

## In France

1.3.17

At Boulogne all day. Went & saw the cathedral pulpit beautifully carved. Went to the ramparts of the old city. Stood in the sun.

2.

Up early, walked to Station, seated peacefully in train, when we saw our luggage being put out at Saint Roche, then we were told to go on to Amiens. Reported there & then J.M.Hart went to find a resting place for us. Some Australians offered to carry out luggage. Very glad to see anyone from Australia one said. Went to see The Cathedral, saw The Weeping Angel. Aisles of the Cathedral very fine. J.M.Hart heard from a N.Z. that Col. Powell had gone up Line 3. Up early, no sign of ambulance, so we started to walk to station. Arrived Rouen about 1.30p.m., waited for ambulance, very glad to arrive, saw A.G.D. soon after arriving - she looks well.

4.

Went to theatre. Busy.

5.

On all day.

6.

Off in p.m., went into Rouen in p.m. with Snelling – Told to put on lights out at dinner time.

7.

Busy day.

9.

Told in evening to go to Cas. Cleaning.



Figure 24: In theatre at an A.C.C.S near Rouen

10.

Letter from George, arrived safely at

No2. Packed. Left No1. 3p.m., Rouen at 4.40p.m., an E. Sister travelled with us. Helped with luggage at Station by a Lt. Randall whose father used to practise at Hillston. Made tea in the train.

11.

Arrived at Nurses' Home Abbeville about 4p.m., met by S. Longham. Went out for short time in p.m.

12.

Left Abbeville by the 10.20 a.m. Nearly missed train as a Major took our car. Waited at Amiens for our car. The N.Z. Matron & sisters very good to us. Drove to No3. Arrived 9.30p.m., met by S. S McD. All look very well.

13.

To B1. Surgical.

18.

Went for route march to A, saw Col. Elliot, saw Major Chambers & Cook.

25.

Went to Pedemont with M. Baker, Kelly. Saw the Chateau, saw where the German line of trenches were at Pozieres. Tear shell gas. Saw Major Embleton & Chambers.

28.

Major Wilson came in p.m., looks very well. Letter from Grace.

31.

Isolated in the bathroom.

1.4.18

Mother's Birthday. A good number to afternoon tea by the sounds from the Messroom. Heard I was to depart to another hospital.

2.

Left Edgehill at 10 a.m. in motor ambulance, saw plenty of "Us" on the way. Changed cars at Beuval. To Abbeville through a storm. Arrived 5 Stationery had some nourishment there, then came on to Le Treport. Took a long time to find the hospital. To bed about 7 p.m.

3.

Awoke after a very rough night, snow through the roof. Hospitals for the convenience of patients. Salts for tea.

4.

Wrote some letters. A calm day. The conversation re Convalescent Homes.

8.

Went for walk in morning. Letter from George, with Mother's enclosed.

9.

Very story morning. Miss Martin, Webber & Sister Seely ready to leave.

13.

Left Le Treport 6.45 p.m., went to No 3, & another sister joined the car. Arrived Abbeville, went to Nurses' Home, saw Longham. Saw Miss Martin in p.m., saw the Cathedral.

14.

Came to Amiens, travelled with Sister Johnson. Came by car from Amiens, passed through Albert Bapaume & Pozieres. Great desolation. Arrived 3<sup>rd</sup> C.C.S. & saw George who had arrived that morning, looking very well.

15.

Went to A2, a busy day.

18.

Twenty-seven letters. Off from 5 p.m., so read them. Mrs. McClure "Wished for good with God is done".

20.

Some whisbangs over in a.m. Morning off.

22.

Gas helmets presented to us & we had a lecture.

23.

Went for walk in evening with George.



Figure 25: Anne with George

24.  
Mr. Baxter came in, saw George.

25.  
A heavy bombardment in early a.m., all  
awake early.  
Anzac Day. Letters from home.

27.  
Went on night duty. A good  
bombardment.

28.  
Went for walk with George after dinner.



1.5.17  
Saw G. aeroplane in early a.m., shots being fired.

Figure 26: 3rd A.C.C.S. Grevillers April 1917 -  
Anne on far right

3.  
Heavy bombardment in a.m. Busy day 1500.

13.  
Heavy thunderstorm in early a.m.  
Eddy. Night off.

14.  
Went with George & D. to Butte de Warlencourt, absolute desolation, huge shell holes. Graves.  
Memorial on top to 9<sup>th</sup> Durham Light Infantry – a beautiful day.

17.  
Went for walk with George. They still have our love & we have theirs.

18.  
Ordish very sick.

19.  
Died at 12 noon. Went for walk, a heavy barrage, great number of flares.

24.  
Came off N. Duty. Went for walk in afternoon to Luport Wood, brought back a shell case.

25.  
Day duty. Fritz very busy in early a.m.

28.  
Went to dinner in evening at 57<sup>th</sup>. Batt. Col. Stewart who had been at Palace. After “The Landing” was  
there. Col. Marshall came in.

29.  
Went to the cathedral at Bapaume, great many skulls. Through the tunnels, another leads to Le Sais &  
one to Pozieres. Very damp. Walls of small bricks. Ventilators. Saw the pigeons used for the messages  
from the front.  
Afternoon tea & we brought away the floral decorations & vase.

30.

Tennis party in afternoon. Mr. Christianson came in. Concert after dinner, very good one.

31.

Sgt. Piggott came in in morning, brought the cross for his brother's grave.

June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Went to dinner at 59<sup>th</sup> Batt. Our caps very wet when we arrived. Came through Bapaume Cem. on way back. Saw memorial to soldiers French, who fell in 1872, also graves of French soldiers in this war. Mr Campbell came in in afternoon. Click.

3.

Went for walk.

4.

The gratitude of the poor, a better payment than the riches of the rich. A letter.

5.

A busy day. Went for walk with George in evening – some of the 56<sup>th</sup> came in. Saw Sgt. N.J. McClure's grave in the cemetery.

8.

A barrage about 11 p.m.

9.

Tennis match in afternoon, officers played left handed. Went for a walk after dinner.

10.

Morning off, wrote letters.

11.

Supper for Ida's R.R.C.

12.

Went for walk in evening with George. Letter from Annie Munro.

15.

Morning off. Went for walk with George and Mr C. in evening. Mr C's account of what the men of 21<sup>st</sup> told him re Click. The best of all.

16.

Busy day, taking in. George very busy.

17.

Sunday. Letter from Mother & Mrs. McClure.

18.

Off in morning. Storm in afternoon.

19.

Went for walk in evening. George working all day.



Figure 27: Road leading down to Bapaune - taken from a footpath leading onto the turn in the road. (H.Foxton's writing on back)

20.

Terser's letter re Click. Too good & cons. for this world.

21.

Bessie Stewart's birthday.

26.

Went to 24<sup>th</sup> Batt. for afternoon tea. Poppies & cornflowers very pretty along the road. Saw Capt. Smythe & Mr. Sellick. Pierrot entertainment, but we did not wait long. Went through the lines, saw the cookhouses & carts. Machine gun. Aeroplanes up. 1<sup>st</sup> Field Amb. boys left.

24<sup>th</sup>

Sunday. Myra left for leave.

28.

Gen. Banbury came in.

29.

Barry I A3 had seen Neil Stewart yesterday. Cavanagh knew Mrs. McClure of Flinders. Col. Pye came in to see George. Went to sports at 45 C.C.S. Saw Capt. Fleming, Scartlebury & Capt. Burnie.  
Hosp. in a fine position. Divisions in theatre.

30.

Off in morning. Cam & Martin went to Amiens. Saw The Kilties go by. Rained nearly all day.

1.

Click's birthday.

2.

George gave me book of snaps.  
Sports in afternoon. Told we were to move. Tents coming down.

4.

Packed up ward material. Went for long walk in evening.

5.

Lou's birthday.  
Went to Sapignies in the morning, a fine vegetable garden at Red Cross Office. Saw German cemetery on our way back. Poppies out in great numbers. Went over Ambulance train with Thistle, George & Capt. O'Sullivan in afternoon. Train 28 had been to Marseilles last week & brought patients from Salonica.  
Went for long walk in evening, flowers beautiful. Saw lots of unexploded shells. Saw equipment chair quite near.

No 6382 Pte. A.J. Nicholson.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Batt. Shattered R. thigh  
Ad. 3.5.17, Died same day.  
Father Arthur Nicholson.  
Riverlea, Booligal, N.S.W.  
McCurley. Police Station

6.

Went to Pozieres & Mouquet Farm in afternoon, the field a mass of poppies & wild flowers.

7.

Heard that we were to go by car to -----

Went to 29 C.C.S. for afternoon tea. Watched 3<sup>rd</sup> C.C.S. play the Engineers at cricket. 3<sup>rd</sup> A.C.C.S. won.  
Went for walk with George in evening.

8.

Heavy thunderstorm through night, cleaned up, went for walk. Most of the family dressed up to go to 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. No cars arrived.

9.

Very heart broken, left Grevillers at 3.20p.m. George came to No 6. A beautiful drive.

10.

George's birthday. Went to Officers Ward. Much excitement when Capt. Rodd appeared in the evening.

15.

Capt. Fookes & O'Sullivan came in afternoon and went to see Thistle & Sadie.  
Went to Ward 5.

16.

Quiet day.

20.

Thistle & Sadie came in a.m. Major S. & Major O'S. in afternoon, in the motor lorries. Heard that the unit was to pass – at 6.30, no sign. Went back to dinner. Then along rails to the points, saw them all passing – The others saw them to speak to.

K.G. a man in a thousand –

The dead we have truly loved, have their part in our lives to the end

I see the vision of a soul striving after good.

In the end it learnt that holiness is an infinite compassion for others;

That greatness is to take the common things of life & walk truly among them;

That happiness is a great love & much service.

21.

Baker came in afternoon. Concert in evening, two fine voices, a v. good violinist.

22.

Off in p.m. Went to Joods. A glorious afternoon, trees, etc. Went to church with Cress. By the Brooks.  
A fine sunset.

24.

Letters from G, had arrived 6.30 a.m. on 21.7.18. A good trip. In line with the balloons, Fritz very active. Hop gardens. Went for walk by river in evening.

25.

Parcel from Home

26.

Had day off.

27.

Left Trevent at 10.30 a.m. Passed this v. pretty country, changed trains at ----- R.T.O said to change at another station. Arrived H, changed trains. Saw Geoghegan, Anderson, Watts.

Arrived Abeele 6.30, & told we were not to go to 3<sup>rd</sup> A.C.C.S. Sad afternoon, a pretty spot. Ambulance to 62 – all v. good to us.

29.

George came in evening. Sisters had arrived at 3 A.C.C.S., not ready.

30.

Capt. Henley & Major L. arrived with our mail, plenty of home letters.

31.

Left at 2p.m., road crowded with traffic. Through P. Saw 300 German prisoners being marched along road.

In tents, sandbags round them. Martin & Collis at work next door. Cam went to 32 for Surgical team with G.

Very heavy barrage.

1.8.1917

Rained heavily all day. Fixed wards, all equipment in mine – Thistle & Sadie returned to the fold – Collis came to call –

2.

Changed ward to A2. Macks.

5.

Bomb dropped at lunch time, a dash for tin hats. George came to ward after fixing & sandbagging tents. Capt. Rodd to dinner & his story of St Julien.

Aeroplane v.low after dinner. Heavy barrage. Told at 10.30 p.m. that we are to move tomorrow.

6.

Packed up & got ready for a jaunt. Some went to 62 & 63. Saw Gen House & Gen. Birdwood. Came to 32, a very comfortable tent & beds.

7.

Went to ward 7. The Jack who had been in Shell hole 7 days.

8.

Thunderstorm in evening, heavy thunder.

9.

Awakened by bombs 4 a.m., Sadie announced we had better wear our tin hats.

10.

Busy a.m. – antiaircraft in p.m. just after returning to duty. Patients evacuated by train, the first time a train had been past P – for two years. 10 of our patients went, Major Milne, etc, came while we were at afternoon tea. George came over after dinner, working from 11 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 44---

11.

Wakened in early a.m. 1a.m. by bombs, again later on.

12.

Saw balloon come down.

13.

Heard we are to return to our own unit tomorrow. Another balloon down. Campion went to Base. Letters from home. July 3<sup>rd</sup> from Melbourne. Mr Gregory called in morning – Collett.

14.

Returned to No 3 A.C.C.S. in morning. Fixed tents. Sgt. Teams four arrived.  
Intelligence. Aeroplane came, brought down after bringing one of our balloons to earth.  
Hear from Kelly that there is a C.C.S. at El Arish.

16.

Stunt. Very busy day in ward. Capt. Dundee, l. arm amputated.  
Bombs in evening. Capt. Harris & Puddy, killed. Tents damaged.

17.

Busy. Saw Fritz with Search lights.

18.

Miss Conyers came, also Miss McCarthy.

20.

Anti aircraft very busy in evening. Fifty over.

21.

Shelled during day, sent to dugouts. Saw Mr. Gregory. Patients evacuated. Left about 6 p.m. for St. Omer. Saw the New Z. sisters. To 59 British General.

22.

Went in search of a bath & shampoo & at last found them.

23.

Went out seeking for hats in morning. Heard in afternoon that Thistle & Kelly were to go to No. 3 General.

24.

Told at 8 a.m. to be ready to depart at 9 a.m. to 10 C.C.S. A beautiful drive esp. through Cassel & St. Omer. Arrived before the others. Several of 32. Sisters here – Another C.C.S. taking over – Heard that Corp. Thornton & one of the cooks had been killed, also that Mr Robinson & Mr. McCracken had died. The others were evacuated. Went for walk in the afternoon, saw where bombs had fallen, saw batt. marching out. George had seen Neil, who was very well. Cables home from George. Saw Sister Anderson- had been in theatre.

25.

On call in p.m. Letters from home. Sisters went back to 32.

26.

One year.  
To Pre-op ward in a.m. Theatre in p.m.

27.

Heard from Aunt Chris. Keith killed on August 6<sup>th</sup>; she had heard from Clive Tully.  
Heard guns in afternoon, a very wet day. Letters from Leigh, quite near Neil.

28.

Walked to Monte des Cats with George & Captain O'Sullivan, saw Bailleul in distance. A fine view.  
Women not allowed in chapel. Trappists.

29.

Not busy. Matron left – her mother ill.

30.

Went to Abeele with G. & Capt. O'S., a good walk. George bought souvenirs of Ypres & Pozieres to send to Cuthero.

31.

Heard soon after breakfast that Collis, Cam, D & self were to go to 10 Stat. at St. Omer. Left soon after lunch. Went to cemetery & saw Lt. Robinson & Cpl. Thorston's graves. Arrived 10 Stat., found that Sadie & Newton had gone for leave. Saw Major Le Mesurier.

1.9.1917

Gave our particulars to sister. Re Annie O'Dwyer & Cress. went on leave.

2.

Went to kirk in a.m., to park in p.m. Fritz very busy about 11 p.m. Heard that two officers at aerodrome had been killed, one badly wounded who died. Saw Nick.

3.

Baker left for Rouen. Shopped or tried to in p.m.

4.

Had morning tea with Mr B. Said that Mouquet Farm was now being gone over. Had heard from Mrs. McClure, who was at Greenbank.

Fritz busy again last night. Hear Field Amb. between here & Calais suffered badly. George & the rest of the family came down. Descended to the cellar once again. Fritz very busy.

5.

On duty in C3. in p.m. Fritz up a.m. & p.m.

6.

Morning hours. M.O. a cousin of fighting Larry's. Quiet night.

7.

Did the shops in afternoon. Mr. Baxter called in evening.

8.

Saw Jack Hall on my way to duty. Capt. Smythe called.

9.

Went to C. Church in morning.

10.

Off from 5. Went to cathedral, service on.

11.

Went back to C3, very quiet.

12.

Went to Cinema. George came down in p.m. Brought home letters.

13.

Told I was to have leave, packed.

14.

Left St. Omer. 9.15 a.m. Boulogne 1.45, arrived Blighty 5 p.m., at Berners soon after seven. Mr. Wishart looked after us. Saw J.C.H. – looks much better.