

Papers of Hugh Dalton:
Original Manuscript Diary

Volume 1:
22 January 1916 - 14 October 1916
(152pp)

Reduction Ratio:

8 x

22/1/16. Informed at 8.15 a.m. that V.S.O.'s are going tomorrow, via Southampton. With P.F. 4.30-5.30 & again 8 to 3.3. Oram.

23/1/16. Walked from Ludgershall to Tidworth 3.30 p.m. to 4. Full moon shining wonderfully down through belt of mist. Wrote letters & packed. 8.45 started from Tidworth in 4 cars.

one officer in each, Ewart, Beckett, Jeff & Charles. Ewart could delay, 11 by taking very funny (2) by knocking down a cyclist, stopping to see he was hurt. Arrived Southampton 10.30.

Went to Hotel, servants to men's club, dinner in car going onboard at once. Found my brandy flask leaking. Pocket & breeches very wet. Strong spirituous smell. Walked round town. Exchange English money for French. Noted favourable rate of exchange - 27.50 for £1.

Lunch with Ewart & ~~at~~ old port Major Bellair. Latter said we should have gone to Fockestone!

After lunch found Hutson (15 knots & 18 h.f.) ^{was} going in advance party. ^{Went to sleep in boat} of large fire for 3 1/2 hours. So did Ewart on a couch all the afternoon. Ewart full of anticipation of sea sickness. Teatime.

Bellair Distributes maps, - one for Harzbrock sector, one for lens. Between 5 & 6 we begin to get a move on toward the boat. I take bromide roller it to other who finally declines. ^{Swiss} Confusion to

finished servants to make a carry up box containing cold chicken, two bottles whiskey etc. Ewart fusion at idea of abandoning

Whitby. We proceed to the (port) (south) 43, where ^{(and off) (south) (east) (steam)} ^{then} we board her & find servants, who have had few

orders to do anything. Ewart pompously arranges them. Two are sent unloading back with Elworthy & Fether writing etc. from Hotel. Boat fairly loaded, officers returning from leave. Also drafts. Growing air of reality, difficult to describe, due to fiddle-tattle of men coming back from leave. ^{He lost his papers!}

We are 'hoc-a-hoc' in the officers' saloon. I am an early arrival, but many have to sleep on floor.

An embarkation ^{of} ^{officers} ^{is} ^{being} ^{made} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{morning} because some of us haven't reported to him before coming on the boat. Ewart pompously explains we had no orders to do so. I sit next to a nice fellow in

the N-staffs (Vivases) just coming back from leave. Lifebelts are distributed, in case we are mined & submerged. He shows me the ^{map} ^{of} ^{the} ^{South} ^{Sea} ^{off} ^{the} ^{west} ^{coast} ^{of} ^{France}.

creditable way of putting mine etc. We ^{start} ^{at} ^{about} ⁸ ^{P.M.} At first mine seem to be packed roll on & several of the officers cough

hysterically. Soon after I fall asleep.

24/1/16. The bromide works well, but I don't wake till 1 a.m. It's been a good thing

& only about three officers have been sick. I go up on deck & see the lights of France approaching. The moon is high

in the heavens. Breakfast is available now & men returning from leave will go ashore ^{as soon as} ^{they} ^{can} ^{at} ^{Calcut} ^{de} ^{the} ^{morning}.

One rest of us must stay on board till 7 a.m., but 1.45 a.m. already in the bay. Drink a cup of tea with

Elworthy & Beckett. With rather funny & undecided about trifles, e.g. whether

3/4 ~~to~~ to have before landing, (with one
more time? ^{very} early, knowing we are stuck
on board till 7!) also whether to order
regular breakfast at 6 am., as we are
now informed we can. I give a
decisive lead on these 2 other points, &
find old Ewart ^{(the) at} looking very miserable,
having been unable to get to sleep on the
~~journey~~ way over. He hopes, he says, to 3
hours sleep now.

Accepted on deck by a Canadian Tommy. Am
I an officer? He wants to speak to an officer. He
is coming back off pass & wants to at Boulogne, where
he finds his ref at Havre. He has lost his ticket
& his pay book (ie - evidence of identity.) He is
due back in the trenches today. What shall he do?
I advise him to apply to the Disembarkable
Officer. He has been out 10 months, has
wrote to first of 5 attacks at Ypres. He is
one of forty two survivors of his original
battalion. At the end of conversation
he surprises me by saluting.

5.30 wash & shave. 6.30 breakfast.

A beautiful soft blue twilight morning.

Land 7.30. A lot of hanging about on ^{new} ^{caps}
then to Hotel Tortoni. I ~~see~~ ^{recall} ~~the~~ ^{of}
where I sat & drank 4 pines 10 or 11 years
ago! I find myself quite able to make
myself understood in shops & hotels. I
soon become the main stay of the party.
French I can speak to with ^{confidence}
on all occasions.

10.15 report to Base Commandant

Nothing is known as to our movements
we are to stay in Havre for ^{the} night.
Cars reappear, with new numbers,
& spend the rest of the morning dealing
French beer & cigarettes & all habits,
making cigarettes also French.
Food at Hotel Tortoni very satisfactory.
Ewart, after writing before lunch, &
brandy & coffee at lunch, very
impatient & cranky.

After lunch I walk about alone in
Havre. The number of widows
gathered as such, is terrible in
streets. I am irresistibly attracted
to France, so brave, so rational,
so calm, so confident. I walk
up on to the high ground behind the
town. It is a solid but not a
very striking view. I come back
down to the Place Gambetta &
a fountain. A young woman
conductor typifies the calm
competence of France.
I learn that the General Hospital
here is full. The English section
contains 26 NCOs, Officers &

2 Army Matters!

I note that there is a local issue of many papers running in Havre, ~~costing~~ ^{cost} 5 francs, about 50 centimes. This local paper is not good outside ^{in Paris de Calais} ~~Havre~~ ^{but}. Bank of France will always change it.

1 question whether this is a convenient plan.

1 talk to an officer from the Dublin going on leave from the front. He says we are far behind both French & German in our trenching work, elaboration & protection against wet of dug outs, etc. This is partly due, he says, to our ignorance to learn & our haphazard methods, partly to the fact that we have to pay through the nose to the local French proprietors of the smallest bit of wood, etc, whereas the French & German both take wood

Very short of notes.

1 sleep on my bed from 6 to 7. After dinner, & with Ewart & Bellair to Folis - Isere - a very good Revue, infinitely superior in every way to those one sees in London.

25/1/16. Got up 8.30, admirable coffee & rolls in bed. Ewart reports at 9.45 no further news for us. Morally they in Havre till tomorrow anyhow. Read Petit Parisien. Making way to British Officers Club, deserted except by a few Chaplains. Well-kept, spacious room. Very convenient place for writing letters, etc. In toxicants very not to be with no cases stayed for money. ^{Other with no obvious complaint is inevitable} ^{visit} British P.O. & obtain general information about postal arrangements.

~~write~~ Lunch alone at Tertan, (E, 1st E not to be seen) Take much pleasure in food, plenty of beer - doesn't like no sweet. Read Law & Water with my foot. ^{was} on contrary of ^{leaving} according to ^{foot}. Example of receiving ~~was~~ obvious facts & liberty

Y right scientific first principles, 2
in to yield striking conclusions,
highest unperceived or only
imperfectly recognized.

2.30 - 4 walk round Havre with Ewart.
He anxious to get photographed at high
speed for French passport. We try 3
shots, I doing all the French talking,
but nothing certain before 11 am. tomorrow.
Havre has an air of solid well-diffused
materiality. Most public buildings are very good.
It is an immense falling of English people to
walk the town all foreign towns are dirty & smelly.
Havre is cleaner than most English towns,
the streets are wide. I couldn't smell
anything, even on the quays. But men!
Noth in all towns.

Taisez-vous!

Mais non!

Des ordres ennemis

Vous écontent.

Write to P.G. before dinner.

Ewart is a long sea captain we are not
when he returns from (of) White
We are to staff tomorrow morning
to do 150 miles. Bellain
feels because we are going

8
Amiens. (Car & servants to
left by 7.30 am. Ewart's suspicions,
imitable & secretive. (of) Ewart has
told him he is the first temporary
officer to hold rank of S.S.O.4
and D.S. His boy had a bad
effect on him. He writes we are
a selfish & conceited plebeian
set who drinks more whiskey
than his health. I am not
confident but he will be an easy
man to work with, & I fancy that
if he makes a mistake, he will
try to put the blame on others.
I order Café Comptoir at 6.45
am. I go to bed.

26/1/16. 1.45 am Ewart with
me up for a cigarette
drunk. I am constrained to tell
to him from him. Many ideas
in his muddled head
(1/2 his 18.50) at what

at 6:30 pm (he had to go to the
be) (2) he the first
Temporary officer to be ^{off} of
D.V.M. (3) an "in suit
but on time" he offered
a Col, & 2 Majors a Drink
& they refused
About breakfast, etc.
I retired to bed ~~at~~ about

2:30!

We got off from Havre a
route to Abbeville about
10.15, after getting road
maps, the ration etc.
Ewart & I in first car,

baggage, ration & 2 reserves,
& second (Powell & Mabley
on top of baggage, quite
complacently)

Ewart & I were working in 3rd

Car.

Jolly country, well wooded
& undulating.

Ewart in a state of nervous jumps,
warning at everyone about nothing. We
go 103 miles to Abbeville, stopping for lunch
on the way. First meal of rations, (a whisky
supplied by Ewart & drunk from tin bottle!) very
satisfactory. Reached Abbeville about 3.30.
Report to various ^{British} officials, most of whom are
out, one at a football match in the
near neighborhood. I had some tea in a tea shop.
Place crowded with British soldiers.
W.D. to report at St Omer, at 55 miles further
on. Ewart in a panic as usual. Start
again about 4.40. It grows gradually dark.
Various panics about other cars not
following. 7 1/2 hours. Searching, wearing &
waste 7 times. Several times held up by
French friends. permit always ration in them.
one stoppage in a little village to buy tea & a
for Ewart to mix with the remains of his
whisky. once we take the wrong
road I have to go back about a quarter of a
mile. on the whole, but only to me

" Who manages the staff & the capturing
of passes-by, we get along very well.
In stormer by 7.30 p.m. Then an
exciting search, in the spite darkened
house, for various H.Q.'s & other places, all
worth to report. At least, most of the
officials out. Also most of those who

direct us, tell us wrong. At last about
8.45 the hunt is over. We are billeted in
hotels for the night, two in Hotel de France
'[Elysees & 'Neuilly]'. Two, Alf & Ewart in
Hotel de Commerce. The latter chosen by Ewart

became said to be the best. In fact much too
work, dirty & primitive. We have a
very bad meal, - cold soup, ill cooked, stinky
meat & meat, particularly macaroni au gratin.
Ewart as usual writes a lot, a letter to Beauvoir,

two copies, three or four articles. Sits up
fanning about noising in particular till about 11.30.
Then writes some more whiskey in his bedroom. By

me to come in & join him. I being tired with
alcohol, unexpecting from mine half into
his & half into his. He too fuddled to
drive. He complains of constipation.

Further notes on Ewart. He is unreasonable,
he is petulant, he is a confirmed pinner, he is
ill-at-ease with gentlemen, he is so conceited
that he will not be influenced by any suggestion,
he is from his B.S.O.'s. Worst of all, &

rather unexpectedly, he is very slow-witted &
I wish had at his job. I presume that he may
become very tiresome to work with, I
regret to hear that when we have settled

down, he ~~will~~ shall not see a great deal
of me.

27/1/16.

St-omer smells very much at night, but not
so much by day. Something unpleasant
is done in the shops at night 1- in the grande
place & elsewhere. Unpleasant being people &
Ewart messes round in the morning, usually
about the meal he had the night before.
My driver reports sick, & complains he has no
money. I advance him 5 francs. I realize
that, in this waiting-time, we are spending a lot of
our private income, & I wonder how much we

shall recover later on! We don't buy for
Gillets, but we do buy for all food & drink.
Ewart takes no steps to find out what may be
claimed for, when I show. I had him to no
effect. He violates the first canon laid down, (spite
noting the last books, & is utterly indifferent to the
comfort of the men who sleep in the cars, &
have great difficulty in getting even a little hot water in
the morning. While one is with Ewart & under his
continual eye, no work is done. He merely pines
about in an irritated & imitating, ineffectual
way, & one is helpless to do anything except.

When I get into my comfy things will be better.
We have billets allotted to the Rue Dunkerque,
partly of all separate. Ewart has the
best of the form, & is full of chatter & digressions.
Mine is one an "ideal Brasserie". There is no
great much, as a 2/2p bar and comes in at 1/2p in
front of the window. The bed is in an alcove with no ventilator.
I could not sleep. We sleep at a restaurant temperature of 60° opened by
our ready refusal from a musician when he ~~is~~

13)

home has been shelled to pieces. Ewart admit,
 that his lot is a little better, but in my ^{opinion} ^{the} ^{unit} ^{is}
 bad, & reminds me of the ^{lot} ^{but} ^{not} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{way} ^{of} ^{it}.
 After lunch a ^{very} ^{conference} ^{with} ^{Major} ^{Hill}
 (D.A.G.M.G.) & Hall, my Staff-Capt, mainly about
 to possibly appear etc. After tea Ewart
 laboriously reads out a lot of notes to us,
 mostly very stale. We dine in the same
 restaurant. Ewart very silent & gloomy.
 The meal takes a long time. At 9.30 I break
 away & return to my billet. I hear music &
 curfew in Sutter's manger. I find a piece
 looking man, playing ^{on} a piano in the dark &
 Madame. ~~There is a piano in the~~ ^{There is} ^{music} ^{about} ^{30,}
^{a piano in the} ^{music} ^{about} ^{30,}
 During a ^{short} ^{time} ^{with} ^{him} ^{upon} ^I ^{can} ^{withdraw}
 the piano ^{on} ^{the} ^{left} ^{hand} ^{is} ^a ^{soldier},
 way. Then two ^{or} ^{three} ^{clearly} ^{lovers}. There is
 a little more music. Men I discreetly go
 taking no notice, & not liking to get back
 early for home. I have to write up my diary
 by ^{the} ^{light} ^{of} ^{my} ^{torch}. (Very useful!)
 To bed about 11 pm.

28/1/16. Round to see Ewart about 8.45.
 Full of grumbles & inevitable panic as usual.
 After ⁱⁿ ^{finite} ^{delays} & cursing get off about 9.45
 in ^{can} ^{with} ^{the} ^{following} ^{Hall} & ^{intercept} ^{to} ^{inspect}
 billeting areas. I having failed to obtain pass
 in time we are conveyed by Hall's car for the
 mention at St Owen & to Mrs. Ewart then
 but he is not a billeting officer, why is he time
 being time wasted, & then spend hours traipsing
 into ^{the} ^{armament}, with me and asking me

through my intermediacy

inhabitants, innumerable stupid questions. ((
 the desert much "fang" any of the places he
 examining, (all of which, as I know, are
 realize it is useless. Explain to him, and
 looked up till he did staff. I heard till
 say his in his presence, but he didn't take it
 in.) Finally he decides to take ^{his} ^{work}
 of the village allotted to Div' Staff for HQ.
 Train (Johnson, Linnell & Baumert!) He's
 not much concerned to men & luggage etc.
 Coy. They, he thinks, can go in a furze & brush
 nearby. Johnson will have a bedroom & sitting
 room in one house. Also an office. He will have
 his office & bedroom & Baumert will sleep in a
 second house, in a kind of their retreat, with
 sleep to look for them. Even so he makes it
 very "thick" ^{thick} ^{down}. (Later he explains his plan
 to fill, and explain, slightly forced, that it's all
 like impossible, as he clearly ~~is~~ ^{is} ^{not} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{position} ^{of} ^{going})
 Meanwhile Hall's car has gone on & left us, and
 Ewart has no pass. He, Linnell, falls into one of
 his habitual panics. We shall be stifled by the
 traffic. We shall never be able to get back, they will
 take his name, they will report him to "the General".
 First he tries to blame me, then Hall for his. Had he
 realized his position, he would never have come out.
 We are twice held up & let through by
 summoning the sentry who let us out & making
 him we can be remembered in car.
 Nothing more of importance during the day.
 Ewart, having panicked about immediate necessity
 in doing something, & when ever we suggest doing
 anything definite, saying fiercely & loudly that
 we haven't yet done anything, let's some

in 7/12/16 from D. D. S. T. showing that
everything is arranged for feeding troops for 2 days
after their arrival without E's intervention.
Everything is really quite plain sailing.
However, E's attitude & his own conduct. We, & Wilson
of supply column ~~are~~ utterly fed up with
him, both on grounds of inefficiency & personal
discounting him as reasonable. We will
not staff carts & fill both as usual.
We wish his fall may be imminent & happy.
Dine with my 3 colleagues, staff capt Baker & Hutson.

29/1/16.

meet my interpreter Ledwore, ornamented
with a sphinx head. A very decent
man, slightly pompous but with the usual
easy manner. Speaks very good English. I feel
him we will converse in French. We proceed
market-place to collect & make enquiries
about prices of vegetables & forage. Food
Ewart in a slightly better condition. Lunch
with him & Hall at ^{the} ^{front} a canteen used as
a garage. No a "cathedral" aesthetically
admirable. At 2 pm. start out in
car with Hall, Stearley (1st class) &
Ledwore. From Giletting area, Elblon, Pan,
Reusesame, Staple, Wallon Castell.
Note H.D. & Battalion Hq. Five
occasionally a bedroom & office myself
at ~~end~~ at an Estaminet next to Milling
station. Make enquiries about possibilities

of buying horses & that. Hall will be a decent
little boy, rather good looking, competent,
incomprehensible & not "uncultivated". Quite
a good occasional turn of phrase.

Dine at Hotel Du Commerce with
Ledwore et Bourgeois, interpreter.
In politics & in life generally L is a
moderate man.

30/1/16.

Let sleep in arithmetic ~~after breakfast~~ from 9 am. Present
draw coat, sword & bay for troops coming in tonight
& in small hours tomorrow. Arithmetic completed,
proceed to D.D.S.T. (all details as usual) in field
car. Ewart's car ^{left} stuck in a ditch in
night before. ^{of men} ^{on} ^{to} dig it out.
Dine on original of Cam reduced to 2. 2 ^{of men}
driven of were out of action!
Our supply column not being here (Cross it!) &
being said to be 3 days away (which sounds most
unlikely) much of time will be ⁱⁿ ^{communication}
D.D.S.T. with private lorries at 2 p.m., less loading
downloading parties to travel round on them.
Back to lunch below the office.

2 p.m. Dine to depot with interpreters. Usual
delay. No loading party. Away about 3.30
Ewart accompanies me to my best accommodation,
& with out my necessity. We have 3 lorries.
Select spots on the roadside in foreground & in
background to deposit hay & wood for troops
not yet arrived. Inhabitants solemnly warned
against interference with it & their names
& addresses taken. Ewart slightly busy.

but in hours as we set on with the jet, the
 has undisturbed by a certain slipping, cumbersome,
 doped system, under which we do most of our
 work & are treated with great lack of courtesy.
 This system works well enough, & slowly enough, in
 fairly simple things. I find it with (at least) daily
 behind time when time presses.
 We finish in darkness, (unloading, coal in particular,
 with only two men in a No. 1) & land back at
 St. Omer at 7.30. Still unable to visit Ferns
 Henri Baum met at Elkhoven, when my
 company me to go. Ledurre is a quiet &
 amiable former Notary, slightly bourgeois
 very correct, very moderate very affable.
 Dine about 8.15 beneath the Office. The old lady
 from Kament. is a rather tragic figure. She
 has very few teeth. After dinner more
 arithmetic & part day's work but the
 calculations become more familiar & hence
 easier. Swart has to meet Johnson & Samelt
 also at 3 am. at the station. I am
 amused, & he, in usual, is full of numbers.
 We continue till

31/1/16
 1 am. Men I come back to billets. My
 lady hostess is entertaining several men in
 the Salle-a-manger noise.
 I write up my diary. Miss & Erica (more
 systematic than writing a letter. I hope soon
 to time to have a condensation of the last
 days in a letter. I finish at 1.45 am.
 To Miss of 9 o'clock. Find Swart

just returned from the station via
 (Tr. Coz in (20 he says) for the heavy eye) 18
 to his ~~office~~ ^{office} to work to shut. Take the opportunity
 to go out in a car with Ledurre to Elkhoven
 & deposit my hat box in the Estaminet de la case.
 back 10.30. Swart ^{at 10.30} ~~is~~ ^{is} waiting at my abode though
 not ready to do anything. Later we
 proceed to the depot. Meet there Wharton
 competent young M.T. Officer with add'l
 car. We load up very slowly. (get hard
 of motion & get finished first about
 1.30. Go with Wharton & Ledurre to bet.
 men. Pickle a very tough under one stake
 & rush out on a round of La Gorse,
 Le Nieffe, Staple, Elkhoven, Renssance.
 13 tons of stuff to drop. At La Gorse find
 Tr. Coz settling in. Pick up feathers &
 a few men & take them on. Finish at
 8 at St. Omer after a vicious night with
 but on the whole, well & creditably with
 Wharton's assistance. Find Piccola & Swart all
 at dinner in restaurant. Swart proudly
 continually repeats he has had his sleep
 last night. (No one wants him to go to
 station to meet Tr. Coz & it seems he
 didn't in fact meet them, & didn't
 see former till this afternoon.) After
 dinner Swart goes to bed & we 4 sit
 up & do arithmetic to the morrow.

1/2/16. 12.30 am. Take Piccola
 with us to billets. 1.15 am

- distant from it in front head lamp for him.
 A day of drive, Johnson over at 9 am,
 to impose some road into Ewart. Melation
 quantity & offensive as usual. Drove to depot
 at 10.30. I away first, with 8 heavy laden
 cars, but not till 12.30. Pick up 3 supply
 men en route to La Crosse. Don't home till
 10.15 pm, having covered half the whole
 Divisional Area! Supply men & driver
 magnificent! Through system an absurd one,
 owing to Ewart's non-arrival, & non-arrival of
 Supply Column. I feel elation at finally driving
 through the day, delivering all rations & being
 complimented by several of them who receive them.
 Like an expedition of corned beef & a piece of biscuit
 & four cups of coffee at restaurants by the
 roadside. On my return speak rather
 frankly & tartly to Ewart, who momentarily
 collapses, pays me compliments & becomes
 a little more reasonable. He agreed to my
 main demand, a dump, even though
 impractical. At my billet my Madame was
 locked in door & gone to bed. I have to call her
 up, & then try no alternative, unless if any
 dinner is possible. She lets me try
 admirable coffee, some soft fruit cheese &
 some French beer. All
 11 pm back to sleeping. We, he & she
 Ewart, was first hit a passion to say
 we shall receive an order in the car.
 He got to bed early. I at

2/2/16

1-30 am.
 Arrived office 9.30 am. My labour
 divisioned by a rearrangement of areas, &
 a provisional dump at Elblinthen station.
 I dump led were at Elblinthen the
 takes billets for officers & burglar in the
 ladies after hours. Working comparatively successful,
 though strenuous, not over till 9.30 pm. Capt
 Graham & Mr Smith work like heroes. So does
 Capt of Supply Column, a very smart fellow,
 full of punch. Who has driven, to be sure,
 his J. French's & Prince of Wales' Car. He says
 Churchill, Seely & ~~the J. French~~ ^{night} are wonderful stuff
 French & Smith French got the sack because
 won't & a broken heart because of his work.
 He but through ~~the car~~ & drive. He "went back at
 to lead it." ^{old}
 Promises reported to have said we are main
 to build in a week. Because today a
 labour of delayed letters, 3 from P.G. 1 from V
 Le Hong. All very fat & satisfying work
 I haven't him with a racing for letters but
 some seem to be here.

3/2/16.

Official refilling point at Ettingham.
 Hell of a morning! Car out of action
 owing to defective magnets. No
 loader at railhead! ^{Hence} ~~at~~ initiation
 prostrate of time.
 No lunch, moved out in alien car.
 Working at refilling point 2.5. Also
 miffy details to 303 Co.
 Tea with Campbell, John etc at
 their farm. Becht, Stomer,
 & a lot of boys in alien car.
 Good night with Capt. Hilde
 Frank & a good night.
 to be a good night earlier than
 usual.

4/2/16.

Car in order again.
 Take a little extra sleep. A trucking
 round railhead again, I hope for the
 last time, as the Column has now all
 arrived. Load up last of the 4th Brigade.
 Lunch at Hqd at Vauxhall Club
 Station, before moving off. Examining
 the House by Tiffney in Mansel's
 me. Refilling Point works pretty
 well, considering how new the men

are to the job. So round with Clipped &
 buy vegetables. He likes, he says, but I will
 soon come to like at the Fenne Bannet.
 interminable conference from 6 to 12,
 with a break for dinner, with Wilson of
 the Column about distribution of next
 day, reserve rations, & what matters
 an infinite detail about trivialities.

5/2/16.

Straggle out to refilling point &
 reserve rations. While we are
 refilling, a message comes that two
 German aeroplanes are coming toward
 Stomer. Later we see one, flying
 very fast & high. It is a beautiful
 blue, sunny sky, with patches of
 white cloud. When the Fokker has
 passed over us about a mile toward
 StD, goes open on it & the sky begins
 to be covered with little patches of white
 smoke, coming in shells, ^{one} bursting ^{one} ~~the~~
 near, & most very near it, but most
 not. The trail of white patches spreads
 out behind its route, as it seems to
 sweep round in a wide curve toward StD.
 We see it in the great distance. It drops
 its bombs, as we learn later, about
 StD railway station, killing 3 men &
 wounding a few, but doing ^{but} ~~not~~ ^{very} ~~much~~ ^{of} ~~any~~ ^{appreciable} ~~damage~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{station} ~~we~~

23
It coming back. pursued by 2 of our own
who try to see about in the clouds. High
if we hear the clack-clack of machine
gun fire. They disappear eastwards. I'm afraid
with no sense to us. This is the first incident
of warfare with 1 witness. Our own men
are mostly rather awed & a bit at sea. The
French have much more help of what is going on.
and are full of animation. They look calm
and they are quite calm.

I am baffled of my intention to convene
the Ferné Banquet by an intervention
conference about nothing at all, until
late till 11 pm. Announced we were in
write to P.F. instead. 3 days & fire.

6/2/16. One of the boats fell into the Canal at St Omer, &
exploded on percussion killed 200 men,
which were dead & the number of people killed
& extremely some of the in harbor and.

Unsuccessful. Repillye Chiller & party
normal. I return to the Ferné Banquet
time wanted from 5.30 to 8.30 by Ewart
talking about nothing. I had ~~and~~ and
seems of priority about 11 AM.
7/2/16.

7/2/16.
A day of utter peace. Ewart & I do not meet,
in the first time in many days. Start for
refilling & dealing with a few forms. I have a
very day, and nothing. I talk to the factory
in farm. They have lost a son in the war,
but May. He was in the army. Called up
before his time. "We ~~that~~ can never forget
the war." fortitude with had me about

French equivalents of certain English 24
words & phrases! To bed 10.30. We are
in the part of the 11th Corps, with the 19th &
36th Divisions. The 11th Corps forms part of
the First Army, who hold the line from
Armentières to Lens. This is a better
position than that of going further north, near
Ypres. One general opinion is that the
further south we go, the better the prospect for
comfort. One of the men on the M.T. staff
Colman is a fireman from the Middle Temple.
He recognized me on the road 2 days ago. I
didn't recognize him at first, as he is clean
shaven now. When he used to carry my
luggage from my 3rd room to my flat he had a
mustache.

8/2/16.

To be away from Ewart is a blessed
condition. The joys of which I now enjoy
one. Here at the farm we are a
happy company. Drought, my R.P., a
dull, highly moral & rather religious,
but mildly tolerant & satisfactorily
intelligent person. John (Carter) &
Chippell the best of cheerful
companions. Chippell my son at his
job as O/C Company.

We were both snowed morning early.
I meet young Pinney, A.D.C. The
days we are ultimately Lie-in
about a fortnight's time, ~~but~~ in the

A man off from Prince Arthur's
Command post to the 105th Hde Unit he had
seen them march past last afternoon
& was much pleased with theirordia
like bearing. Was his eye wash or is he
a rank bad judge? For Chantling of
Vancouver fell out, got sore, on our
15 mile trek!

10/2/16.

Div¹ Refilling Point. Very long day, owing
to ~~the~~ the volume overshooting its
mark by 2 miles or more, & having
to be brought back by a circuitous
route.

I am in the spot at 9.30, but
not back till 2.30!

I went at Refilling Point in a comparatively
chartered form of mind, Johnson being
upset his plans & commented on his
shortcomings.

A conference at 8.30 to 10.30 at ~~the~~ ^{Lambert}
with Swart & Log. on return with Log

Return to R.P.

11/2/16.

A morning wet day. Unpleasantly damp
at R.P. Back to lunch at 12.45.
Cheerful & businesslike conversation with Hall
at 5. Drayton set off at 9.30
Lambert

In the car to arrange to return transfer
for next morning to bring vegetables
R.P. This put forward to 8.30 am. I
instructed Chantling concerning policy with re-
dits caused, also ~~the~~ he discussed (not
complimentarily) Drayton & S. Sarge. We
are largely of one mind about persons,
at any rate about officers in the New
Army.

Krifade in check by kitchen. Return of
Command post etc in the morning. Weather
horrible. I, being at Refilling Point, not in
the picture. He said to have been
cheerful & well pleased.

12/2/16.

Monday, R.P. perfectly well, hope I
have to be there 30! Decided Supply
Officers & personnel move to St Quentin, &
are to be near R.P.

13/2/16.

Note with Drayton had one 18 supply delays
to St Quentin, close to R.P., but was killed.

14/2/16.

More convenient than to R.P.
I suffer somewhat from diarrhoea, but
stomach an opium tablet held it in
check. ~~It~~

15/2/16.

Refilling over early. High wind.

Consistently being for a little while, a little leisure. Potted round fire in the afternoon. Cook a couple of lunch to 3 weeks. Arrange to a hot bath next day. Dunch coffee in an Estaminet, kept by refugees from Hamburg, an old father, a mother & a healthy little daughter. They say people suspect English to refugees when on return to them, find national not how to read of them. Return

Change bacon, bread & vegetables. Ma's dinner maintain a long ^{in France} conversation with Edna about Catholicism & the war, & other ^{of} listening appreciatively. Conversation branched off into English, fiscal policy, Lloyd George, Cantillon, rate of exchange, etc etc. Dunch mind work. A very quiet & restful evening!

16/2/16.

Wind several times as strong as yesterday, also much ^{rain} at R.P. Dunch nearly under ^{water}. Several good Campbell proofs in all.

Afternoon take a hot bath in fire, listen to the new playing piano in Peashop. Talk to several French people during the day of different types. Struck by high general level of intelligence.

Refused with Aunt Ann ^{visit}, yet in London in the morning when that a German. First had to be Aunt Ann!

17/2/16.

A jolly day. Sund wind. Receive my first "Nation". Take things easily after R.P. & write letter to Curie & read Nation.

Interminable conference with Ewart & other K.G.O. & motor driving from 8.30 till

18/2/16.

1.15 am on subject of next move. More ^{break} back with Subby, details to whether. Like regret being little more with ^{ment}. Low Campbell notes with Chipwell & Drought to Robert's jolly dinner. Very well cooked, with Chipwell's ^{John} Fenton & Drought, in a little restaurant close to Bapette Station.

19/2/16.

More from Isbynes to Robert, an admirable letter, just miss meeting ^{at Edward Jones}.

31
20/2/16.

Morning normal. Evening great bombardment (or it seems to me) details. Perhaps it is only normal, & one is not used to it. Dull heavy bong-bong-bong! Particularly audible as we march out to Eastren Conference with Swart 8.30. A perfect night. Chill in the air & a wonderful nearly full moon. I have a great sense of our military power. Find reading of Intelligence very interesting.

21/2/16.

After R.P. motor round with R.O. looking at suitable large scale wood-&-coal-dump. Terrible cannonade going on, & continues unabated till about 7 pm. Ground shakes & windows rattle back at Kobe. on Eastren. Local road in noise tremendous. Very low in noise. Seems to strike one in pit of stomach. After an hour or two one gets used to it. About 2 pm, write at Paradis. 7 Bosch airmen come over making for Neville. Bethune etc. A hazy dull day. one can see them less clearly than of air in the line, as on 5/2/16, (on which, I read in Intelligence, we brought down 5 in front of British lines) He

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but one was more clearly in the flash in the sky or the mechanical bursts round them. But the mechanical smoke is a dirty grey today. They return later by one & two. I begin to distrust the Germans by their noise, - all monoplane, practically. One comes back with the head on I am arguing with the Sherwoods' Scotch Quaker, who is about his bread ration. Enter various hours on subject of dump. In one find a one-day-old baby, red & ugly, with his ^{mouth} in his head in the next room, calling out ^{to his mother} who was one sitting round the fire. They have had one son killed in the war, & another has been missing for 6 months, probably dead too. How is the manhood of France being struck down! Can almost strike in back to Kobe, ^{via} ^{the} ^{very} ^{existing} ^{road}. Have to back 3/4 mile. Then on to ^{Bethune} [&] ^{Neville} ^{place}, a little village left ^{of} ^a ^{suitable} ^{place}, provided a piece of a line, where hedge can be cut down. Interview proprietor. A pathetic, shabby old man, who says he is 88, & very ill. He & his old wife live apparently in a quite dark room, without a fire. It will give him pleasure to do anything to help the English. He points toward the farms, which are lumbering loads. If it were not for the English, they in that part of the country would all be at the mercy of the Germans. He cannot walk easily so I take him my arm & walk with him slowly

3
along the road about 20 yards, to show what I
will do to his main hedge & just behind
it - for a few days. He is unconditional. I may
do what I please. Yes, he says, he is a
great age. That would show he had died
two years ago, & not seen all this!
on to Swart in the evening. He says there is
a terrible cannonading on; there must
be a great battle going; today he has not
had time for his meals, only 25 minutes
for lunch, etc. He then keeps me
waiting about from 6 pm. to 8.30 pm.
Over business which could have been
settled in 5 minutes.

Return 8.30 to Rebecq.
Cannonade starts again, with some intensity,
about 10 pm. The house is well
shaken as I write up my diary, the rest
having gone to bed.

Today I have been dished out with a
leather jerkin, a good garment which
should be useful after the war.
To bed 11.30 pm.

22/2/16.
Snowing most of the day. Practically
no cannonading. So far we have been
to wood & coal dump. Wagon in a ditch
walk from Neville to Rebecq, next
to a short lift in a lorry. Accompanied
by French soldiers who sell me
duty free 3/2 & 1/2 along

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beside me very persistently, in spite
of the fact that I have to walk at a
sharp pace.

Find number of letters waiting at Rebecq, in case
2 from P.G.

Spend from 8.45 to 12.15 with Swart, listening
to discussion on strategy with P.T. Officer. No
concern of mine at all. Talk, take flapping
but Swart may at the end, receive a little
back.

23/2/16.

1 am.
Very frosty & some more snow. After K.P.
I am entertained by the brewer closely, who
invites me to eat his potatoes & brings out
for me a bottle of white wine & some biscuits.
We discuss drinks & the varying habits of
different localities. Also other subjects of
current interest.

Write 12 sides to P.G. Read Nation. Statesman,
& L.W.

24/2/16.

R.P. finished at 8.30 am. Cap taken to
Neville to repair. Visit to the Club &
dinner, various battalions.

Learn that 15th Division & 14th Division
are going into France on 28/2/16.
Also with, on a battalion of another brigade in
Germany but up a board, inscribed
"God - p - doodle - doo!"

Fine frosty weather, good for everyone
except horses & men forced
to remain immobile.

25
25/2/16.

Order to move in afternoon from R. P. to La Fore. Then destination altered to Les Choignes, a few miles north of Bethune. Found in car with Johnson to select good R.P. I experimented with 38th Div who have taken all the good places on a large area, & want him off them. Finally select place on map with out looking at it. Very cold & heavy falling snow continuing most of the day. Do actual move in afternoon to Ferme Wilson, Les Choignes. A good billet, large men-room, separate bedrooms, friendly people, including a brother of Madame, a farmer from Richelieu, whose farm we shall be pieces of the German. They give me admirable local on arrival. They have also extremely good red wine at 1.50 the bottle! Pass transport on the road coming in, about 7 pm. with horses, & take down, going to front, di. General Stacey left yesterday. At 10 pm. not undressed. I go out on return from Pie face, in car to find men. Find men about 1/4 way, march away. They get up at 11 pm. Get some other more who want being unpacked & get to bed.

26/2/16

1.15 am. at Paradise
8 am. Try to start to R.P. several miles away. Can wait more, owing to frosty atm. there. At 8.45 start to walk, with staff - Sgt & Sgt & Corporal, whom I had intended to take in car. Take a wiser road, go over a frozen field, & through ice & bushes several times. The whole ^{country} under most of freezing hand. Arrive R.P. 10.15 am. Walk back in the dark, crossing a road pocked with shell holes. Hear news of great German push at Verdun.

Now to accumulate 3 days' supplies at new R.P. at La Fore. Sheds here for stores. Much walking backwards & forwards in car to report what is being done. At 10 am sets in in afternoon, better for horses & men in trenches. To bed 11.15 after writing up 2 days' diary.

27/2/16.

On the 27th, most of the day, move with K.O. into water & finally into La Fore, close to R.P. Rather beautiful to be alone, away from the transport, in this house, refugees from Richelieu, Denmark? & some, whose shells in front in battle.

Make midnight issue to ^{zone} Charles ~~back~~
from trenches.

28/2/16.

Nothing of importance.
Billets comfortable.
Complete. Motor extricated from
ditch & sent to be repaired.
Vague rumors of imminent German
break at Verdun.

29/2/16.

A jolly spring day with a few showers.
Car still under repair & ride about
all day on a box. A lot of activity
in the air in the morning. We bring down 2,
according to some accounts, 3 German airmen,
one only a few miles away. Some of our
people witnessing it. 3 British machines
converging on him from above. Observer
wounded. in leg with minor injuries. ^{on a high} ^{altitude} ^{region}
Swart very gracious & friendly. ^{believed to be} ^{English}
Venant to see A.P.M. a jolly, common sense,
un-red-tape-worship man, about a wing
pass. graciously invited to tea by Swart
with himself Johnson & Bennett. Reflect how
dull they would be to live with.
Eat a large dinner, appreciably cheerful
to R.O. After dinner ride out to see
Griffade H.Q. & Chippell. Former plucky
panic about prospect for tomorrow's battle

Latta in an agreeable camping mood.
Fairly heavy (purple fog on all the
evening in resulting spasms. New
horizon continually lit up by burning
flask lights, star shells & other flickering
devices.

1/3/16.

more back from La Fume to Robey.
Perceptible sense of relaxation at
being some 5 miles further back.
Dine with No 2 Coy & borrow their
car, my car with big in repair.
Further friction with Ledwina &
Chippell, chiefly but not wholly
owing to his latter want of tact

2/3/16.

Car still at Neuville under
repair. Hate to note it
last night ~~of the~~ Nothing of
importance all day.

3/3/16.

Day normal. Swart's anniversary confu
mentally enjoyed 2.15 - 5.45. Friendly
conversation with Gen' Hanks about movements
of troops. Another friendly conversation

with children in home were suffly men
 are killed. These have picked up a little
 English. One aged five, says to a boy
 fallen beneath a piece of furniture, "Come
 up here!" ^{Constantin} ^{of} ^{mother}
 Grandmother was seen to understand quite
 well. Explained how child has been a
 very English soldier since the beginning of
 the war. Had some affix to French
 mission for transfer, on word how he can't
 get on with the Capitaine Chipmell. I
 don't know him. He has been treated with
 a less lack of consideration & tact on
 several occasions. Can come back from
 their ville. Several officers of 104th were accidentally
 killed while making bombing.
 4/3/16.

Rain & snow. A few days & much
 of the surrounding country flooded.
 No apparent attempt at small
 scale operations in this
 neighborhood.
 Had food to betwixt me with Chipmell
 & Wright in the afternoon. ~~Had~~
 food help. Small apparent danger
 of shell fire. Met Newell
 C.O. of 15th Machine & Pallett
 when Q.M. in a trench.

They say their bath is being
 splendidly in ten trenches. Commis
 extra advanced buying stuffed olives,
 pain de pain, fruit a tin of petits
 pois for ten men.

5/3/16.

A day of machine, rain & snow.
 Remained grand. D.V. forest
 Verdun. We ourselves are to hold
 a ^{short} brigade front on our own front
 next Tuesday. Remained with Smith
 has procured 30 rounds of bullets. Supply
 (John Smith officer, & has to
 Johnson with his own) is the only
 able man in Suffering out here.
 Remained also with Johnson to reach
 fellow, believe his. Tea in the village.
~~6/3/16~~ ^{or at least} ^{Chocolate} ^{at Verdun}
 from very quiet last day or two

6/3/16.

Nothing of importance. Heavy snow, but
 machine, rapid train, ^{front} ⁱⁿ ^{at} ^{Verdun}
 Remained taking order of Divisional Facts
 from the French to enable reinforcements to
 be sent to Verdun.

7/3/16.

I hear that 6 new Divisions have come out since we came, also that we were offered 100 (guards) & 1000 (divisions) to the French for Verdun & that they preferred the indirect assistance of being taken over a further stretch of the line (which we did).

Nothing of importance. (I am still being) ^{with} Marching up to take over first line trenches. They looked rather wretched & were marching badly, accompanying with our own 16th Cheshires, who also marched out, to be attached to us in position. Some were snow, but not heavy, & not trying.

Supply arrangements need only complicated by failure of Ditch H.P. to give us reasonable notice of impending troop movements. Write a fondling letter to Valentine.

8/3/16.

Arrange for move to Calonne. Find a billet after much searching. (I am) losing a bit more in the evening. Small mixture of snow. I must have a thaw.

9/3/16.

Move to Calonne. In the best billet I have

yet had, with room to myself, & excellent Sallaie-mayer with bedrope & R.O.

We have a musical evening with the family. I have this billet because I spoke French to my niece, & was so polite. Many others have been refused. (I hear complaints that many English officers "behave like Germans", & as though they were in a conquered country. How that they sometimes fail to pay ^{for} ^{the} ^{services}, when leaving billets. This annoys me.

10/3/16.

An ~~of~~ important day. Shift announced from Ewart in afternoon. Many troops marching to rough, including 25th Divⁿ. Try to extend size drain at Refilling Point. Another musical & social evening with the family.

11/3/16.

A slight brush with Ewart about rice. I learn that Keenot has applied for a transfer. (I am, therefore, in only 16th Co. who has not yet taken his leave step. I attribute his hurry to my extravagance of money, & keen consciousness of the smallness of Ewart in the midst of the world war, leading to my comparative immunity from his attacks.

Amiable conversation with Straker after dinner & later on in evening talk with his family. (I hear) about early experiences in the war, and

Report from Lille, the fantastic scene at
Amiens station, the bombardment of non-
combatant refugees from the German etc.
Cannonade a bit more active tonight.
Determine to take a seaside holiday tomorrow
morning. (No connection with the last two
Comments.)

12/3/10.

A day cold but sunny with a foretaste of spring,
wait quite affable for a wondrous change.
Noting further of importance to report.

13/3/16.

A real warm sunny day. M. Quast walks
me round his little garden & points out
his fruit trees, one of them also his strawberries,
& various plants & strawberry plants. He
tells me he has lived here long, and in the warm
weather it is very nice.
I see for the first time tracks sweating on the
march, with tunics thrown open.
Sudden need for modification in the movements
of troops take up a lot of time, in
making new riffs and elements.
In the evening we all sit in the kitchen.
Mathilde makes more attractive than the daughter,
makes ^{the} shouting of soft pancake
kniss, which we eat hot from the fire, with
butter & sugar, washed down with ^{the} wine.
Collected coffee. M. Quast makes great
game in a jovial way, of ^{the} ^{the} ^{the} ^{the}
retiring daughter. He says she has the wife
for a misanthrope but is too kind to say so
publicly. The family here may be interesting
to you and to my young friends.

He also ~~was~~ ^{was} in city of Lille; it is in fact -
Paris he says, you will soon be relieved.
The "lovely" old gentleman across the road, on
whom Dronput has been killed in the war,
is absolutely convinced that the war will be
over in August. There will be a big push
soon on all the fronts at once, and the
Boches will crumple up.

Yesterday in the least pointed out to me
the importance of the French military service
law on ^{the} maintenance & hence on the birth rate.
If men in universal conscription after the war,
it will help to slacken still further the
rate of addition to the world's population.

14/3/16.

A glorious day, a warm sunny blue sky. It is
a joy to have consciousness. Even sweat rain
collected by the weather, & speaks with civility
& acts with reasonableness!
Visit H.R. at St Florens for tea. An alarm
of rebellion. We rush out, hear ^{the} ^{the}
see nothing.
O.C. No 4 goes to hospital, saying he has been
diagnosed. "Very discreditable!" a person
would say.

Very common that we go to Bethune and
then - This would agree with ^{the} ^{the}
if we have taken over the ^{the} ^{the}
Fronts from the France towards Verdun.
An evening spent as usual with the Quast
family. Hedme tells me ^{the} ^{the}
of his father's ^{the} ^{the}

15/3/16.

(Micael reports etc)

Do write a lot of official correspondence & some neatly on paper off several Field Officers.

Feel write a criticism again in correspondence with friends who might have a hot bath before lunch, a rare event.

Finish Patricia's Red Horizon - very naturally not much of a work.

We are to relieve the 3rd Division in a few days' time, S.E. of Bethune.

Remember the Anzacs have arrived on the Western Front.

16/3/16.

A jolly day of spring. I receive in related part of several days, also L.L. in the Nation, which I delightfully devour.

17/3/16.

Arrange to move back to Fosse for a few days tomorrow. La famille quite jolly repeat. A very agreeable evening with them, music & general conversation.

18/3/16.

Escape usual afternoon conference who want on the ground that we are moving. Spend the afternoon playing children's game with the two Mademoiselles Ledune & Drouot. Two latter less "neatly" & no man might have been expected

The men, then Ritz & the rescue stores go over early in the day. We three remain till evening. Elworthy & Farr, B.S.O. & R.O. 106 to ride, come in on Gillet after 6. Elworthy, as usual, fiddling about knives, marvelling at the way I "slide through life", but admitting that in certain respects I "manage things very well." E & F come in on a very inferior footing. They have not the usual Jalle-a-manger, nor does Madame faille cuisine. It's a little difficult to make all this brutally clear to them, but I set about it with an air of great cheerfulness & ~~the~~ ~~time~~ ~~with~~ ~~me~~ ~~need~~.

The Quakers grow excessively sentimental to me, all five of them, when the hour of departing comes, we have several eyes very unEnglish (tear in our eyes) I promise to come back soon.

In the afternoon we have discussed the difference in national habits among women. They are not out of the fact that English women of the middle class do carry & don't "front la cuisine". They eat very much always playing tennis. The English middle class woman's place is undoubtedly in the home, but then it is in many respects a much better sort of home than our own. The food in particular is miles better. I leave Calonne about 8.30 pm &

Ride to La Fosse. The snow has been
in the car has my hat

It is a glorious night moon almost full,
sky almost cloudless, the air soft & still.
One can see easily that summer is here
already. A few miles off the snow

grumble reluctantly.
I come back to my old billet at La Fosse,
good enough & conveniently situated but
a great come down after Cologne.

I lent the car to the General (Hankin)
today. They went down to Ameyun &
other civily places & other better
where we shall be holding in a day or two.
The Germans shelled the place & the
were there the car driver was very
nearly buffed up, - & reporting
the General.

19/3/16.

Two refilling points, morning & afternoon.

Ration of 6000 men & about 1600 animals
is salt water. Day very warm. 1st

in the shade on top of some hay & wait to
my units to arrive.

Very sleepy & in the afternoon a right
headache. This, however, soon disappears.

Go out like a tourist with Drought in
the car to look at Lacouture, refuted

to have been "heavily shelled" (yesterday
of the German. We get on for a Vieille
Chapelle and then see in front of the
German shells at Lacouture fell heavily
in fields and but not much damage is
visible. so we come back again!

20/3/16.

More postponed 2 days. Guns inactive.
Children hounded with gas helmets! War
weather makes one very sleepy here. I go
to a ride toward the trenches. Guns are
active.

21/3/16.

Weather a bit colder. Motor into Bethune
in afternoon with Hall (Staff Capt), Drought
& Ledno to look at billets & (organised
with the lie of the land generally. Billet
hounded to Company very good. A noisy house,
next to some Infantry barracks, occupied in
peace time by French officers in charge of these
barracks. Next Kennedy in the street &
take him in to tea with us in a tea shop.

Bethune area a bit hillier than this.
Our Brigade is to hold the Anchy sector of
the line.

In the evening there comes a rumour that
the move is indefinitely postponed!

22/3/16.

Confirmed that move to Bethune is off.
An Australian Division, newly arrived from
Egypt, will take over the Anchy sector

in an stead. ^{since the night of the 20th}
 Further last two days, the fuses have been
 very quiet. Some say at Refilling Point,
 that near centre of fossip, but there is a Peace
 Conference for going on! I believe that the
 true explanation is that the ^{the} Saxons have
 relieved the Babarions ^{on the opposite} and have given
 out to us, as usual, but if we ^{don't}
 go for them, they won't go for us.

Remember that we are going to Egypt after
 all. ^{one c.o. having said that Bantam is an administration}
 weather turns wet. in trenches,

23/3/16.

Decided to
 Dig 4 takes up
 Laventia sector, 5 of Armentiers, in
 a day or two. Dig the Bercott
 Heaton, Drayton & Delahans in the back
 of No 2 Coy. Digging 2nd and
 morality at great length.

24/3/16.

Back to Snow! Plans elaborated for
 moving HQ to Laventia sector of
 line, alleged to be more peaceful than
 anything hitherto experienced by us.
 Expound the effects & methods of combination
 of public debts to my Headquarters Officer.
 Also ask him Socratic questions about
 the effects of large issues of unconvertible

couldn't jump German trench,
 hence would be no food in
 attack.

paper money.

25/3/16.

A day full of fuses & labour. More from
 Foxe t Estaires into a very temporary
 billet, close to the very temporary B.H.Q.
 One house is choc-a-bloc, with 8/15
 & officers' servants, keeping out the
 fliers in the passages.

Received at Refilling Point a wonderful
 document captured on a German prisoner
 from the "Committee for the increasing
 the reputation" in Germany.

26/3/16.

on the rush all day. Vivid realisation
 of what is meant by "muddling through".
 It is in fact unnecessary labour.
 Gunners in the line cannot be troubled. Meet at
 dinner in Estaires, a most delightful
 man ~~Major~~ Major Fowkes of the Royal
 Scots. A progressive in all respects, like
 India. But apparently an Anglo-Indian!
 Great admirer of Haldane. "He was no
 doubt a dreamer or dreamer, but when he
 are told, was fresh. And he came out
 top in the end." On his high also of his visit
 to Herma, Kincimans & annual. We discuss
 also the future structure of the service.

2 brumptions

As under Scottish doctor interview in
our conversation t say that he ~~wants~~
an Imperial Parliament ~~to~~ order to
check strikes in U.V.K! F & I score
off with person in a friendly way, and
after his departure toast in French
beer, in 'Super Parliament' to be
in the afternoon I had visited Laventke,
whose B.H.R. is. His worse killed than
anybody I have seen yet.

27/3/16.

Again on the run all day, finishing
10 km. A very wet day. Summer again
responsible for my long hours & tired
my men. Another wholly muddy on
their muddy surroundings. Traceable to an
overnight by Swant.

Meet Major F at breakfast at the
Cafe du Commerce & I have still no plan
to pass, but am inclined one to improve.
He expresses ~~an~~ ~~idea~~ ~~that~~ we shall meet
again. I make (picnic) also with and
his in common (very) matters.
Considerable troop movements seem to be
in progress. One front remain unusually
silent.

28/3/16.

Another long & tedious day in wet, unpleasant
weather. Still overburdened with gunnery.

More into a better billet at Estaines, in
line, born a Kabarian General & 114 his
officers moved in Oct 1914, with a Turkish
Pasha in town
29/3/16.

Another day in trying rain last three,
except for better weather. Hope for better
things from now with R.P. at La Gappe station
one under the sun & (also) needlesly worked,
give to Swant's intellect in competence &
lack of consideration of others.

We have a hay dump on a road near Saily
opposite to ~~the~~ a cemetery - little recent
~~British~~ British goldies graves. The father of
the details of his things!
The Dr ^{was} moved from Laventie sector, is
too friendly with the German after many
months of acquaintance. War is over!

30/3/16.

Instead of indescribable confusion & delay
at R.P. in La Gappe station, I have a
day of peace and recuperation after very
stressful days! No conference in appearance.
I laze & let my hair ^{cut} & read letters from
P.G. & others. In the evening I read L.W.,
Nation & Statesman till midnight. Our
room is very comfortable & in morning
made so with a little thought & of air.
Knowning we stay here for a month. I hope
to make the trip back succeed, as the

31/3/16.

A swift change from snow to
spring & from overwork to ease.

EWART's afternoon conference in moment
 suspended, I luxuriate in laziness & spend an
 hour in a hot bath. Divisional Orders here
 are splendidly arranged in a Staff factory.
 Summary of leave beginning next month.

mine perhaps in May or June?
 Talk in the evening with the lady of the
 house & her widowed daughter, fully plain
 patterns. They are not wildly interesting but
 rather sleepy. But they have had striking
 experiences, which they will recount, & in
 two days remain well in their own
 the day went followed. Manding was
 also collected with them shortly after &
 an English general just before Nauru
 a felle! (his turn out to be friends, his a brigadier.)

The 95th Divⁿ have gone from here to an
 having so long faced the German in the
 Labentia sector. They had worn the
 brightly the man! On (35th) (Anno on
 coming into position behind in 8 to 10 feet,
 killed some German who were walking
 about in the open. This was regarded as
 in German side as a very French contact.
 B-g of Hanka was nearly killed by a
 shell yesterday, while inspecting the front
 trenches.

1/4/16.

Australian easy days work over by 11.15 am.

Visit H. H. & Munnies in the afternoon. With
 P. S. in evening.
 2/4/16.

A delicious warm day. Motor out in
 afternoon to meet Des Cats, n of Baillieu,
 from which on a clear day one can see
 the German lines from Ypres to La Bassée.
 The day being hazy we see nothing.

3/4/16. For a moment an working light & sun mostly.
 A day of midsummer hazy heat. We are
 all very sleepy and take things easily.
 There is now a general consensus of opinion
 fairly Chipell, which I share. He has become
 hopelessly swollen headed since becoming D.C. No 3
 Co. His natural selfishness has become more
 apparent & blatant. He sticks up unsharply
 to his silly people at the head of affairs.
 He, at nothing how a man with some
 decent interests & some sort of mild political
 in civilian world, should take so heavily a
 slight shove up in this tin-pot show. But
 so it is! ~~more or less~~ ^{more or less} Carlson is in bed, & has been
 in days. He is one of the best of boys.
 The machine guns are clattering away audibly
 as I lie in bed with the window wide open.

4/4/16.

A normal day.

Adjutant.

5/4/16.

A normal day. Lots of Australians in the
 district. I hear little-tattle about
 accumulating 250,000,000 tons of
 ammunition, most of it next month, & then...
 The British front is certainly getting very tired.

with troops. Four officers of the Train have
 applied to transfer, 3 to Juniper, 1 to
 infantry. I am greatly tempted to try
 a transfer to the gunners myself!

6/4/16.

A normal day. The streets of Estancia
 swam with Australians. In the mass, I
 like the look of them.

7/4/16.

Normal. In the afternoon I ride into
 Armentières, 8 miles. Parts of it are knocked
 about, many of the windows boarded up & shops
 closed. But it is full of life & bustle & is
 none the less. I take tea in a tearoom,
 layed & packed with British officers. It is
 crowded with gunners, who presume one
 might ask if they may hold one's horse.
 As I proceed through the town I see
 numbers who attract themselves to me.
 As I halt outside the tearoom literally
 twenty to thirty and round me ^{to} their
 the train. I select one of the ^{most} pleasant
 taking whom I require as having me
 followed me a long way. Later I see
 him a gunner. They are more

intelligent looking, more gunners & with
 better manners, than I am used to.

I have the reputation of Australians.
 They give me great satisfaction.

I don't think it's merely their
 good looks, or their neatness & mostly
 clean shaven faces (how much more
 becoming than our "polite" military
 moustaches) or their casualness about
 saluting, or their obvious utter lack of
 the banal "you are stupid, but excuse
 them to me" or even the knowledge
 met in their country, "the gunners
 every day, every man has a chance" & a
 labour (it is in lower!) It is their
 liteness, & looseness of limb, & self-
 assurance, & black-cut features, &
 their jolly way with one another &
 with small children & women (not
 mere leeches.) They are a splendid
 set of comrades! All this ^{is} the ^{best} ^{of} the ^{lot}. I
 see hardly any of their officers. Such as I
 do see look rather ordinary. Probably all
 killed in by influences of various kinds,
 since there is no class of military families
 in Australia.

8/4/16.

Normal.

9/4/16.

Normal. See a Coche Fip at Estancia, station
 at La Gorge first on the side of the Lys.
 Mildly interesting as a novelty (with pattern
 sleds, crowd of French & English
 but not really thrilling, nor disgusting.)

The British affectation of prohibition in form of sport, while permitting fox & hare hunting, coursing, shooting & fishing, is great nonsense.
10/4/16.

Normal. We are really too idle for comfort these days.
I go to the Estable Hippodrome in the evening, run by the M.T. & Co. in the most favourable circumstances, very well run. We see Cinema, Wrestling, boxing & card tricks & hear a ventriloquist & Mandy Dimples.
11/4/16.

One first wet day at our present R.P. NOT so very wet either.
Two ^{of our} five cars are taken, (Dixon & ~~the others~~.)
12/4/16.

A wretchedly wet day. The wind makes the fire smoke. A more imminent, a bit to the southward. I expounded to the press, which listens, unimpaired but tolerant & rather interested, my reasons for leaving the military service & taking up a profession (on the whole) we have taken by Sir John Simon.
13/4/16.

A chilly, windy day. Announced, to our general regret, that in day or two we move back again to old

Fosse-Teloch-Vieille Chapelle-Hostrean-Paradis area. I know it by heart but districts & the billets are bad.

Everyone is writing essays of transmission to High Authorities on how to work a sudden advance or retreat. I write one to Grant, not very long and in very good English, but with a few good points which he'll probably miss.
14/4/16.

An irritating day, largely wasted. Weather wet & cold. Trying to get definite information with a view to money, billets, etc. Nothing must obtainable. Chirped a rance of irritation. Don't go to billets in car with me. I dislike doing these, & indeed must. Was with him, owing to his absurd concept, invention on his own jobs & concerns, & lack of tact. Having wasted the morning, I leave him at a Cafe in Estaimp lunch, & then get off in car with Beecher & Dabonne, in ~~the~~ car, to find a Suffy billet. We are held up by the harness of barcos, under bridge, by the ^{train} of a light railway, through insufficient ^{steam} in its engine, on another narrow bridge. We make a lot of enquiries from house to house & cover a lot of ground. At last we find a possible place at La Croix Marמוש, about 2000, with nice friendly people, who are prepared to work for us. It's an infantry billet if not ordinary way, & will take a little fighting for, I think. Ration 4-45 & find ~~the~~ waiting in.

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ombillet at Etain, ^{much} ^{celebrated} by ^{our} ^{regiment}?
we all, for his conceit is now recognized by all of
us as inimitable, and rather amused & not
displeased. That his time is not very
much is proved by his laughing about till
6 o'clock, before ^{nothing} ^{weather} ^{can} ^{write}
I have ^{never} ^{kindly} ^{placed} ^{at} ^{his} ^{disposal},
in his own billeting.

In the evening we go round to the Etain
Hippodrome, where we have some ^{Cherish}
Wesleyan singers of our 38th Division, ^{being}
a corporal in the R.W.F.

15/4/16.

A pretty busy day. (I have time, however,
at 6 pm. for a Divisional Bath.)
Visits to many units, to discover their
movements. Good billets at La Cour
Main use taken, - definitely I hope.
I spend much time over a Tunnell's
Detachment in Labentie, a sort of
Nobels' child, in continual danger
being left without rations, commanded
by a subaltern hopelessly foggy about
the steps which should be taken to get
rations.

Elworthy & I hunt for him
for 3 or 4 hours. Sent from one
important person to another.
Labentie is an astonishing

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gaunt and like a night mare.
place at night. It has been very
thoroughly destroyed by shell fire, &
most of the inhabitants are gone.
Here & there, in unexpected ruined places,
men & officers are billeted. ^{Wandering}
in the dark I fall ^{down} ^{upon} ^{fallen} ^{fragments}
of stone steps into a ^{cellar} ^{filled} ^{with} ^{smelly} ^{slush}.
I bump my tail severely, & swear
~~very~~ loudly! Finally we find the
Tunnell's officer ^{billeted} in an Estaminet,
where two rather drugged girls can
order women still cling on, selling rather
stitch, but not unpleasant beer, and drawing
good money for billets.

There's a feeling in the air that the
Germans are going to make a big attack
upon our lines very soon. Intelligence
says there's a Mobile Corps, ^{for} ^{some}
strong, come into the French officers
Neuve Chapelle. They are practicing
taking trenches, etc. ^{Further} ^{back}, ^{as} ⁱⁿ
the rehearsals before Verdun. ^{of}
all this is true, the Bantam will be
in the thick of it!

16/4/16.

Things quiet. Captain ^{our} ^{men} to S.S.O. of
the Australian with ^{the} ^{R.F.} ^{watch} ^a ^{code}
Figure in ^{at} ^{Komag}. See John ^{Carless}, ^{now} ^{out}
hospital, & Robinson.

17/4/16.

Move from Estaires to La Croix
Marmuse. I don't move till
6.45 pm. Then ride to 7 or 8
interesting miles in rain & wind. In
new billets we sleep 4 in a []
room at the Major's house, Elvick,
Fan, Draput & myself. I rather like
this arrangement, at any rate for a time.
Premier but we are destined for Egypt
after all is still very persistent, & is
now quoted as emanating from C.R.E.,
35th Divⁿ. It sounds very unlikely,
unless an official view of the Bentham,
based on their recent performance, is by
address. And all the heavy evidence
is quite to the contrary.

Still the thing, no doubt, is possible,
would in some ways be very
interesting. But I fancy a lot of
these fellows would crack up of
went straight into an Egyptian
summer.

18/4/16.

Refilling point not being till 3 pm,
I have the evening of an idle
~~breakfast~~ morning, & take 2 paralytic
tablets. They don't work till tonight.
I'm strong! A horrible day with
a storm. Confusion about billets. We

Stay where we are, today.

19/4/16.

A normal but unpleasant day. Rain &
wind. See a big gun in action.
New B.H. in a very forward position.
Leave car half a mile behind, when
approaching it.

20/4/16.

Normal, with slight fusing by Elvick.
Dine with No 3 & 4 Transport. A
dull evening, interspersed with draught.
on 4th day, ^{clear but} heat ^{seems an} enough
21/4/16. should have begun but didn't.

Normal. John comes to dinner in the
evening. He is quite the nicest boy in the
Train. Heavy rain & heavier gunfire later
we have had for a long time. New cast in
of an officer among rubble in []
22/4/16. about "Sis" Capt. Dibi. (Sis)!

Horrible weather. Steady rain all day.
Dine with No 3 Coy. Clippell in a very
friendly & sensible mood for several
days past. On a first impression
in such moods he is a very agreeable
fellow. I suffer from []
as also does Elvick, consequently
lack of exercise these last days
I am [] by drinking tea, next
also in coffee. I want to read
Heddlam on Kirmach.
Mum is now the only car left Elvick's
has been distributed to []

23/4/16.

A letter day. The afternoon wasted with
Swart, in a tiresome mood. In the
evening 5-8 hrs. ride with Elworthy to
my 420 H.B. & on through ruined country to
Richebourg St Vaast. A scene of utter ^{refugee}
destruction & desolation. Not a house
intact or inhabited. The church
practically gone, the Auberge de la Meunier
like ruin. The churchyard ploughed up
by shells & pocked by shell holes. It must
have been a jolly little village in the
past. Bedroom walls hanging by the cord in
mid air, bayonets scattered by shells,
houses reduced to mere heaps of
bricks. In an orchard trees are
flourishing. ^{There are} half hidden ^{British flags} ^{with handles} ^{butting}
among the trees, a ^{tree} ^{discs} ^{very} full
of water, & a damp smell.
In the distance, to the west, behind our
lines, a Union ^{is} ^{seen} ^{behind}
a line of ^{straw} ^{put} ^{up} ^{behind}
trees. ^{Traces} ^{seen} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{line} ^{of}
jolly side.

24/4/16.

Normal, with mild furnace heat. The
beginning of summer. A clear, strong, warm
evening. ^{Swart} in his office, not
a bad fellow, ^{works} ^{with} ^a ^{thoroughly} ^{orderly}
manner.

25/4/16.

Quite a hot day. I develop a headache in
the afternoon & go to bed early.

26/4/16

Very hot & delightful. I am quite
myself again. A pointer, on leave for
300 days from Verdun, is staying in the
farm. A cheerful man of about 35.
We talk, & he talks easily & freely.
But one gets nothing beyond what one
read in the newspaper. He worked
a mitrailleuse. The ^{German}
came on in masses, 8 & 10 deep.
They were mown down ^{down} & lay in heaps.
Their anti ^{air} ^{defense} was very active. The
proportion of killed was much higher
in their casualties than among the
French. Part of the time rain fell
& sometimes now.
Heute ^{for} ^{the} ^{15th} ^{starts} ^{today}. Only
Colonel ^{has} ^{been} ^{at} ^{present}.

27/4/16.

Another hot day. Verville Chapelle shelled. Some
casualties & damage. Elworthy & I ride
round Richebourg & Coix Vautee.
The desolation & destruction, & all
green things growing riotously in the sun,
grows on one.

Swart ^{announces} ^{at} ¹⁰ ^{per} ^{cent}
have to ^{leave} ^{on} ¹¹ th ^{for} ^{leave}
reason ^{of} ^{illness}. ^{Several} ^{among} ^{the} ^{others}

28/4/16.

Grate annoyance by Ewart & Johnson on subject of billets, & rather feeding arrangements. We ~~are~~ billeted in Parker Shelter on Foxe Dump - Elsworth, Fandl. This is very pleasant, specially for me. But the folly is over the mess room. We want to try on 158th R.F.A. who are coming in, wants us to. E.L.J. object. "Direct orders from HQ etc." etc. "Don't lack of consideration for their officer, & of common sense & kind proportion is in credit!" I am strongly waged, once more. 158th, but funnier, specially 158. Fawcett & Penham compared with our fellows! what jolly fellows funnier are!

29/4/16

Settle down in our bilouage. After much trouble & waste of time, find a mess near. Dine with HQ-158. Fawcett is a splendid fellow, - a Pensioner & before. Somedog's going back to find a city built of stone in the unexplored heart of Peru, written on aboriginal white clay with dyes when the Incas came. It is believed from the world by Zarog tribe, men monkeys & impenetrable forest.

There is stray evidence, ^{he says,} that his race still exists. One F was within some 40 miles of their territory, with 3 companions, but one went mad & the other two went sick, so he had to come back, "because there was no one to carry his instruments." On another occasion he went six weeks without food, only bitter water. He photographed himself at various stages & at the end was ^{stony} mere bone. We also argued on problems of probability & the chances of death. An excellent evening!

30/4/16.

A lazy warm day. Gas attacks are in the air. The wind & weather are favourable. May tried it 2 nights ago at Betume. We make friends with an old lady at our billet.

1/5/16.

A lazy day. I lie under a rock in the sun & read Hadlwin's book. I meet Kennedy & in vite lunch dinner tomorrow.

2/5/16.

Take a bath at Estaires, which full of Australian & New Zealanders, including Macnis. Kennedy comes to dinner, & talk in a boy interesting, clear & intelligent manner about the details of French warfare. ^{but he makes it too} ^{he is not really}

civilized. His military point of view is too German.

3/5/16

Apparently heavy shelling in direction of Loos. In afternoon 103 shells dropped about one of our Heavy Batteries near B.H.Q. from untraced, but orchard closely to flanking up but it's impossible to be moment to more than 3 civil ^{casualties} & one horse slightly damaged in military ^{damage} drive at B.H.Q. Sit next to a

Canon from Ulova, wild in manner but prejudiced in mind, though not violently so. Brigade Major Lemireca about fullipari. Man was, ex-curious for soap.

4/5/16.

Ledwre transferred to 15th R.F.A. I accompany him to introduce him, to stay for lunch. A close, in under night. But I feel extremely well.

5/5/16.

Normal & lazy. Rumor of a big march soon, heralded by early arrival of some more

French Divisions on the line now purely British. Last train we made such a mess of our big push that this time the French are just a little bit. I don't blame them. Spend 3 hours of the food of my French, talking to Detachments on trees, foreign exchanges & the length & aftermath of the war. At night steady rain breaks up the heat.

6/5/16.

Normal. Dine with H.P. Co. in atmosphere of great joviality.

7/5/16.

Normal. A few ^{heavily} showers lay the dust & clear the atmosphere. A glorious sunset. Receive photo of the Villa from P.F. Rose a source of great joy, both retrospective & anticipatory!

8/5/16.

Normal. Cold, windy & showery. Ride to Huis to get 100 francs from Field Carier. Conference with ^{for} fuzyle about financial Relations of C.S. & Ireland & also about Political ^{Financial} Mysticism.

It is remarked that I have "a remarkably powerful voice"!

9/5/16.

A wet day. Great activity over sanitation. Flies to be exterminated. Latrines, incinerators, incinerators.

10/5/16.

Work with model latrines, urinals, etc. Done with 158. Fawcett in excellent form. Delightfully radical. On his

own initiative denounces promoguiture, entail, etc; also hereditary titles. Says that after the war, "you'll have to divide up the money." A range to witness

some interesting operations on Saturday

input. A lonely ride home. Chilly, & starbuck was ^{right} smelling in the air.

11/5/16.

Swart for on leave, Elworking acting for him. A remarkable case of relief perhaps all ranks!

12/5/16.

Once more tramp to the point of stuffing. 10 boxes of boxes over nails at R.P. Decided we move to Meriville on Sunday & refill there. ^{with taking}

13/5/16.

Continuous rain. My tent leaks a bit. Spent afternoon & evening arranging for billets in Meriville & other things connected with move. Fair success after much labour & ten great ruddle between the various higher authorities impossible to deal with. I am witness "stroke" as an army. My army me.

14/5/16.

Move to Meriville. Billeted in a house of high degree, next door to my bedroom a private stin, reddest with incense. My host a better than many. He has a nice garden, & a horse, & a carriage. Dine at Hotel de Ville. Admirable meal. Delt 3 only officers, brightly (my & confident. One from "H.L.L." tells me (Lindsey is regarded as brainist man in that sort of man and if got makes peace, with my "No. My Company will go on fighting" on the journey in a wagon, my hair work bottle breaks & flows, all on empty. I must write to Playful for some more.

15/5/16.

Early refilling at Merrille Stn, commencing
2 am. Poining rain, general discomfort
& "box-up" as always on first day of
new scheme. Johnson incredibly
idiotic & tiresome about nails in boxes.
Abraham sweat a box.

Werner visit B.H.O., May drafts via
SSM. Hayes & G.M. Smith. Long t
one speaking in other, & lay of a
shore of ~~Werner~~ wanted envelopes.

Spend the evening reading Italian
history - a thrilling tale.

16/5/16.

A lovely day. Refilling from bay
decently. I go for a ride on a backing
horse but without success. Spend the
evening discussing the probable duration of
the war. Opinion much divided. A wonderful
still night with a full moon.

17/5/16.

A glorious ride with Fan along Canal
bank. Many wounded, largely Australian,
arrive by ^{the} hospital train in Merrille Station.
R.A.M.C. Major from ^{France} says that
war began. ^{at} ^{the} ^{front} ^{lines} ^{of} ^{the} ^{Western} ^{Front} ^{the} ^{war} ^{has} ^{been} ^{started} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{west} ^{and} ^{is} ^{now} ^{moving} ^{eastward} ^{and} ^{is} ^{now} ^{at} ^{the} ^{point} ^{of} ^{being} ^{decided} ^{whether} ^{it} ^{will} ^{be} ^a ^{war} ^{of} ^{extermination} ^{or} ^{not}.
all ^{but} ^{the} ^{French} ^{and} ^{Belgian} ^{armies} ^{(except} ^{Peter} ^{the} ^{1st} ^{of} ^{Belgium)}
are ^{forming} ^{into} ^{all} ^{public} ^{men} ^{to} ^{be} ^{members} ^{of} ^{the} ^{Liberal} ^{Association} - ^{the} ^{only} ^{one} ^{who} ^{is} ^{represented} ⁱⁿ ^{Parliament}. Finish

"Liberation of Italy": I must read more
than this. 2 lectures & write about them
hereafter.

18/5/16.

Normal & warm.

19/5/16.

Ditto. Horse racing by the river bank.

20/5/16.

Ditto. Australians rashly taking two stakes
jumps up into first line trenches, lost them.
Germans will now be able to make coffee.
All infantrymen much impressed when
told that "I know Stokes" ^{because} ^{they} ^{know} ^{the} ^{difference} ^{between} ^{the} ^{two} ^{types} ^{of} ^{grenades}.

21/5/16.

Ditto. Large Australian casualties in
other day due to their having ^{made} ^{up} ^{with}
trenches with bands playing & they
got & dived their feet over the parapet.

6th Division jumps XI & coffee. We are
getting on.
9.30-10 p.m. lachrymatory gas
discharged over Merrille (also Kestren
& La Fosse). I reading life of Caesar at
the time ^{when} ^{the} ^{war} ^{became} ^a ^{collision} ^{of} ^{gnashing} ^{teeth}.
I attributed this to dust, while
riding in the evening. Continues to
smoke & weep I bathe my eyes but to
no effect, so give up reading & go to bed.
Recurrence of same sensation while in
bed but after a while I go to sleep
washing cream, & polish. Resolution will

in future, during dusty weather, I will always
ride in goggles! It never occurs
to me, but it is ~~so~~ till next
morning when everyone asks whether
I too, felt it. I then learn that
the police ran down the street
about 9.30 waving the people and
crying "beau coup de gaz" (my eyes
look out at the back away from the
street,) the men down the road
got it rather worse & there seems to
have been a slight panic.

It is a mystery how it was produced
It wasn't blown up from the front
line, for battalions in front didn't
feel it, only some in reserve.
It wasn't dropped in shells (but ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~it~~)
for there were no explosions. It
must have been silently dropped by
aeroplane, ~~perhaps~~ in fragile vessels in
liquid form.

It is very perplexing, except that
political theory that it will sap British
morale & that of French civilians.
I feel the men but how at first
they have something to write ^{is}
about.

22/5/16.

Refilling at Lafoye. Spitting in the

can at 6.45 am. (on a small
cup of coffee) I don't get anything
to eat till my return at 10.45.
This will not do! For tomorrow
I order an omelette for 6.30.
One day is exceedingly hot, the
hottest we have had. I am a little
too thickly clad still. In the afternoon
I start out ^{in the car} with Beckett, Fan &
Gangole to visit our sketching B.H.P.
But it is so hot that I suggest we
go for a joy ride to Bethune ~~instead~~ &
~~here~~ ^{drink} iced coffee. This is agreed to. We
drink a quantity of iced coffee & eat ices
& cakes from 3.15 to 4.15. We then
are about to go on to B.H.P., when
we meet a lot of Germans, who
persuade us to come & drink beer
with them. We drink a (strong) beer,
and so it results that we do not
visit our B.H.P. at all - but no
one is any the worse for this.

23/5/16.

Breakfast 6.30 am. Cold dry after
night's rain.

While calling at dump in afternoon, shock
my companions by eating a large raw
onion.
Swart comes back for leave, but says

to report at Corps Hq. for 10 days. We shall be short of tin tins for nearly 3 weeks in all. Sorry to be so! Done with Crippen & Elsworth at Hotel de Ville. A lot of Cheery Welsh officers there. Much singing & jiviality. I must learn Welsh before the war!

24/5/16.

61st Divⁿ detaining all day at Beville Station. Said to be Second Line Territorials, "rather a scratch lot."

More than usually heavy cannonade starts about 10.15 pm. For a long while both sides have been very silent.

John Carter moved from hospital to tin box, having been in room from his box two days as in a jumping competition. This proves to be the most attractive boy among my fellow officers!

25/5/16.

I hear that tin Ploncaster suffered badly in tin trenches last night. How could the best of a Quaker Master be!

26/5/16.

A very important anniversary.

Beyond writing to P.S., nothing of note.

27/5/16.

Meet a Welsh officer who went home on leave with young L-S & had a talk with old L-S. The latter said (1) he was worth his own tin can, (2) when we do start our dog's exercise, God help them! (I also looked at new sorts of shell, etc, which would be forthcoming.)

also. French intelligence officer says no one in the know expects for war to end this year. There'll be an offensive, of course, but not a final one. Listen to South Wales Borderers' Band in tin phone from 6 to 7 pm. They play damned well. I go out & ask them to play Welsh tunes, which they do.

28/5/16.

Visit Hq. 158th R.F.A., where I see an aeroplane nearly come down, & Hq. 105th Bde. I come to tin decision to brook a transfer to tin runners. Probably it will be practically impossible. Done at Hotel de Ville.

At 158th Hq. I see a giant periscope. By the roadside a little group of faces (Oct 1914), 3 British Grenadiers & 5 Germans (3 in tin as a bus, 1 private), cross in uniform with R.L.B.'s.

97
This a pleasant contrast to Loos where we found a German cemetery, in which all graves were inscribed "God strike England". This proved contagious & in our cemeteries in our neighborhood we inscribe our own "God strike Germany".
Fawcett children's needs about Jan.

29/5/16.
Hear that 106th BDr. in reserve at Vieille Chapelle, got orders last night to receive a brigade of the 3rd Div. at Festubert, and had been "a bit shaken by shelling". All on 3 brigades are in line now.

A second ~~explanation~~ is that the spot brigade of 39th (they have one which has seen a lot of service & has been put in to stiffer than) has been sent to Loos to help retake the trenches we lost the other day.

30/5/16.

I wrote decision of 28th in reference with P.S. at the present time is concerned. 16th machine executed last night a fine bombing raid, described by Corps H.Q. as the best piece of work yet done by a Battalion. Human but Battalion are receiving drafts of normal sized men!

Enthusiasm in streets of Meville by French lads of 1917 class just called up. They parade the streets, very buoyant & slightly drunk, singing a plea witnessed French & half-witted-up English boys.

About 8 pm. a very heavy bombardment begins to work up.

98
The Germans are making their fair share of the noise. It sounds like one on left sector of the line (by 182) & the 38th on left again. It is 1 hour, the heaviest I have heard yet. The dull twilight distance is lit up by continual flashes of bursting shells & very light. The population flows out into the streets & stands about. I walk out in the direction of Paradise & the noise.

I meet a woman, obviously a bit frightened, standing in the road with a small boy. I cheerfully wish her good evening & ~~gladly~~ to her that most of the work is being made by our guns, of which there is a much greater number than of ~~the~~ German guns. I return to my billet. Calm & a pipe & by about 10 pm the guns die down.

31/5/16.

Shewards suffered badly in last night's attack, lost in dead, wounded & prisoners. One battery of 158 (C) shot off 700 rounds. Heavily nicknamed up a lit again. Unusual incredible in decision & firmness in simple problems of the attachment to us for instruction & feeding of some of the

61 W Dora.

1/6/16.

Normal.

At night a perceptible bombardment.

2/6/16.

Normal. Very cheerful conversation about brewing, higher education etc. Write letter to Valentine about garden etc.

3/6/16.

Normal. Ewart reappears. Most affable. Tells me he ^{B.S.O.} has been in ^{must} all ^{have} on Johnson ^{but} we [^] leave as soon as possible. He especially wishes us to have it. It is the first possible day. ^{Etz.} Rumor in evening ⁱⁿ ^{his} ^{Naval} ^{Battle.}

4/6/16.

First news of the big Naval Battle in the papers. ~~First~~ First accounts meagre & rather depressing. Ewart in usual panic "Terrible.... We've been smashed to pieces...." I point out to those who discuss the matter with me that judgment must be suspended till a full account of losses is available, not to lose ship for ship, or even a little more heavily, in case our relative strength.

An amusing, & probably to him very boring, correspondence with Gargyle about the use of the car.

5/6/16.

Normal. Windy, chilly & showery. While riding in evening, run into a very handsome & "pleasant-spoken" young West. I mistake him for an Australian.

Gargyle abuses him self all day for mess.

I take an evening bath. Otherwise life displays a great sameness!

6/6/16.

Very wet morning. Afternoon & evening fine. Naval Fight was obviously a wild, largely not recreational, success with gunners. Rumors of a local push in 3 days' time.

7/6/16.

Normal, date for news (Kitchener's death & beginning of Russian push in Galicia) & rumors. Anglo-French offensive to start in a fortnight.

8/6/16.

Normal. Charming bed time conversation with children who ^{was} King Tipperary, & try to learn English.

9/6/16.

2-7 pm. onboard with Elworthy & Wilson
 into damage by losses in different parts of
 new wire. Return of Gungah, reins reconciled to
 our loss. Rumors of Egypt & lines of communication
 revised of Division (ground only, I think.)
 Gloucester's Colonel killed last night in
 trenches.

10/6/16.

Normal. Race meeting by tin river in
 the evening.

11/6/16.

Normal.

12/6/16.

A miserable, wet, cold day. Ross and
 rations with S.C.S.O & R.S.O. in the
 morning. Visit V.B.H. & see German
 machine gun captured by Gloucesters in their
 most successful raid on the 9th in which
 however, (or just before which) they lost their
 Colonel (Roberts). Hill mounted (some still
 Capt to S.S.O. 14th assistant 39th Divⁿ
 succeeded by Hamilton. Pleasant fellow, easy
 to get on with.

13/6/16.

Swain announces that the Divⁿ begins
 to move south on Tuesday, into another
 comb area. Rumor is busy. One
 general opinion is that the push is to
 be made somewhere to the South, the

ray near Sanchez, & that we are to be
 one of 2000 divisions in reserve
 for this.

Another wretched day. Most time
 spent over court of Enquiry of 9th.
 Games with children of the house & their
 nurse & a dead mouse.

14/6/16.

Clifford has pneumonia, & won't return
 from leave. I'm very he should be ill, but
 very glad to hear of him. He was a conceited
 fool, incapable of cooperation. Succeeded,
 temporarily at least, by Nicholls, winning
 a silly war but pitifully manageable.
 We adopt Douglas Salvis.

15/6/16.

Mild excitement over Divⁿ move.
 Swain forward evening in a state of half
 diffident amiability, has simply sat on his
 ass, & left all the work to us. We do
 it all very adequately.

16/6/16.

A busy day. We move from our
 Chocques, a spotty, but not unpleasant
 little town, onto main line from Paris
 to Arras & beyond 3 miles west of
 Bethune. After much labour we
 find billets, through agency of
 the main's special fundamine.
 The first is very official, but

gradually towards. I stand him
 dumb, & later we invite him to
 dine with us at Choques. I take
~~captivate him~~ charge of the conversation
 & captivate him by my command of
 his language & charming manner.
 He says about things etc. but his
 is the first time he has dined with
 English officers, & obviously much
 enjoys the experience. "Tomorrow"
 says Detachen "all the village will
 know that."

Monso, evacuation of Gallipoli & now
 commands of First Army is moving
 Choques from the on Sunday. This is
 another proof that there's some life in the
 wind.

In Choques while billet hunting I see
 a young woman ^{speaking} had half her hand
 cut off by the German's grenades. & an old
 woman evades whom they describe mad, &
 who ^{has} screams "partez, partez!" at
 all French soldiers, & then collapses
 into indecible, gasping, farouche
 silence.

[In Mont Berquin the German was on
 the point of being driven out by the
 English in 1914 made a bonfire in

the space of the dead on both sides, &
 of them wounded, doused with
 paraffin. I hear him from
 eyewitnesses. "They were absolutely
 mad." ^{the kid} ^{recent}]
 Two cases of shooting in our division,
 one for "desertion" & one for "cowardice
 in face of the enemy" have been told
 me. They both make one very, very
 angry, but probably on "narrowly
 military grounds" ^{as an example} to
 others. They were justifiable. One
 first was in the Royal Scots & the
 execution nearly caused a mutiny.
 & young boy, aged 17, but "official
 age" 21, as often in a patriotic lie
 on enlistment, had a wife but
 his father was dead. He couldn't
 get leave. A week later he heard
 that his mother was dead. He
 couldn't get leave. He went broad
 & went up to transport line instead
 of into the trenches in following
 night. It was there found, half
 in a dream. Sentenced to death
 for desertion. He set ^{and} smoked a
 cigarette, up to the moment when
 he was carried out to the gallows.

Case of machine gunner. For a while of course he got in a funk & left in p.m. Then, realising what he had done, & in order to atone, he took his machine gun out into No Man's Land & stayed out there two days & nights. But it did not atone in the eyes of the Court Martial & instead "Cowardice in presence of enemy". Having miraculously escaped death at hands of German, he found it at hands of his own people.

These two cases illustrate the spirit & the necessity of militarism. N.B. I believe I am correct in saying that officers are not shot for Cowardice, (except in the Australian Expeditionary Force & their own men, after 1 minute's grace & opportunity given to prove.) Officers, in the West are, I believe, sent home with men it is otherwise. This may be a grave charge hereafter. It will be impossible to hide all these things, when the New Armies are disbanded.

17/6/16.

Move to Chocques. One sunny day since about a fortnight ago.

18/6/16.

Normal. Moderately good billets. Jolly country, more wooded, hillier & more pastured.

19/6/16

Circus now at R.P., owing to interference by Barnett & Swart. Possible important news in next few days. Elaborate scheme for tomorrow, including roadside distribution of biscuits, per man to infants, to avoid the famine of Loos.

1 pm. decisive message that the offensive will start tomorrow ^{at} Bethune.

3 pm. Swart comes to announce all is off till 24th, but we remain under orders to march 6 hours' notice.

2 1/2 hrs with No 3 Coy. Everything is delightfully easy here now & all minor arrangements most amicable. Nichols, though a somewhat weak character, is not a bad fellow. Delightful ride back to Chocques.

20/6/16.

Normal, after yesterday's almost excursions. Transport again very inefficiently managed at R.P. Curious how some people get no better with practice at even simple jobs. It might a perceptible bombardment.

21/6/16.

Normal but with undercurrent of expectation. All stations to be clear of R.P.s from tomorrow; also all civilians to keep off LA GORGUE-BETHUNE road, which ~~was~~ ^{is} 1/2 to friends, near & after tomorrow. More hasn't yet come to CTOCQUES, but is expected daily. A jolly mile in neighbouring woods.

22/6/16.

Normal. A glorious summer day.

23/6/16.

A clear day with very heavy rain for an hour in the afternoon. 104th 180th Staff call in to announce that push begins to move down south near Albert. Russian Southern push a mere feint, Real full on Western front, with so much yet to come. Our work will obviously do little, in early stages at least.

24/6/16.

Event in a panic. Second refilling at 5 p.m. instead of tomorrow.

morning, in case we have to entrain suddenly. Fan posts hospital, probably fast. Many troop trains passing through Chocques in the morning & going on all day, mostly ^{going down to St. spot.} Our Divn is G.H.Q. Reserve, outside the organisation of any Corps. We are liable to be sent anywhere, - or nowhere, or we may just have to bury the dead or guard prisoners.

I hear from Wilson, (S.C.S.D.) that they have had an official announcement by the Divn that the ~~front~~ ^{front} offensive will be broken front ⁱⁿ by July. There are said to be over a million men, French & British, in the Somme or a 20 mile front. Russian troops, under French officers, said to be holding the line at Amas. They have been told in their orders the day, that their only way back to ~~Russia~~ ^{Russia} is through Germany.

We can hear the steady boom of big guns away forward, & also a bit up north. We have a good view in the twilight from the top of a green hillock, half a mile away. Star shells in the distance, the constant whistle of trains, the hum of a returning aeroplane, the woods by us quiet & still, the millions of lives of unseen ~~hanging~~ ^{hanging} in the balance, with the personal

significance or insignificance of eachy watching
waiting for the dawn & the unrolling of smoke
& blood ^{of our side} but perhaps decisive, page in
the history of the modern world! It is
hard to realize the immensity of ^{all} these
things on this hot evening, after the ^{warm} ~~the~~
summer rain.

25/6/16

come to rest
Another warm day. Many motor ambulances
with wounded from Loos. One wounded
man says we hadn't broken through,
when he was brought away. Many
wild rumors of breaks through are
in the air today. None are backed by
evidence. I see the official
announcement that "the great Western
offensive has begun." I ride in the
evening to Valenciennes ^{with Elvosty}
& Debaens. We see the shells
bursting at Loos.

26/6/16.

Normal & without news. Heavy
cannonade again audible to the
south east.
I take a Seidlitz powder, which works
well, as a medical preparation for
great push!

27/6/16.

"Warning order" received for 26th to
be ready to move at short notice to
DIVISION - OUIZON, 8 miles S of LILLEKES
& 15 West of Loos. Expect ditching.
We hear Canadians are all coming down
South in a fat night. Fanceltin afterwards
gives interesting account of artillery action
down South. 15 inch guns are firing 100
rounds a day, smaller "heavies" 200, field
guns 500 to 1000. This is to be kept up
for 4 or 5 days. We are systematically
destroying all villages behind the
German lines.
Evening conference at Busnes. It
appears we are moving right down
South & shall be in the track of it.
Tra-la-la! My own ruffly work
is to be done at night.

28/6/16.

Back to Choqueux bed at 1.30 am.
After wiring & paying nocturnal
visits to various units.
Wake up to a rainy day, which clears
towards evening. Ride round in rain
to B.H.P. to discover details of troop
movements by road & rail respectively.
Conference (a much waste of time) until
about 11.30 to 2 pm. - wing units & with
head choques 6.45 to meet with
to No 3 Coy at Vendin - meet them 7.45

with Coz

Trek on to Fonquerent Church, meeting place for Contoy. Arrive there 9 pm. Masses of transport on the road, infantry, train & Field ambulances. Sometimes very jolly in spectacle of long lines of heavily laden wagons & dismounted parties in the gathering dusk. At meeting place have 1 1/2 hours to wait. Not being fed for 7 hours, I ride round the neighbouring villages on my own looking for a feed. I find one at a little restaurant at Fonquieres - an admirable omelette, excellent French bread & butter & good coffee. This served by a refugee from Lens. Nos 2 & 4 Coz arrive at meeting point at 10.15 & we start off, right at the rear of a long column. We go by Betune & Brumoy to Marquay. The night ride is very enjoyable in the whole. But the Contoy for badly & the place at the tail is always the worst. The pace is irregular, & the small stoppages tiresomely frequent. Hours far up the line fit & one a wagon of the 4th immediately in front of us falls ditched. I ride with Nichols, Fenton, Myers, & Penn & turn.

Some of the dismounted men get weary & the ^{unhappy} put into empty huffy wagons in rear. We pass through Brumoy just before midnight. 29/6/16. Occasional showers of light rain. I munch biscuits. I now keep awake about 3 am. & several times find myself rolling off the saddle. It unfortunately appears that about 10 o'clock we take a completely wrong turning, which leads us some 12 miles out of our way. Farrell chiefly to blame for this; also Debaens. At 8.30 we halt for an hour. I lie down on the road with my head on a heap of straw & sleep half an hour. The ~~pace~~ dawn is breaking, grey & wet looking, when we get on, but after the rest I am very perky & converse jocularly with my companions. I also read a letter from P.F. delivered in the dark the night before. Owing to bad leading we don't get to Marquay till 8 am! The horses & men very tired. Marquay is a most unpleasant place. The houses are all falling down, the gardens neglected, the inhabitants in hospitals & unclean. We have the kitchen billets allotted, 2 meals & 4 dishes. We therefore camp out in a field containing jolly trees & mess under a tarpaulin. Great fun to try my tent. Bundles of H.I. at 3 pm. I want an evening a intellectually purged hortatory. In

Evening visit 1st in neighboring village. We are to reinforce "Third Army" in Arzac area. I have a tent, & get on excellently, with Nicholls. He makes a good o.c. Company, (better than I expected.)

30/5/16.

Wed-morning makes camp life rather unpleasant. Long & complex refilling. German movements very erratic & make "system" sufficient work unworkable. They'll be lucky if a lot of them aren't without rations tomorrow. Nicholls & I get on increasingly well. We stay here a day or two apparently, but in constant readiness to move on to Hauteville, near Arzac. I am told by Detachment known as St Polois are notorious in northern France for dirtiness & incivility.

The most perfect sunset I have seen for a very long while.

1/7/16.

A glorious sunny day. I grow suddenly numb. in the

evening another great sunset. Contrary to expectation we have not yet moved on. A fine roll of gunfire. One chief feature of our activities - preparation for time is its thorough deliberation.

We sit out after dinner with Nicholls' gramophone playing. This gives great pleasure to the men. Gunfire now tremendous & strong & quite continuous about 10.30 pm. Nicholls is an interesting boy who has been in Cyprus & Smyrna.

11.15 Swart arrives & announces that we have broken through on a 12 mile front, ^{unbroken} are probably moving tomorrow night, that we have a double refilling.

2/7/16.

Much confusion over double refilling. Swart who has obviously muddled the figures, ^{is} hectic in denunciation of orders.

About 9.30 pm. orders come to get ready to move at once. We get ready.

About 10.30 orders to move are 20 minutes to Lecheuse, near Doublens. This is further south than we originally expected.

We start after delays. At first a lovely clear night, but late it turns quite cold & there's a very heavy

was usually conscious of Swart's defects of mind, manner & character. A jolly ride in the evening, up hills, through woods & over fields, in the direction towards Mendocino. Little game audible, probably because we're in a valley.

6/17/16.

2 Refillings (great housework always part, the units, if required to move suddenly, being like micafath & carrying two days rations. The rilly, buffer has only 1st to 1st one pack train (but wants to run a train for him to see). I am amused to find that my Sully details speak of me as Dolly!

7/17/16.

More to Beautat a fair sized modern & rather clean town three & half miles south of Doullens. It rains heavily & very heavily, with intermittent patches of hot mocking sunshine, which with steam. One inhabitant I seem very friendly, & the woman where I sleep & with the rest mess in kitchen filling us cider & strawberries from her garden. (The town is a pretty little town with Brit in trees)

have not been here very long.) Refilling at 5 pm. Then visit to a distillery down from north ~~interior~~ 2000 lbs tin bread. Tolson & Swart on amozis, carrying & impractical as usual, including Nicholls myself, respecting, to only half-indecisive. In the evening I visit on R.E.'s who are going tomorrow to be attached to 48th Div. Their major is a charming & quite unimpeachable fellow. He hears that the Infantry are to not leave for 10 days more.

8/17/16.

Days normal again & weather much better. Visit 158 vic Nicholls in evening. Fawcett in a very cheery mood. Think we may well break up to range about the end of July. Subjects discuss on a great scale if the hot weather comes. Benam will suffer most from this because worse than this, also civil population in worse than this, because of sanitation. Run into young headley again at 158, now with Trench mortar. Same as ever. Got rather pale after long heat in trenches, with (to) minus Morris up near G. By the way at Beauverne, since in beginning the push. We may catch with a little France (but not sure) but a little more. I read some letters to me & a couple of little windows, a good deal of time to be spent in the camp, to the 3rd of the morning stars

4/7/16. one can pick out the line of hills
 A sunny day. I see an English flag
 attack in the afternoon. Heavy gunfire
 in afternoon & evening. More tomorrow.
 Plans several times altered. First was
 toward Katerpue due west of Albert,
 to start at 5 am. Then changed to
 Kus-les-Antois to start 7.45.

10/7/16.

A glorious day. Up at 5 am. Don't
 get leave because till 11 owing to
 the fact that we are marching in rear of
 the brigade and we all have great
 difficulty in getting heavily laden up
 up steep hill. At Terramenil we're
 halted for an hour, & word passed
 down the line that our destination
 is altered. ^{Because proceed on to}
 At ^{Sutton meet} ^{at} ^{about} ¹¹ ^{am} ^{at} ^{Sutton} ^{we} ^{are} ^{met} ^{by} ^{an} ^{English} ^{flag}.
 Johnson arrives in state of wild excitement
 & says orders changed again, & we are bound
 for Contay. Detach Supply details, limit
 to loads to R.P. on Tricres-Mansu
 road & ride on with Nicholls to Antic.
 One meet Drouot, also 158 with whom
 I drink champagne, food & (hot) 3 pm.
 Have first meal since 6.30 at 3.30, the
 fare somewhat & coffee. Then on to Kus-
 les-Antois where we bivvy for the
 night with a lot of 12 L. ^{of} ^{the} ^{troop} in

a wooded valley. Drive via H.P. log at
 Sutton. Walk back part of way, it
 wraps Antic & then meet car
 returning from Contay, where Drouot,
 Fenton & Supply ^{det} have proceeded
 to night.

11/7/16.

More in leisurely manner to Contay,
 & thence to a bivvy by the roadside
 between us & Warley, ^{Contay} due
 west of Albert, distance about 4 miles.
 Arrive about 11, but get caught in
 Swart's office & stick there till about
 2 pm watching them do confused
 arithmetic on paper. Try to get
 lunch in Warley but ~~the~~ find every
 place simply eaten out for large
 number of troops. This part of the
 world is packed tight as a sardine
 box. Further waste of time in
 Swart's office in the afternoon, all
 but a few hundred ^{of} ^{the} ^{troops} ^{present},
 but ^{with} ^{no} ^{filling} ^{today}.
 Much hearsay evidence from
 members of Division hereabouts
 who have suffered heavily in the
 push. ^{(overdrawn & unaccounted for}
^{heavily 3 weeks ago!)} ^{our} ^{Cavalry} ^{has}
^{been} ^{broken} ⁱⁿ ^{it} [&] ^{changed}
^{the} ^{flying} ^{enemy}. ^{Life} ^{guards} [&]
^{missiles} ^{have} ^{been} ^{seen}
^{going} ^{through}. ^{but} ^{probably}

There's nothing in the morning. Some
shelling of ~~air~~ ^{air} ~~planes~~ ^{planes} in the air,
but not much sound of gunfire.
Heavy bombs & catapults going up to
more by guns forward. ^{with some}
1/2 pm. hauled out of bed to talk to
Johnson about on hill road about
tomorrow's mission. Leave to sleep 12-30
am, refilling at 6.30 am.

12/7/16

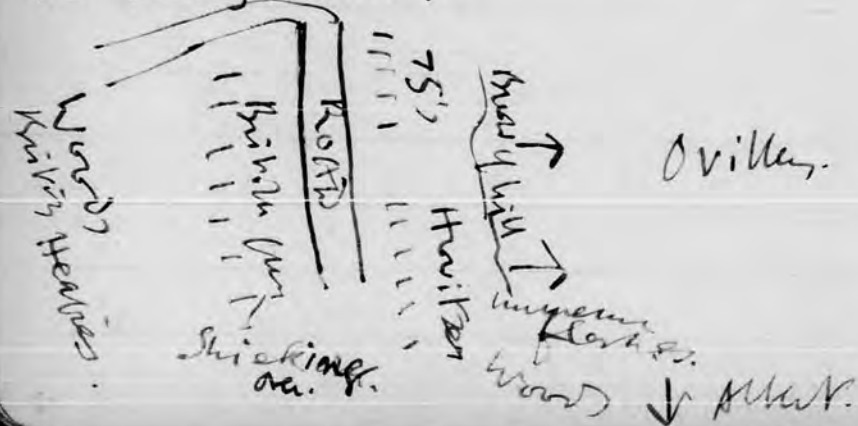
Refill 6.30 am.

Orders to be ready to move at
an hour's notice.

Determined we make tomorrow
Heilly onto Ance, still further
South.

13/7/16.

A great day. Refill 6.30. Coz were
10 o'clock. I go with Wright & Gatward
in car to ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Abelby~~ ^{Abelby} Wood. On bus
returning Ovilley.



Some idea of hell with the lid off.
Noise deafening, especially at 10 feet
from a big mortar. Talk to 4 French
Officers of 75's, young & very charming. Show
me ^{their} four kinds of shells - ~~unfired~~ ^{unfired}, h.e.,
asphyxiating & lacrimatory (the latter as
dull green color.) Give me two empty
shell cases, but ~~from the~~ ^{from the} guns.
One shell bursts on ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~top~~ ^{top} of hill, 500
away. Kill 2 Lance Fusiliers.
Everyone rushes out of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~dug~~ ^{dug} ~~outs~~ ^{outs} to
look at damage. ^{men} ~~men~~ ~~rush~~ ^{rush} ~~back~~ ^{back}.
A vicious swirl! but I got 1000 in 1/4 hour
then to ~~about~~ ^{to} see C.R.E.
About practically uninhabited,
& not an unbroken window or an
untouched house in the place.
Golden statue of the Virgin (at
least 20 feet high) diving from
spire top, still held up only by some
precarious twisted metal work.
Crash of cymbals even more deafening.
About town in Abelby Wood, swing to
contrived machine of wheels. One
gun firing from behind the town, then
from opposite. Crossing contrivances.
W.H. N.F.'s with night shell
mock. H.e. crater just outside
in stone made last night. About
very faint & desolate in a hollow of the
land. The roads into it

103
 Route West & S.W. are sheltered
 with ^{German} ^{17 miles W of Peronne 2 N}
 on ^{about} ^{where} ^{meet} ^{at}
 Heilly ^{order} ^t ^{more} ^{or} ^{at} ^{at} ^{Morlan} ^{court}
 4 1/2 miles E of Heilly on road
 this ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 Morlan court & an ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 order ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 Bois celestus on the ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 in some 3 miles S of Morlan court
 on cross this. ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 Charming ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 & rough ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 women ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 pass ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 destination ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 warm ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 cold ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 I ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 No 2 3 & 4 ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 edge of a ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 of nuts ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 tree a ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 were ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}

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 midnight, after going out about a mile
 to take the ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 bivouac ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 went a ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 but too tired to be much trouble.
 Morlan court full of French ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 & ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 to German ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 and ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}
 14/7/16. ^{order} ^{coming} ^{to} ^{more} ^{on} ^{again} ^{to}

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pursued, but owing to our
rapid march we are without
mail or paper for 3 days.
Down in the ~~valley~~ ^{mountain} French
families playing - so gaily!
Where were a wood, largely
thatched or cut, of oak &
smaller trees, probably hazel.
When we cut it most hollow
a bit like the tin unclean land
round the paragon.

But it has been left in a very
dirty and of precious troops, & is rather
fully flies. This was our
nephew of Nicholas (especially) Fenton,
who is rather annoyed with me for
not much caring & saying that he'll
have much more time to put up
with before war is over.

11th Nov. News comes that some German
prisoners are on a road a mile
away. I ride out ^{halted on road} to have a look at
them. About 400, under a French
guard, under a French Lieut. A
very nice fellow, about 35 years of age,
with whom I rapidly make
friends. More prisoners were taken
3 or 4 days ago on the French front,
Prussian & Barbarians. Had some

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without food for 4 days before capture.
Mostly lousy, but on the whole
rather contented. I note they
are not bullied at all by the French
guard. They are used to all kinds
of fatigues, making fires, fetching
water in pails from the source
two miles away, etc. (this is a waterless
patch.) Some look harmless others,
sufficiently. A few look very hostile,
but the majority wear a resigned,
worn, ^{rather} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{face} ^{of} ^{it} ^{is} ^{the} ^{most} ^{common} ^{expression}
The Lieut, who has ^{been} ^{chased} ^{away} ^{by} ^{the} ^{French}
some other English officers, ^{with} ^{me}
if I would like to talk to them.
I accept. We find one who
knew a little English, but more
French. I converse with him
in French for about half an hour.
He says, ~~that~~ in answer to me, that
in Germany it is thought that the
war will soon end because
everyone is tired of it, but the
Kaiser & German Prince are conducting
the war as well as possible, but
Germany could soon be ^{beaten} ^{if} ^{some} ^{one} ^{could} ^{do} ^{it}
they would do so if it
were a few of things of Alsace
Lorraine, but they have heard that
the Prussians have had to recede
in part, but the German

Some off putland were much less
 than the English, but no one in
 Germany ^{is} ^{to} ^{be} ^{seen} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{streets} ^{at} ^{present} ⁱⁿ ^{Germany} ^{is} ^{to} ^{be} ^{seen} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{streets} ^{at} ^{present} ⁱⁿ ^{Germany}
 established ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{middle} ^{of} ^{the} ^{war} ⁱⁿ ^{Germany} ^{is} ^{to} ^{be} ^{seen} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{streets} ^{at} ^{present} ⁱⁿ ^{Germany}
 this man is ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{middle} ^{of} ^{the} ^{war} ⁱⁿ ^{Germany} ^{is} ^{to} ^{be} ^{seen} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{streets} ^{at} ^{present} ⁱⁿ ^{Germany}
 first manner, ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{middle} ^{of} ^{the} ^{war} ⁱⁿ ^{Germany} ^{is} ^{to} ^{be} ^{seen} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{streets} ^{at} ^{present} ⁱⁿ ^{Germany}
 heels when first addressed by me, &
 stood at attention throughout.
 often when a proposition was put
 to him he said "on dit autrement
 en Allemagne." ^{This} ^{is} ^{usually} ^{answered}
 the French Lieut so much that he
 replied "c'est bien entendu sur
 dit autrement, but mais il faut
 faire dire la vérité!" He
 then made a speech at the prison,
 full of rhetorical flour, rubbing in
 the whole bad story - ^{causes} ^{of} ^{the} ^{war},
 France & Belgian ^{atrocities} ^{evidenced} ^{by}
 neutrals, gas & liquid fire, ^{lies} ^{about}
 military operations, ^(Coffins, Vaux, etc.)
 All this he puts ^{very} ^{well}, ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{German}
 only shook his head, & looked rather
 pained, & repeated "en Allemagne on dit
 autrement."

Another fellow spoke English. He
 said the Russian began the war, but
 the French had taken him in ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{war}.
 ("You know what the French fellows
 are!" he said confidentially to ^{the} ^{British} ^{forming}.) One German didn't
 really hate the English. Why did

they so often say " Gott Strafe England"?
 Well, the English often said "Fuch the
 Kaiser!"
 Another said that Ireland began the
 war, & that Germany had only 2 friends
 in the world, Ireland & Austria.
 After lunch Nicholls & I went to
 find the Brigade who have moved
 up. We have the devil of a hunt.
 We ^{discovered} ^{at} ^{last} ^{north} ^{east} ^{of}
 they ^{is} ⁱⁿ ^a ^{muddy} ^{alley} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{middle} ^{of} ^{the} ^{city}
 on the slope of a hill.
 We are in the middle of the heat
 with ^{all} ^{its} ^{affirmations} [&] ^{organization}.
 all round, including one 15" in
 wood. (This gun tends to blow one's
 hat off when fired from closely.)
 Masses of cavalry, Indian & white.
 Roads full of traffic, but well
 controlled, & the ^{rougher} ^{parts} ^{that}
 off onto tracks, parallel to the roads,
 quantities wounded coming back,
 all degrees severity, in ^{litters} [&] ^{wagons} [&] ^{ambulances}, ^{mere} ^{bundles} ^{of}
 bloody rags" some of them ^{men}
 "walking wounded" ^{guided} ^{to} ^{the}
^{collecting} ^{stations} ^{of} ^{special} ^{hospitals}
 along the road, every kind of transport
 & all class of troops. ^{Some} ^{lots} ^{were}
^{prisoners}, ^{some} ^{were} ^{bound} ^{with} ^{wire}
^{cage}, ^{other} ^{ditto} ^{had} ^{to} ^{buy} ^{dead} ^{horses}

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 2 miles. In one cage are a lot of German officers, including a brigadier general looking like "a bloody monkey" in one Infantry Transport Office just this morn.
 Most of the officers are killed, and I am to look at. It was said by one prisoner this morning, whether to flatter or not I know not, that the German would well if the English became, when taken prisoners, they remain calm & silent, whereas the French cry & scream & jesticulate.

I return & play football with our side. In the evening, I have a long talk with ^{English} privates from the ^{English} (some of them) with two privates from the ^{English} (some of them) who are from Bizerta. One is a ~~good~~ young fellow, with a very charming manner. (How well informed) French fellows are, & what intelligent conversation, e.g. about the ^{English} command in the island with their own men, who by constant seem awful dull as they say discipline is all nonsense, especially in intelligent corps like the ^{English}. They laugh a bit at our. But they are appreciative of the part we are playing in the war, & they will disclose towards us individuality, & very much interested in all the details of us. One had been promoted for German who had been decorated, but had mislaid his medals.

15/7/16. 310
 Pretty quiet. To Corbie to arrange for feeding of Field Ambulances. Camp common, a delightful fellow, announces our steady advances 340 German prisoners in a (transport) miserable condition, being marched along road under British Cavalry Guard.
 German General in cage yesterday was an Artillery Brigadier, newly appointed to a Bde. He never found his Bde. Till after he'd been caught when he met some of his officers. He was caught in a wood, looking for his new command!

French Infantry drill & train in our field. Gun quiet most of the day.
 View over Somme beautiful & very beautiful in evening light - canalized river among trees beyond tangle of lakes. Headache quickly cured by aspirin. Transphoned & talk with H.Q. very wonderful full moon.

16/7/16.
 Breakfast in the tent at 8.45 (after Kaffee) away in sight of piles, drilling & in the intervals kicking football about our field. See their friendly curiosity. Went in afternoon to B.H.P. - St. Billion Valley. From less active than previously, during day. But some have gone forward. Only 4 on advance. Kide back along track on both ground north of the Somme, & left vet to the skin in heavy snow, & left vet to the skin in heavy snow, & left vet to the skin in heavy snow. ^{View from above of Liba Wood is their getting 4 wood was on one. Visit Bray-Somme}

On way back, noting of a town, but
crowded, with yolly poilus & French
The ^{poilus} ^{with} wake up again in the evening
and the rain keeps on coming down.
If it continues, will be bad luck
for us.

German prisoners still bringing dead
horses near their cage. I also see one,
a mere boy, slightly wounded, come back
in a Field ambulance.

Tonight 10.50 see go into trenches from
Langueval to Trons Wood, with the French
on their immediate right.

Wonderful colour in the fields & wild wood
weeds near the line, - poppies, cornflowers,
twistles & butter cups.

17/7/16.

Dull heavy, close weather ^{and} ^{hard} ^{heat} ^{and} ^{corrupt}
Ride through Bray & Suzanne to get a
view of the French line. ^{They} ^{give} ^a ^{view}
highly - piggish, unshaven ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{poilus} ^{on} ^{the} ^{face} ^{again}
combined with immense ^{energy} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{stabs}
& stacks of shells, rows of ^{the} ^{fire}
from chalk hills north of Suzanne.

All very cheerful -
German prisoners everywhere, cleaning the
streets of Bray, travelling in ^{the} ^{trucks}
pits, standing about ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{streets}
huddled ^{at} ^{the} ^{road} ^{side} ^{by} ^{the} ^{road} ^{side} ^{by} ^{the} ^{road} ^{side}
AT night tremendous ^{by} ^{the} ^{British} ^{guns} ^{from} ^{about} ⁶ ^{km}
onwards.

18/7/16.

in the morning to 15.11.4. Roads

2 Round (Chalky) very muddy. Cheerful
conversation & drink with P.M.'s & A.T.M.'s.
officer who shows me latest ^{map} ^{of} ^{the} ^{front} ^{line}.
He also describes the ^{men} ^{and} ^{their} ^{appearance} ^{of} ^{the} ^{dead} ^{of} ^{there}. "Their
liquids white & shivelled up, their faces
black, their mouths full of crawling
maggots." I try on a captured
German gas helmet. ^{It} ^{is} ^{less} ^{cumbersome},
^{and} ^{is} ^{broken} ⁱⁿ ^{but} ^I ^{should} ^{have}
^{been} ^{effective} ^{than} ^{ours}.

At day & admiring crowd, including a
few poilus, round Little Jimmy, the
15 inch howitzer.

Several shells fall in the valley. It
puzzles me why A.S.C. officers don't
a bit more often get hit!

Main body in a very good humour, as we
have brought with us whisky for the
mess.

Story of German General caught in his
dugout while making

10.50 & 10.15 hrs to take ^{the} ^{position} ^{of} ^{the} ^{French}
on immediate right attacking ^{the} ^{position} ^{of} ^{the} ^{French}

17/7/16.

Went to a high, open field just
outside Meault a mile ^{and} ^{out}
of Fricourt, in full view, ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{open} ^{field}
trees, of the Divis Virgin of Albert,
about a mile & a half away.
This ^{is} ^{the} ^{first} ^{time} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{history} ^{of} ^{the} ^{war}
the retreating enemy.

Morning very hazy, afternoon very hot.
Went to Querrien to buy whisky on
corner 7/10/16.

Rege for convening news ^{to report to the conf.}
20/7/16. ^{Everyone relies to everyone else.}

Wt at 3 am. to meet horses. Back
to bed at 4 till 6. Then up for R.P.
After lunch ride out to Billon Wd, by
new country route. Hot & dusty.

See French ^{everywhere in front} party (28 July 1915) delicately
planted with poppies. ^{flowers any}
Zone, grows ^{in the} ^{from} ^{some} ^{long}
rank a wild ^{with} ^{many} ^{flowers}
in green. Full also of a shell hole,
so that it's necessary to ride with
Caution.

Queer mixture of despondency & queer
matter of factness in 1st Line Transport.
Lines. ^{Our} ^{side} ^{have} ^{suffered}
Very heavily. Sit with ⁵ ^{Clan} ^{Officers}
Officers. Two of whom are just ^{from}
trenches, announcing the deaths &
wounded of many of their fellows.
"Lousy Liz" ^{another} ^{15th} ^{Nov} ^{is} ^{about} ^{on} ^{the}
1st & 2nd ^{with} ^{them} ^{under} ^a ^{tar} ^{parade}.

Some Sherwood remnants have
drifted back to the line, God knows
by whose order. Some of them lie

awake on the grass, twitching with nerves
& nightmares as they lie.

Ride back across the old line, and
through the remains of Maunet's & Fricourt
the roads packed with traffic.

A Division of Australians are going up
tonight.

Some German retaliation in our
neighbourhood tonight. Jack Johnson in
great number on the ridge opposite
Fricourt way, - trying to knock out
some of our multitudinous batteries.
Also a stray mortar or two in the
neighbourhood of Meault tower.

Great fighting & shelling in the air, it
looks as though 3 ^{our} ^{planes} ^{fall},
either ours or theirs uncertain. Sky
peppered with tracer ^{much} ^{light} ^{ours}, & salted
with ours.

Firing ^{remains} ^{on} ^{again} ^{at} ^{night},
like the continual roll of the
sea on high cliffs, with occasional
thunder, ^{loud} & heavier ^{bars}.

21/7/16.
Another wonderful ^{hot} ^{day}, with
a fine.
Fuss round our ^{and} ^{then} ^{quarters}
ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{morning}.

breakfasting with 1065 Field Amb. Co.
in afternoon visit old First Line Transport
position at head of Billion Valley. These
have moved now. While I am here,
five shells fall uncomfortably near,
one within 30 or 40 yards. I compare
to ducking my head on the neck of my
horse & losing one stump on the horse's
suddenly flying. It's unique to
watch ~~intensity~~ everyone begin to
scatter rapidly from a shell burst within
open. horns begin to fall off etc. This
is like a man whose one foot, the
will soon fall also. (An alternate
procedure is to jump into the hole
lie there for half an hour or so.)
From shells were h.e., not much, but
— more noise & smoke but less
danger from flying fragments.
I met him P.M. of New Brunswick who
passed our camp in a car later in the
day & stopped to talk to Nichols,
(always with an eye for the break!),
who gave him a German helmet.
German h.e.'s said a military policeman
say "Krupp!" every time they explode.
After that I go out on the Fricourt
Road & watch Battalion marching
up. S. Irish & Welsh chiefly. They
said to be another big move on expected
shortly. A wonderful sight than
seemingly endless ^{thousands} men marching

live with frequent mounting walls, 1916
dark & dusty road to Death. What
are they thinking of ^{about now?} all these boys?
Here & there a mouth organ, here
& there the catch of a song, but
not too loud, ~~do not~~ ^{very} restrained.
And all the sky ~~is~~ ^{is} full of gun flashes,
& all ~~and~~ ^{and} from every side the roll
of gunfire like the beating of thousands
of the sea.

22/7/16.

Then
move to Green ~~foot~~ ^{foot} str. close to the
de Taille. Slightly further from the
front of the guns. Up at 4.30 am
for two more. Have been warming with
flies, other with a good camp.
A man yellows from bombardment. Starts
about 9.30 pm. Like the turning of
a hundred ^{seats} handles.

23/7/16.

Weather cooler. Refilling not till 10 am.
Accompanying Company ^{to} units, now in valley
beyond Carnoy. Very exposed. German
shelling melts heavily. They have set light
to an ammunition store of ours on Fricourt
Road. Up on shelling ⁱⁿ smoke. Fine
effects. Great cloud of ~~the~~ ^{white} smoke
rises hundreds of feet high, over hints of
brown red & black. ^{the} Major with
orders in duvet. Whole place brought by the
infantry (good judge) to be most unhealthy.
They are ill at ease & eager to be gone.
German shells make a flourish in the

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side of the valley & also - intermittently
on side. Their whistle of the wind in
air is most unpleasant, but the
relief on seeing the smoke for a
some distance away is great.
I admit to feeling very uncomfortable,
& to wondering how much longer the
weapons will be in unloading. But
I am pleased to find myself less
distracted outwardly than most &
more capable of sustaining conversation
on various business & other things.
We are on a slope & can't see
what is happening very far away. But
after 3 shells have burst just about
a spot, stretcher bearers carry down
two ~~to~~ still fumes, washed in blood,
bandages, - quite dead I think - to the
bottom of the valley. On the way
back we see some well aimed shells
pitching in Billion Wood, & sending up
great volumes of black smoke. They are
very near some of our hidden units, if
not right on top of them. ~~Some~~ A
dead horse lying in the front mounds
strongly. We seem to have no work
to buying dead things. This is bad.
I find the two last antitank to coming
from under shell fire are (1) coming
& conversation. (2) reflection on the
with probability against any particular
shell, or piece of shell, hitting in particular
place would at any particular
moment, I happen, to be. I put this
reflection in my life as it were, & so
on slowly making it.

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About 10 men on bombardment now,
been heavy again, but not quite so heavy
as last night.
We are warned that, if the wind doesn't
change, the for attack is expected to start
I estimate that 1050 1500 have lost
about 800 killed & wounded, twice in the
front line, i.e. about 200 per battalion.
There are not heavy losses, compared with
other brigades.

24/7/16.

For attack didn't come. Quiet day,
convoy, which I didn't accompany,
nearly had some casualties. This
ridiculous system of sending up one
day convoy and parking it in an
open field while enquiries are
made of advanced D.H.Q. as to
position of units, (enquiries which
are generally answered wrong) will
lead to serious trouble for day
today. Today Stacey had his
time taken by a piece of shrapnel.
German prisoners very much more
active the last few days.

25/7/16.

Slipshod trouble over Sherwood's rationing,
Fashion having been troubled too much by
the book & Munson in reducing his identity
receiving an unembellished, unadorned
draft of 350.
Fashion practice of one day's
in the open abandoned. &
Visit HQ in Cannon Valley, also other
units. Not much shelling & if distant.
Drought finds a horse in his shirt (the last
man one wd expect) being.

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26/7/16

Nothing to report. Visit units in morning

27/7/16.

Quiet. Read some Sandra Belloni. An
 asked (as a "linguist") to meet a young
 French M.O. of an Ambulance nearby.
 Elegant & handsome, an evident Southerner.
 Says that until the declared war on
 Germany, England was further away from
 the majority of Frenchmen ^{than Germany}.
 For himself, he knew one English
 word "football" and had read some
 of Rudyard Kipling in French, "Main
 faly from the Hills." Since when
 he had read something of English
 politics, etc. (I wondered whether in
 North Africa ^{press!}) How many of
 our troops were Kitchen's Volunteers,
 how many ^{dearly} men, how many
 conscripts? He was glad we had
 large reserves in our depots in England.
 In France they had practically none.
 They had put ~~hand~~ everything in
 the line. Everyone was in the
 fighting line. We had been having
 heavy losses lately? Well, it was
 God to get accustomed to this.
 Frenchmen had been ^{Frenchmen} decimated at ^{the} ^{war}
 the Irish outbreak. He had since been
 reading the papers & began to understand the
 Irish on a little better. He had been

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a good deal in North Africa before the war.
 They did not encourage missionaries, nor
 interfere with polygamy, etc. They did
 not consider much education good for
 the Arabs. Very few of them spoke French,
 but many Frenchmen spoke a little of the
 native languages.
 Roumania might wait a little too long.
 Probably, if she had come in earlier,
 Russia might have taken her part of
 Bessarabia. But probably it was now
 too late. Delcasse had been
 quite broken by the conduct of Bulgaria.
 But, after all, the Bulgarians were
 for the most part mere peasants,
 utterly uneducated & uninformed.
 At college he had met Greeks,
 Bulgarians & Turks. The Greeks
 were very intelligent. "mais pas
 ses bons camarades" the Turks
 "pas utiles, mais pas très intelligents",
 the Bulgarians "des véritables brutes,
 des crueses." But they had said
 they would never fight against
 Russia or France.
 In France British sports were fairly
 common. This was good. Before the
 war one spent too much time in
 France in study, too little in physical
 exercise. After the war there
 would be more sports in France. Probably
 also, the period of military service
 would be shortened by 2 or 3 years to benefit

But the experience in this war had shown that a good soldier could be trained in 6 months. Two or three years of a man's youth was his great sacrifice. It ruined his career. This was a sad time, but full of new experience & instruction.

28/7/16.

Unpleasant & warm. Pinner addressing 104th Bde last night said Roumania was going to join in on our side & fight with Bulgaria against Turkey! I passed for an intellectual among Generals.

Chaplain tells me of the almost dying ones of a mortally wounded man from the K.K.K. brought into the main Dressing Station this morning. "O Padre, you should have been with us this morning to see the things go over!"

29/7/16.

Quiet & warm. Visit B.H.Q. in morning & study latest maps & news. We are held up by a row of machine guns just west of Quincy & Guillemont. When our guns open on them, they & their operators go 30 feet below ground; when our infantry advance they come to the surface again.

30/7/16.

Normal & warm. A German aeroplane drops some bombs. The two nearest to our camp are duds.

31/7/16.

Normal & warm. Some of cat chest

a tennis ball. Bde runs back to the Sand pit.

~~5/8/16~~ 1/8/16.

Some shells wake me in the small hours by their explosions not far away. I lie awake awhile & listen to them whistling.

Warm. Move back tomorrow close to Corbie on bank of Somme.

Conference at T.H.Q. at 9 pm on this. Boyd Cattle (Swat's brother) at dinner there. Far more presentable & a good deal younger than Swat. A Lieut in 1st Div Artillery. But a heavy, faint, unbearable Sest type.

Rumours thicker & multiply regarding Roumania also Bulgaria. It will come in. Pinner has told us Indian on Aug 7. Some add "for 3 months only". Bulgaria will capitulate. Ferdinand will abdicate & his son will succeed him. I don't wholly discredit these views. One dust is a bit of a nuisance.

2/8/16.

Move back to Somme bank, between Vauxen Somme and Sailly-le-Sec. Rippet on bank of part of Lageran. Very ^{interesting} refilling, due at 11 am, does not take place till 4 pm owing to Pash Train being 2 hours late at Mericourt.

Very hot. For the first time I feel the heat & have a raging headache inclination to nausea. Staked & take two aspirins & sleep. Then as party as a new hen laid. Wonderful drug aspirin!

3/8/16.

Again hot, but with an occasional breeze.
Very heavy gunfire at night.

4/8/16.

Cooler. Trek toward Div^l Ref. Refill
6 am. Start on trek 2 pm. Reach
Bivouac, left Vecquemont at 6 pm.
A pleasant place under trees. Very
quiet & untouched by war. Main
line from Albert to Amiens
seen along top of bank.
Bivvy in open, in West position
very early tomorrow.

5/8/16.

Woke up 2 am. Breakfast 3. Start 4
on trek to Soles, about 15 miles W of
Amiens, where one can hardly hear the
gun. At start Lesaux tells me Alfred
East has painted a fine picture "Down on
the Soles" British troops intelligently a
maple, to be received with enthusiasm
in Amiens, when marching through.
Arrive Soles about 12 noon. Sleep in the
afternoon.

6/8/16.

Normal. Amusing talk with an old
woman who sells us fruit.

7/8/16.

Normal.

8/8/16.

Normal.

9/8/16

Good lunch in Amiens. Very hot
& dusty. A very clean case of bad
Staff Work. We would either have
been perfectly rested with Amiens or
left in the Bois de Tailles. Bivvy
under the sky at Vecquemont

10/8/16.

Rain in the early morning. Wet
discomfort. Trek on back to
Sore Town. Everything has a damp
feeling.

11/8/16.

Hot again after early morning mist.
Pass a delightful March day with
imitation in a tender place.
Study 35th Div D.R.O. No 810 of 2/8/16
& decide to take action on it.

12/8/16.

Again hot after early morning mist.
Start on D.R.O. 810 by interviewing
Adjutant who is friendly & will put
my wishes before Johnson.

Meet two French Artillery Officers in
the evening. One is from Roubaix, his
family is here but he has no news of
them. His brother has been all the way
Verdun in the infantry without a word.
Great luck. He himself is a great
lover of horses, he admires our horses, he
has met eight jockeys & Francis & has
picked up some English from them.
He lived in the French Cavalry.

at the outbreak of war several
regiments of French Cavalry (including
his own) were trained into Germany. He
was in the Dardanelles with 75's. It
was terrible. "Toute la monde était malade"
Now he is near Hardecourt with a
heaviness from the 75's, but based on the
same principle of rapid fire.

13/8/16.

Talk with Adjutant regarding D.K.O. 810. He thinks
Ewart will try to put obstacles in the way.
I am to send in a paper tomorrow.
Plague of flies.

Penham & Winder look in in evening. 158
new out. They have had hell. Staff
stories of individual bravery & Staff
blunders - Millemont etc. Harwood 16
hours in hole in no man's land, then replaced by
a plane. Staff ignorant of our actual
forward position. Their refusal to believe
information. Their failure to go up & look for
them selves.

14/8/16.

Talk with Fawcett. On hearing I'm
thinking of transferring, says he'd be glad
to have me in his brigade.
He's rather fed up with things at the front
(Millemont Sect.) Very plain & clear &
clever on the staff, (Corps & Divisional.)
They're in town every 23,000 men at
Millemont - & surely committed wholesale
murder. "And they are so splendid!"
They would go anywhere & do anything.
One Artillery Co. has been "bitched up"

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The Corps people go in much too much for
meeting at the front line trenches, & too
little at the batteries behind. The French
are wonderful on the other hand, & continually
knock out German batteries.

One staff like way back in Chateaux
& plaster each other's backs with
decorations & never go near the trenches
or gun positions. Rawlinson, Army
Commander, a flagrant case of incompetence.
Our staff is either miserable old dogs
with ^{invaluable} experience at military clubs in London, or
young fellows without ^{any} experience
whose heads have been turned by rapid
promotion. One German was quite

right in their initial comment on
our possibilities but you can improve
on many & make it as large ^{as possible}
like. But you can't improve a staff-
500-600 are awful! Their C.M.A. is
a bundle of nerves, who doesn't hesitate
to throw a wet blanket ^{over his head}
on his head or his heels. ^{A charge of gas is put} Stably,
a crack-a-jack compared to him.

The officers in the Heavies are not a very
well trained lot. They haven't been
well selected. Many of them mostly
haven't the brain to put the elements
of the work.

[Mr. leading Fawcett I have half a
feeling that 1580 would be very
much. He'd be with a division
fellow to work under!]
I wrote out aff. to transfer, but

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Leslie send it till tomorrow. I think
I shall leave it open, R.G.A. or N.I.A.
In evening have a chat with French
Artillery officer from Manicouag. One a
great way on red tape. "Administration,
administration! -- Over vous en fait? --"
Personne ne veut pas prendre l'initiative.
Cagney officer had to go & let manufacturer
offer to be. but refused it & so getting nothing.
Battery ordered into action. No shells!
Rain in the afternoon & evening.

15/8/16.

Interview Swant & Johnson on part
transfer. Both very agreeable.
Swant says, incidentally, "If I were a
U.S. or two sources ..."
I put in the application formally in
the afternoon. Flies were here even!

Many of us feel rather unfit, & pitting
& tendency to richness. Cause uncertain.
I am also slightly (occasionally) to bed
early.

16/8/16.

Feel much better ^{early} & specially after an opinion
tablet. But still rather ^{Day} normal & this
active, ^{hating} food. ^{Day} normal & this
All the world is ^{hating} mitching, more or less, because
near junction. Cause obscure.

17/8/16.

Cease scuttling. Kill innumerable flies
with solution of formaldehyde.
incredible strength produced, no perceptible

effect. They breed from manure in woods ²⁸
near by.

Application for transfer comes back from
D.H.P. for certificates in triplicate under
K.R. para 242.

Some shells whistle over in the evening
T.H.P. had arranged to come to camp. We
replied Swant with stories of the unhealthiness
of the place, the flies, the widespread diarrhoea
& sickness among the officers. The ~~probability~~ ^{tendency} of
dysentery, once it starts, to run right
through a camp from end to end. ... And
they do not come.

18/8/16.

Normal, except for tiff with Wilson about meat.
Send back applⁿ for transfer to T.H.P.
with requested amendment & medical
certificate.

Heavy gunning at night.

19/8/16.

Many heavy showers, some of which come
through my tent!
Applⁿ sent back, with request for certificate
to be attached to certificate & not embodied therein!
Hill into Albert. The side streets not so
badly knocked about as I thought.

20/8/16.

Lunch with Worcester, & hear how
Hamilton got made Staff Capt! Ohude
they recruit ~~the~~ an wonderful staff!
Kide round Fricourt & Becondel.
Heavy bombardment by us at night.

21/8/16.

Conduct new staff for aff^r w/ Barnett
which we gain send of to Div. T. H. Q.
So dull!

22/8/16.

Nothing.

23/8/16.

Nothing.

Pinner said to be
trying hard for K.C.B. by continually
offering his Bankers, generally judged
to be below par, to hold the salted
in all occasions. One is not fair to
them. It's a horse race in his work but
attributed by the press to demagogues, but
making generous offers to other people's work.

24/8/16.

See Stately by appointment at 9:30 am.
He is very agreeable. "I hope he might
make a very good Artillery Officer, & will
recommend my application.
Lunatic bath. horse falls down in Neante
but without damaging either himself or me.

25/8/16.

Normal.

26/8/16.

R.P. moved to Edgell Sidg. Shocking
mess up. Three sets of contradictory & panicky
orders issued, viz at 8 pm. Yesterday, (at 11 pm.
Yesterday, (at 3 am. this morning).
on dining. Wilson has a nervous breakdown,
a distressing night. Collapse behind some
branches in night of everyone, & left in a
huddled mass, sleeping with-
mysterious jobs for about 20 minutes,
when he gets off in a car. Being

due to Swart's inconsistent training & im/mith.
demands, ^{Lass Johnson, speed only, substitute.} a of Cox's (whom), now evacuated,
when it took with fainting fits!
Bankers came out last night. It is clear
they have failed badly. The story they tell now
be for England. Too much was asked of
them but they have done nothing of what
was hoped. One story that they carried two
kinds of German trenches and ^{and found out to be}
really that the French having carried
some trenches & slightly handed them
over as a kindly gift!
Once night ago it seems that some
of our Heavies were firing now, &
shelled 10th Chesh. These got rapidly
demoralized. Men they got the order
to go on. More than half the men
were crying like children (w/with,
indeed, is all that the last Banker
drafts me!) All the Co. Commanders went
to become Clayton & told him that they
were ready to go on themselves,
but they knew their men would not,
& could not be made to follow them.
US-C... told them to stand fast.
Next day the 15th was recalled in
disgrace.
At 15th in dawn 104th BDR ran last
night, when put under a heavy fire
the discipline of the ^{3rd} ~~6th~~ Cheshires was,
perhaps, underlined by the following account
in incident a with him defeated it's
merciful purpose.
A wolf & a rabbit were in an unusual post.

They were left there 30 hours without food (except
 presumably iron rations, which is not sufficient to be eaten
 except by authority of a General Officer!) of their
~~own~~ back to ask if they could be relieved.
 He was told not to get back to the tent. They
 remained there for 10 more hours, still without
 food. The strain then became unen-
 durable, they came back. For his act
 they were tried by Court martial. Pinner took
 the view that the strain had been more
 than he could reasonably have been expected to
 bear, & refused leniency. One Court
 martial however, sentenced him to 5 years p.s.
 & the private to 5 years p.s. The Cpl was
 shot in Happy Valley. For discipline
 sake his widow was paraded to witness
 the proceedings. Other men of the 180th
 were close by. One man was called up
 to attention & the firing party was ordered
 to fire. ^{They} deliberately fired wide,
 but one, not firing quite wide enough
 wounded the malefactor in the shoulder.
 It then became the duty of the Officer in
 charge of the firing party to advance &
 finish off the malefactor with his revolver.
 This duty was faithfully performed,
 except that the Officer kept most
 of the other Officers ^{in many of the} on parade
 were guilty of the same weakness. It
 said that this man had been a very
 good corporal, & that he faced death
 at the hands of his friends ^{with} heroically
 without a whimper. ^{Such an incident} ^{is} ^{informed of} ^{the} ^{importance}
 Such an incident, to my mind, contains
 more of the horror of war than most
 incidents that befall in real fighting.

1 lunch in Corbie, & buy picture & cards of
 Albert, etc.

27/8/16.

A very wet day, a sea of miserable
 mud. Two Refittings at Ed. Lehill & Lohm's
 Park near Sailly Lorette. Discomfort
 aggravated by T.H.A.'s trainee arrangements.
 News we took north once more.

28/8/16.

A wet & horrible day, sweat fall of
 fuss over pending mail. Turns up
 late at billet in camp & fidgets over
 trivialities. News of Rumanian interest in
 British & French airmen fly over German
 lines dropping leaflets & slips announcing
 the news.

29/8/16.

Trek from Grevetran to Villen-4ocage
 23 miles. ^{by the N.F. Road} ^{to} ^{middle of} ^{forest} ^{1.}
 am kept waiting ^{at} on dump till
 not had gone. Breakfast & 1 lunch in
 Corbie, and listen to band of 110th France
 but kept in ² ^{more} ^{positions}. ^{They} ^{play} ^{strongly}
^{pipemusic} ^{briskly} ^{with} ^{some} ^{difficulty}
 Very heavy rain showers. ^{Some} ^{difficulty}
 in finding CQ at Villen-4ocage. Wet &
 miserable. But once more in a billet, with
 a rat over my head. Retent with mud life.

30/8/16.

Trek on to Ferme ^{3 miles} ^{up} ^{of} ^{the} ^{road} ^{to} ^{Bernaville},
 An intolerable day. Very steady &
 continuous

rain, with occasionally heavier showers.
Everyone wet to the skin. Such rain
penetrates everything. Billet in solid form.
People very nice & willing to do everything for us,
in spite of fact that previous British
didn't pay for what they had. March
to be continued tomorrow & two following days.
Application for transfer comes back from
Fourth Army, via XIVth Corps, 35th Div.,
T.H.Q. & Adjutant asking am I willing to
transfer in rank of 2nd Lieut.

I reply yes, & send back this morning
a bunch of papers on its circulation rate.

31/8/16.
4th day of the Trek. Weather very much
better. Go in for a Luchense. An
admirable dinner in an ^{extensive} ~~drab~~ ^{drab}
but a small smelly bedroom
mauve heap.

1/9/16.
5th day of the Trek. Weather again pretty.
Reach Wancquetin, 6 miles W of Arras.
A quiet about 21/2 miles, part of the time
on tracks are going to hold. Tolerable
billets. Arrange for ~~some~~ ^{some} cooking
travelling. One French has 60 camels
here in 9 months. Arrive at
left in our trenches.

2/9/16.
The planned having finished on Trek is
near. Exchange my servant, Powell for
Pagn, a well intentioned Greek. Power

has been getting a bit out of hand & 134
has a tendency to be insolent to everyone.
He is to go on a drive to see Field Marshal.
Life in Arras is hedged about with
restrictions, & entry is forbidden except
on special duty. The town is overhauled
in German from both ground opposite, & one
is liable to be picked off in its streets by
snipers. Agoraphobia is, therefore, enjoined.
3/9/16.

Normal. Look for billets at Heunaville.
4/9/16.

A filthy wet day, refilling at an early
hour & a considerable distance. A great
confusion over Attached Troops.
Arrange for billets at Gouves. Elation
over news of capture of Guillemeut, & destruction
of a Zeppelin near London.

5/9/16.
Move to Gouves. Billets good & I have an
immense, rather empty bedroom. Getting
not up to ~~par~~ high standard of sanitation.
Rain keeps off during R.P. & there, but
drizzles for the rest of the day.

6/9/16.
Normal. Slippery friction with walking in
the mess. We all wish to find
such in feet, or having so many
stagnant Vets in the mess.

7/9/16.
A fine sunny day. Visit B.H.Q.
in Arras. Have to show a pass

at the first police post, put on the actual helmet, put up horn at Cavalry barracks, & walk along under close cover of wall. Before bombardment there must have been very beautiful. Round Cathedral are many churches, curia, fountains, monasteries, piecceleration, dwellings etc. But all this is gutted, except the northern part of the town. The streets round the Cathedral are blocked with fallen masonry to a height of 20 or 30 feet, which has never been cleared. One big shell was put into the town while I was there, & a tank dropped 3 bombs near the barracks. This is a daily event.

A few shops & restaurants are open at night from 8 to 10 o'clock. No transport allowed in by daylight. A road in the centre of about a dozen main roads, all with fine avenues of trees.

8/9/16.

Normal. Heavy bombardment at night to the westward.

9/9/16.

Normal & warm. Ride to Aresnes & have (China) tea & a hair cut in officers' club.

10/9/16.

Normal.

11/9/16.

Normal.

12/9/16.

Normal. Visit Field Cashier at Aresnes, & dine with H. Q. Coy. Where I converse

with Klyti about Cambridge & the Bar. 136

13/9/16.

Normal.

14/9/16.

Appointed Town Major of Agnez, to take effect from Sunday, 17. This will be an amusing little job & will be better than the monotony of the daily dump. Ride to St. Etienne in the evening. Very pretty & a good view of the line, which I just fail to reach. Weather a lot colder.

15/9/16.

Initiated into mysteries of Town Major's work. Spend morning walking round the area looking at Gillet's, Calines, hawk standings, water troughs etc. Nothing much in it, but a chance & a little more to do tomorrow B.S.O.

16/9/16.

Spend most of the day in Agnez. Make friends with the Mayor, & have a drink of excellent wine with him. Take up the reclamation of his against 159 1502 R.F.A. who have cut down a number of his trees for harness racks & horse lines. Visited by two ridiculous looking generals from the Corps. Talk a lot with Tice, Capt in 150 L.F. He gives me some idea of infantry conditions on the Somme, - road to Guillemont, hidden with literally thousands of corpses, & in the night, 20 hour timber logs go off the road by accident, - the one (Luna) mixture "hardly worth bringing in" - the ceaseless sweating diarrhoea in the shallow trenches, without change of underclothes, - the mad Germans eating their own dead after 8 days' exposure in a dry out, - the boys subaltern, in only

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10th. who never showed a sign of fear but had a true presentiment of his own death 24 hours beforehand. The nature of his wounds, the failure of the stretcher bearers to bring him right back, & his fortunate death, - the breakdown of another young officer, & his appointment as a T.M. - the "peevishness" of everyone in the front sector, - his own hatred of all untrained meat, owing to the way rationing must journey. He thinks how a *la* *l'homme*, when men have time to reflect, many will commit suicide, & many others will break down. His fear of Russia. Good news at night of capture of Fler, Makhovnik, Comalette, etc.

17/9/16.
Start on my duties as T.M., having moved from Gours to Aguez. Morning spent with Hasted & 159th Bde R.F.A., who make a great fuss over their billets. Johnson also fussing, - about watering of horses in stream. In afternoon a French child falls off a roof, & I am sent for! Incontinent. We cluster round, hysterical & ineffectual. We secure a doctor & get the child carried home & put to bed, unconscious. I make the maintenance of the garde chamfetre & drink beer with him. I have a good billet, looking out on a gay little garden. I mess with No 4 Coy.

18/9/16.
Wet & rather busy day. Visits & drinks with garde chamfetre; also correspondence. Talk with little Bourne about the Army, also with Gunnar Officer. "Waiting for Duncan" = promise of gas. Yes expect. with weather.

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19/9/16. ~~19/9/16.~~
Play tennis on middle court with Canadian of C Tunnelling Coy, and his officers & Goring. 23 Manchester Transport Officer. And I am beaten 6-3 & 6-5. But the down an in practice. I play better than expected. Tunnellers have a model camp. Their O.C. is a remarkable man, very Canadian, very self-confident, and I would say, pretty efficient & ~~with~~ very devoted to duty. At first they were obstinate over a barbed wire fence erected across Manchester's right of way. But gradually they became very friendly, hospitable & communicative. Tunnelling, he said, is the least interesting occupation during trench warfare. He told about British "Hors", illustrated by maps ("We blew here, & they blew there"). Also about dummy pipes. He said the French were well behind but ourselves in German in Tunnelling work. ~~Talk~~ in evening with Pallett & others. "General's" campaign against "Right shell shock. Ineffective" campaign of any officer, ~~was~~ down on M.O.'s orders & Transport lines with this complaint. fired out by Sandilands. Can of ~~the~~ farmers in Beate Valley was coming down like madmen into Transport lines, calling upon their brothers & their Officer (just killed by German 15" mortar fire) whose can top of their gun. (Such scenes must be still more frequent unless German side of the line.) Also long 200 yards wounded waiting in Trench wood for ambulances when gas came over. Most had no helmets & without an am etc one can't put one on. There were no R.A.M.C. collecting to help them.

20/9/16.
Busy, but uneventful.
21/9/16.
Drink some admirable Bourne with the!

Maire, a rather funny ^(suspect) man, who keeps his wife & daughter in great order. I exercise his business by an extra dose of politeness, & etc. previous to 27/9/16. 159th R.F.A., who have been guilty of many lamentable acts of damage to property, - oats, potatoes, hedges, public roads & what not. My present job affords me fine practice with my French!

22/9/16.

Supervise digging party on water trough scheme. Confer with M. Accot, discuss institution de France who says, apparently, that the British have done marvellously & shall have the best Army in Europe at the end of the war.

23/9/16.

Very strong note to O.C. 159th R.F.A. bears fruit. I am brought out by a deputation, consisting of an interpreter, an officer from each Battery & some Battery S.M.'s. We walk round the relevant fields, etc. I display vision, to reiterate further strong notes, if claims are not rapidly settled & paid, & sent interpreters off to see Maire & claimants. Interpreter says that Italy has provided half the total Army now at Salonica, & that Greek Italy would extend as far as Athens. I don't believe the first statement & the second sounds too fantastic to have any deleterious import.

I ride in the evening through Hauts Kbenanos & Kef.

24/9/16.

Pleasant lunch with Macanton & interpreter. Went for an hour, very sore about claims, which, however, begin to be settled. Haut has 27 men & accot!

25/9/16.

Normal. Fine with No 3 Coy. Continued good weather. Get back my grey charger.

26/9/16.

Delightfully warm. Heavy sunfire audible to the westward. More trouble with 159, who have cut a road through a clover field. Interpellated in high spirits, 2 of their number having been decorated.

27/9/16.

A day of amusing incidents. In the morning Constant Puchois, a timid old man, comes to my office in a state of great terror & indignation. He has gone with his cart to take away the manure of an Artillery Battery, according to arrangement, but a woman, Madame Petit in charge of the field where the horse lines lie, has insulted him & threatened him with a stick. He has never been so insulted in his life before. He does not return, not even with a written authorization from the Maire. The woman will certainly assault him, & her husband, who is at the front, may be coming home on leave. I visit the Maire's secretary, & we discuss the legal aspects of the matter. The woman is entitled to the manure, except in the case when the land is leased to the British government. This land is so leased. So she has no case. She was offered the manure in the first instance, but said she had no cart to take it away. All ~~the~~ ^{Artillery} waggons & horses have a full day's work on supplies, munitions & road making materials, so the manure was given to Puchois, who had a cart of his own available.

141 I go on to the Maine. He produces some excellent home made Cherry Brandy. He accompanies me to see Pichois & Petit. The former is still in a state of terror. He is a feeble and hunched old fellow, who would die but a fly. The latter is a loud-mouthed coarse woman. We explain the law to her, & she makes a terrible clamour. Finally she agrees to provide a Cart of her own, & on this condition she is to have the manure. The Maine then makes a complaint to me about the way in which the road outside his house is blocked for an hour 3 times a day, while horses are brought down to water in troughs opposite. Workmen & people in carts can't get past, & he & his family can neither enter nor leave their house. He has tried to expostulate with Sergeants & others, but they do not understand. He thinks they enjoy putting people to inconvenience. That is always the way with the military. The French are just as bad. "Ils ne sont pas honteux, le Grand est font du mal." He repeats this phrase several times in the course of our conversation. He is evidently anti-militarist. I promise to take his matter up.

In the evening I receive a call from the Comde Champêtre, who accepts a glass of whisky. (The property of a Quarter Master.) A cask of stout was stolen from the estaminet of Madame Toupet yesterday evening, & was found broken

142 & empty by the Artillery horse line today. I go out with him & question various civiles. Madame Toupet was seeing daily at 7.30 pm. She heard a noise in the back room, but was too busy to go out. Later her sister went out & saw that the Cask was gone.

A Catholic Sister was returning from Mass at 7.30. Passing along the road, she saw two Tamias rolling a Cask from the direction of the estaminet towards the Artillery billets. This witness, says the Comde Champêtre, is a "personne très sérieuse", whose testimony may be believed.

The Cask, numbered K.K. 1055, is examined by the Artillery Comde. I check the number with that shown in the brewer's book as sold to Madame Toupet. Wholesale value of contents 160.00 francs. I make a report to the O/C Wagon Line, the Colonel of 159^e R.S.

28/9/16.

The Adjutant tells me I shall get 10 days' leave, unless something intervenes, about the middle of next month.

29/9/16.

Further investigation of stout case. Harrison argues that it probably is the Guinness. Done will be taken & 2 inspectors. Discuss names of French idiom. In German Cacao (which it met in Ceylon), the German part of Ceylon & the subdivision of the Ceylon planters' world.

30/9/16.

Now - now with C.K.S., Div' staff & a conference
on New Battles, for precaution, from ordnet.
Canadian o/c Tunnelers very pleased with
L-G's interview. He says the French, except
the best informed, have sometimes doubted
us. Also a lot of our own soldiers are
politicians. (This, of course, is one of the bad
effects of Northcliffe's stunts.)

Talk to a Canadian aviator, who has come down
first on the right side of the line (the only one
good wind.) Super turbo motor ^{the only one} ^{with 1000 hp} ^{in the world} ^{at present}
contracts are flying with ^{the} ^{best} ^{of} ^{the} ^{French}. He
wonders they, though doing far less, get better value
for their money. Normally one of their circuits
up 20 miles a day, out for 3 or 4 hours. An
air service is costing £159,000 a day, their money.
They have a better spy system on the ground than
we have. We were troops a lot more visibility
the day time than they do. They have longer

communication trenches a way more light
French railways, running miles back from their
front line. Their a-a gunners are better than
ours, but neither can do much. An aeroplane
is an incredibly difficult target. ^{an aeroplane}
fire. ^{the plane can change} ^{course & direction in} ^{the most baffling way.} ^{the chance of a hit}
hit by a German a-a gunner is about 1 in 1000
& only one hit in 3 will bring a plane down.
The German lines, or so rapidly as to ^{prevent} it
up in our own lines. At present our fastest
planes go 140 miles an hour & rise 10,000
feet in 6 minutes. This is a French type,
borrowed & adapted by us. The Germans can't
touch us at present, but ^{perhaps} ^{in the air}
is very rapid at present on both sides.

Spread in living is the cause of the matter, more
than spread when risen. ^{in the air}
on continual bomb raids one of doubtful
utility. Most of them do little ^{military} damage, &
they are not so much an incident of German
life but they do little moral damage either.
The best German aviators are very good & equal
to our own. Likewise the French. There's little
to choose between the three.
I liked the Canadian.

1/10/16.
A lovely warm day, (& revival of flies.)
Ride to Hunter Abbeys in the afternoon, &
have (China) tea in officers' club.
^{visited by a really little man employed by China Army} ^{& Billy Kettle.}
The Canadian o/c Tunneling Coy refuses him
(very naturally) all assistance.

2/10/16.
Two strong instances of military inability to
understand voluntary effort. (1) Appeal for recruits
of 16⁺ & 36⁺ (124) Divs received late last night
return to be rendered by 12 noon today. No time
to ask men, or to give them any time to think it
over - our men out from 2 am till 3 pm on
Suffolk, continuously. (2) Appeal invited from ASC
clubs to join flying force. In Div' orders received
(of some 400) this morning. ^{admitted} ^{to be in tomorrow.}
If one could credit the staff with more ^{brains}
& less wooden line/lective system, it would have
as though they wanted to be able to say hereafter
that the voluntary system had been tried & failed
again! Further every commander of a troop
flying unit (like an ASC Coy) is unwilling to "let
his best men go." Is any in No 4 Coy just that
in "nil return" if we 1 without ^{any} ^{compensation}
the possibility to lose men at all. A stupid
& very annoying force!

145 3/10/16.

Unexciting & rather wet. I note down a rumour I heard a day or two from a man who had had a letter from a friend who had heard from a woman that she had received a postcard from her husband, who was taken up & lost on the "Hampshire".
Stated that he & 100 others were ⁱⁿ in Germany. Hence it is suggested, ~~but~~ ^{possibly} ~~Kitchener~~ ^{possibly} may still be alive. But the chances against such a fantastic possibility are very heavy.

4/10/16.

Wet & ordinary. I am interested to hear a fat & vulgar Q.M. says he thinks that now we have shown, not only Germany but all the world that England can't be played with. "It is ~~now~~ time for a compromise to be made after war ended; also ~~it is~~ in many ways a very ordinary & Philistine person says that he thinks it's time we let Germany understand that it is not our policy to "cut her in pieces." What ~~will~~ will ordinary, common sense opinion be after we've seen about international justice? How far will it form itself from war-experience & common sense & common human impulses? How far will it have driving power over events, or remain a sentiment? How will it be influenced by, or resist the suggestion of, the press & the middle class & social demagogues & politicians?

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5/10/16.

Further croaking & misfortune among officers of the Train, so that I shall probably have to take up B.S.O.'s duties again.

6/10/16.

Owing to disappearance of Beecroft, Heald & Johnson, in addition to Sturtevant, only 4 Sully officers remain, including myself. It is therefore decided (I admit not unreasonably) that I shall return to Sully duties. I take over, the train being 104th B.S.O. & am "temporarily detached" to No 2 Coy. An amusing change of life. I return to Gouves & a worn billet. Sweet affable & delightful.

7/10/16.

Nothing worth noting.

8/10/16.

Ride into Arras to see 104th B.H.Q. Again impressed with what a charming place it must have been before the war. Play chess with Farrell & win 3 games out of 4. I win 50 centimes on each of the first two games, after which we play for love. Talk to ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~main~~ ^{main} secretary at Gouves, a man with a fine flow of eloquent language. He despises the Germans, rather than hates them. He is very keen on making them pay a big indemnity. He eulogises the Belgians & the English. The English have clear vision, they calculate calmly. The temperament is supplementary to that of the French. The Germans are absentees, & tout l'habitude de dire "oui monsieur! oui monsieur!" They are pitifully unrevolutionary, easily led. The French people, if positions had been reversed, would have seen the way the other way ago. He enthuses over France (Paris).

9/10/16.

My application for transfer having passed 35th Division, XIVth Corps, Fourth Army & G.H.Q., "cannot be approved" by W.O. "owing to increasing demands for A.S.C. officers." This is a little unexpected, & I am at present undecided whether to try to get his decision upset, & if so, how. I have a long talk with the Major's secretary, who questions me closely on the religious questions in England, & on political questions. "Je tiens le crachoir" for about two hours. I am again struck off the fence greater intelligence & i.e.g. village schoolmaster in France than in England.

10/10/16.

Normal. I am inclined to let W.O. decision ^{alone}.

11/10/16.

Normal.

12/10/16.

R.P. visited by London, new S.O.C. Division. Frightful preliminary wind of Ewart, which results, inter alia, in my missing my breakfast! London turns out to be a very pleasant fellow, and chats amiably for about 5 minutes.

In the afternoon motor into Aras, with Raven. Spend some time in the shell of the Cathedral, & continue hunting, with considerable success.

Pay diplomatic visit, with Blythe, &

T.A.G. in the evening, & Oct occurred dump in the morning. We decide, by 7.1, to catch the 5.30 am. train for St Pol. I decide to sit up, write letters, read etc. Talk of "positive & negative" with M. Petit till midnight. 13/10/16.

Read Allison Phillips & the back pages of my diary in the small hours. Start in car with Blythe at 3.45 am. Get to St Pol at 4.45 & go to sleep in the train before it starts. Get to Etaples, where we have to change, at 8. Told Bouloune train starts at 8.33. Drink a cup of coffee in station buffet. Run into Fairbairn (Lt Col R.M.C.), not a bad fellow, though a bit of a stick in an unmitigated way. We wait for an hour & a half at the station & are then told the train won't leave till 12.30. We then try all means of getting a car for the 18 intervening miles. As usual, we are referred from one place to another without getting any forward. Finally Fairbairn & I get hold of a private car belonging to Recreation Committee, which is taking two men in. We motor along the coast in a train, driving rain. There are some good Villon on the way, & the front of Ardelaun (!) is pretty, but otherwise the scenery is dull. Etaples was full of reinforcements, Scots, Australians

a New Zealanders predominating at 11.15
 drive out the Quay at Boulogne & find
 we have missed the boat by 10 minutes &
 there is not another till tomorrow!

Much annoyance. Then a good lunch
 at Hotel Maurice, after which I go
 to sleep in a bedroom which I have
 taken in the officers' Club. This is
 close to the Quay & cleaner than
 the Hotel de Louvre, the only practical
 alternative. Boulogne, at a first glimpse,
 does not impress me.

Sleep from 2.30 to 6.

Dine Hotel Maurice with Fairbairn
 & Blyth. Discuss India, British
 Guiana, venereal disease, Bishops,
 Generals & American tourists.

14/10/16.

Have a hot bath.

Boat leaves at 12 o'clock. Very rough.

I am sick, like many others.
 Arrive Folkestone about 1.30. Rush for
 first train set to Victoria 4.15 when I
 meet P.G. & go off to tea in the Temple.

Spencer 11.24
 Chong 1.20
 2.32
 1.16

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Harne. Jan 24th - Jan 26th. Luchaux. Aug 31st - Sept 1st.
Stomer. Jan 26th - Feb 6th. Wanquetin. Sept 1st - Sept 5th.
Mallingham. Feb 6th - Feb 9th. Gouves. Sept 5th - Sept 17th.
Isbergues. Feb 9th - Feb 13th. Agnez. Sept 17th - Oct 6th.
St Quentin. Feb 13th - Feb 18th. Gouves. Oct 6th - Oct 13th.
Isbergues. Feb 18th - Feb 19th. Bouloque. Oct 13th.
Robecq. Feb 19th - Feb 25th.
Les Choqueux. Feb 25th - Feb 27th.
La Fosse. Feb 27th - Mar 1st.
Robecq. Mar 1st - Mar 9th.
Calonne. Mar 9th - Mar 18th.
La Fosse. Mar 18th - Mar 25th.
Estaines. Mar 25th - Apr 17th.
La Croix
Mammuse. Apr 17th - Apr 28th.
La Fosse. Apr 28th - May 14th.
Merville. May 14th - June 17th.
Choques. June 17th - June 28th.
Marquay. June 29th - July 2nd.
Luchaux. July 3rd - July 7th.
Beauval. July 7th - July 10th.
Bus-les-
Artois. July 10th - July 11th.
Contay. July 11th - July 13th.
Bois Celestin. July 13th - July 19th.
Méault. July 19th - July 22nd.
Grovetown. July 22nd - Aug 2nd.
Sailly-le-Sec. Aug 2nd - Aug 4th.
Vecquemont. Aug 4th - Aug 5th.
Sones. Aug 5th - Aug 9th.
Vecquemont. Aug 9th - Aug 10th.
Grovetown. Aug 10th - Aug 29th.
Villers Bocage. Aug 29th - Aug 30th.
Mt Renault. Aug 30th - Aug 31st.

Dallon Bony no 1
Licut Myn Datta
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