoso, says "what's what my say!"

Obviously order to pull out came from Italians. Gaudica knew nothing of it. Hamilton is going home from operation. It is curious that he has been able to postpone it till his prize moment!

30/9/17.

307 to stay after all! order said to come from England. Our tempo is Italy is from uncertain. Clocks back an hour at midnight.  
1/10/17.

Out to O.P. 1. (S Andrea) for 24 hours' duty. Take with me a bottle of Passito, to

show hospitality to Franca but find him gone, so have to drink it myself with help of telephonists. Nothing doing & visibility bad, so read some Venosta. Visits from Italian officers & registrations.

I am rather pleased at the progress of my Italian. Spend evening talking to Bob Latham & G. Milner of 317, whom I congratulate on his articulation of English & Italian. In 316 & 417 it is believed that on departing batteries are going to France & not East.

2/10/17.

Return 10 am. Graham rather nervous over the anniversary of his French wound. Maric says one should tutze Italian officers of approximately the same rank as oneself. Buzzard's confidential on personal contacts of artillery & infantry, "infiltrate" - Italian <sup>change</sup> history. I like it, though the tone is occasionally a little too humorous. The other hand was in party always and at present rockets being in contact in France.

3/10/17.

order to remain in Italy, in present position for winter. Good! Plausible discharges about Beauchamp & the court. I volunteer to fly in an Italian plane. With

make a good passage for the booklet!

4/10/17

Work on winter quarters proceeding.  
 Farewell presentation to French Battalion  
 5/10/17.

Get Pettiti expresses to all ranks  
 his gratification that they are staying  
 under his command.

Get up 4.30. Walk with Coats & Avain  
 to HM 123, Buonacelli, Vitoce, still  
 126. Trenches along Vippacco. T.M.'s

on trenches near river. "infantry"  
 pleasure to see one & confidence in one by  
 their plainest most plain of retuliation.  
 Austrian patrols in the dawn. "Stand to."

Rush to man trenches, ordered  
 excitement. Trenches & <sup>ordered</sup> <sup>bearded</sup> men.  
 The permanency of classical Roman  
 features. Coats looks like the

Japanese. The Austrian who turns  
 away his rifle, runs from him, is  
 fired at & missed by your regiment,  
 (sniping with excitement & eagerness  
 to distinguish himself) & runs back  
 to be shot by his own people.

I with the recruit "anpui" & we  
 smile at each other.

Snipers active. Corporal hit in jaw, with  
 looking straight through cheek hole.

Pluckily sticks <sup>crossly</sup> supported beam trench,  
 half walking & half piggish back, leaving  
 a red trail on duck boards

Two traps, one towards 20, one towards  
 10 yards of Austrian. Talk in winter  
 & by signs. Austrian said to have

Rhaki. Parma Brigade.

Mullin in 2 T.M. positions.

Drunk with Torcans on way back.

Talk to Murray about Italian economy.  
 He looks in English "unhappily present"  
 maybe to hospital with mild  
 dysentery.

6/10/17.

Rainy & cold.

7/10/17.

Cold & damp.

8/10/17.

More my hut. At last secure  
 privacy. Visit by father, key chain,  
 asking after our health with Montzelle.  
 Winter his obviously come now.  
 Graham & I have been with  
 Torcans. He takes a key plan



soldier with a very self confident  
 manner. <sup>but</sup> like him. He  
 is very simple to make sense of <sup>but</sup> <sup>rather</sup>  
 A most handsome & elegant Florentine  
 Nicer, a horse groom, & he is <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>city</sup>, &  
 now attached to 390 S.B., going to Tarant,  
 calls to his motor bike. We sit out <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup>  
 again. He wishes he were "back in the"  
 winter. (He speaks the most  
 perfect English.) This is not Italy. It  
 is called <sup>by</sup> <sup>some</sup> <sup>Italy</sup> <sup>Redenta</sup>, but, <sup>it</sup>  
 the winter weather is like his, it is not  
 worth redeeming. A type. He has  
 the silver medal, but doesn't wear  
 the ice cream.

My talks with Mazzano become increasingly  
 interesting. He is "studying the English". He  
 has never met any before he came to  
 his battery. He has us all pretty well  
 summed up. He sees that I am different  
 from the others. He says, you know the English  
 he knows from books, & from their accounts  
 are a great race, & so must be different  
 from <sup>most</sup> of them he is getting to know.  
 "One English, like the French, & unlike  
 the Italians, always say loudly in the  
 presence of foreigners that <sup>their</sup> <sup>language</sup>  
 are better <sup>than</sup> <sup>others</sup> in little things, like  
 French looks, of the mentality of the

Major Graham & Co. It is all right to say  
 that. The Italians are a funny race, & probably  
 say it too little. But it shows you are really  
 to believe it about everything, or some of the  
 English seem to do.

Graham is a clever man, who knows his  
 work, & has good manners, but is sometimes  
 very rude. He is studying him, however, & knows  
 how to take him. He got on best of all  
 with Major Wint. (At least until he was  
 with Rodriguez on liberation of him &  
 the latitude & with his Italian officer was  
 looked at his gun.  
 Major Wint like to be like the Major, but  
 can't do it. He has the rudeness, but  
 not with the same good manners.  
 Osborne knows some things.

Somerville is only a baby. ~~He~~ Such scholars  
 in Italy keep quiet in the presence of  
 older people, & do not talk about "the  
 French" & "the Italian", when they really  
 know nothing of them. The incident of  
 the highest point of that. I explain  
 the English habit of "pleasantry" looks  
 it is variable.

We keep Italy for 25 out of 50 years of  
 her national life has been under

Very bad man Giolitti. That is why so much has been done wrong. He is a Shrewd fink.

9/10/17.

To seece O.P. (Hill 123) at 10 o'clock. Fine view of Hills 126 & 94. Am proxured to General Petracchi, (name) Parma BDE, a most unpleasant man, (though very agreeable to me) known to his officer as "Tostardi muste". He sneers at them in public. I have two medals with him. One at 11.30 & Franco at 7.30. We feed well. P has several extra courses. He gives me a cup, carefully selecting the best, & brings the end over his own beard candle. His subaltern, <sup>ex-vice de</sup> Mainetti, who holds French military medals, several other nice finks, & a young (name) officer. Mainetti's collegamento, who wears the <sup>same</sup> medal, says his superior is "typer militaire... bristale." Register on <sup>supplied by</sup> post in evening. At 5.30 heavy enemy bombardment of <sup>at</sup> front & support trenches.

& Victoria begins. I receive retaliation on T.M.'s. At 5.40 P reads message by Mainetti of all British battalions open heavy & continuous fire. I read with interest, but grow reluctant. I am in the midst of a half dark register at 6, when further excited message from P, asking if British Battalion have opened fire. He says, he says, an unrecalled British telephone message <sup>shows</sup> an attack to be imminent. Mainetti says it is wildly excited & swears in German at P's "Fire! fire!! fire!!" I push him through to camp. A (b) counter bombardment is now working up. At 6.15 <sup>most</sup> ardit attack, with a <sup>fan-like</sup> machine gun fire & <sup>many</sup> rockets <sup>from our trench</sup> so up calls to barrage. I talk to Harward on line whenever a little before him, & he says all our battalions are firing double vivas. I report some of our wounds going too much right down the hill. Attack is beaten off by snuff & hand grenades. They don't let out our trenches, though some reach our parapets. Fire din ran at 6.45. At 7 P (name) to O.P. Very pleased with our fire. Talking to Harward on phone, asking what the fire may still be imminent. At dinner he tells me that another

At about midday a shell burst under our feet  
striking (or bursting) half back, & small back, & legs  
to a moment in the water it is so, decide not to go to sleep.  
intercepted message says attack will be  
renewed before dawn, after a gas attack.  
Henry King to South about 9 o'clock.  
10/10/17.

But nothing more happens, except a slight  
breeze, T.M.'s, miss and on, report  
at about 4.45. Post on the paper all

Down breaks & its is evident that  
our bombardment has been very destructive,  
trees are knocked to pieces, planks,  
fences, sandbags, bodies anywhere.

Also one halibut in uniform caught  
on enemy wire, and a patrol was  
"forced" to return, but two or three days  
old.

Return to HQ 10 am. hear a report  
in his report from with Graham, and  
says "I have a very pitiful way of  
walking wings." My last report was  
gone on, in hand, to Pettiti, (or  
Genl. My hat fairly comfortable.

Companions hitting your record.  
States King to South after dinner.  
11/10/17.

Niente.

12/10/17.

Man in the Italian "Blacks", among  
whom Cadorna & Poro are very  
prominent. The Cox of Peccori (of

94

Paty du Clam.) After the war they will  
be put down, he says.

In 20 years he thinks there will be  
no Kings, except perhaps in England,  
some will be thrown out with violence,  
es. Spain. Others will retire gracefully,  
es. Savoy. The Pope must  
leave Italy. They suggest Jerusalem, to  
next door to the Chief Rabbi.

The questions of eating off knives, &  
shaving, on which latter he wishes  
to strike with fanatic & clumsy  
words.

It is a wonderfully clear day. It is  
photograph in excellent views beyond  
Cadore. I go with Brad. Salt 2 of  
Zugna for a reconnaissance. The latter  
laughs at my enquiry whether he will  
help to take up land in the Vipacco  
valley rather than return to his  
father's prosperous marble works  
in Montreal after the war.

We go to camp Rupa toward  
Merina, but are shelled by 4.2,  
(shelling spotted) - from in range  
shallow communication trench to

95



bridge over stream at Conca.  
 By the way, trenches deep in mud & water, to  
 the left of Bergams Brigade at  
 Raccogliano Mill. Second day,  
 practically first time English work  
 guide furnished. Another front  
 line established in Aug left fighting,  
 & also lit established on Oct 3rd. Visit  
 caberna, but only 10 days. July  
 bottles, tools & equipment. ~~at~~ Here  
 1 officer & 25 men (Maffey included).  
 One sentry was tied to the door of  
 his dug out. His legs were blown  
 away by the 1st bombardment, but  
 nothing was done about him. His  
 dead body now lies in the open  
 behind the new 1st line. I come  
 away with an Austrian club &  
 a postcard written by a dead Maffey.  
 I visit also a T.M. Battery, Queen  
 Despatches machine gunners. I  
 note & admire the quality of work  
 of <sup>men</sup> under clothes, <sup>LF</sup> <sup>is not</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>line</sup>.  
 way back visit Merna ~~at~~ about 1000.  
 Batt for does a French haircut.

Prizia (U.F!) & delays. I am  
 afraid this place was all stone.  
 At Prestanti visit an Italian  
 canteen and buy 2 bottles of  
 white wine. I give one to  
 my guide & send him back  
 with it to Raccogliano. The  
 other I drink with books, Baltz  
 Zalyua. We then see Italian  
 149 ~~gun~~ (about 6") thru (Vickers,  
 Terni-Spezia), & examine  
 work. It turns out that the  
 baby to my old Capt Sirocco,  
 wife whom I drink some beer with  
 before returning. Get home about  
 5 o'clock, group having just  
 proposed to send out a search  
 party for me!

13/10/17.

Graham invites me to cooperate  
 in making out a mock report  
 on 307's 2 officers who spent  
 the night on 126, (with out any  
 military object, as he truly  
 says -) This is topically pressing  
 & we send it in to the group.

I wonder whether it will be  
thought funny or undisciplined!  
Anger of with Miller, not I, in  
the latter case.

Death's Head's Report on the  
attack of the 9<sup>th</sup> on Hill 126 is  
sent to us. It looks a  
much bigger attack was intended,  
but was so smashed by our  
fire that only 2 companies  
could get over. It says it's  
clear that they had been very  
heavily dosed with mustard  
spirits.

14/10/17.

Very heavy rain. Dry out, but it  
isn't very rainproof. ~~to~~ Graham  
obtains Buzzard's agreement to speak  
leaves Mayne. This will benefit us  
all by bringing us each a step nearer  
9 days. Buzzard has a presentiment  
that he will be killed on his front.

15/10/17.

Niente.

16/10/17.

No O.P. 1 to am. Wet & dull; but

rain not beating in. Saxeui from  
Florence. A funny little man whom I  
saw to in person by a flow of language  
about the future. He says he is  
compressed spring in waiting. After  
has always in appearance. I want to  
write a psychological sketch, on his  
roused from drawing by distant  
whistles. It turns out only a <sup>peace</sup> ~~peace~~ <sup>plan</sup>  
by the Italian field batteries.  
Entertain at night on a little bus (the  
rats here eat my porridge!)  
at Macquarrie in office, how hot  
to bring 6 sleep. in Friar's Church,  
without Richardson's word, & hence,  
he says, without a rest.

17/10/17.

Return to Valley 2 to sleep.

18/10/17.

Tuscans & "Reticolata" to lunch.  
Quite successful & but English lesson  
is very desirable! (I note  
how my father is really very  
typical of English <sup>mental</sup> ~~mentality~~ <sup>mentality</sup>)

19/10/17.

A gloriously bright morning. Philip Baker  
arrives at the by chance in the

affectionate - very affectionate & charming.  
He's now at Gorizia. S. Young, who  
has his right leg off above the knee,  
says he'd "still be able to manage  
the matter here, but not anything  
difficult." P.P.B. & I manage to meet  
again shortly. Graham, as in my case, having little  
of what he's doing again.

We fire rapidly but, under duress.  
We have official information now a  
German division is on this front.

P.P.B. says a better push than the  
previous one is coming in a week or two  
on the Sainsizza Plateau.  
20/10/17.

Enemy shelling in the morning. Nothing  
very near. But a lot of shells come  
over. Suffered last morning  
Germans. Intelligence report of 10  
many reports German infantry &  
artillery detained at Lubiana at  
beginning of Oct. Also 1000 prisoners  
from the Russian to the front  
since beginning of Sept. in  
any case there has been an increase  
of enemy activity lately (at least  
1 week, since defensive.)

and it rained very heavily. Several  
dugouts are flooded beyond repair.  
Others 2 or 3 have water from between  
corn huts for an hour & a half.  
The <sup>water</sup> structure above ground, but it  
be rapidly made by men & labour.  
Evidence that Sainsizza concentration  
reports yesterday is now off.  
Last night both sides had the  
wind up. One fire at 9 pm. or  
Kubiacchi fire (sent to Montebianco, was  
selecting an attack sent out  
Montebianco to repeat it. (in addition  
to Artillery reply.) This made the  
Italian expect an attack, but nothing  
happened.

Typical official fanchein on  
"ice cream medals" this is now forbidden  
to be given <sup>to the soldier</sup> on the ground that British  
troops on other fronts are entitled to  
the military service ribbon.  
Italians have already presented him  
rather to us, & his <sup>own</sup> medals from have  
been all killed up. The French  
Katterin here went away wearing medals,  
& Genl Radcliffe at Udine, who has been  
wearing his for many months, has had



to take it down. A typical Saxon  
 affront to Latinism. Reid, English  
 person, normally a most subservient  
 & quiet man. Says the Italian will  
 work on uninvited & unutil people. In  
 fact, they work his already, on immense  
 other fronts.

Italian gestures. Their conventional  
 nature. Spectacle, curious to some  
 eyes of Italian. Telephone speaking  
 with one hand ornamented with jewelry  
 in the South especially, one "talks with  
 his hand."

In the shellings his morning work  
 H.Q. had one every half hour. One  
 hit the office, latrine, & demolished an  
 expensive seat brought out from Wood  
 (from England)! When a shell hits a latrine,  
 it might be better to have a latrine  
 22. who have had a premature.

My detachment's dry out. In the  
 boat, begin to leak over the men had  
 we put them out a hut for the night.  
 One Vi phacco, after riding rapidly to  
 in reaching to flood in all out, July 18".  
 It was, however. Night seeing several  
 Italian bridges ~~in~~ upstream, Menna  
 Racco Piana, etc. (Sawyer is in

in <sup>deliberate</sup> a stream, deliberately flanked  
 substituted by the Austrians. Menna by all  
 Italian. Junendas, unobscure & joyful, of  
 Czechs at Jelenik, when the large  
 northern flank had been <sup>ready</sup> ~~found~~. My own  
 working team in work containing saying  
 "Siamo Czech! Siamo Czech!" that it  
 was for an error to suffer with us with  
 Junenda for no reason at all, if one really  
 advances towards them French in normal  
 times & in the last 2 days. My hats  
 mostly German officers, ~~the~~ Czech that, with  
 his resolve.)

21/10/17.

22 had 1 man seriously injured & 5  
 slightly. Cause still unexplained,  
 & always will be.

to Palmanova with Graham to go  
 stand & clothing. Kelt having about  
 to several hours & finally inspected  
 by various Italian Generals.

Pouge, the Austrian 12" howitzer, shells  
 all day at intervals. That was the  
 reason is. An unpleasant beast, who  
 wants smothering!

So I pass to range ~~now~~ a yard  
 from the river in Fuma, a magnificent  
 body of men, none under about 5 ft 11".  
 Italian Arditi have fewer casualties  
 than ordinary infantry battalions, owing to  
 the fact that <sup>they</sup> are exceptionally efficient

in attack, (2) but they only come up  
in order to attack, & do not man trenches.  
They have a special ration, & other  
privileges, & on their arms A.V., "à la  
valoise." I am not so sure on it was  
but they are a bad institution, militarily  
& morally.

22/10/17.

It is very evident that a number of new  
(or) howitzers, 12" & 15" have appeared  
behind the Austrian lines. There will  
be part of the 1000 gun front East. To  
listen to their shells whistling over  
our head like a swarm of bees &  
then, haphazardly distant deep crashes on  
behalf of us is to realize most  
vividly the immediate military  
effects of the Russian disorganization.  
At 11 pm., when half asleep, roused  
with warning to have respirators ready  
& be prepared to open fire at shortest  
notice. Sit up till

23/10/17.

2 am., but nothing happens.

We hear that a big Austrian attack  
was expected last night & may come  
tonight. We receive orders to  
clean up old position on S. Michele, in  
case of necessity. This means rather  
panic stricken, but Torcani's Battery

next door have received the same  
orders. It will be annoying if  
we have to leave this position but  
I note an atmosphere tinged with  
apprehension.

24/10/17.

A perfectly Moody day! Woken at 5.45  
am. Gas alert. S.A. off at 6.45 &  
on again at 7. Begin firing 7.10 & continue  
all day, with most intervals. At about  
2 there had been an exceptionally heavy  
bombardment. Bombardment pretty heavy  
on both sides all through last night &  
all today, till evening. Austrian attack  
twice on broad front, once after 9 am. &  
again in afternoon. On latter occasion  
our heavy replied. Zone of attack at  
least from V. Halle to Fanti, perhaps  
extended at both ends.

Warnings received at about 9 that Austrians  
will probably shell batteries for 4 hours  
with gas shells, beginning with irritant &  
going on to poison. Hence gas alert  
continued & strained listening for soft  
bursts. On top of this heavy rain  
all day. Wind: E. Every 1/2 wet &  
drifting. <sup>8 am. out of the bottom on hill</sup> At any rate this is a very

to gas. During gas alert one gets heavy rain, high winds & loud explosion of enemy shells! Series of accidents on No 4 gun, coming into action after a rest at 6:30 pm, - tank of cartridges near Nelson in by blast & change of electric light out of working order, another broken a third in hands & man who doesn't know what to do with it, by mistake, all shells at lockhouse, after crew jumping out of its opening, lanyard temporarily left in mud! But all these difficulties are over in a few minutes.

Disturbed by series of soft bursts between 9 & 10 pm, but certainly with Torran's battery next door are not gas, not near enough to be dangerous. Arrangements for mutual alarms.

At midnight (11.15 pm), preparing to sleep still at for about 1 hour the wind rising again & the telephonists, baling their dig out. We are ready

up a "desultory fire" all night to hamper further attempts at attacks. Graham, who was out early this morning, 5 am, on a reconnaissance to Meana, & was somewhat shelled on the way, shows signs of great weariness.

25/10/17.

The day is at least fine - rather sunny. A little firing but not much, between 7 am & 2 pm. Planes over continually, flying very low, about twenty of them in the course of the morning. They attack one of our observation balloons, which rapidly descend on their approach! One of their planes also brought down by our a/c guns. Whenever we shell Meandria, they come over. They have evidently something they want to talk. Shame, lack of O.P. reconnaissance, says that Brigata Torino, in the line, seem very heavy & unreliable. They sent up a red rocket last night, by mistake of a very light & hunched our artillery held their fire for (information) Staffily. Brigata Lecce have been brought up in support, - a very good (my also said we were shortly about to hitting them from within, as they were doubtless)



Miguel's heavy (lets) ditched just  
 at the top of our road in full view of  
 464, at 10.30. This time he  
 is being shelled by 5.9's, 2 com  
 Cadyhorn is all but hit. Shelling of  
 bricks, <sup>sparks of cables</sup> <sup>mercury</sup> etc etc high in  
 the air. Graham + a party land  
 the heavy under a bush, <sup>under cover</sup>  
 camouflage. The idiotic <sup>shelling</sup>  
 once in 5 minutes, is continued  
 by strategic retreats after each 4-  
 minute. Graham hit on the  
 hand by a shell of <sup>flint</sup> <sup>stone</sup> which  
 draws blood but no worse.  
 About 2 by bombardment works up  
 again. <sup>Volkovna + Parti</sup> of  
 5 or 6 smoked flame. We fire  
 clear on 2 or 3 with 3 flares. In 4<sup>th</sup>  
 firing on two different targets alternately,  
 with different charges!  
 Gun alert again. This goes on till  
 dusk. Several sets of Cassin's  
 come in to be worked out, a last  
 labor: <sup>after</sup> More planes come  
 over: one after another, a most  
 unusual thing. Flying very low, & this

much shelled by a.a. batteries, &  
 miss. (over the road). our planes  
 are being 7000 ft (long have gone north)  
 order to 316 + 315 to move back to  
 reserve positions <sup>but</sup> just, (can't be  
 horses, (all tracks gone north  
 indistinctly.) This looks rather peculiar!  
 Graham shows signs of collapse, (I am  
 told he did the same in the last offensive.)  
 with things ending on leave, I shall  
 have to ~~run~~ run the battery, if  
 he feels <sup>it</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>well</sup>, until some stop gap  
 is sent.

Many rockets go up in the early evening  
 from Volkovna + Parti, including some  
 red (I think white) & white. Later a  
 number of red, white & blue. Things  
 die down about 7 pm.

An Italian officer, whose battery used to  
 be here, but has moved <sup>(probably northward)</sup>  
 returns after 5 days' <sup>near Paderborn</sup> <sup>course</sup> & in film  
 dinner by us. From his lips I see that  
 a strong Austrian offensive by mountain  
<sup>offensive</sup> <sup>of the 23rd</sup> to north of Mairiazza.

Either the attacks here are only  
 holding attacks, or the attack north  
 is faint & the real thing is elsewhere.  
 Anyhow, it is their last <sup>best</sup> <sup>distant</sup> <sup>best</sup>  
 day!

26/10/17.

1 Km in just after midnight. This still a  
 line in front of our main position. A.H. 12  
 miles lies along to Viffalco, just  
 behind the trees. It is damply cold.  
 It sounds a like pretty quiet all along the  
 front.

A number of mortar. 2. 3. 5 am. for alarm.  
 Mortar was till 4. Firing at  
 5 till 6 and again from 7-15  
 onwards. Repairs were brought  
 to us quickly. I think we a great  
 mistake.

Later. more forward on 315 & 316  
 were pulled out last night would be  
 in action till tomorrow. Last hour  
 of that is a rush of Krupp 2 at  
 bottom hill at Petcaus. These  
 brought from the Italian. Tracked  
 all north. These straining their  
 backs out trying to pull a 12" mortar  
 up the same hill.

315 & 316 mortar have lost their  
 gun in a north retreat, but  
 hardly we. It seems to be feared  
 that the two bridges across the  
 Viffalco river for.  
 Today we are shelled heavily

with all sorts of stuff, from 15"  
 downwards, especially the left  
 section in the afternoon. My luck  
 marvellous but we have only one  
 man slightly wounded. These  
 boys are wonderful. Plans are  
 being all ready. The Italian have  
 just lost the air supremacy in  
 this sector, their planes probably  
 all gone north. 22 evening  
 piloted over between day break  
 & 4 pm. Some have above  
 & range guns. Detachments  
 several times but under cover  
 & been firing with shells.  
 They were seen with bombs  
 they were tried in the area  
 of south from a 9-65" we  
 in this, & several under fire,  
 quite intense. We have to  
 fire hard at most of today,  
 especially afternoon evening.  
 New force prepared by Thomas  
 2 of men. Reliefs brought of  
 for guns in case 24 men.  
 It is better, but very tired &  
 tired & must carefully be.

Smiths rather than only at me  
 whenever our eyes meet. He  
 me, in a track, to follow &  
 back get the men up & back  
 from him. He cannot  
 leave L.P. I have to stand  
 in the dark to carry out his  
 errand, & I am ~~not~~ very  
 near weeping (I just wet eyes)  
 at these pummel of ours.  
 one especially, was by him  
 lately to the front line, says  
 to reply "well, Sir, we were  
 looking of the boys in the front  
 line today." (O'Brien 11/24!)  
 And well they might. There has  
 been a little bombardment.  
 At night we lose Fanti 393  
 & fire on them.

Rumours & denial from the  
 north. M. Nero & Capretto  
 lost? Every morning  
 four used for 4 hours  
 against water in Cadore.  
 Italian marks only last  
 1 1/2 hours, & each man

only. Cannon one.  
 Vitali. When Mike was blown  
 up in Pec today, is being  
 today. I saw all his  
 Mike before going up in the air  
 in a cloud of smoke, things  
 in the air!

27/10/17.

Rumours rather bad. E. E. E.  
 advance to the north stated to be  
 considerable & a bid. All batteries  
 (K. 122) is back tonight at Villa  
 Villa behind Gradisca of duty on  
 another part of the front. The only  
 north.

Today the sun is shining, & the  
 Italian planes on both sectors have  
 remained common and of the air.  
 I have put it on record once  
 more that I am proud to  
 fight in defence of Italy. I repeat  
 that "Dying here is not death;  
 it is flying into the dawn."<sup>11</sup>



if I die in & for Italy, I would like  
~~to have~~ to have had my death had  
 some something for Anglo-Italian  
 sympathy & understanding. Anything  
 that I may have written that is  
 publishable, in my wife's judgment, I  
 would like published, also in an  
 Italian translation, in order  
 that Italians may know how I loved  
 their country & themselves.

Graham goes down to front Mt. in  
 early afternoon. Raps up & says  
 that 2 guns are to be pulled out at  
 once. No. 2 is to be ~~different~~ <sup>different</sup> ~~rate of fire~~  
 No. 4 is now firing on 2 <sup>different</sup> targets with  
 successive sounds. Graham comes back  
 by calls men to attention & tells them that  
 Italians have had a bad reverse at  
 North, that we are taking out a firing  
 back. One gun No. 2, is to remain  
 in action till the last. He tells me  
 that the Austrians are almost in  
 Cividale. Tractors are to come  
 & take away stores in the evening.  
 The supply of tractors is limited &  
 uncertain - doubtful if enough will  
 come in time. One more Air

Army is retreating. We ~~are~~ 3 ~~Heavy~~  
 Batteries (302, 307, 317) are practically  
 the only 3 Medium & Heavy Batteries  
 left on this bit of front.

Italian Batteries & infantry in retreat all  
 afternoon & evening through Pec, some of  
 the infantry very demoralized, having  
 no ammunition or equipment. Some  
 men had a 15" mortar in front of  
 the trench on Red Locomotive in setting on  
 the road, full of courage & laughter.

At the dark corner on, ammunition  
 dumps begin to go up, exploding, the  
 Italian deliberately firing them. Italian  
 batteries throw the remains of their  
 ammunition in the river & pull out & away  
 about 6.30. We get the order to

destroy all ammunition to be within  
 the next minute, & what is left of  
 our ammunition goes to the Vifaccio!  
 But No. 2 gun goes on firing. So  
 does one gun from 307 up in the village  
 (No. 317) away up at Prufa. They  
 are in the greatest danger of us since  
 about 7 am. First tractor comes,  
 & takes away No. 1 gun.

Enemy having plans on a lot, one  
 comes in that is to us & then down  
 the Vallone, & great clouds of black

lesson make leaf of beneath her  
 tracks. why didn't the boys shell  
 the village where we are all  
 waiting about for our <sup>supply of ammunition, 1/2 shell!</sup> transport. why  
 don't they shell the Pruthia road,  
 blocked with the traffic? Evidently  
 there are no German here! sun  
 lost long belts of about 9 p.m.  
 with our last p.m. 307 are still  
 waiting for 2 hours. After the last  
 British fire has ceased fire, there  
 was for five minutes or so, an  
 eerie stillness, as though all our  
 artillery had gone, & their were  
 holding it's fire. And then  
 an Italian Field Battery opened  
 again, to us report of Dec. For our  
 our hour now I had been expecting  
 minute by minute, to see their infantry  
 come marching along in mad holler  
 in the dusk, <sup>with</sup> ~~forward~~ on retreat.  
 But they did not come!  
 All having gone, but her not been  
 destroyed, taken upon staff & dismounted  
 rifles, & we march out, he & the  
 dismounted heavy. It's annoying  
 to leave all these good positions &

12<sup>30</sup> <sup>many</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>have</sup> <sup>been</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>top</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>Peteanu</sup> <sup>where</sup> <sup>we</sup> <sup>had</sup> <sup>gone</sup>  
 N was lost in retreat. <sup>Found by falling</sup>  
 by Dec. took up 307' <sup>is</sup> <sup>just</sup> <sup>&</sup> <sup>found</sup> <sup>him</sup>  
 wooden banana box, which we could have  
 shot such a pleasant winter! Old  
 Natale chatters up in German, on one  
 entrance "You German boys, we shall  
 soon be back again." But I can  
 not so sure! (Mortar stops behind. 1/2 hour  
 after we're gone, by fire <sup>was</sup> <sup>heard</sup> <sup>with</sup>  
 they shell in <sup>and</sup> <sup>little</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>wood</sup> <sup>was</sup>  
<sup>M. G. snipers left</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>area</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>Pruthia</sup> <sup>river</sup>  
 not very much. <sup>We</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>with</sup> <sup>the</sup>  
 Villa Villa <sup>in</sup> <sup>range</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>Fana</sup> <sup>&</sup> <sup>Fana</sup>  
 Gradisca, both blazing in the  
 night. Villages everywhere have  
 been set alight by the Italian  
 retreating, in addition to ~~the~~  
 dumps. The whole country is  
 blazing and exploding. It begins  
 to rain, but that makes no difference  
 to the burning. <sup>We</sup> <sup>reach</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>V.V.</sup>  
 about 11.30 p.m. It was to have  
 been a rendezvous, but there is  
 no one there. Only rain, we  
 find our way into an empty house  
 about midnight & know ourselves  
 down on the floor to sleep.

28/10/17.

After an hour's sleep we were hurriedly  
 wakened. The Italians want to burn the  
 house, & Corporal Zatsch has pointed  
 other batteries in a house half a mile  
 away. In hurry ruin we go off

After the hour, all the best places taken  
 everyone lying on floors, pools of water  
 everywhere. Various officials <sup>of course</sup>  
 but none knowing anything. I slept  
 another 3/4 hour. Then roused again &  
 march on to Palmanova. We started  
 still raining. Roads blocked with holes  
 including our guns. I began to feel  
 want of sleep. Reached P about 7 am.  
 Rendezvous in Piazza, where meet  
 Harward. Just as we ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~about~~  
 lying at fire to the town. Sheets of  
 black smoke here over our heads in  
 many spots. Flaming war round  
 houses I had <sup>known</sup> ~~known~~. <sup>Provisional</sup>  
 clouds of smoke & cold wind, wet men further  
 in shelter of dry moat round town.  
 Nothing heard or seen of our gun. The  
 stream of refugees, with their little  
 carts, or <sup>trucks</sup> ~~trucks~~ through the mud  
 with bundles, became <sup>harder</sup> ~~harder~~ & more  
 rampant. Passing Versa I  
 went into <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>old</sup> ~~old~~ <sup>Kilme</sup> ~~mass~~, &  
 found a bottle of vinegar, with <sup>a</sup>  
 moment I mistook <sup>for</sup> ~~for~~ <sup>Vlad</sup>, & a  
 little milk with which I <sup>threw</sup> ~~threw~~  
<sup>Italian</sup> ~~Italian~~ <sup>ordnance</sup> ~~ordnance~~ <sup>was</sup>  
 clearing out everything. So too in

Palmanova before ten hours, so our  
 Cavalry had to be sent to ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~them~~.  
 Many Italian infantry lay <sup>disorganized</sup>  
 with blood stains on their faces to be  
 leading the foot, leading to <sup>carry out</sup>  
 trees' <sup>policy</sup> "Nassone in fine <sup>see</sup>  
 Curt' <sup>in</sup> <sup>memo</sup>". At Palmanova  
 I sleep on horn or <sup>top</sup> ~~top~~ just inside  
 the arch, write the <sup>hour</sup> ~~hour~~ <sup>trains</sup>. Then  
 we are <sup>evacuated</sup> ~~evacuated~~ on. We <sup>join</sup> ~~join~~ <sup>up</sup> ~~up~~ <sup>the</sup>  
<sup>street</sup>. No one knows <sup>where</sup> ~~where~~ <sup>we</sup> ~~we~~ <sup>are</sup>. The  
 men have no ration except  
 a little bread requisitioned at P.  
 It is <sup>said</sup> ~~said~~ <sup>we</sup> ~~we~~ <sup>go</sup> ~~go~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>Latisana</sup>, no  
 means for <sup>our</sup> ~~our~~ <sup>living</sup>. It <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>once</sup>  
 more <sup>present</sup> ~~present~~ <sup>with</sup> ~~with <sup>rain</sup> & <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>roads</sup>  
 are blocked. We <sup>proceed</sup> ~~proceed~~ <sup>slowly</sup>.  
 We reach <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~a <sup>mile</sup> ~~mile~~ <sup>or</sup> ~~or~~ <sup>two</sup>, <sup>which</sup>  
 said to be "a strategic point", &  
 west of the <sup>guns</sup>. <sup>Down</sup> ~~down~~ <sup>on</sup>  
<sup>standing</sup> ~~standing~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>creases</sup>. I personally  
 touch the bedrock of <sup>physical</sup>  
 misery, because <sup>there</sup> ~~there~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>nothing</sup> ~~nothing <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>do</sup>.  
 I: so many are <sup>there</sup>, <sup>my</sup> ~~my~~ <sup>visions</sup>,  
 so <sup>that</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>I</sup> ~~I <sup>can</sup> ~~can <sup>take</sup> ~~take <sup>no</sup> ~~no <sup>decisions</sup>.  
 There <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>2</sup> ~~2~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>one</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>place</sup> ~~place <sup>in</sup>  
<sup>front</sup> ~~front~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the <sup>city</sup>, <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>city</sup>,  
 in a wonderful degree, <sup>between</sup>  
 in <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>best</sup> ~~best <sup>of</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>home</sup> & I shall~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~



occupy them. It is now about 4 km.  
 We proceed slowly. I sleep much.  
 We were to have had a rendezvous at  
 Foglic(?) & natives to be distributed.  
 None & no natives are there.  
 Kurrend is brought to have taken  
 the wrong road. The enemy are  
 said to be marching at night  
 to turn road, & the chances seem  
 in favour of our being cut off. It  
 is agreed that to resist would be  
 futile. We calculate on our probable  
 treatment as prisoners. An  
 Italian doctor, beside him self, the  
 son etc. He is left with  
 severely wounded cases without  
 any food, necessitating a transfusion.  
 That we have only one line of  
 defence we know & try to  
 have something sent back from S. Giorgio  
 di Nogaro.

know at S. Giorgio about 9 miles.  
 Let out of our unit. Stragglers  
 coming in from dismounted units.  
 I heard how to return in a wide  
 archway, & in the ground floor half of  
 a hospital. There are wounded  
 apparently abandoned, crying for water.

but there are evacuated in Italian  
 by our own & the Italian Red Cross.  
 We try to a train from there, but in  
 vain. Ljubljana is said to be  
 6 kilometers. It is in fact more than  
 20. It is on the Tadjik front, once  
 necessary, this then is momentary  
 safety. One must pass on as  
 soon as possible. Inhabitants ask  
 me whether when the Germans are  
 coming. "This is my house" one man  
 replies, and I must have to leave  
 everything if I go away. That I cannot  
 stay.... I find drinking water for a  
 half in the main street. I fill ten  
 water bottles of several sleeping men. That  
 a white Red X driver. A large lot, then  
 being a number of cars to evacuate  
 the hospital. He will take on some  
 of our most serious cases. He shows  
 me a large box of Calcein medicine,  
 which I distribute to our men, who  
 are very hungry. I find that  
 to be without sleep is a serious  
 matter. To be without food a  
 trifling comparison.

29/10/17.

Put eight or nine of our men to sleep in

a med adjoining <sup>the road</sup> intended  
to put them on <sup>from</sup> <sup>but</sup> when the  
the depth of <sup>the</sup> <sup>road</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>com.</sup>  
& Somerville with 2 <sup>men</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>used</sup> <sup>for</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>road</sup> <sup>work</sup>  
one of 315' <sup>men</sup> <sup>send</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>same</sup>

on Q.M.S. <sup>2</sup> <sup>men</sup> <sup>with</sup> <sup>ration</sup> <sup>&</sup> <sup>some</sup>  
<sup>men</sup> <sup>&</sup> <sup>Somerville</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>the</sup>  
<sup>road</sup>. <sup>Stay</sup> <sup>behind</sup> <sup>with</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>men</sup>  
<sup>the</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>men</sup>. <sup>All</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>one</sup> <sup>tract</sup>

with a rotten accumulator. <sup>Wants</sup>  
<sup>continuous</sup> <sup>working</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>an</sup> <sup>accumulator</sup>. <sup>I</sup>  
<sup>have</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>silence</sup> <sup>&</sup> <sup>just</sup> <sup>made</sup> <sup>healy</sup>  
<sup>is</sup> <sup>exhausting</sup> <sup>myself</sup> <sup>&</sup> <sup>all</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>time</sup>  
<sup>including</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>men</sup>. <sup>We</sup> <sup>are</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>road</sup>

sent a <sup>man</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>look</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>S. Giorgio</sup>  
<sup>cross</sup> <sup>road</sup>. <sup>Here</sup> <sup>we</sup> <sup>wait</sup> <sup>several</sup>  
<sup>hours</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>down</sup>. <sup>The</sup> <sup>men</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>the</sup>

<sup>from</sup> <sup>have</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>few</sup> <sup>ration</sup>, <sup>including</sup> <sup>a</sup>  
<sup>little</sup> <sup>tea</sup>. <sup>There</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>man</sup> <sup>holding</sup>  
<sup>the</sup> <sup>road</sup> <sup>behind</sup> <sup>us</sup>.

<sup>about</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>men</sup>. <sup>By</sup> <sup>being</sup> <sup>up</sup> <sup>from</sup>  
<sup>about</sup> <sup>half</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>mile</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>front</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>us</sup>,  
<sup>at</sup> <sup>first</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>im</sup> <sup>part</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>us</sup>,  
<sup>common</sup> <sup>benefit</sup> <sup>deliberately</sup>, <sup>an</sup> <sup>Italian</sup>  
<sup>mile</sup>. <sup>I</sup> <sup>let</sup> <sup>our</sup> <sup>men</sup> <sup>work</sup>.  
<sup>It</sup> <sup>continues</sup> <sup>working</sup> <sup>well</sup> <sup>for</sup> <sup>about</sup>  
<sup>miles</sup>. <sup>Men</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>tract</sup> <sup>etc.</sup>

affair on the <sup>7</sup> <sup>men</sup> <sup>Rinaldi</sup> <sup>Rinaldo</sup> <sup>was</sup>  
<sup>is</sup> <sup>doing</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>tract</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>near</sup>. <sup>He</sup> <sup>refers</sup> <sup>to</sup>  
<sup>damage</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>first</sup> <sup>time</sup>, <sup>or</sup> <sup>subsequently</sup> <sup>after</sup>  
<sup>5</sup> <sup>days</sup>. <sup>He</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>known</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>work</sup>

<sup>with</sup> <sup>one</sup> <sup>with</sup> <sup>confidence</sup>, <sup>a</sup> <sup>very</sup> <sup>skilled</sup>  
<sup>mechanic</sup>. <sup>At</sup> <sup>last</sup> <sup>he</sup> <sup>has</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>pass</sup>  
<sup>us</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>go</sup> <sup>on</sup>!

<sup>Plans</sup> <sup>by</sup> <sup>our</sup>, <sup>&</sup> <sup>do</sup> <sup>some</sup> <sup>work</sup>.  
<sup>once</sup> <sup>we</sup> <sup>reach</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>station</sup> <sup>again</sup>, <sup>we</sup>  
<sup>more</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>enemy</sup> <sup>than</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>win</sup> <sup>the</sup>  
<sup>chance</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>getting</sup> <sup>it</sup> <sup>in</sup>. <sup>The</sup> <sup>tract</sup>

<sup>is</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>Kenille</sup> <sup>machine</sup>. <sup>Finally</sup> <sup>when</sup> <sup>it</sup>  
<sup>breaks</sup> <sup>down</sup> <sup>we</sup> <sup>have</sup> <sup>no</sup> <sup>new</sup>  
<sup>accumulator</sup>, <sup>we</sup> <sup>have</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>unhook</sup> <sup>&</sup>  
<sup>attach</sup> <sup>drag</sup> <sup>rope</sup> <sup>&</sup> <sup>hook</sup> <sup>it</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>start</sup>

<sup>her</sup>, <sup>&</sup> <sup>then</sup> <sup>back</sup> <sup>her</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>start</sup>  
<sup>limbs</sup> <sup>up</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>few</sup> <sup>feet</sup>. <sup>We</sup> <sup>do</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>know</sup>  
<sup>what</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>cause</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>trouble</sup> <sup>is</sup>,  
<sup>but</sup> <sup>it</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>very</sup> <sup>laborious</sup>. <sup>The</sup> <sup>tract</sup>

<sup>last</sup> <sup>time</sup> <sup>it</sup> <sup>doesn't</sup> <sup>work</sup>. <sup>We</sup> <sup>can</sup>  
<sup>strike</sup> <sup>it</sup> <sup>down</sup> <sup>if</sup> <sup>we</sup> <sup>can't</sup> <sup>get</sup> <sup>it</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>work</sup>.  
<sup>about</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>men</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>road</sup> <sup>behind</sup> <sup>us</sup>.

<sup>about</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>men</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>road</sup> <sup>behind</sup> <sup>us</sup>.  
<sup>Working</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>road</sup> <sup>behind</sup> <sup>us</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>very</sup> <sup>laborious</sup>.  
<sup>confusion</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>reigning</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>camp</sup>.  
<sup>men</sup> <sup>with</sup> <sup>their</sup> <sup>cars</sup>, <sup>&</sup> <sup>clothes</sup>, <sup>&</sup>  
<sup>blankets</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>canaries</sup>.

<sup>Italian</sup> <sup>Colonel</sup> <sup>Field</sup> <sup>Artillery</sup>, <sup>etc.</sup>

himself, resting about with anxious  
 wrinkles, bottled red wine, waving it  
 at the head of civilians, driving  
 their carts off down a side track.  
 His one object to let Field (see  
 his name). He turned off also left  
 Demola, was with military on a horse  
 among civilian carts. (Went left  
 in a minute.) I approach his  
 unprovoked man & ask for a tractor.  
 He waves his arm, shows no civility  
 or comprehension, & I scream "Vando  
 Via! Vando Via!" But in Latin  
 races, follow a line of order through  
 works of external communication & confusion  
 & in 5 minutes Demola comes up  
 & tells me his (what has ordered  
 him to drag on tractors & fuses.

We then pass his train.  
 Demola's tractor.

1 of Demola's heavy gun  
 on tractor (under)

3 British Markies.

[Let me not here forget to mention  
 the one fine Italian woman was,  
 having neither tractor nor horse,  
 (the Italian's favor her presence)

I understand & hear about taking them, dropped  
 their beloved <sup>but poor very</sup> pieces from these lanes  
 to Palmanova & beyond with their  
 own things, lace curtains, & white robes,  
 to the ~~best~~ best of "Spora!  
 Spora!" From Palmanova new hunting  
 parties were put on, & they went forward  
 to Latisana.

Let me not forget either the ~~the~~  
 march of Graham & his postmen <sup>disinfectants</sup>  
 party. After I left them at  
 the "Strategie" building outside  
 Palmanova, & within three days  
 would be in, (as in Latisana I was  
 sleeping in the Kuffel coach,  
 they marched to Latisana,  
 without food for 48 hours & with  
 only some 3 hours sleep in  
 3 days halts. They were magnificent  
 but they were utterly done. Graham  
 himself must done of all, & I did see  
 afterward how it made him easy  
 to watch - little to know, holding  
 a bag & saying "Pack up  
 pack up  
 Pack up in your old hit bag."  
 From Latisana they went <sup>the retreat</sup> <sup>to</sup> Treviso. <sup>from</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>area</sup> <sup>was</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>his</sup> <sup>own</sup> <sup>bag</sup>.  
 [He then went to Treviso.]



Demetrius Frachis dreams in wall.  
 Giuseppe Murrano. Some displaced  
 & being young Italian infantry been  
 had to be out of the front, &  
 how the war is over, as it seems  
 to them. "Avanti, militari!"  
 this says to us. "Quest'è una punizione  
 ben merita." "Speriamo... in  
 amore Saryano." ~~What~~ what  
 about Trieste was! "pena  
 l'ultima, as long as it had been a  
 stable task imposed on unwilling  
 Italy by foreign imperialists  
 would give things Murrano, plus  
 Orngai. The town is bombed, the  
 church bells ring, the inhabitants  
 stare at the sky & women weep.  
 The stream of refugees thickens  
 on the roads. Shops & houses are  
 being looted by infantry & rapplers.  
 We go slowly on. I ride part of the  
 way with Demetrius in his car.  
 We have abandoned our. I have  
 a little money, which we have  
 nowhere to carry.

Night falls & we are still 8 or 9 kilometers  
 north of Latisana. The traffic block  
 grows worse & worse. Young boys  
 had a few Carabinieri to control  
 the traffic on these roads. As it is,  
 there is no one to initiate. And  
 no one seems to care. We stop  
 1 hour at a time, making maybe  
 miles. Traffic is long deep on the  
 road. All pointing the same way.  
 30/10/17. (Shell dumps firing up like a  
 heavy bombardment, "dum-pum!")  
 In the small hours, I get sick  
 of this block & walk on ahead  
 to see if nothing can be done to  
 make things on. I meet Bosio.  
 He says they have stopped all traffic  
 along the road for 3 hours, in order to let  
 traffic from the north get on, as this is  
 more threatened. I walk on. Get some  
 wine & a piece of cake from a British Red  
 X driver. I reach Latisana & cross the  
 bridge on the Tappiamento. I expect  
 there were some huts on the west side  
 side, just past the bridge, where our  
 river would be. I expect, therefore, to

found Graham & our dismounted party,  
 or some one from <sup>Camden</sup> <sup>Street</sup> <sup>alley</sup>, or  
 one of the best of officers. But there  
 is no one there. They continued  
 rain, & a cold stream, chiefly  
 Field Gun, humming across the bridge.  
 They try to stop me going back, but I  
 tell them I want to see the local.  
 My way further is just across the bridge. I  
 find him after half an hour, weeping  
 almost in my arms. He asks where  
 are my men. I <sup>partly</sup> <sup>try</sup> <sup>are</sup>  
 getting near now. I ask the <sup>other</sup>  
 gang new order. He says "No. stay  
 forward across the bridge." I then  
 full <sup>in</sup> <sup>with</sup> Clatworthy & obtain  
 from <sup>the</sup> <sup>bar</sup> a bottle of cold  
 coffee, brandy & rum, in almost  
 equal proportions it seems. A down  
 drink, but a little for warmth. I leave  
 Clatworthy sleeping on the floor of  
 a cage with 3 stragglers from our  
 vanguard. I walk back toward  
 my guns. My two overcoats being  
 wet through, I am wearing one

of Dennis' blanket, over my trunk. This  
 too is nearly drenched by now. The party  
 are lying out in the rain, waiting. Some  
 more fortunate are in houses. I sleep  
 half an hour on a stone floor  
 among these <sup>thickly</sup> but it is not a  
 satisfactory bed. On coming out I  
 meet a party of our men from the  
 gun, carrying on a stretcher the <sup>body</sup>  
 of S.S. Kees. He fell as he stepped on  
 the gun, & as he moved forward he  
 slipped forward & was crushed, head  
 downwards, all along the body. They  
 say he died before they could get him  
 out. He was a very good man. On  
 last job work he did was to get  
 everything ready to render the guns  
 unseizable, in case we should  
 have to abandon them.  
 My nationalist instinct is to leave  
 his body by the roadside, or in a neighbouring  
 field. He is heavily armed & I try to  
 carry, or I find from trying for a  
 short distance myself. Also there is  
 no chance of a body being buried anywhere  
 at present. I find however, that  
 317's gun are a short distance behind  
 on the road. I now a sleep.

Officers of the line, some say they have a  
 empty trench in front of their line. Some  
 just turn on their heels, & get out of line.  
 (317) disperse of him somewhere, as I afterwards  
 learn). For the defence, I detail 2  
 of our men to go with 317 & their  
 French capt.

Shortly after this, about 7 am., while  
 I am making my way back along the  
 traffic to our guns. Then occurs  
 a wild stampede of Italians. It is  
 started by some Cavalry galloping along  
 the road in rear. This start is  
 spread contagiously. A howling  
 mob, crying "Tedeschi, Tedeschi! Salta  
 strada!" comes pouring down the road,  
 with wild terror on their faces. It is  
 the most demoralizing sight I have  
 ever seen. People are knocked down, &  
 trampled under horses driven carelessly  
 & horses, carts & tractors are overturned.  
 The infantry units also along tracks  
 hurried to the main road. Further  
 down at Latisana, I learn that machine  
 guns were fired on the crowd, &  
 many killed. On Latisana bridge  
 about 1000 were shot down

many fugitives in vain efforts to stop  
 the rush.  
 Meanwhile, when I was, the rush  
 continued for about 20 minutes, &  
 then gradually slackened. As it started,  
 I was about 300 yds. from the  
 at a loss. I advise him to take  
 out breach blocks & go. The traffic  
 block is such that it will be impossible to  
 get down on till something has been  
 done to clear the way. I then  
 proceed, at a walk, the terrified stream,  
 back toward mine. I fall in with  
 the <sup>Wedge</sup> <sup>down</sup> <sup>your</sup> <sup>dash</sup> <sup>fall</sup> <sup>magnificent</sup> <sup>in</sup>  
 rally of the fugitives, <sup>as</sup> <sup>try</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>do</sup>  
 so, with words now persuasive, now  
 ironical, & with great gestures. It is  
 all incredible, but <sup>these</sup> <sup>are</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>dearest</sup> <sup>ones</sup>,  
 & if they come, they will come not along  
 the road, but across country from the  
 north. There is the direction of  
 danger. We go on together after  
 road. Artillerists & military Major  
 in rallies men further up. Some  
 half ashamed are now returning.  
 But our guns are deserted. The  
 case of heavy <sup>is</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>essential</sup>  
 stream on him. <sup>fill</sup> <sup>we</sup> <sup>meet</sup> <sup>Praxinos</sup>  
 he has it out with him. <sup>The</sup> <sup>case</sup>  
 of Dixon & his dictum of Page,



"When I saw that rush, I knew that, however brave I might be, it was hopeless to try to ~~make heads or tails~~. I smile a civilian smile!" After

them I get a <sup>small</sup> <sup>man</sup> <sup>from</sup> <sup>Quatt</sup> <sup>was</sup> <sup>with</sup> <sup>all</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>other</sup> <sup>men</sup> <sup>from</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>area</sup> <sup>around</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>road</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>they</sup> <sup>are</sup> <sup>going</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>main</sup> <sup>force</sup> <sup>for</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>attack</sup> <sup>along</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>road</sup>. I send a message if it is worth while to put him out of action.

I leave him in <sup>charge</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>area</sup> <sup>around</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>road</sup> & again go out Latidama to see what can be done to clear the road.

In Latidama I meet Pige & we go back together, <sup>with</sup> <sup>our</sup> <sup>trucks</sup> <sup>along</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>road</sup>. I meet also Demola

saying his men have run, & he is making <sup>immense</sup> <sup>amounts</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>money</sup> <sup>from</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>sale</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>trucks</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>other</sup> <sup>equipment</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>has</sup> <sup>been</sup> <sup>left</sup> <sup>behind</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>road</sup>. A gang of men get on the stuff at the Latidama end. Dead & disabled

wags, <sup>and</sup> <sup>machines</sup> <sup>are</sup> <sup>thrown</sup> <sup>into</sup> <sup>ditch</sup>. Cars are driven on, or overturned likewise in the ditch. Relays of motor drivers get on to the lorry. <sup>The</sup> <sup>whole</sup> <sup>thing</sup> <sup>begins</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>move</sup>. We halt for Demola on 3 Chumbis now on one lorry. We at

last afternoon Latidama. The motor driver, beside whom I sit, is tremendously enthusiastic. He says he has had 2

brothers killed in the war. This morning he has heard Genl Pettiti say that the British batteries must first be used, & then the Italian.

I say that I see no good reason for his preference, but that anyway his driving the last 3 British guns.

By now I am wrapped up in a new Italian blanket, taken from an abandoned cart of his on tractor breaks

down continually. We come to night at the Tappianato bridge. Part of Latidama is already burned. Italian generals rush to 2 p.m.

Pettiti sends to ask if some one has lost British gun. I say yes. Our tractor breaks down 3 times along

the bridge. But at last we are on. We are to go on to Postoguarso.

Our tractor now not only breaks down, but keeps on catching fire. <sup>On</sup> <sup>two</sup> <sup>occasions</sup> we put bins out with <sup>chemicals</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>extinguish</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>fires</sup>, <sup>but</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>third</sup> <sup>time</sup> <sup>with</sup> <sup>mud</sup>.

I decide not to risk a further. So I send <sup>one</sup> <sup>man</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>passing</sup> <sup>lorry</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>P.G.</sup> <sup>&</sup> <sup>Muri</sup>

back to did it. Just two 2000  
 in back, both to demand new  
 tractors. We are <sup>at the top of the hill</sup> on the road  
 along the river, utterly shellable  
 through technically across. Infantry  
 are mowing trenches behind us.

[Let me not forget to mention  
 the wild scenes, with screaming women  
 in Latisana, when it is being  
 rumored that the British have  
 up & they left his side.

Now the declaration of my division  
 during, when in response to my declaration  
 decided to open him on, he starts to  
 declaim & articulate too. With I hit  
 back & shouted & on the edge of tears &  
 my blanket. ♪

Now the need to know physically healthy  
 & show away from Italians, with words of  
 power to save him & keep. The latter to see  
 actual news, with the reminders that in  
 Italian one can still, & that it is to  
 encourage him to spirit. ♪

Then start, night falls, & a little later  
 wild excitement develops among certain  
 Italians who say we are blocking the  
 road, or etc. The poor Abouli has not

Come back. The excited Italians saying  
 with hell on. I agree to let them  
 buy more. They attack one tractor  
 with heavy loss in tow, to our under-tractor  
 & 3 guns. It works. It is a magnificent  
~~tractor~~ tractor, to put along, contrary to all laws limiting  
 its capacity, back firing, & miles in the moon.  
 The moon rises. We can only go slowly & break  
 down now & then. Finally, going round a  
 corner with our big train, the last 2 guns  
 get ditched. I advise the Italian they had  
 to go ahead, as we have appeared with the  
 movement of 5 new tractors, & other guns are  
 ditched behind.

Finally alterations, &  
 movement put together on day, with Italian officers  
 on traffic control. I give way a little  
 to a train, but succeed with new tractors  
 in getting guns out of it. We hear a  
 bright picture of Portuguese. All our  
 guns are packed together just in the moon,  
 & there is a narrow strip of happy men,  
 plenty of rations & straw.

31/10/17.

Write at Porto means with small things  
 The moon has set. There are no tractors

guns in view, no rations, no straw,  
 no rations. I tell the men all to  
 sleep, & halt in line outside the gate.  
 Day breaks & we dig out mass  
 quantities of bullets & shrapnel a little way.  
 Unmercantile Italian <sup>stragglers</sup> stop & ask for food,  
 when they see us eating. I am not  
 satisfied but many of them are in serious  
 need of food, & anyhow I can't feed  
 the whole Italian Army. So I have them  
 moved on. I go out a horse back  
 for a trial. A number of terrified old  
 women are in doubt whether to fly or  
 not. I advise them to stay. They  
 pass up some coffee & bread & repeat  
 to one another they are sure that the  
 enemy is far away. There is only one  
 thing more difficult than not weeping  
 at such a time. That is believing in  
 an "All-Powerful, Loving Father".  
 We arrive & rather capably take charge.  
 There is no need to say, to say on.  
 We had better rest here a day. He is  
 arranging to draw rations from the

Comando di Tuffa. (if he does.) Tuffa  
 is our next stopping place. Plans overhead.  
 A little bombing. While that is, our  
 headquarters with a resolution by an Italian Major  
 ordered to move on. I make a little  
 way, let the madman pass. At Tuffa  
 in the afternoon, we join a party by the  
 station with other stragglers. There is  
 worse bombs. 317 have some casualties.  
 A middle about further rations. They, in  
 what does him self well. I think that  
 after 6 hours at work, at a well. The road  
 appears. We are to go with Murphy  
 from Tuffa to Tuffa.  
 We get on. His word about waiting in  
 the straggling yard. There bombs, but not  
 very near. At 9.30 we leave. I have  
 been doing my little work on  
 the engine of a motor lorry. Not  
 long & I dig for the moment the  
 inside edge & the outside edge, the  
 middle remains wet, & the work is  
 wet again in 5 minutes. Leaky  
 means it is rather bad, but it is



a blanket, in addition to his overcoat,  
 this being. We get in the train about  
 9.30 pm. It is too cold to sleep & I  
 walk up & down the carriage. One Leaky  
 & I, & subsequently Missenden also, sit  
 close together & share one blanket. Two  
 bombs near the train.

1/11/11.

Arrive Treviso about 8 am! Hung  
 about some time. Then go off to find  
 at station (had previously had  
 eating biscuit & peach juice in the  
 train.) At station have Salami,  
 & Quilla. Find a waffle. Leaky  
 annoys me by trying to eat, to tempt  
 me, by impossible English food. We  
 miss the train when Leaky & I, & Missenden,  
 owing to a misunderstanding between  
 2 of us. Ray & Bob & I were  
 also missed.  
 Leaky, unable to walk, becomes a

great burden. I have his foot drawn  
 at the St. Anthony Italian Red X. We  
 emerge into street & try for a Conygon  
 to Villa Franc. None. Nine bombs,  
 but remote. Finally stop at a large  
 Oenoc, near the railway in Villa at  
 Carbonara. Then sleep for hours & hours  
 (Reflections on the ally aided by Mazzini  
 despair & bitterness in a vegetable garden.  
 One fruit of 30 months of work all lost, &  
 much more work lost, in 2 days! What  
 with all the mothers work who have  
 lost their sons. Michele & M. Santi.  
 It is a common thing in Italy now to have  
 lost 4 or 5 sons. What with the mother  
 home? Will they not, any of them, be  
 justified in shooting Cadorna. One  
 thing they should not have been  
 ordered to return. It would be  
 better to make peace at once.  
 Where is the man who will say  
 "Stop, stop. Stop his bloody business  
 now!" One mark of defeatism

the faces of many of these retreating men  
 children, wanting to be done with the  
 war. The danger was the leaders with  
 my "propaganda", but not men with  
 continual breaks in the rank & file.  
 "Death & friends!" And now  
 "organ" of uniting the defence of the front  
 line!

It was, I said.

(1) Induced <sup>by</sup> melting first unit out so that  
 many took off their marks, & then  
 prisoners.

(2) the fact of German reinforcement in  
 men & guns in the Caporetto sector,

(3) the fear of German army some units  
 & the indignation of war weariness

of some units. <sup>kill the lack of decision & leadership among the  
 officers.</sup> which caused the break, and the  
 break once made, all had to retreat.

but some were fine. Then  
 Grenadiers we saw going up to  
 Radisca, down Cavalry at Pettenasco.  
 The heroic self sacrifice of the

German organ & Novara Lancia who  
 showed massed machine guns near  
 Cernusco, & felt the infantry line  
 to get away. The Alfieri & Dragoni  
 who held out for days on Monte Nero.

2/11/17. Carbonara. Villa Lebrone. I sleep  
 on a soft mattress & eat hot porridge  
 & drink wonderful coffee.

I try to reason & make distractions, but  
 my mind won't answer the helmsman, so  
 I leave it. Hamster is an utter failure the  
 lot of ~~the~~ his ~~company~~, & can't show any  
~~interest~~ in ~~business~~ but ought to have  
 taken off ~~the~~ ~~island~~. The latter

island. And Calderari very  
 pleased <sup>to see</sup> ~~himself~~ <sup>himself</sup> to bring my  
<sup>the "Salvo" ~~then~~</sup> ~~carriage~~ empty, with tons of ~~ammunition~~  
 stuff packed ready to go. And  
 Gualtiero should, in the ~~last~~ ~~last~~  
 be ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~front~~ ~~as~~ ~~well~~ ~~as~~ ~~that~~.

3/11/17. Point Treviso. This night

of the Villan would it make me waf, to  
 breathe one then. At Turkish  
 divisions into the Voin, & Turkish  
 Cavalry in Palmanera. Bulgarian  
 also said to be on this front, rapids  
 after Serbs, Greeks & Rumanian, Italians  
 also. Turks said to have been  
 on Fusti & Valquide at the end of  
 70. Their notions in capacity for  
 offensive operations in part on easy  
 escape.

Delme had hope that the Turkish  
 can. Says patrols are already on  
 the Tadjikments. What we want is  
 heavy rain to swell the river, & make  
 heavy the road. What is left is  
 brilliant sunshine. On 2 divisions  
 the southern way, marching 14 days  
 of it, from the French front, all the  
 necessary transport being taken up  
 with them.

4/11/17.

Yankens divided. one  $x^h$  of each at

positions on the Plate, one  $x^h$  back to  
 Fenara. I am to go back to Fenara  
 with help  $x^h$ . Still in charge of this  
 party. Was rumors from the Front. Hamilton  
 wishes to send any message to the men  
 on another.

6/11/17. Arrive Fenara at 5 am. Apparently  
 no arrangements. We are in private.  
 Make excellent arrangements, & wonderful  
 hospitality. Dine at Italian Hotel  
 Mon. Fenara fully old Palace, <sup>now</sup> ~~now~~  
 in the world, & indicated by history  
 heasants, who however keep them up. The  
 great centre of food distribution for the  
 half of Italy. Various bread & biscuits.  
 Cathedral has one fine piece.

7/11/17. At Fenara. Am struck by  
 informality & lack of ceremony in Italian  
 Mass. Take a heavy cold.

8/11/17. To Aquata Suior with  
 Sirocco, to "let in here" was our name.



Train f Bologna 3 1/2 hours late. Train  
 arriving early 10 minutes from Treviso &  
 Venice, packed with passengers. Sicomb  
 looks worried if Venice has to be given up, &  
 Tedeschi won't damage it, because they  
 would come there in peace time. I  
 am less sure.

More Bologna 3 hrs. Visit Vittorini  
 at Banca di Napoli. Take some by  
 first class at Bologna, & win 2/3 of the  
 game of chess against Sicomb.  
 Drive well on train to Milano, find  
 taking out, eat pizza with accompaniment  
 get to Milano at midnight, put up at  
 Hotel Mizza.

Story of 2 <sup>days</sup>  
 9/11/17. 1<sup>st</sup> Army moved through their  
 men in hand-cuffs.  
 Less sicomb from home or two. Lunch  
 at Vignani's, near Piazza Duomo.  
 Duomo much flattened by photo process.  
 But interior is better. Leave by train  
 3.20 hrs  
 More Aquila before 7.28.  
 Find the Hall, running section on  
 in possession. Some with ordnance in

a Villa. <sup>a</sup> Sentimental uplift & recall  
 10/11/17. S. Yung's claim <sup>in</sup> of <sup>superior</sup> racial inferiority.

At Aquila. Mostly lamp-fluorescent. ordnance  
 machinery efficient. Telephone  
 conversation under difficulty with  
 Ferrara. <sup>Discreet elite class. The</sup>  
<sup>German 7th, necessarily, in their circumstances. "We</sup>  
<sup>call them many Italian, but no British,</sup>  
 11/11/17. <sup>Says "what would they not have seen but</sup>  
<sup>to be a day with</sup>

get myself back to Genoa. Good  
 country coming down, mostly with. I  
 like the <sup>national</sup> scene in the station. After lunch  
 walk along coast, eastward. Windy &  
 dull, but the warm colors, & low  
 column where of Villas draw us  
 out of the <sup>the</sup> <sup>the</sup>

Like <sup>the</sup> <sup>the</sup> before 8.30.  
 Stuba. Pucato dei Mille at  
 Train conductor, whom I try to talk up  
 about the war. Near. It's monstrous  
 pattern, showing one in the dark.  
 They mistake for Colonel. My friend  
 you. write a letter & bring diary of  
 to date. My staff, hoping <sup>the</sup> <sup>the</sup>  
 tomorrow morning

12/11/17.

Called at 7<sup>30</sup> o'clock. A sunny day, though not very warm. Had coffee & biscotti, walk down along of harbor & camp trees to station from down to ~~the~~ out via ~~the~~ Marina. A great exhilaration

fills my heart. - the sea, the rocks, the sun & the trees; in his caresses ~~and~~ they train out! And it is a joyful thing to be alone in the midst of beauty in these days.

Then from into Genova. A magnificent & costly state, it being a festival. Return to the docks by 11.50 on the station outside Genova Piazza "long like great Old England." "Welcome to the valiant British Army." "W La France" "W La Victorieuse Armee de Verdun." Some North Fusiliers officers at Ajaccio say they were quite moved by their wonderful welcome on the way, & the station hospitality beyond the best of officers & men.

At Ajaccio party from Ferrania has come to convey stores back but these are not now mentioned in 14<sup>th</sup> by ordnance

13/11/17.

At Ajaccio. Ordnance seem to have less than at first promised, & to be more confused & less efficient than at first appeared.

14/11/17.

Arrange to leave tonight, but wire arrives that no stores are to be sent till further orders. ? reason for this.

I was having tea with Carey & Sincelo, before a wood fire in an Abbey, & in the corner an Italian Sgt was sitting & an officer was playing, passing from La Roche & then when Carey, not knowing I knew him, let drop the fact that Douglas Rappelle was dead. Poor boy. What, at this stage of things, can one say? one can hardly go on feeling these incessant losses.

15/11/17.

At Ajaccio, awaiting orders. Summit of a valley in the Fumelle Ligurian hills with Sincelo. Chestnuts & oaks & vine terraces, on a clear day one would see the sea.

16/11/17.

Orders received to bring away all available stores & return to Ferrania. Carey has a letter from Went, whom I must write again.

Carey speaks on Gumpage, & has much of the right idea, & a charming manner, but his opinions & emotions are not quite strong enough.

He has been much in Italy. We expect that it is important when in Italy, to pay some heed to actual Italian.

Also on the infatuation of these English people who sit here in Florence, mixing only with their fellow countrymen, & admiring their architecture.

On the other hand he says that he has met some quite perfect Anglo-Italian marriages. He tells me a fine story in German.

I practice Italian on his words in my discourse, on the nature of war, its prevention, political ideas, etc. He is

rather unimpaired & looks me better than I am. He is however

low & unimpaired, but dreadfully weak & unworldly, especially as against military authority.

He says that when on the eve of our departure to "Hankow" he was on the 376. Gatto was weeping at the telephone when he gave the order to shorten line.

Some most curious at Venice. Richard of 31st. Who was on the Venice dropped behind on the 1st & is now here with some pack. He writes that a certain party as a consequence says of Gatto of me "I would go through fire & water for his gutter." I know what a brave officer he is.

We leave 9th, 10th, 11th. Geneva - Milan express from Milan 11.50. Many letters requisitioned for French. Hence a crush.

7/11/17.  
I could be very happy in Milan for a week or two in peace time. Very anxious.



a hair cut & shampoo. In a  
 goodseller's I see about 10  
 books worth. If it had been plain  
 hair, I would have bought.  
 Train to Bologna leaves 1.35.  
 Very crowded

Arrive Ferrara 9.30. Dine well at  
 Annunziata. Sleep in same room  
 with meagre. was my husband's  
 recommended me, & that I <sup>shall</sup>  
 let enter an English or Italian  
 decoration. If I do, I shall value  
 it chiefly as adding to my reputation  
 & hence to increase my public  
 value to my words & deeds.

18/11/17.

Let, to my great joy, many letters  
 & papers. Beat in Italian (Globe)  
 at home. Go to a picture palace  
 in the evening.

19/11/17.

Slip into libelous evening with Luff  
 Skill, Mayne & various Italians.

Possibility of Bulter's rearrangements.

20/11/17.

Last night's opinions of a certain

litter officer, next to whom I sat at  
 mess. Italy should have made it  
 a condition of her intervention with  
 the Allies sent troops to the Italian  
 front. Also her big sent some  
 guns & war material. Italy, in the  
 opening stages of her war, had many  
 heroes, but few guns & munitions.  
 Giolitti is the best man in Italy,  
 but too old now. The other  
 Allied countries, especially Italy,  
 are without statesmen. Lloyd George  
 is energetic, but —! Paris came  
 threatened Italy at the time of  
 the Tripoli war. The English  
 do not really at war with Austria  
 & have soft sentiments for her.  
 The southern star probably was  
 was at its strongest in London &  
 Paris, when Italy was being urged  
 to enter the war.  
 Italy has made too many offences  
 on her own, unaided.  
 The last disaster was precipitated  
 by Austria & Bulgaria getting through  
 on the Danube, & Italian ally  
 at the telegraph & giving her  
 order to retreat. I myself heard of the  
 Danube bridge on the canal.

The French have, since the war began, recovered all their blague. They talk incessantly now of "La Mame, La Mame, Verdun, Verdun." a doctor, I learn that he is the doctor in charge of a military hospital here for cases of shell-shock, etc. He affixes hypnotic treatment & claims to have effected some wonderful cures. <sup>Italy entered the war as a volunteer.</sup> We talk again tonight. He is very bitter about Italy's treatment, with economic question. Cool, he says costs for things as much in Italy as in France. The Italian part has never driven hard enough bargains with the other Allies. The French are very unstable politically. They change ministers as often as some men their mistresses. I tell him that it is said that Cadorna refused all assistance proposed at the Rome conference, except a little artillery. He does not deny this, nor affirm it. He says it was Tuscans who ran at Remona & Tolmino. They had no courage. Italians have no little guts. From the border only

the Calabrians are found. The rest are few like the Greeks, some clever talkers. <sup>The Pope's ambition to restore his temporal power, his hatred of Austria & desire to spend part of the affair in his spacious premises of the Circolo dei Neoplatonici di Ferrara. There, by night, he has a fire.</sup>

We are likely to be here a week longer. <sup>Italian Prochazka left 41-40, "L'Unità" per noi." says in Cassino at 21/11/17.</sup>

Niente.

22/11/17.

Call & pig wine in lorry from Bally. Mayne, much implicated, looks over with me for the night.

Saffello shot himself, I believe when the second Army <sup>was in a big way</sup> broke. <sup>It was a charge</sup> would have been well if some of our generals had done the same at times. It was the 2nd we spent, but 22, was cigarettes out of his own campaign. Proposed to send his to the Bull!

23/11/17.

Mayne rather clearly been dug. Also, I was slightly nervous - very confident. I ride in the early afternoon with some of my Italian colleagues.

Lake Gillini, the doctor mentioned 2 & 3 layers thick. Take me & me to his own hospital of nervous from a few miles outside Ferrara. To realize was ~~to~~ to realize why such a man as ~~is~~ is bitter against the Allies, one must see such sights & hardships. We drive out in a one horse vehicle with a charming young lady who is teaching the illiterate among the negroes to read & write.

Various cases. One young lieutenant, with large eyes, was just roused with enormous violence in his bed to look at one of these wild stars. The two in the corner bed, with his ~~right~~ <sup>right</sup> hand on the shoulder like the pendulum of clock, with ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~expression~~ <sup>expression</sup> of fear. One was lying under bed clothes. Another was how lost his speech & can now just whisper "papa" & "mama" - a middle aged man with a beard. <sup>in a</sup> <sup>young</sup> <sup>man</sup> <sup>with</sup> <sup>an</sup> <sup>outward</sup> <sup>appearance</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>having</sup> <sup>his</sup> <sup>head</sup> <sup>articulating</sup> <sup>poorly</sup> <sup>&</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>uttering</sup> <sup>trips</sup> <sup>even</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>word</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>some</sup> <sup>imaginary</sup> <sup>flow</sup>, to a fine room, where all faces had yellow. A <sup>man</sup> <sup>writes</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>last</sup>, & went to read with <sup>left</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>minutes</sup> & is being treated by <sup>hypnotically</sup>. A splendid tall, bearded man, a cavalry captain, with a deep voice & a fine head

with, who realizes the point, but has forgotten the <sup>point</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>fact</sup>. A multitude of wings "Pantles" seen underlying electrical treatment for paralysis with <sup>of</sup> <sup>various</sup> <sup>kinds</sup>. A little man, very little, in the front <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>room</sup> who <sup>is</sup> <sup>practically</sup> <sup>blind</sup> <sup>but</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>use</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>his</sup> <sup>left</sup> <sup>hand</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>perfect</sup> <sup>but</sup> <sup>his</sup> <sup>right</sup> <sup>hand</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>paralyzed</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>fact</sup>.

Left arm was sup, very really dry, but he held on to go to the front. I had said that I hoped he would want to go back to the front. "No," he said, "I go back to the front." I thought his was lying to a countryman of Lloyd George! But it was not. <sup>My</sup> <sup>work</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>apparatus</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>restoring</sup> <sup>down</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>lost</sup> <sup>months</sup>.

One man of the counter-attack. Some 20 percent. Now smiling & gentle, & just in <sup>the</sup> <sup>middle</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>them</sup>. One, an elderly man, a <sup>medical</sup> <sup>captain</sup>. He said, very softly, but it was very hard to see visitors from outside, especially our Allies. I <sup>do</sup> <sup>could</sup> <sup>have</sup> <sup>well</sup>! All these had narrowly <sup>escaped</sup> <sup>death</sup>, & many were half alive still. <sup>Providing</sup> <sup>they</sup> <sup>are</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>ruined</sup> <sup>limbs</sup> <sup>&</sup> <sup>blood</sup>, I am not physically ill, or even much horrified, but just frightened



Excursions but all our positions are  
imperfect, our good wishes flatteringly,  
I think one is like a visitor to a zoo. I  
leave the school in which the hospital  
is situated, & which contains a chapel,  
when after dinner, Gillies informs me, is not  
compulsory, with a strengthening faith in the  
Eucharist, & a wonderful love of our Heavenly Father.

24/11/17.

Nicole. G. By the way, says the fighting on the front is already  
more terrible than anything at Verdun.

25/11/17.

Graham, etc. quite. He is almost  
incredibly firm about his billet. Nicole's  
di pin.

26/11/17.

Graham's nerves are all wrong. So to a  
large extent are his. Life is rather  
difficult with Graham but maybe things  
come round. Each says <sup>the other</sup> the  
is unfit to be sent to home. In fact,  
I think that both may go soon.

~~27/11/17.~~

Muric says that those told false but if  
did better than any British officer on the  
retreat, & that I would certainly get  
a British decoration. I have already  
put on record my view on this.  
Diaz is a Neapolitan Freemason, a  
very cunning man. Badoglio &

The Blacks have been in the  
Dona. They are not really  
Freemasons, but some  
Giardino are also Freemasons. Some  
fear that will happen when the British offer  
publicly to give back to Italy all the  
land, & a bit of Trentino & (29) to  
Dona line of an immediate separate  
peace. The part of course, will refuse,  
but what will the people say. Arrangements  
has been made, he thinks, by Italian  
saying they are fighting for Trentino Trieste.  
Far better to have small things done  
in a great Alliance of free peoples  
against military aims.

27/11/17.

A contributory Council in break  
(1) in the future of the Corps Command  
to report in time, which has only to  
be able to stop it. The (2) / the  
speaking of it, dress day, officers, orders  
men to run. The of course, bread news a  
The of course, the Pope. Stoney, situation,  
the changes in the command.

Graham very badly. The English are  
I read it now! Utterly unable to  
give morality & harmoniously into progress.  
What progress! A day long series of  
incidents. One page, the food in the mess,  
the wine, the Italian habit of self  
presentation. (Read is dreadful on the spot!)  
the home of the 5th's breakfast, tickets in  
Italian Army & its operations, & what  
of leaving men, the method of continuing  
in mess, etc. etc.

Maxwell says the Pope, acting to urge  
Vittori

prints  
 in ~~Western~~ & they ~~bring~~ the women of the  
 to ~~save~~ their men. We helped the break  
 between Piero & Tolentino. ~~was~~  
 event, since it will probably ~~bring~~ the  
 War, illustrates the ~~fatality~~ of seeing  
 Peace ~~bring~~ ~~bringing~~ about a ~~usual~~  
 argument ~~against~~ ~~continuation~~ ~~of~~ ~~war~~  
 more carefully calculating the ~~probable~~  
 detailed results of your action.

The Pope should go to Jerusalem to join  
 the Jews. Italy wd be well rid of the  
 bugger. ~~See the~~ "So says" Marzano. Don  
 28/11/17.

Robertson ~~seems~~ ~~to~~ ~~have~~ ~~wanted~~ Cadorna  
 but his front was not safe against a  
 German, or ~~direct~~ ~~from~~ ~~a~~ ~~German~~, attack,  
 but Cadorna refused assistance.

Giulini, is brother, is Professor of Nervous  
 Diseases at Bologna ~~University~~ & a  
 great reader of ~~high~~ literature. on  
 the basis of Wells & Kipling he ~~has~~ ~~made~~ ~~us~~  
 on a race "logical but a little isolated."  
 I write in my account of the retreat to  
 the Valley Diago. Graham is much  
 cheered up by his, as always by my writing.  
 He is further cheered up, or is maybe, by  
 two games of billiards in the circle.  
 27/11/17.

"This War" said a young Frenchman in the  
 spring of 1915, a few months before his death,  
 "has already lasted far too long for those  
 who have something else to do in the  
 world." When it is over, the millions

will need to show immense energy, cheerfulness,  
 & power of concentration.

30/11/17.

in Italy before the war French, & either German  
 or English were compulsory subjects. I am  
 shocked at the enormous majority who  
 helped German to English.

1/12/17.

~~Visit~~ Visit Palazzo Schifanoia & see  
 frescos of Cosme & Cosmetina.

2/12/17.

Haban brings new hat visible knapsack  
 over the line with report of the Italian  
 Fourth Army on the Middle Picke today &  
 tomorrow.

3/12/17.

Niente.

4/12/17.

Niente.

5/12/17.

Had first & sun. Most of Bologna  
 with Graham, Marzano & his ~~children~~.  
 Very cold in open car coming & going, but  
 a pleasing break in the routine of  
 stationary illness. An admirably  
 saved lunch & some shopping.

6/12/17.

Ride with Marzocana, Franconi, Rossi &  
 Mosat.

7/12/17.

Niente.

8/12/17.  
Order to join XI<sup>e</sup> Corps <sup>(Finzi)</sup> ~~to~~ on arrival  
of transport.

9/12/17.  
we present a cup to the Italians. The Major  
Chapel & Graham, neither of them orators,  
each say a few words. Wine, liquor, &  
cakes. Ride in the afternoon.

10/12/17.  
Hear the two page boys at the Circolo on  
the immense power which he & his  
pals will one day wield in the world, &  
advise him to steer clear of military  
He seems somewhat impressed, & has  
been friendly.

A good dinner including fish &  
mushroom omelette.

Very pleasing photo paper of my  
affair. "hei Paula la lingua di Dante"  
says Signor Finzi to me!

11/12/17.  
A pleasing farewell ceremony at the  
Circolo. I find myself the center  
of a cordial throng. Sig. Calabrese, a  
70 man of 76, says I am just like  
him 20 years ago, serving 8 months at the front  
in the Po Valley. He kisses me on the  
cheek, with tears in his eyes, very wet then  
we are in the midst of friends. He  
keeps his eye upon me as I converse.

Smile at him, smiling with pleasure  
to hear my little. We kiss again  
parting.

I ride in the school in the afternoon on  
several horses, one of which (so beautifully  
furnished at the Finzi's), when I go on for  
each of us a small Italian flag.

The people at the Pellegrino are remarkably  
in the Presidio of numbers & capacity. The  
Annamita all is unavailability.  
We go however through his notes, but shall  
leave behind us, I think, good feelings.

12/12/17.

We leave Ferrara about 1 pm. after  
an hour or more of the most  
striking demonstrations.

The town placated as follows.  
Comitato di preparazione civile.

Cittadini  
Stamane alle ore undici e trenta  
(11.30) gli Artiglieri Inglesi mar-  
ceranno nel Quartiere Palestro diretti  
alla Stazione Ferroviaria.

Essi partano verso il fronte per  
difendere cogli eroici soldati  
d'Italia e di Francia il conteso  
e sacro suolo della patria, per  
combattere la barbaria Tedesca,  
che tenta invano di avanzare  
contro il baluardo offerto da  
pelli dei soldati di tre nazioni.

Cittadini,

Vi invitiamo ad accorrere ed a



portare il vostro saluto ai fedeli  
e valorosi Alleati. Essi debbono  
sentire che i vostri cuori  
palpitano, con loro, di  
speranza e di fede

Ferrara. li 12 dicembre 1917.

Il Presidente A. Rogli."

About 11 am, a thick crowd was gathered  
outside the Banach. We lunched 10-45.  
A band was provided with good fife  
& many brass instruments, & four banners  
on long flagstaffs. At 11-45 we  
marched out into the street. ~~to~~  
Tumultuous applause & cheering &  
clapping by a dense crowd. Flowers  
showered upon us. For me a  
beautiful red rose from a beautiful  
young girl, about 18 years of age. The  
band does not play possible marching  
tunes ~~but~~ we are all out of step, but  
the enthusiasm is intense. Perhaps  
all the windows & along both sides of the  
road to the station. A specially enthusiastic  
group on the steps of the Castello. Our  
marching in between the band's efforts.  
We are whistled several times  
en route. As we approach the station,  
we ~~are~~ ~~do~~ ~~not~~ ~~do~~ ~~not~~ march past in  
Italian General Commanding Ferrara.  
Our band plays *son e sta again*  
with short intervals.

God Save the King, the Marcia Reale,  
the Marcia Unità, the Marcia con la  
Marcia degli Alpini. We ~~often~~  
have to stand at the salute on each  
such occasion. A little <sup>man</sup> <sup>writes on</sup>  
black board + an umbrella <sup>with</sup> <sup>no</sup> <sup>umbrella</sup>  
a chair & books in an <sup>English</sup> <sup>language</sup>  
the Association of Italian Teachers. He  
speaks in English, & recalls the  
name & date of Garibaldi &  
Mastrom, Palmierini & Calvan. He  
presents to us an Italian flag.  
The S.M. is sent for & 1-70 to say  
it <sup>is</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>head</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>at</sup>  
much W. <sup>humanity</sup> <sup>Italian</sup>  
Miles say personal good by. on  
the platform an immense crowd takes  
cheering & sings, distributed gifts,  
& including all traffic. With  
difficulty we get in all men & kits.  
We start & then it appears that  
Raham & myne & Annzans are  
left behind. My rejoinder at  
Rovigo, having travelled on an  
engine I had on train stopped  
(station. on the way the days left by  
were of visiting a farewell order  
Monday to the citizens of Ferrara,  
I carefully composing it. That  
he was unwisely joining on the

delay & instructions after 3 hours  
 platform - someone here as about  
 to see a man in band with  
 another national anthem & he had  
 to come back to the table to stay  
 till they finished.

I consider that collecting is made  
 a surprisingly good impression at  
 Ferrara.)

We reach Cittadella just after  
 dusk. Nolasio is known by the  
 R.T.D. who has only arrived 5 minutes  
 before us to take up his duties. We  
 stay all night in the train. We  
 dine at the Albergo Caffello in the town,  
 & meet a French man.

13/12/17.

At 12.30 am. our troubled rest is  
 disturbed by 2 British Staff, still  
 very busy about us.

At 8 or 9 we begin to take steps  
 north to S. Martino di Lupatino  
 M. Gaffa & adjoining Mass rays  
 stand out clearly to the north. I  
 don't ~~visit~~ enter Cittadella by daylight  
 only seeing the outer battlemented  
 walls. Hence S. Martino by day  
 about noon. Not much of a village.  
 Money has been hoarded in a bag  
 down empty church. Sleep 4 hours  
 in the afternoon.

14/12/17.

Nicola. They are here. Complex. Villet,  
 fair.

15/12/17.

Nicola.

16/12/17.

Johnson was out yesterday looking for  
 S.P.'s & taking photos in the event of a  
 retirement down the Brenta Valley. He  
 met Alpini who said "the mountains are  
 always beautiful" & an old man who  
 had never seen English ~~troops~~ soldiers &  
 was tremendously excited & pleased. I should  
 say I go with him in a <sup>very</sup> ~~newly~~ <sup>newly</sup> ~~directed~~  
 car with Merye, via Cittadella & Bassano,  
 then down the road to More, southward  
 along the Brenta & back to <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~  
 Marostica to Bassano & via a route  
 ways home again.

Bassano is a delicious old town, with  
 the remains of frescos outside many  
 houses, & a beautiful bridge over the Brenta.  
 I would like to stay 3 or 4 days here,  
 visiting Marostica, whose faint  
 battlemented walls <sup>are</sup> like those of Bassano  
 & Cittadella, but there pictures are being  
 built they mount a rocky foothill  
 behind the town & come down again -  
 a most curious effect. That Alpini  
 foothills. Shape & vegetation, are  
 very like the Ligurian Hills near  
 Genova. Bassano has a  
 wonderful array of cypresses, as  
 long as seen then just above

the town on the western side, on the  
 Marostica road, 20000 scattered  
 about in 2 & 3's. one battery position  
 suggested is just beside the coffee garden.  
 I would like to work up the Brenta  
 valley after the war. If Bassano &  
 Marostica are marked, I don't want to  
 come here. But, again, if they are marked  
 I may be marked near them, & it would  
 be reasonable to locate working places here  
 the dusk of the. Today all is still,  
 though occasional shells burst over  
 the Grappa range. The hills north  
 the rounds beyond them. It is fine  
 & cold & the snow has thinned to  
 subnormal on the nearer hills. The  
 good old German food again! It seems  
 extraordinary, though, that the Italian  
 camps on this hill after hill.  
 on the way back we pass a Battalion  
 of Alpini marching up, most very young  
 I think of Hostia's message to me, (his)  
 kang, - "i veterani del Caio, ed -  
 vi, giovani soldati, - fine della  
 primavera". And then I thought,  
 a little inconspicuously of two Italian  
 monuments on the roadside at Villa della  
 station & signs "Nella primavera della

vita." ) The Alpini are one of those  
 Italian regiments who never fail.  
 "Di qui non si passa" is their motto.  
 But nearly all the original Alpini of May 1915  
 (Three were Ferrara <sup>and dead</sup> <sub>now.</sub>)  
 (1) the little old man, apparently a  
 workman, who paddled along the road  
 after Graham one morning about 8.45.  
 and spoke to him in beautiful  
 French, how fine the English soldiers  
 looked & how splendid the capture of  
 Jerusalem was, & then he asked him  
 to come & drink a glass of vermouth.  
 in a cafe, & on leaving, they held  
 hands for several moments looking at  
 one another.  
 (2) at a halt on the final march  
 to the station I find looking up at me,  
 wide-eyed & wondering, the page boy from  
 the circus, whom I had harangued on  
 the destination of the world's ports, & afterwards  
 fished.  
 (3) the old woman who had a son at the  
 front, who was protected by a talisman  
 of red, white & green Frickon-ribbon, &  
 gives a bit to one of our men, pinned  
 to a little note, saying it will keep him  
 safe for, & signing "The Madrine."



17/12/17.

Snow last night, but not enough.

18/12/17.

Still the God's weather. Motor with Meyer, Cor & Wheatley leaving Bassano to a point half way to Mantova. Over climb hills with no looking for a landing, O.P.'s. Meet some British Staff who ask us questions, & say Italian Staff seen very kindly & have long talk 26 German Divisions against them. Whichever way G can be identified in fact. I have then kept on waiting 1 1/2 hours. I shot to see if I could see any more but saw only 5 of 25 assads. & of the 13 sent.

19/12/17.

Ed Major Rowch visits the Battery, & remarks on strength of units, premises in use from going to work muzzle ring & the other from looking down muzzle, but "not sufficiently exact to say".

Drive Cittadella into night & a healthy walk home back.

Speaking to a French soldier, & a German soldier on Italian. One feels one is speaking to an equal. One also says of the Latin nations. The English possibility with a Frenchman with no other spring to attract to say "Viva la France, messieurs!" Not so much as perhaps Italy 26 days here. One has seen a conversation of a Frenchman & a British soldier of the Frenchman.

20/12/17.

Go out with Somerville to see some <sup>in side can</sup>

more by post. (Time to be held in next moved forward up the next crest, a 21st. 1 h. of diminishing Staff wind.)

Lunch Mantova. (Albergo Centrale is the best.) on way back, Mrs. Trivitta with its expresses, we have a slight collision & the ~~car~~ car is surrounded by a great crowd of Italian medical details. Some of them are American-Italians. Some are private, who in Italy go into the medical service. I keep up a stream of journal paper at the first about secret drinking, confessions, women & paradise. This causes uproarious appreciation among the audience. I can write in my element. The first takes it quite well. on returning I learn that Helen arrived on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

21/12/17.

Niente.

We are apparently here a strategic reserve. Money so everywhere.

22/12/17.

Stated we are transferred for X Camp to 15 H.A.S. & about to be sent to Italian Front Army.

23/12/17.

Motor to look at positions near Monte Campolungo, for action to take

took M. Abone & Col Capile. A  
 magnificent diet, starting Benans  
 (int women yesterday 2<sup>nd</sup>, heavy <sup>with</sup>  
 were turned, starting a <sup>part of</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>of</sup>  
 (civilian) & Manotta, up a fine  
 road with at least 100 hair pin  
 bends, through the Alpine villages of  
 Crosara, Tortina, Fontanelle & Rabbid.  
 We are on 3000 feet above the  
 plain, a glorious view. The air  
 cold, dry & in vorticity. Sheer  
 rocky faces along the edge of which  
 the road, an imbedded mule track, has  
 snow lying heavily <sup>on top</sup> higher levels, &  
 fir trees snow-crowned. Many  
 Italian troops moving up, including  
 some heavy loads of <sup>ammunition</sup>, Bersaglieri  
 Alpine & (52<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, (perhaps  
 pulled down) who cheer us wildly,  
 shouting "Viva!" waving their caps &  
 crying "Mauri!" "Viva il Re!"  
 "Viva il Re!" & a long  
 drum round & round with the <sup>drum</sup>  
 of the road above us, still cheering &  
 waving, but disappear from view.  
 At night a verbal report was

have in Medaglia di Bronzo al  
 Valore militare. one for each battery

24/12/17.

With Marzanos to Vicenza. Lunch  
 at the Cabaretto, said to be excellent in  
 peace time. I am a little disappointed  
 at the general aspect of V. Wall &  
 Monte Berico with Signora Lya Pegonara  
 (Marinai) who combines a soft  
 charm, (but little facial beauty) with a  
 twinkling eye & very fair intelligence. The  
 approach to, & the view from, M Berico is  
 very excellent, though the day is dull &  
 one cannot see the distance. The said  
 lady <sup>lives</sup> 24 Via delle Barche. She has  
 a common little fat husband. She is  
 apparently very fond of M. They have  
 corresponded a good deal. M shows me  
 a photograph of his mother. She looks rather  
 a wonderful old woman. On the Berico,  
 there was fighting with the Austrian <sup>148</sup> &  
 Massimo D'Azeglio was <sup>slightly</sup> wounded here. Various  
 monuments <sup>to</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>war</sup> on top, & pine trees.  
 The dismal <sup>view</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>rejoice</sup> in the evening  
 in their crude <sup>way</sup>, because it is another  
 etc.

25/12/17.

The men eat their Christmas Dinner,  
at which Graham makes a speech, &  
the two Sgts act as waiters.

26/12/17.

Niente.

27/12/17.

Further reconnaissances. Great doubt as  
to where we are to go & when. Apparently  
bad liaison work between the staffs.  
Guthrie is being court-martialled for his behaviour  
in his retreat.

28/12/17.

Into Castelfranco is the afternoon. Same old  
walls & towers as at Cittadella, but less  
complete. A prettier town, however. Fully  
French.

29/12/17.

"Italian Expeditionary Force" to be substituted  
for "British Italy" in address. It is hoped  
that this will hasten victory by raising  
morale.

Very S.H. order in the conditions of  
life in street in winter Italy. Italy is  
situated. No one to break wind, make  
noise like a motor car, or ~~play~~  
by ~~transmission~~, etc. etc. Great train must  
be kept cool.

Story of Samail's Parisienne, his

Offer to ~~return~~ <sup>return</sup> Monday, in latter refusal,  
& S's offer of Monday ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~considered~~.

March at night on Castelfranco & Confaloniere

30/12/17.

Niente.

31/12/17.

Meet again some of the Pt. at 368 S.H. near 1715 Hg.  
Said that French & English on adjacent here said  
Piazza was untenable & would retreat to Mezzano.  
But Diaz refused.

1/1/18.

Just to see Girard's position, ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Col~~ <sup>Col</sup>  
of Asiago. Wonderful view from here, Sasso, Melette,  
the sheer rock face of the Brenta fall, the stream far  
below & frazetta beyond.

2/1/18.

Niente.

3/1/18.

Niente.

4/1/18.

Sit on a Court Martial. Dull. Am much engaged  
over a number of things. Health is too open, on  
a fine allotment & on the previous terms, (21 days  
and to end!) Mazzano is going to XI Corps. This  
I regret very much. Miserable work  
over Maurizio to replace him. I preside with  
Graham & Murray for a few  
days. I bring back statement war (really)  
have got bronze medal, & he has copy of  
brochure. The others at B2, had a  
presentation for total 3 days ago. We  
could easily have been sent for to the  
show, but we aren't. The medal & brooch  
have gone. God knows where. Probably  
pigeon holes in some damn S.H. (Murray)





20) Latvia. We are fully in contact  
of the Italians.

9/1/18.

Register. Temp  $100^\circ$  below zero <sup>at noon</sup> but fine.  
only 1 car registered owing to Mayor  
Falletto's correction of parallelism.

10/1/18.

Boots frozen. Also ink!

Air temp 9 AM.  $8^\circ F.$ ; 12.30  $41^\circ F.$   
Wonderful scenery. Sunlight from a  
cold cloudless sky upon flashing  
snow. At sunset a rich marine  
pink up on the snowy hillsides -  
in west an orange sea.

3/3/18. Very nice view near Vered.

11/1/18.

A rather dull wonderful machine. Not  
quite so cold. Walk with Haupt  
off on Col d'Artigo, & register a target.  
We ~~register~~ <sup>register</sup> 2 salvoes, & battery fire at 3"  
in Vered. Also registered 2nd <sup>round</sup> of the  
British English cannon went out with mortar  
from at 0.1. & at the time, when a  
great crowd gathered. One enemy  
much annoyed by our activity, (cries  
else being very quiet) read out Vered  
plans. Vered 2 & perhaps 3.  
Haupt <sup>was</sup> our - one by the A.A. (batt)  
& one in road. Who take me in  
good dinner & the best card.

12/1/18.

Italian roadbuilders of today in heat in  
series of their Roman ancestors.  
I go to Monte Nuora to draw fire  
on Col Del Rosso. We expect to be  
able to take her back.  
Explosion at the Col Rigi of Italian  
Field Artillery, commonly known as the  
"Batterie Garibaldine" on the summit of  
Costalunga Mt. Nuora. A very fine  
fellow speaking, incidentally, excellent  
English. We are also visited & heard  
from by Del Pozzo.  
Wonderful view in Costalunga & M. Melago  
direction.

13/1/18.

Motor to Macoptica & have a delicious  
bath. Also fraternize on Basco at  
Albano due Mori (better, I now consider,  
Mountain Centrale) with Officer of Bizagno  
Brigade.

It is not generally known how  
it takes more than 10 dixie of the  
water to wash. 1 dixie full of  
water.

14/1/18.

Niape.

15/1/18.

His comments on his country are  
amusing. "This is the sort of thing one reads!  
about in books, but..." "they say people in  
pena train pay guards to see them." "Like  
a Maine cooks here."

I find Scarp before Sunrise increasingly affords  
 & experience of one's larger emotions in this  
 place & time.

In this afternoon, being tired with the Batt's  
 position, I suggest a visit to Monte  
 Costalunga. Fichan comes with me. Most  
 successful. Go up 700 ft in 40 min. meet  
 Italian Nicer on top who point out the  
 ground. <sup>array</sup> <sup>hill</sup> <sup>call in</sup> <sup>at 33rd</sup>  
 Ditch H.Q. & are hospitably & efficiently  
 received, & give tracing of line, & wine &  
 coffee.

16/1/18.

Niente.

17/1/18.

Niente.

18/1/18.

Niente. Drawing.

19/1/18.

Still drawing. Suggestion to an Italian staff  
 Colonel some technicalities of our summer  
 in Italian in presence of which surprises  
 me.

20/1/18.

Niente.

21/1/18.

Some foonson leave. This starts to fall  
 rolling.

22/1/18.

Niente, still drawing.

23/1/18.

Feltre is now governed by a Turk,  
 Cosogliano by a Bulgar.

24/1/18. Visited by G. B. & K. who is  
 pleased by our clean shell  
 & a day of a good lunch.

Great energy. Was <sup>manipulating</sup> <sup>to the</sup> <sup>part</sup>  
 of Costalunga by car. Then of a  
 zigzag rickety track. Met a  
 Officers mess of Italian Field Battery.  
 One a long walk to an O.P. on  
 Monte Echar. Fine view of  
 Asiago, & Sismond, & Meletta in  
 rear. I would like to visit

Asiago hereafter. It would be a  
 fine centre for mountain walks.

I see nothing impracticable in  
 recapturing all this plateau  
 with the necessary gun & air force.

A queer characteristic architecture  
 in these Alpine villages. No  
 communication possible from

O.P. to Battery. Return to lunch  
 with Field Battery. Field & mountain  
 guns firing away on the east. A

most excellent lunch. One of the  
 sottotenenti a nephew of Nicer, with  
 him, a nice youth. "Dio uno

ed unno." But one notices a  
 change of view about the marvellously  
 sustained good weather. One speaks



Now of possible offensives of our own, & not  
 always of theirs. An ambitious 2 day  
 scheme has come in to us, date still  
 undecided. Our host at lunch is  
 a Genoese in the grain trade. 1 of the  
 of Anglo-Italian trade after the war.  
 This was not well received. He  
 said sourly that he thought we  
 should get the best of it & that Italy  
 would lose. Italian seem often  
 a trifle blind as to the nature of  
 external trade. Down Costalunga,  
 in car again to M. Tondo, up hill,  
 another scramble, & along front  
 line trenches to an O.P., the last  
 50 yards across the open. Good  
 fine view. After delays, Regina  
 2 targets. All woods & houses from  
 very in the sunset. Dark when  
 we finish. Kuch with Major of  
 Piza Brigade, a <sup>quick</sup> little man of great  
 energy & a haunting speed of movement.  
 He gives us a look at Brigade HQ. We  
 call also at Regimental HQ, further  
 down, & are given some P.M. P.M. &  
 a postcard of Brigata Parma. Then  
 back to the car & home of General.  
 I have sweated buckets today!

25/1/18.

Graham went yesterday to hospital with  
 a bad cold (perforated) & I received  
 details of internal <sup>drum</sup> organization.

26/1/18.

Niente.

27/1/18.

"9-1 day" Bombardment begins  
 12 noon & lasts till 5.30 pm.  
 on hostile Batteries, cross roads  
 heavy mortar & gas turret <sup>etc.</sup>

28/1/18.

Leave 8<sup>30</sup> am. in car with Coc  
 & M. M. L. Lunch Padova.  
 Train leaves about 3 pm.

3/2/18.

inspect my child & Rin in wife.

11/10/17: Sunita bepin t ad  
 arny restant

tr. Nympha & huc.

85.

Tea. Bologna. 2.00  
 Museo. Pieno. 5.50

St. Hotel Nizza. Milano.  
 (part coffee)  
 (Luzza. Milano. 4.90.  
 Verjini)

St Fairy  
 Mount Park Rd. Ealing. W 5  
 from Dec 17<sup>th</sup>.

Go Mrs Hawthorne.  
 12 King's Avenue. Ealing. W 5.

Colonnello Gatt. Saltone  
 Commandante  
 49 Raffanant  
 2 1/2

Fare acqua.  
 spandere acqua.  
 Pisciere.

Cazzo.  
 (Cazzone.)  
 Coglioni.  
 Fica.