

## THE DIARY OF PRIVATE HERBERT HASLETT NO. 5366 22ND BATTALION AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Transcribed by Elizabeth Crock December 2019 To Aunty Moy

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### Introduction

Herbert ('Bertie') Haslett was born in 1872 at 1 Emerald Street, Collingwood East, Victoria, Australia. He was the second son of Alexander Haslett and Charlotte Julia Porter. His father, Alexander Haslett was born in Highgate, Middlesex in England in 1844, and came to Australia in 1862. Charlotte Porter was also born in Highgate (her arrival date uncertain). Alexander and Charlotte were married in 1869 and had three children – Charles, Herbert (Bertie) and Charlotte Julia. Charlotte died of sepsis soon after the birth of her daughter, who died of malnutrition aged only 9 months. Later Alexander married again, to Cecilia Olivia Chamerozou and together they had Emily Maria Carlotta (died at age 8), Louis Alexander, Henrietta Olivia and Olivia Cecilia, Bertie's half-siblings.

In 1895, Bertie married Diana Helen Grant, who was born in 1868 in Dunolly, Victoria. Her parents were Donald Grant and Mary Ann Akers. Bertie and Diane Helen (known as Nellie) had three children, Myrtle, Violet and Ivy. Nellie died at home at the rear of 40 Molesworth Street in North Melbourne in 1902, of malignant disease (cancer). The three little girls were aged only 6, 4 and 2 years old when their mother died.

In 1916, Bertie volunteered to join the Australian Imperial Force as a soldier in the 22nd Battalion. When he enlisted, his age was recorded as 43 years and 8 months. This is part of Bertie's story.

### The diary

This diary was held by Bertie's second daughter, Violet Haslett, who married Sylvester Shorten in 1928. Violet handed the diary on to her daughters, Carmel, Moya and Margaret Shorten when she died in 1974.

The first part of the diary is undated, but comparing the events related in it with official army records from the 22nd Battalion (14th reinforcement), we can see that it starts in mid-1916 and ends in end of July 1917. The later section starts on January 17th 1918, and the last entry was made on 28th February 1918.

Bertie left Australia on board the *Themistocles* on 26 July 2016. He arrived in Plymouth, England and then he marched into Etaples, France on 17th November 1916 after sailing from Folkstone with his battalion.

The first part of the diary is headed simply '*Some notes on France from Boulogne to Campagne in Belgium*'. Bertie starts by describing Boulogne, a town that is almost directly opposite Folkstone from where he sailed - 'just as dilapidated as Spencer Street [the main train station in Melbourne at that time] in the old days' (p. 10). He goes on to describe the train ride to Etaples where they camp in the freezing cold. Here they undertake training, learning of different types of musketry and visiting the town of Etaples by night, calling it 'little Paris' (p. 12).

He goes on to describe some of the conditions the French people were enduring at this time, the cost of food and champagne ('five Franks a bottle'), the poor hygiene and sanitation, the lack of 'privacy and decency' when using Latrines, the stench of the streets and the uncomfortable cobble stones (p.13). He observes that the farmers are all 'women folk'.

The soldiers are billeted at Flesselles 'after 26 hours in trucks accompanied by flying machines'. He is not much impressed with the countryside of France, it being wet and dirty and the towns 'dilapidated' (p.14).

The utter devastation of the region of the Somme that Bertie travels through is made evident through his writing 'not a sign of a building left standing... nothing to be seen but miles and miles of wrecked trenches ... gun carriages, dead

horses and muels...' He writes of the traffic coming along the road in the opposite direction, men with 'a good few days whiskers and mud from head to foot' (pp. 18-19) clearly a difficult journey for the 22nd Battalion as they marched through mud and across duck boards to their destination (p. 19).

He names some of the other soldiers and captains he works with, including Captain Robinson, Campbell, Bragg, Marshall, Smith and O'Hollingsworth, as they march under continuing shellfire (p.19).

Bertie worked in a ration dump, delivering supplies to these on the front line. He records the death of Sergeant Robes who was hit on the duckboards (p.21).

He writes of getting lost for six hours one day, with the others in his party, when delivering rations, to men on the front line. The officer in charge, Major Dooley insists that the men receive their rations 'at all costs', so they return with a guide, and successfully deliver them (p.21).

Bertie offers a moving description of being helped by a stretcher bearer, Private H. Robins, when he fell with exhaustion several times. Private Robins carried his pack and shovel for him and made him 'keep in front of him until we reach our Camp' (p. 23).

Around this time some of his comrades had 'trench fever and trench feet'; Bertie himself develops a high temperature and spends 6 days in hospital and then a few days convalescing (p.24).

In the next segment, Bertie describes the ruined town of Albert, which was bombed in July 17. Here he paints a vivid picture of the destruction. Bicycle and sewing machine factories had been destroyed, leaving hundreds of sewing machine and bicycles lying in ruins there along with 'tons of machinery'. He describes the famous Cathedral of Albert, *Notre Dame de Brebières*, whose beautiful Statue of the Virgin Mary 'with arms outstretched holding a baby' became known as the Leaning Statue as it rested perilously on an angle after being bombed by the German army. The local French people believed that the war would end only when the statue fell (pp. 26-28). Bertie says 'if that is so, well it will hold for years although it is wrecked and shaken from top to bottom' (p.27).

He tells of 'conscientious objectors' from Britain being employed cleaning up the town of Albert, and he passes through cemeteries and the large hospital – divided up for 'wounded cases, gas cases and contagious cases ... on a hill overlooking Sausage Gully' (p. 29).

Bertie is appointed as a 'batman' to Lieutenant Harrick. He goes on to write of his journey through towns including Bullecourt (April 1917) Warloy, Bayieux, Vaulx and Becourt (pp. 33-34).

In April, 1917, Bertie finds one of his own battalion killed, probably Private Winter No 5111 who was a sentry is noted in the army records to have died on 15 April 1917. Bertie and two friends, Cyril Dennett and Scotty McPherson buried him (pp.35-36). Major Dooley was injured in this same battle, and Bertie helped dress his wounds (p. 36). (Later that year, Major Dooley was awarded the Military Cross). Two other young men, H. Fry and S. Vass were also killed during this time, and Bertie says he was the last to speak with Private Fry (p. 37).

He tells of nearly being buried alive in a trench that collapses (p. 38) and that his friend Cyril Dennett later goes missing at Bullecourt (p. 38). War records note that Cecil Dennett from the 22nd Battalion was killed on 3rd May 1917.

Using terms such as 'froggies' for the French and 'fritz' for the Germans, he relates anecdotes of the soldiers' exploits - finding souvenirs from old German dugouts/trenches (such as cigars, a wooden leg, clothes 'in galore') and quite often comments that they 'had a good time' despite the hardships and destruction surrounding them (p.45).

In January 1918, Bertie starts heading back to Australia. He relates of church parades, final medical examinations and train travel through England including enjoying the welcome lunch by the Mayoress of Exeter (p. 55) finally embarking on the *SS Argyllshire to* return to Australia.

This dated section, he speaks of the general activities on board the ship, looking after 'cripples', feeling sea sick, playing 'housie' (a card game) and winning or losing, receiving rations of lime juice (to prevent scurvy) and quinine (for malaria), getting drunk or staying sober, getting 'pulled up' for smoking on the deck (p.49), the occasional burial at

sea (p.49) and sightings of large sharks. They travel to the Cape of Good Hope, where they were due to arrive on 27th February 1918 via Sierra Leone where they enjoyed all kinds of tropical fruits and play tricks with the locals – or it may have been something more sinister - when he says 'we had fun with the niggers - shot one in the leg with a sudden death pudding (?)' (p. 53).

Of historical interest too, Bertie names several other ships that travelled alongside the *SS Argyllshire* – the *SS Gounit, SS Bismark, Cotte SS Euripidies* and a battle cruiser for protection (p. 50) (later named as *SS Balmoral Castle* (p. 56) He also mentions a *Mystery Ship* (p. 47) and *Ionia* (p. 57).

At times Bertie mentions not sleeping too well, 'being nervie again' (p. 60), an indication of what would now be called post-traumatic stress disorder. The diary ends when they arrive at the Cape on 28th February 1918 (p. 60).

Bertie was discharged from the AIF on 18th July 1918. His war service record is available at the National Archives of Australia. https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/

Bertie's diary has been held in the family for over 100 years but its age and delicate condition precluded widespread distribution, and thus few have had the opportunity to read his captivating text and to learn of the life of our ancestor during the First World War. I have scanned and transcribed this diary for the family and Bertie's descendants but hope it will also be of interest to others. Any errors in transcription or interpretation are my own and can be corrected.

Elizabeth Crock, December 2019.

Some Mites on France from Palogne bampaine in Be Bulyne with a rachuray terminus Just ac delapidated as spences Street its old days the people are a rong how class the buildings are all on a large reak built of blue Some appear & be mostly warehouses. described and apear & le contenentes are all cable Stones very hard for marching on the harbour and wharves are packed with of all descriptions from liston Smach & the upos it is alous 45 miles The Erglish pin the Channel and a pular Service & toats

# Some notes on France from Boulogne to Campagne in Belgium

#### Boulogne

A large Shipping centre with a railway terminus just as dilapidated as Spencer Street in its old days the people are a very poor class the buildings are all on a large scale built of blue stone appear to be mostly warehouses, deserted and appear to be untenanted the roads are all cobble Stones very hard for marching on, the harbour and wharves are packed with boats of all descriptions from the fishing Smack to the battle ships it is about 4.5 miles from the English port of Folkstone across the Channel and a regular service of boats run

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had one mille alogne on what is Siberia or one true hile same That is vory appropriate as I think it is the coldest place on Gods Earth got a good Supply of tobacco at Station and Entrained & our training base a train ride of 31/2 hours & a Fromet Village of Etaples . teamped in tents which was on top of a large Sand hell and being on the Sea board exposed to all the cold winds was always pleased to get away arry morning to what known as the Bull senj a very large train ground about Three males march through The ranious Brilish leamto and after leaving the leaving we came the Hospital camps

Had one night in camp at Bulogne on what is known as Siberia or one tree hill a name that is very appropriate as I think it is the coldest place on God's Earth, got a good supply of tobacco at Station and Entrained to our training base a train ride of 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours to a French Village of Etaples. Camped in tents which was on top of a large sandy hill and being on the sea Coast was exposed to all the cold winds. We was always pleased to get away every morning to what is known as the Bull ring a very large training ground about three miles march through the various British Camps and after leaving the camps we came to the Hospital camps.

Canadian Scotlish Justralin and Funder then We have the rere well hei out by a permanon! Stall and very compleases for the no burnes made of wood of the one design and and all a New Yealand e reach Then He mache tillere bamp. our training ground which is and Quith trene ken and and hippy dea on faces of the dis musbelery and Squad te from 9:30 until drills then march home bamp for nephy would

Australian Canadian Scottish and London then We pass the cemetery which was very well laid out by a permanent staff and was very conspicuous for the number of Crosses made of wood and all of the one design and then We reach a New Zealand Artillery Camp, then We reach our training ground which is laid out with trenches and Barb wire and hippodrome (?) for lecture on some of the different kinds and musketery and squad drills etc from 9.30 until 2 P.M. then march home to our camp for the night where we could visit the Town of Etaples and we would visit it every night and to describe it by saying it was NOTE Paris P'tit (?) little Paris

our first impression of the dis unsanitary conditions of the unch people nomen Selling chip potatoes and hat chenter in the Streets champape fire mantes a bottle ford very dear and Scarce hatrines in any ald corner no edea of privacy and decency and the Smill of the streets which are all coffle stones and foot paths on both sides of the Street about 2 ft. 6mi wile, and the Farming part of The country is worked by uman Jolk and the africulture industeries are mostly Sugar beat and other industories are the petteries We had 13 days trans and Then intrained to our first expanince in billets at Plenetter after 26 hours and in trucks

Our first impressions of the dirty unsanitary conditions of the French people women selling chip potatoes and hot chestnuts in the Streets champagne five Franks a bottle food very dear and Scarce, Latrines in any old corner no idea of privacy and decency and the smell of the streets which were all cobble stones and foot paths on both sides of the Street about 2 ft 6 inches wide, and the farming part of the country is worked by women folk and the agricultural industeries are mostly Sugar beet? and other industeries are the potteries (?). We had 10 days training and then entrained to our first experience in billets at Flesselles (?) after 26 hours in trucks

accompanies ly fly machin Corio country pagne was much with France as we happened the Through The unter had ue Started housen We duly arrived Fline where we for Battalion and had a fortnight light inin and then entrain where We rem a dir was of tuo on descriptions vace le - Villaje che metration

accompanied by flying machines however we had a good view of the country passed through the champagne country and was not much impressed with France as we happened to go through Just as the wet part of the winter had Started however We duly arrived at Flesselles where we joined the Battalion and had a fortnight light training and then entrained to Kiblemont (?) where We remained for a few days in billets about Flesselles it was a dirty dilapidated Village mud was of the best and had a day or two fatigue unloading Shells of all Sizes and descriptions there was no place of interest in the whole Village but the county The irrepration Note Frost Prat ... etc illegible

Similare: Jardo cu water handles undlass do uc reluted Their well- and formed anther Houser We lef resselles on a very cold day and asthere was or 34 in each bruch we did not dos too had Well Juff Said alour Hendles ou for Rithmon e hag a good billet in a barn nery co plenty of Stran we did not fare too had There Was marched by Mator healey for a was very cood as the e marched wood cut m hand sere

# Note no Simitary: jardo manure Reopen (?)

And estaminet the froggies cut off our water supply by taking the handles off the windlass. So we polluted their well and found another. However We left Fleselles on a very cold day and as there was 30 or 36 in each truck we did not do too bad. Well Nuff said about Fleselles. Now for Kiblemont We had a good billet in a barn very cold but plenty of Straw so we did not fare too bad there was marched by Major Dooley to Healy for a bath which was very good as we was beginning to get the vermin very bad. We marched from Kiblemont to Fleurs wood here Jock cut my hand very badly Note

about Riblemont We took our bille from a tommie reforment and on our alrival We hada and the prices work up u was the stammels hur un after & days there marched & Fleurs un and battle field which g us an idea g The destru Villafi standin but the por lasa church and a hast The parche hour for our dry canteen bamped in hut for 2 day and then marched of to the camp about 31/2 miles from cuis line in Sinchey

about Kiblemont We took our billets from a tommie regiment and on our arrival We had a pay and the prices went up to double the price for everything for us with the result that we was the means of getting all estaminets ??? put out of bounds after 2 days there we marched to Fleurs wood an old battle field which gave us an idea of the destruction of a battle in a Village nothing left standing but the porch of a large church and a part of the tower over the porch was used for our dry canteen. We Camped in huts for 2 days rest and then marched off to Melbourne camp about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from our line in Ginchy. We Perriot concert (on side of this page)

then Mounded to the line for the forget time; our march from Fleurs Wood to Melloume bamp full of interest as we went Through invaded country the syn of a building Standing for The whole 18 miles nothing to be seen but miles and miles of uneched Trenches limbers ? sun carriages achen dead hornes and much all along the route them us unilg come to what was once a love Sufar works nothing lets damafed boilers and muchines moched into all shapes a little ue would come as a africulture works nothing left erem rahating all alter un road was trafic commy down

#### Materlot farm (?)

thus proceeded to the line for the first time; our march from Fleur Wood to Melbourne Camp was full of interest as we went through invaded country not the sign of a building left standing for the whole 18 miles nothing to be seen but miles and miles of wrecked trenches broken limiters (?) and gun carriages dead horses and muels all along the route then we would come to what was once a large Sugar works nothing left but damaged boilers and machinery knocked into all shapes a little further we would come across what was an agricultural complement works nothing left even worth salvaging all along the road was trafic coming down

of all descriptions men with a good few days whispers and mud from head & foot the hardes march that any of us had had up to date the and by This time well saturated with mud up to our knees not The hapiest day of our lies as We had to keep going to the end as there was no chance of a rest which is usual on a long march owing to the ureched and mined country on both rides of The road there was rearcely a food of country as for as the eye could reach but what it was shell unached He finally reached our destination a compo built in what was once a wood but Just the butts of the trees left and

of all descriptions men with a good few days whiskers and mud from head to foot the hardest march that any of us had had up to date We are by this time well saturated with mud up to our knees not the happiest day of our lives as We had to keep going to the end as there was no chance of a rest which is usual on a long march owing to the wrecked and ruined country on both sides of the road there as scarcely a foot of country as far as the eye could reach but what it was shell wrecked. We finally reached our destination a camp built in what was once a wood but just the butts of the trees left and

the only chance of going from one fuit another was on the duch tourds if we got of see would winh in The mud from angulare & The waist We had a day or two rest and then off up the line, I was then on a ration dump with loft Robinson Fray Don bampbell. Brafs. Marshall Smith & Holinsmonth under Lieut Hamilton There was nothing romation to relate on the march into the line but our dump no doubt was was abserred for after the first day in was continually under Shall fire our packs wald arme at 6AM. . 9 PM. would then be relinson our mu and his batman was in the gun hits duy out not Note Fritz's Bost with foot in

the only chance of going from one hut to another was on the duck boards if we got off we would sink in the mud from anywhere to the waist. We had a day or two rest and then off up the line, I was then on a ration (?) dump with Cpt Robinson Fay Don Campbell Bragg Marshall Smith O' Hollingsworth under Lieut Hamilton there was nothing sensational to relate on the march into the line but our dump no doubt was observed for after the first day in was continually under Shell fire our packs would arrive at 6 A.M. and 4 P.M. We would then be finished our issue for the day Fay Robinson Lieut Hamilton and his batman was in the gun pits dug out not Note Fritz's Boot with foot in

very visible hatt very windy and I due ous ches a bank close to the dump Anud enough but set got an order for Sand bass bet bam mysel aff a marshall Just mined full inue & iron rations maring tags and bip . theoreth went well antil our of rum bani am d quardily a good time can relate at myself had my days on Dump Juel was on: with b. boys cooks came dass and up ata Same yol was up over my and bea only arrived the news morn took taley from pack and and let them go I then uche Hay R - who checked the

very visible Lieut H very windy. Don and I dug ourselves in in a bank close to the dump Snug enough but we'd got an order for Sand bags to be shared bet Cam myself and Bragg and Marshall Just missed my full issue of iron rations through sharing bags and kip (?) all went well until our quantity of rum came and had a good time can relate that myself had six days on the dump Joel was on 2 M.S with C. Coy cooks came out for two days and up again on the same job was up over night and tea only arrived the next morn took taley? from pack and and let them go I then woke Fay R..... who checked the tea

and as we was under very heave Shell fire Rober un has and was badly died near ration harty had Carry three miles Hd Irs and delives then proceed & the kont line with Same our first neglet was very disaster ous as our while party got los for 6 reported back & Maps Docles who was in ermand raid the men must have rations at all costs So under another guide we um and delacred them and was 1/2 an twus then had to our duy and in thisle brench which consisted of sheets of cron and 4 of us th

and as we was under very heavy Shell fire Robey went to Hd Qrs and was badly knocked on the duck boards died next Note I missed the finish of this trip day Sgt Robertson then took charge of us and joined us up to a ration party had to carry rations about three miles to Hd Qrs and deliver then proceed to the front line with same our first night was very disasterous as our whole party got lost for 6 hrs reported back to Major Dooley who was in command said the men must have rations at all costs. So under another guide we went and delivered them and was back in  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour then had to go back to our dug out in thistle trench which consisted of two? sheets of iron and 4 of us to

n's under it till + P. M. and then off afain for rations again on our way back we was abund and had to go about 1/4 a mile under very heavy fire but us all got back without any lones but very lucky our Set was une good to us fare us our osue when finished and dawn in The morning very good & this men as our party was now 28 Strong dark at 4:30 we used & start of at 40.6 and make good head way lyine it was quite dark We would finish about 2 A. M. and start afair at 4 R. M. We finished our term of 6. day, and came out on to our Mell. bamp back to the and Shurk agains had about rest and was detail

sit under it till 4 P.M. and then off again for rations again on our way back we was observed and had to go about  $\frac{1}{4}$  a mile under very heavy fire but we all got back without any losses but very lucky our Sgt was very good to us gave us our issue when finished and dawn in the morning very good to His men as our party was now 28 strong dark at 4.00 we used to start off at 4.06 and make good head way before it was quite dark We would finish about 2 A.M. and start again at 4 P.M. We finished our term of 6 days and came out onto our Melb. Camp back to the mud and Slush again had about 24 hours rest and was detailed

to a Satijue party & dij a Sap Started off at 12:30 Sunday and was held up for a guide until 8.30 P. M. and proceeded over no mans land under deficillion through the continuas flores of The enemy was very close and on flat country 20 was very cony observed finished our fob and left for home at 2,30 P.M. under a heavy barrage from our own Artillerie was on this stunt that I know what a real comrade was as I was getting beat setting bake up entirely I had to stick a get left to my fate in no man hand after falling with exhaustein reveral Times Pte H. Robins as He was stretches tearer & our bompany He relieved me of my pick . Show

to a Fatigue party to dig a Sap. Started off at 12.30 Sunday and was held up for a guide until 8.30 P.M. and proceeded over no man's land under difficulties through the continuous flares of the enemy was very close and on flat country so was very easy observed finished our Job and left for home at 2.00 P.M. under a heavy barrage from our own Artillerie was on this stunt that I knew what a real comrade was as I was getting beat getting broke up entirely I had to stick or get left to my fate in no man's land after falling with exhaustion several times Pte. H. Robins as He was stretcher bearer to our Company He relieved me of my pack and shovel

and made me heep in front of Jim until We reached our bamp bourses the next day wind into the line again 6 days lost reveral with brench feel a trench feaver the nothing remational A retate until us came out on the foloword Saturday when I was still feeling very shakey and was paraded to the A. as I had a very high temperature was ordered & hospital and had le darps at see Station in Mell camp and was transferred to Amyae rest camp at Belview farm had te days in forfital and was hansferred & Convaluent was there a few days and was taken on Strength of the A M. & dishing out tea

and made me keep in front of him until We reached our Camp However the next day We went into the line again for 6 days but several with trench feet and trench feaver there was nothing sensational to relate until we came out on the following Saturday when I was still feeling very shakey and was paraded to the M.O. as I had a very high temperature was ordered to hospital and had 6 days at rec Station in Melb camp and was transferred to Anyae rest camp at Belview farm had 6 days in Hospital and was transferred to Convalescent was there a few days and was taken on Strength of the A.M. E. dishing out tea.

writed Albert every day and had an sportunity of Secony all the ruins of the recent tombardments a few notes I give here of Albert. A very large humines bentre had a look at the Somme River that was proyen in Second harts and is used greatly for Electric pours and runs under and Throng's Sourcel of the large Security machine Biegele factores also drom foundrup also a large beening all these places in sums with tons afor tons of machin liping in ruins hundreds Suring machines and higher in sumo then there was one of The finist modern churches in ruis also all the church

Visited Albert every day and had an oportunity of seeing all the ruins of the recent bombardments a few notes I give here of Albert. A very large business Centre had a look at the Somme River that was frozen in several parts and is used greatly for Electric power and runs under and through several of the large Sewing machine Bicycle factorys also Iron foundrys also a large brewery all these places in ruins with tons upon tons of machinery lying in ruins hundreds of sewing machines and bicycles in ruins then there was one of the finest modern churches in ruins also all the church

permiture and attars that are belt show that nerythe the latest works of the and architecture the furniture all abcarently new and the fittings and furniture are made of French grown walnut then there is main part of this church The tour with a (coulined Statue of the Vision with asmo out shetched hiding a baby the Statue of I. Mis I believe 30 feel high and the child is to feel in length and the tour all told & black is about 300 feet from base the Statue is haved our The enfincers as it was and sighter for the course artillerci and as the kunch people are all I kiliere the les

furniture and altars that are left show that everything is of the latest works of Art and architecture the furniture is all apparently new and all the fittings and furniture are made of French-grown walnut then there is the main part of this church the tower with a beautiful Statue of the Virgin Mary with arms outstretched holding a baby the Statue of V.M. is I believe 30 feet high and the child is 6 feet in length and the tower all told I believe is about 300 feet from base the Statue is laid over by the engineers as it was used as a rifler?for the enemy artillery and as the French people are all I believe R.C.s

they are negostitous about Statue as they all ray Leaning Statue war will will hold ureched and in Shaken from top to better then there is the main Street like all other French apes no length bu instead conners or Squares the all wind in hore and and till you get out which is well marked boardo kue de Poyure Rue De Becourt Rue De Bafu alo - hely and the wheel are not uide and footpaths unde enouth for 2 a heart all the roads are coble Stones

they were superstitious about this Statue as they all say that when the Leaning Statue as it is called falls the war will end But if that is so. well it will hold for years although it is wrecked and Shaken from top to bottom then there is the main Street of Albert like all other French Villages no length but instead of corners or squares the streets all wind in here and out there till you get out of the town which is well marked by finger boards Rue de Pozieres Rue De Becourt Rue De Bapaume? do do A...? and the streets are not wide and footpaths wide enough for 2 abreast all the roads are cobble Stones

and when I first seen Aller it was like all other parts of the Somme distif and much and ruthish of all kind but ad there are very few places left that don't Show the exit of the bombard mento there was very little civilian life when I first went though but when I last uns through the people was coming back and the British refinent of Conciences dectors was emp loyed cleaning it up and putting it in repair as it in will and of range of the energy guns there is also a large bometery well borhad after and also the billion cometary barning from Allers to Decourt in which there is

and when I first seen Albert it was like all other parts of the Somme dirty and mud and rubbish of all kinds but as there are very few places left that don't show the effects of the bombardments there was very little civilian life when I first went through but when I last went through the people was coming back and the British regiment of Conscientious Objectors was employed cleaning it up and putting it in repair as it is well out of range of the enemy guns there is also a large Cemetery well looked after and also the Civilian cemetery. Coming from Albert to Becourt in which there is

a very large hispital the A. In is in a very laste buildon partly unched with Shell for and covered in parts on the wood with tarpaulins and all the ground's are laid out into recteins of tents for gas cans, uounded cares in another part, Sich in another and contagous diseases in another hart known as the isolation, it is on a kill ner wohing parts of Sausafi gully and the railway for the conney ance of palients from others Stations it is known so the advanced receiving tortatal at the corner of the roa at the foot of the horpital grounds there is a Shrine The Savior on a large with wooden brows it is known

a very large hospital the H. Qrs of it is in a very large building partly wrecked with Shell fire and covered in parts on the roof with tarpaulins and all the grounds are laid out into sections of tents for gas cases, wounded cases in another part, sick in another and contagious diseases in another part known as the isolation, it is on a hill overlooking part of Sausage Gully and the railway for the conveyance of patients from other stations it is known as the advanced receiving hospital grounds there is a Shrine with the Savior on a large wooden cross it is known

as the chareed bins for the reason that the fince and trees around it are all seeines and burned but the cross is Just channed and the any its is lift perfect it is known by all Soldiers in France as The charried eron corners Then a little purther is the historical pergino past one continual course of suined trenches and by out every 50 or hundred gard, will he was perhaps a woodon door with the words guist readulte here lies an unknown British here on Aust a little further is little squares of book wire with a eron and the manes of 9. 100020 Britade Sulties on a Small tallet of Alimenseum and at the lottom all vay also 15 germans on to germans

as the charred cross for the reason that the fence and tree around it are all ruined and burned but the cross is Just charred and the crucifix is left perfect it is known by all soldiers in France as the charred cross corner: then a little further is the historical Poziers? just one continual course of ruined trenches and dug outs every 50 or hundred yards. Will be seen perhaps a wooden cross with the words just readable here lies an unknown British hero or just a little further is little squares of barb wire with a cross and the names of 9, 10 or 20 British soldiers on a small tablet of Alimineum And at the bottom will say also 15 germans or 6 germans

upitions it might be there are Shells of all descriptions and bombo lying in all direc there is famous mine brater it is a hole 200 feed arion and 80 feel deep and I tehere it cost 1500 bitish lives I have not got full particulars it but I believe the more was exploded when our broch. was on the advance and ll demolished a german Hd 220 them there is a little further leondemain all the same hind of country a place where there some very heavy furting and a place that will umain ver in history as it is famus frupin sured. was cut to preces this there Franslas ichure we put on

whatever it might be there are also Shells of all descriptions and bombs lying in all directions. Then there is the famous mine Crater it is a hole 200 feet across and 80 feet deep and I believe it cost 1500 British lives I have not got full particulars of it but I believe the mine was exploded when our troops was on the advance and it demolished a german Hd Q rs then there is a little further Contalmaison all the same kind of country a place where there was some very heavy fighting and a place that will remain for ever in history as it is where the famous Prussian guard was cut to pieces then there is le Franshy where we put in

fin part of the winter and he Sars. and Walencourt & But a mound that is non and los 11 times and finally eracuated in the bit retreat in March 1917 where fity fel back & miles legond Bapume We then come to Becaudle a place that is isolated and concealed by trees and bamaflap and then We came to Seits Redout a place where there was some very heavy fighting and then to Ma Mater wood where we camped for a few days and then und up the line afain for 4 days on Suports at the I Elmo and from " to the front line at he tout uns alent 100 yds from fil frint line could hear them

a fair part of the winter and Le sars and Walencourt Le Butt a mound that we won and lost 11 times and finally evacuated in the big retreat in March 1917 where fritz fell back to miles beyond Bapaume We then came to Becaudle a place that is isolated and concealed by tress and Camaflage and then We came to Scotts Piedoubt? a place where there was some very heavy fighting and then to Ma Mater? Wood where we camped for a few days and then went up the line again for 4 days in supports at the 7 Elms and from " (supports?) to the front line at Le Butt was about 100 yds from fritz front line could hear them

ringing and playing the white and I was with A. Love and hongan on gas guard undervery heavy shell fire all the time for tous day was att & Ad Lis and was miked through a gal in of the ald Walmcourd Albey, and was posted in the celler with Artillerie fices and 2 meno Tuo Snilpers 4 patrolo 4 scoute and Fatijuelos Louis Some Killed and Lonejan morning come cut at 2. A. M. and marched back to Shalles wood and remained there for a few days and was detailed to batman & Lintenand Harrich I then went with this to simpocement ochool at Baiyeux and wind from There to Becourt and while

singing and playing the whistle and I was with H. Pte H Lowe Loux? and Lonergan on gas guard under very heavy shell fire all the time for four day was all to Hd Q hrs and was sniped through a gap in a wall of the old Walencourt Abbey; and was posted in the cellar with Artillerie officer and 2 men two snipers 4 patrols 4 scouts. Some killed and Lonergan missing came out at 2 A.M. and marched back to Shelter wood and remained there for a few days and was detailed as batsman to Lieutennant Harricks. I then went with him to a reinforcement school at Baiyeux and went from there to Becourt and while

on that tip I had a good time riveting Warloy and near the sillage from one end & end and had a good of march in the to camp officion work ate with Spiller L. Harrichs J. Stin as Luit bapt Godfrey and did well and of the Job and went back and Joined up The at Ma Mety wood and word from there to Becourd for 2 days and then marched from there to Vaux had to dip surscless in after a 18 hild march with full packs the got half way by Lunch time and our cochers arrived and gave us hot meat and tes and we arend at our detine in at about 4:30 had a good

on that trip I had a good time visiting Warloy and seen the village from one end to end and had a good part of march in the camp as officers' cook etc with Lieut Spiller I. Harricks L. Short Capt Godfrey and did very well out of the job and went back and joined up the Battn at Ma Marty wood and went from there to Becourt for 2 days and hen marched from there to Vaux had to dig ourselves in after a 18 miles march with full packs We got half way by lunch time and our cookers arrived and gave us hot meat and tea and we arrived at our destination at about 4.30 had a good

rest and then next day We visited the Village of Haun and it was the some as the rest of the Villages We had passed Through including Latte Bapame He found cuttery cifars and souniers in palose but as we was Just in battle order We could not carry Them then we wont into the line for four days in suports marched all night and arrived in the line at 3. A.M. Six A.M. Rum ince very cold had a box on for 3/4 of an hour filly had 1000 campalities promons and carualities coming in all day found one of our lads killed Satty Me Therson becil Damet and myself wropped him up and

night rest and then next day We visited the Village of Vaux and it was the same as the rest of the Villages We had passed through including little Bapaume. We found cutlery cigars and souniers (?souvenirs) in galore but as we was just in battle order We could not carry them then we went into the line for four days in supports marched all night and arrived in the line at 3 A.M. Six A.M. Rum issue very cold had a box on for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour fritz had 10.00 casualties prisoners and casualties coming in all day found one of our lads killed Scotty McPherson Cecil Dennet and myself wrapped him up and

burried Him Spotted by Mily had get drew Shell fire had & he quest the rest of the day near day found 2 of rus lads burried and Smothered about 100 a.m. Majo. broky was wounded on The Shoulder and arm I helped & dress him and help his batman H. brauford & get him away to hopital The was -Then in a Sunhen road at Narrelle at the left of Lagnaces We was for the surt two days under continuas Shell fire We had Soreral casualities The number of 24 up to 4:30 the fourth day We was then lectured by our Offices in charge Lieux Harrichs as we was going to hop it ment morning the was Just

buried him Spotted by Fritz had to get drew Shell fire had to lie quiet the rest of the day next day found 2 of our lads buried and smothered about 10 a.m. Major Dooley was wounded on the Shoulder and arm. I helped to dress him and help his batman Fr Crawford to get him away to hospital. We was then in a Sunken road at Narrelle at the left of Lagnacourt. We was for the next two days under continuous Shell fire. We had several casualties and the number of 24 up to 4.30 on the fourth day We was then lectured by our Officer in charge Lieut Harricks as we was going to hop it next morning. We was just

waiting night fall & take over the front line which lay about 3/4 of a mile towards Three Villages on our Front right and left, names not how to me however We reached the Frint line at about 8.30 Just before leaving and usiting for night fall fity Sont his farenell shot and hilled two of our hads name I They and I. Vass when I left a Park and a party was left bach to bury them. I was the Last & Speak & H. Fry having Spoken to this not a minute before and the unfortunate part was His first time up also Vars as We left them behind at Staples We then had 2 days in the

waiting night fall to take over the front line which lay about 3/4 of a mile towards three Villages on our Front right and left, names not known to me however We reached the Front line at about 8.30 Just before hearing and waiting for night fall fritz sent his farewell shot and killed two of our lads name H. Fry and S. Vass when I left Cpt Park and a party was left back to bury them. I was the last to speak to H. Fry having spoken to Him not a minute before and the unfortunate part was His first time up also Vass as we left them behind at Etaples. We then had 2 days in the

front line byril Donnett : Remp bompany runner and myrelf was in a day out forst night. and Just got off to Stuep when the bank fell in and I was buried with no bad recelts houses it was all pretty quiet until our time of falling in to leave excepting for an orienna Salvo and a wreched tank on our right where he used & pepper away day and myhi alike on our two doup in the front line it evened steadily all the time byril a myself had the rationing of heart H.K. & Lund Grigs: Since hilled and byil Dennett mining at Bullicant on coming out We was londed by Two Nain braft which drifed to lombs but mined the lot of us they was very low

front line Cyril Dennett Remp Company runner and myself was in a dug out first night and Just got off to sleep when the bank fell in and I was buried with no bad results however it was all pretty quiet until our time of falling in to leave excepting for an occasional salvo and a wrecked tank on our right where he used to pepper away day and night alike on our two days in the front line it rained steadily all the time Cyril and myself had the rationing of Lieut H.Hr and Lieut Greigg: Since killed and Cyril Dennett missing at Ballecourt on coming out. We was bombed by two Air Craft which dropped 40 bombs but missed the lot of us they was very low.

We and out under dificultoes and on our way out we was held up several times but got cut up to alout 2 miles from our alloted camp and on our turn of Jueston ley H. Rokins and mysel, lay down on the road side and went off & Sleepand woke to find the whole Brijade had gone ahead Suny a light on the road I made for it and it haponed be one of our Lecutoniants to name Spiller and as He was acting as guiding star & ous but a de de directed us and We had not gone for till We came up to B. Goof and they directed us to our own bay 6. md

We got out under difficulties and on our way out we was held up several times but got out up to about 2 miles from our allotted camp and on our turn off Joe Stanley H. Robbins and myself lay down on the road side and went off to Sleep and woke to find the whole Brigade had gone ahead seeing a light on the road I made for it and it happened to be one of our Lieutenants name Spiller and as He was acting as guiding Star to our brigade He directed us and We had not gone far till We came up to B. Coy and they directed us to our own Coy C. and

after another hour or two plod through the mud and off any road We duly arrived and turned in for an hours or two Sleep there was Don bamphell Joch Holdroyd H Robbins A. Cope Me Lonald and myself Harry Rollins and I went out and found a J M. C. A. as I was cashed icf I financed for cipo for the mot and Lewis Harrichs financed his Platoin during the day We found that the was in a band Named Flourelle and We had a few days good time rest for a few days and Then Settled down for hard work had Sucral might and early morning Stud it was then about the so the g

after another hour or two plod through the mud and off any road We duly arrived and turned in for an hour or two Sleep there was Don Campbell Jock Holdroyd H Robbins L. Cpt McDonald and myself. Harry Robbins and I went out and found a Y.M. C.A. as I was cashed up I financed for cigs for the mob and Lieut Harricks financed his platoon during the day. We found that we was in a camp Named Flauselle? And We had a few days good time rest for a few days and then settled down for hard work had several night and early morning stunts it was then about the 20th of April the weather getting finer.

e practiced the Stunts under The Comand of It blad Daris We had a very good time with foothall bricket but baths concerts etc and every thin was done & make life worth the trouble until the whole Brigade marched out & the lind of our Band preparetary to going our at Bulliourt it was on May 2 1917 We had four days of the hardest and came out on the 6 the just about 1/4 strongth Went & The 6 the Army Synal School al Contay Was there three weeks was crimed of parade cot din Mont un and found Fasy enveren

We practiced the stunts under the Comand of Lt Clnl Daris We had a very good time with football Cricket hot baths concerts etc and everything was done to make life worth the trouble until the whole Brigade marched out to the lead of our Band preparatory to going over at Bullicourt it was on May 2nd 1917 We had four days of the hardest and came out on the 6th Just about 1/4 strength. Went to the 5th Army Signal School at Contay Was there three weeks was crimed for A.W.L off parade got dismissed Went out to find the Battalion and found them at Baysencourt

parrod through Warloy and benilis Met Poor Ola Joch Had dinner with our old Plation and Had a fue trinks with Joch & barn then wind back & The chateux and remained a few days and Level Harrieto and a left To your up the battación and was in a billet with bapt Rodda Lind Harrich L. Smith Lind Layles and had a good time there going & Sports and Swimming in the Svelog Lakes which I will descrik The there takes are all around This country and was one of Frity's strong defences and was all laid with hack wie and duy outs and the water was let in from the Ancre rives and it ligt miles of

Passed through Warloy and Cenilis Met Poor Old Jock. Had dinner with our old Platoon and had a few drinks with Jock and Cam then went back to the Chateux and remained a few days and Lieut Harricks and I left to join up the Battalion and was in a billet with Capt Rodda Lieut Harricks L. Smith Lieut Layles and had a good time there going to Sports and Swimming in the Aveloy ? Lakes which I will describe. Note these lakes are all around this country and was one of Fritz's strong defences and was all laid with barb wire and dug outs and the water was let in from the Anere? River and it left miles of

d country was made good use by us for a day, oumany We then Marched from Bourson court to a railway riding name Secre and Entrained from a Sidely The 2/19 & 23rd uent in the leading train and they was bombed by a tauby ful the train was undomated and the line blown up in Sound places with the cenals that a fatigue hasty of forme was caught with 20 or 30 bosta The was held up for about le house and as it was a beautiful day and the had the 24 th and 28 nd hands on board We had an un expected primi until the here was repaired and

good country under water and it was made good use of by us for a day's swimming. We then Marched from Bourgon Court to a railway siding name Sierra and Entrained from a siding the 21st to 23rd went in the leading train and they was bombed by a tank but the train was undamaged and the line blown up in several places with the result that a fatigue party of tommies was caught with 20 or 30 casualties. We was held up for about 6 hours and as it was a beautiful day and We had the 24th and 22nd bands on hand, We had an unexpected picnic until the line was repaired and

he advanced to our destination Bapurne and Shunted tack and run to a Station about 3 miles distant mome Schel De Grand and detrained then and marched Through Bapame to a bamping ground in Guerd necourt the whole bigrade in close touch the 2.1 of 22 nd and 23 in one camp and the 24 th was camped on a hill near a unched Sugar who about 3/4 of a mile further on We rem Not ained there for about to uceho my had a good time had bijade mon and Divisional and Battalin Stients I was here an a right Strent and had a privace to take to Ad his, when he Tried to Escape and a fired and brought fin back and was put under arest and

we advanced to our destination Bapaume and Shunted back and run to a station about 3 miles distant name Achel De Grand and detrained there and marched through Bapaume to a camping ground in Guerchnecourt the whole brigade in close touch the 21st and 22nd and 23 in one camp and the 24th was camped on a hill near a wrecked Sugar who about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile further on. We remained there for about 6 weeks and had a good time had brigade and Divisional and Battalion Stunts I was here on a night Stunt and had a prisoner to take to Hd Ors when he tried to escape and I fired and brought him back and was put under arrest

hept capture for 16 hours and was brought up before Major bodey and dommined with a caution The was close to a large Village name Ville De Flor where there was wrechage and trenches in all quarters including a very large chusch and a bhateaux was all wrech age to to Konnidy Allen Bennetts and I went for a day out all our the old , ? A of the Transloy and Then I down a los of fitys old way out found cifaro and Souncers in great quantities found a wooden leg and gun emplacements and amunition and clothes in golore Wont back & camp had a good Time

and kept captive for 16 hours and was brought up before Major Dooley and dismissed with a caution. We was close to a large Village name Ville De Flors where there was wreckage and trenches in all quarters including a very large church and a Chateaux was all wreckage. F.B. Kennedy Allen Bennetts and I went for a day out all over the old SA. Of Le Fransky? And Went down a lot of fritz's old dugouts cigars and souniers (souvenirs) in great quantities found a wooden leg and gun emplacements and amunition and clothes in galore. Went back to camp had a good time.

ing trowes of Sugar not obtainate Lawin anhies Sayings Stofe Arm on your shouldes gases put. No in 4.5 and around turn get Why didn't you So Say take Pelle

Riding horses for Sugar not obtainable People Starving Yankee Sayings Slope Arm on your shoulders gases put. No. in 4 S and around turn get. Why didn't you So say. Hafe Felley (unclear)

rate A. Haslett 366. 22. Batt Diary of Trivate A. vant band, and marched Minton But Station and No 2. Command Depe ad Medical Examination, and Started in bamp for one illet in Wey mouth 18 th 1= 18 We then entrained from ey month to Little more banyo and rettled down for further orders had mulilisation parade and Med. exam for blanification 19 th 1- 18 Muster harade in morning after nor enderement of the all stap is armed your

# Diary of Private H. Haslett No 5366 22 Batt A.I.F.

January 17th 1918

Left Forant camp and marched to Dinton By Station and entrained to No. 2 Command Depot Had medical Examination and Stayed in Camp for one night in Weymouth.

## 18th 1-18

We then entrained from Weymouth to Littlemore Camp and settled down for further orders had mobilisation parade and Med. exam for Classification

# 19th 1-18

Muster parade in morning afternoon endorsement Next line illegible

unda 21-1-18 allung down 22.1-18 do do 23. Handed in Surplus Fit prep to leaving bamp for Embarhation 24 th brew Shortages and ordinary Parade Histed adjourney Village 25 the Morring Tarade Nothing clase doing who to 4 P.M. 26 the Nothing to mote do do Church Jarade 27 Th do · do 28 th 29 the unde to Beatic Halden 30 th Final Med- Exam OI Adh or offertrained from Upwey for . Darenport and embarhed on bound y Boat. S.S. Asygleshire Sebruary 1 at Went to anchorage

20th-1-18 Sunday Church parade nothing further 21-1-18 Nothing doing

22-1-18 do do 23 Handed in Surplus kit prep to leaving Camp for Embarkation 24th Drew Shortages and ordinary Parade. Visited adjoining Village 25th Morning Parade Nothing else doing up to 4 P.M. 26th Nothing to note 27th do. do Church Parade 28th do. do 29th wrote to Beatie Holdergot 30th Final Med. Exam 31 Nothing Feb 1-18 Entrained from Upwey for Devonport and embarked on board Y Boat SS. Argyleshire February 1st Went to anchorage

Feb. 6 th 19.18 Rore bright and early and had a good Breakfust feeling real well rea amooth har showers had board drill had a furphie about submarine, conray still going good got pulled up for making on dech after dark, had a full men all day veryour normal apain all the 7- 2 Rose 6 A. M. Wing mee morning All the ment turned up and ull on the touth again all unpres and criples had one denth on fourd motiony che to mote and the oftennoon Then boat parade and brack topped for burn al at sea mire Till com Strent and and calm Deu

### Feb 6th 1918

Rose bright and early and had a good Breakfast feeling real well sea smooth but showery had boat drill had a ferphie (?) about submarine; convoy still going good got pulled up for smoking on deck after dark, had a full mess all day everyone normal again at the table

# 7.2.18

Rose 6 A.M. very nice morning. All the men turned up and well on the tooth again all injuries and cripples had one death on board nothing else to note until the afternoon then boat parade and boats stopped for burial at Sea, now 7 P.M. still going strong and a nice night and calm Sea.

und routine of the day Red. low inue nothing remational to second mice weather gradually Ating warmen Sun two barge Turtle retired for the might at 9:30 .... 1.00 9-2-18 Bore bright and early and a bonna day ideal weather a game of house won this showed a little profit still havin beautiful weather mothing to relate apart from the every day routine wrote letter & Beatie. 10.2.18 Nathing Sensational Just the adimary routine of meso orderly played 6 A. and House and und broke turnened in Sober

## 8.2.18

Usual routine of the day Got Red Cross issue of Clothing nothing sensational to record very nice weather gradually getting warmer Seen large turtle retired for the night at 2.30...

# 9.2.18

Rose bright and early and had a bonza day ideal weather had a game of house won then showed a little profit still having beautiful weather nothing to relate apart from the every day routine, wrote letter to Beatie.

## 10.2.18

Nothing sensational Just the ordinary routine of mess orderly played C and A and Housie and went broke turned in Sober

and Steady very warm on our deck 11-2-18 Rose bright and early us fresh as a bash had breakfast and cleaned up see first hay at Sea of 10/- borrow treading out Aux 6 - turned back and had a good eruise around our boat rearing last the luripides a long way in the head the Mystery ship close up again can distinguish bligs head on the funnel 120. C Dinner time afternoon quiet after tea run game of house did faily well retired 9. 30 very warm on our dech dept well 12 . 2. 18 Rose bright and easter very high breeze blacing beautiful day to warm every & rack wind

and steady very warm on our deck.

## 11.2.19

Rose bright and early as fresh as a lark had breakfast and cleaned up rec first pay at Sea pf 10/- Convoy spreading out Aux C \_\_\_\_\_ turned back and had a good cruise around our boat running last the Euripidies a long way in the land the Mystery ship close up again can distinguish Ship head on the funnel 12.00 dinner time afternoon quiet after tea run game of house did fairly well retired 9.30 very warm on our deck. Slept well.

## 12.2.18

Rose bright and early very high breeze blowing beautiful day not too warm owing to high wind

boat parade, nothing & second of any interest Just the every day waterie of miss orderly & 18 bubles all going well bonny still going strong 9 the day out Had tea nun parme of two t a chat on new of. Cauth made a few bob and turned lery warm all por Srept well 13 th 2. 18 non at sun rise torely breeze blouin rough Sea energining soing real well finished toil and had game house non one and Should little mafit retired quait impression had durines and game of boot work flat had accord on same of house made a little then lost, fair & up attired on dec

had boat parade nothing to record of any interest Just the every day routine of mess orderly to 18 Criples all going well Convoy still going strong 9th day out. Had tea run game of housie Caught a chat on nice shirt made a few bob and turned in very warm all port holes closed. Slept well.

## 13th.2.18

Rose at sun rise lovely breeze blowing rough sea everything going real well finished toil and had game house none one and showed little profit retired I await inspection had dinner and game of C and A went flat had recovery on game of housie made a little then lost again at 2 up retired on deck slept in

open they Broome 1010 iel at dawn in the had com nellero pit one on le puda un had. undden dealk Some cranfes Tananas and ume recon apples very hot Stekere The capile Surra Leone all hinds & Suits & loco much growing down and another Empare useunding . modern ancest in the bla bais presided dech usy not owneded getting very hot can't semie on our deck 16 the Still at surve

the open trez bienne [sic].

14th-15th 2.1918

Arrived at dawn in the Harbour of Sierra Leone remained there all day had some fun with the niggers hit one on leg with a sudden death p...ing? had some oranges, Bananas and some African apples very hot had a good view of St Piere the capital of Sierra Leone all kinds of tropical fruits and Coconuts growing right down to the beach passed the Empress of Britian [sic] and another boat loaded with reinforcements. Buildings and surroundings of the Island all of a modern style had a ships concert in the night very good Gln Davis presided deck crowded getting very hot can't remain on our deck 16th still at service.

Written on side of this page: had song of She's a ding ding ding.

16.2.191 The usual boat sentine day had tea and heared mehos But Bail for The bake with & Jounit. SS Balmard botte our any Boat the Nely le mire a battle suuses wrotection Sailing about in the the conner atind 9.30 m very hot had ince of tunm tome puice and Slept will be head in the extreme . 17th 19:0 Still going Strong milling fut to note only very hot all will There our protecting tout making lot of Smoke does not look good bell a long way en rear the umons for lead had a game of homie did no good stones at presont had church parad

#### 16.2.1918

Just the usual boat routine all day had tea and heaved anchor and set sail for the Cape with the S.S. Gounit S.S. Bismark Cotte S.S. Euripidies and our own boat the S.S. Argylshire and a battle cruiser for protection. Sailing along in the lead of the convoy retired 9.30 P.M. on deck very hot had issue of quinine and lime juice and slept well but heat in the extreme 17th-19th

Still going strong nothing fresh to note only very hot all well otherwise our protecting boat making a lot of smoke does not look too good left a long way in the rear the women's boat in the lead had a game of housie did no good stoney (?) at present had church parade

nothing in view but the See Plan K. C. Service on our dech note very hot Sleeping on Deck notes on trance mice 17.1.1 Trorand in very heavy Snow had mow fight on ward to the Dinton Station entrained & Weymouth und before board and entrained to Upwey to hittlemore samp and had a good time until We entranced & Devon port tranched through beautiful country ourything to good Had lunch prouded by The Maynes a Comittee of Exeter arried al December I at mid day and embarked at 4. 30 P. My tea, on lourd had entine oil stans in golore food very . cript will cord now 17-2

nothing in view but the Sea Plane R.C. Service on our deck note note She? very hot Sleeping on Deck.

A few notes on travels since 17.1, 18 Left Forant in very heavy snow had snow fight on road to the Dinton Station entrained to Weymouth went before board and entrained to Upwey to Littlemore Camp and had a good time until We entrained to Devonport travelled through some beautiful country everything looking good. Had lunch provided by the Mayoress and Committee of Exeter arrived at Devonport at mid day and embarked at 4.30 P.M. had tea on board had onyon oil? stew in galore food very very crook for a start went mess orderly to a cripple table going very good now 17.2.18

17: 18: Continued twened in on best 9. P. M Still. very hat slight till ten 30 had to roll up and go bles cruned the line and Streed. S. W. trades 18.2.18 Rose early fresh and bling had first view of the Sthim bern a lot cooler and travelling full sheed ahead lying last of the bonnoy S.S. Jonie hading accomp by the Bille bruises S.S. Balmoral bitte on our left, S. & Europillio ver lett 8.8 Pritiania in bentre Just Seen large Shash alongoide Still very warm but travelling about 297 to 310 miles hus day on retuine we are still making good progress ran housie and cleand exes mas puy day every one nearly liche had

#### 17.2.18 Continued

turned in on Deck 9 P.M. still very hot slept till ten 30 had to roll up and go below crossed the line and Struck S.W trades

## 18.2.18

Rose early fresh and blowing had first view of the Sthrn Cross and lot cooler and travelling full speed ahead lying last of the Convoy S.S. Ionia? Leading accomp by the Bttle Cruiser S.S. Balmoral Cstle on our left, S.S. Euripidies rear left S.S. Britiania in Centre. Just seen large Shark alongside Still very warm but travelling about 297 to 300 miles per day on retiring we are still making good progress run housie and cleared exes near pay day everyone nearly broke had

ssice of Junnin & Time fair feeling A. I har to dama D. L. Lights out 9.0 c. 19-2-18 Rose early and Seen The weath of the Storm over might everything blown about good Sea summing Sonie Still leading and We are Still in the rear Seen large Shack Nothing extrounding & mote 2 Firsthing much doing Still liry warm 2.1- Still giving Strong but nothing to relate 22 Second hay of 19 Stell very hot well on own way & The cape 23 another fine day String here on very close Dethes Battle ship B. ritiance us are atill running last

issue of Quinine and Lime Juice feeling A.1 but too damn D.T.? Lights out 9 o'c.

## 19.2 18

Rose early and seen the results of the Storm over night everything blown about good sea running Ionia still leading and We are still in the rear. Saw large Shark. Nothing extraordinary to note 20th nothing much doing. Still very warm 21 Still going strong but nothing to relate 22 Second pay of 10F Still very hot well on our way to the cape. 23 another fine day Strong breeze on very close together Battelship Britiania we are still running last.

22 - 2. 17 Continued Have Shued down & 11 houts as we are due at the cape on Wed 27-th. had game of houris did fair . afternoon no fuel mi the evening had a good time rumming Trousie had a good Time finished up well retired. om dech mer and cool had a food time as it is pradually setting coder homing > taken down thus no more hot weather 25.2.18 Nothing to relate So far 12. N. Me taking Stock of Ship Store's cruttery ste had a furme of didle and bush hit the post afternoon had a wife of games of Thouse , did no good tea as unual mothing Senastimal after ten run housie and made a few bob cot a mice little School going

#### 24.2.18 Continued

Have slowed down to 11 knots as we are due at the cape on Wed 27th. Had game of housie did fair. Afternoon no luck in the evening had a good time running housie had a good time finished up well. Retired on deck nice and cool had a good time as it is gradually getting cooler homings? Taken down thus no more hot weather 25.2.18 Nothing to relate So far 12 A.M. Taking stock of Ship's stores cutlery etc had a game of didle and tush hit the post afternoon had a couple of games of house did no good tea as usual nothing sensational and made a few bob got a nice little School going

on our deck lights out Slept bad mice and cool good Sea. monnin burner & B. bubtle gone ahead. got a food new of a hospital Ship on a localy might buffit monlight 26.2.18 .... Rose frish and bright had been fast and cleaned up had a how on with 2 muniture worker favourite wor after the fight all The corroy in line Tourse in the lead & Applesture Sec Euripellies next Balmoral bitte t had the Bille Ship on our lasi towny a target and all having a shot , gun poties our Nand guen fored o' Shots and the trouityer fired 5 all good shots shoting now finished waiting for dinner and there IT PULL T

on our deck lights out Slept bad nice and cool good sea running, Cruiser and B. Castle gone ahead. Got a good view of a hospital ship on a lovely night bright moonlight;

### 26.2.18

Rose fresh and bright had breakfast and cleaned up had a box? on with 2 munitions workers favourite won after the fight all the convoys in line Ionia in the lead, Argylshire Sec Euripidies next Balmoral Castle last had the Bttle ship on our left towing a target and all guns having a shot. Gun petier? Our Naval gun fired 5 shots and the Howitzer fired 5 all good shots shooting now finished waiting for dinner and there

is a concert forwell concert y the Aryule shirt We are now nearly the Cape expection to arrive & marge Later boncer Postponed had a un al pousie bert sun So fac made a few bot retired not to well nervie afain and bad head could not Sheep, 27th 2 Wednesday a beautiful day string dea unning righted a Steamer grin north had the usual impection afternoon got our third pay of 10% are till going Strong and up to date We have had a splendid trip have had nothing to complain dout expecting to reach the cape on a fue hours and after remat arkation in hepes of Some leave 28 th arrived at cake 11- 4 M

is a concert farewell concert of the Argylshire. We are now nearing the Cape expecting to arrive tomorrow. Later Concert Postponed had a run at housie best run so far made a few bob retired not too well nervie again and bad head could not sleep,

### 27th 2.1918

Wednesday a beautiful day strong sea running sighted a Steamer going north had the usual inspection afternoon got our third pay of 10F are still going strong and up to date. We have had a splendid trip here had nothing to complain about expecting to reach the cape in a few hours after reXembarcationX in hope of some leave X 28th arrived at cape 11 A.M.

Inchined out and was las alongude hust un al les orke bourd alldas Yn a camp 0-1 m country the cape had 0 ha mil pictures

Anchored out and was last boat alongside put in at wharf at 3.30 had tea and got leave around the cape for the night arrived at the boat at Midnight remained on board all day and entrained to Wyndorf a very nice camp out in the country had a tea and had a night out at the pictures.



