

we had made, he wound up by saying that we had set a splendid example for other troops to follow. The military band then joined us, and we marched away to the tune of boys of the old Brigade. The whole camp turned out to see us off, and we passed through the gates of the camp, exchanging with our friends Good bye, I was glad that at last there was a possibility of our getting to the front, but I was sorry to leave such a nice place. I spent a pleasant time there, made some genuine friends, and had become very fond of the place. Somehow or other I felt about as cheerful as a lovely handkerchief, and such tunes as "Boys of the old brigade", and kept

51

the home fires burning. I tried to raise my spirits, I thought then how I should have felt if a hand had played us away from our camp in Sydney. I think it would have beaten me, we were catching the 9 am train, and there was such a crowd on the station that we had, could hardly see Jim Carlton. I was very amused at some very pathetic little scene that was taking place, as we were free from this kind of thing, we could afford to enjoy the joke, but to some of the fair ones I think it was more of a drama than a comic opera, the local paper next day on our departure said "OUR FRIENDS HAVE LEFT US, AND LET US KNOW THEY WERE GOING", and all

and a few nice things about  
we landed back about our  
camp at Salisbury about 3pm  
and I immediately commenced  
to pick up the broken threads  
again, and I am sorry to say I  
found a great many changes  
had taken place, Stan Seabill  
had transferred from the 7th Brigade  
to the trench mortars, this dis-  
appoints us greatly, for when he  
leaves this camp I know how  
we will miss him, apart from the fact  
that when at Swains, we have been  
inseparable, I suppose once we  
part here our next meeting will  
be in dear old Sydney, many other  
lads whom I had become very  
friendly with, had been transferred  
to other batteries, and Jim Carter

... day, and  
we in a very gloomy  
... of an early departure to the  
... were soon dashed to the ground  
there was no more signs of advance  
... than when we were here  
I got a great surprise a few days  
after arriving back here, Roy  
who was invalided here from the  
front, walked into my hut, he  
... splendid, and we had a  
... again very old times, I have seen  
... several times since, he reports  
... for France again shortly,  
... met many former friends  
... little groups of boys  
... little we thought say  
... that we want meet  
... bit of the world, here

for some pleasant recreation when we  
all get back again.

Saturday Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> 1916  
I obtained weeks end leave so that  
I could visit some friends of mine  
staying at Southsea, I caught the  
train from Ayrbury and arrived  
Portsmouth about 1.30, all I could  
remember of my friends address was  
111, the number of the House, but  
a passing train gave me my clue, and  
I was soon at their house, they  
spending the winter months in a  
flat at Southsea, this place is  
seaside and principal residential  
part of Portsmouth, and is a very  
nice place, they booked a room for  
me at the Grosvenor hotel, one of the  
largest in the town, and arranged  
everything for my comfort, the hotel

agers met me, and said he  
wishes to make me comfortable, I  
received a surprise when on going  
to the booking office and ordering  
half a dozen cigars (best quality)  
and on presenting the money to pay  
for them, I was told by the proprietress  
that she was on no account to accept  
any money from me, my friends told  
me I was to be their guests entirely,  
it was a big change for me after  
the usual camp meal to sit  
down to a seven or eight course  
dinner with wines to follow, and  
for that week end I forgot  
the time that I was a soldier,  
I was high; I had a good look  
around the town that night  
it proved very interesting, Portsmouth  
is the largest naval base now

Rugby, and is of course very strongly fortified, there are huge dockyards here, and is a large ship building centre, the population must run into something like 500,000, and appears to be a very prosperous city, the Town Hall is a magnificent building built some 25 years ago, and is the same type as the Leeds Town Hall, these two are the largest Town Halls in England, there is a splendid tram service, and is of the double decker type, similar to that of London, but nowhere yet have I seen anything to come within miles of the Sydney tram service, Southsea is a very fine suburb of Portsmouth and has some very fine houses

The promenade along the coast must be easily two miles in length and it has two piers, each one fine, the larger one is the South Pier, and is almost a mile in length, there is a large concert Hall on it, and concerts are held twice a week free admission there are all kinds of refreshment rooms, fruit stalls etc, and a stroll along these piers seems to be very popular at these sea side resorts, on this night we heard a splendid band playing, and we did not leave until the old anthem was played by the time I had supper it was well after 11 pm, and I left my friends with an assurance that I would be up early and join them at 10 am, but wasn't prepared

for it was after 9 when I  
up, and by the time I had  
bath, breakfast, and with  
was nearly 11am, we arranged  
to spend the day on the Isle  
Wight, a ferry plys to and from  
port, the isle is distant only  
four or five miles, and it takes  
the ferry about 20 minutes to do  
the trip, the ferries are not to  
be compared with ours, and the  
fares are about 4 times as  
~~high~~, the largest town on the  
Island is Ryde, and that is  
the first port of call, we got  
out here, and here again is a  
large pier, almost a mile in  
length, and a small Electric  
conveys people from one end  
to the other, we had a seat

59  
with of some three  
was very pleasant, about  
the scenery is very nice, and the  
place is well kept, there are  
artificial lakes and lagoons,  
and on these one can row or  
manage a canoe, Ryde is con-  
sidered very healthy, and is  
largely visited of by people in  
weak health, many famous  
people have their houses here  
abouts, including Lord Clarendon,  
Lady Deslys, Lippman of New York,  
and many others, we had a  
at Cowes where the famous  
regattas are held, but owing to  
it being a little past the season  
very little was doing, apart  
the regattas, the place is well  
but when they are on, it is a

...at, and ...  
...has ...  
...inspired ...  
...showing, and ...  
...hours ...  
...of hours ...  
...on the way ...  
...very close ...  
...Mellons at ...  
...interest to ...  
...I could not ...  
...does not ...  
...after arriving back at ...  
...I had only a little ...  
...to catch my train, ...  
...part of the way ...  
...with me, eventually ...  
...camp about ...  
...I have to thank the

Belfast for giving us a very fine ...  
...and making my stay ...  
...I have both cordially ...  
...to spend any or all holidays with ...  
...them, and in the event of my ...  
...with trouble at the front, and being ...  
...invited to England, I have been ...  
...of a house to stay at for as long as I ...  
...part to stay.

Tuesday 21st Sept 1914  
It was ...  
The King would inspect the whole of the ...  
Australians on Saturday ...  
The place of inspection was ...  
a neighbouring camp (Belfast ...  
...side of ...  
we ...  
orders, and started from our camp ...  
early, about 8 am, the morning ...  
was none too pleasant as a

the road was  
after the usual  
and as you were  
of the scene of action  
we had our dinner  
of salmon  
and we remained in our  
tent, the time for the  
of all this business  
preliminary for the  
was done with the  
making things smooth  
for the inspection, it was  
to see all the troops  
separately Ho-o-oo, ~~and~~ battalion  
of infantry drawn  
up with bayonets fixed and at  
the present, and our little party  
looked well, the three  
hundred with all their guns

drawn his horses, but the finish  
touch to a really fine sight, the  
Cavalry moved off first and as  
we passed the Saluting base, Major  
general Monash V.C. C.B. V.D  
took the salute, the different  
units followed us, and we  
made back for camp, where we  
arrived about 6.30pm, I felt  
pretty tired, for we had been  
on our feet practically all day.  
The following morning the weather  
was no better, and having the  
chance of a job for the day at  
camp, I took it in preference to  
same march we had on the  
day, I heard afterwards that  
everything turned out splendidly  
the King inspected the troops in  
the usual speech, and was

the road was  
after the usual  
and as you were  
of the scene of action  
we had our dinner  
of salmon  
and we remained in our  
tent, the time for the  
of all this business  
preliminary for the  
was done with the  
making things smooth  
for the inspection, it was  
left to see all the troops  
separately Ho-o-oo, ~~and~~ battalion  
of infantry drawn  
up with bayonets fixed and at  
the present, and our little party  
looked well, the three  
hundred with all their guns

drawn his horses, but the finish  
touch to a really fine sight, the  
Cavalry moved off first and as  
we passed the Saluting base, Major  
general Monash V.C. C.B. V.D  
took the salute, the different  
units followed us, and we  
made back for camp, where we  
arrived about 6.30pm, I felt  
pretty tired, for we had been  
on our feet practically all day.  
The following morning the weather  
was no better, and having the  
chance of a job for the day at  
camp, I took it in preference to  
same march we had on the  
day, I heard afterwards that  
everything turned out splendidly  
the King inspected the troops in  
the usual speech, and was





of ourselves  
was done, the water  
and our land  
with the call  
Our battery was put  
efficiently first out  
most of the war par  
I do very well getting  
marks  
I saw quite confident  
and confident in their  
I cannot say the same  
of our Officers, some  
and impossible, in man  
their commissions were  
through influence, I know  
who would not under ordin  
conditions be picked as a  
general, we have now had  
inspections by different

6  
General, the last report that if  
we proved ourselves fit we would  
be passed for Active Service,  
everything went well until he  
concluded putting questions to  
our Officers, that was the end of the  
section, we are still here  
understand a report was sent  
through that our section's mem  
ers were inefficient, whether they  
will ever become any better, God  
only knows.

I hardly ever leave  
the camp now, cold, wet, muddy  
slushy conditions and not contin  
cise towards walking, and generally  
when the day work is done I am  
quite satisfied to fill in the time  
before bedtime, as fancy dictating,  
mostly making yarns, and

I have pleasant  
I have now at  
minutes, and a good  
of the pipe appears  
I can now understand  
their pipe, as a  
and a very good and  
with a great many letters,  
I receive, but still  
I receive amply repay me,  
I never before regarded a letter as  
of so much value, it is good of  
people to write us ~~and~~, but if  
they only know how grateful we  
are, how sure they would not  
miss the trouble takers, I have re-  
ceived letters from many of my  
friends, others did not trouble to  
write me, these should I return  
I can regard so much as I per-

69  
fectly did, I always do appreciate  
a thoughtful action, and I re-  
ceive many that have impressed  
me deeply, I have often been  
made happy when I think that  
when I do return I will receive a  
genuine welcome not only at  
home but among many warm  
friends.

Since returning from  
Swanage I have not met any  
of friends from Belmont also the  
Clarence, there are dozens here  
at Salisbury Plain, and I have  
spent many a pleasant night  
with them, among some of the  
chief among them has been Henry  
Roy, Jerry the, Car Cameron, and  
Charles Casper, the two from  
Belmont, the latter two from

... only one, so far has  
... the way. I say the work  
... to induce about the  
... of Oct. I was very sorry  
... to go, we were always  
... friends, and since meeting  
... we have become more so,  
... says the luck to meet him  
... on the other side of the range.

Monday Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 1916

The whole of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division took  
part in a route march of some  
8 or 10 miles, the first to leave  
was early hours before the  
lot had started, in fact, the line  
was considered to be 17 miles or  
thereabouts, the day was very nice,  
the sun shining all day, we  
left camp about 10.30 am and  
did not arrive back until 6.30

I thoroughly enjoyed the trip  
Wednesday Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 1916  
Our battery was out all day with  
the guns, the morning was bitterly  
cold, early the war of yet, and we  
use of all the hails on the way to  
purs and stamp on the ground, our  
feet were numb with the cold  
passed through parts of the forest  
that I had not previously seen,  
some of the paths were beautiful  
our village (Laka) especially lovely  
great trees lined each side of the  
paths and were covered with  
all yellow with autumn leaves  
this place is in a valley  
of clear water was pushing  
it, and they were full  
to <sup>my</sup> think the scene was a  
of loveliness, after about 10 miles

...the scene of action  
...the gun was  
...a battalion of in-  
...were all working in  
...with one another, we were  
...about half an hour.  
...we were ordered to cease  
...it was then dinner time,  
...of salmon sandwiches,  
...this time I was blue with  
...as were all the other boys,  
...were very disparaging re-  
...about the fearful climate  
...to hear, after dinner we  
...off and at intervals  
...into action, fire a few shots  
...and prepared to move off again,  
...we arrived back in  
...about 5 pm; I had hardly  
...in my hut until I was

15  
asked to go on guard, his sweat  
another 24 hours freeze, it was  
very hard luck, but if I did  
not do it, somebody else would  
have had to do it, the cold was  
intense right through the day, and  
I could not get warm, I was very  
thankful when I finished duty at  
6 pm, I rolled straight into bed.

Saturday Nov 18 1916

Last night I had my first sight  
of snow, it commenced to fall lightly  
about 7 pm, it was very flaky, but  
did not last long, it was snowing  
early this morning, and continued  
practically throughout the day. Stan-  
ley and myself took a party along  
to as photographers, we had the  
camera, the light was very poor, so  
I do not know how it will turn

... our goal on  
... on the ground.  
... Nov 19th 1916  
... to greet us our put  
... outside the door, was  
... in the ear, the  
... with snow, it  
... all night, it pres-  
... pretty sight, everything  
... white, the face was about  
... deep, after we finished  
... parade, we started  
... fight, it was good fun,  
... on the hands,  
... practically through  
... day, but in the afternoon  
... set in, and it soon con-  
... to melt, while it was snow-  
... by no means cold,  
... as it ceased, the

air became much clearer  
[Tuesday Nov 21st 1916  
Our battery was on duty and I  
was detached for German guard,  
Some 300 prisoners were camped near  
by, and during the day they were  
around the camp, digging drains  
etc, they receive 2 a day for their  
while a corporal got for a week  
is always placed over them we  
marched to their camp, and brought  
a party of 13 away at once, their  
own corporal seen the Iron cross  
in 1915, he shows it to me, it is made  
of silver and just metal, he was two  
years fighting and was captured  
in Sept, he has now been here  
months, and can already speak  
a good deal of English, he did not  
seem a bad sort at all. I gave

have some of my tobacco and to  
 give them some German wine, very  
 good. Some of these chaps  
 were captured early in the war,  
 and they speak almost anything  
 you wish. Some pour of them I  
 got two German buttons, also 3  
 cans of sawdust. I gave them one  
 of our badges in return. Some of  
 my boys are very bitter against  
 these people, well so am I, as far  
 as fighting is concerned, but I can  
 not take advantage of their presence  
 here to get even with them,  
 they assured us they were being  
 well treated, and said that our  
 boys prisoners over there are being  
 treated equally as well, but in  
 fact they rebel for they get beer  
 issued them, a commodity they

greatly miss here.  
 Wednesday Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 1918.  
 We are now practically the  
 portion of our division that is  
 still here (Artillery) all the rest  
 have gone or about to go, this week  
 about 15,000 are leaving for France.  
 I am not sure what will happen  
 on the other side, whether the  
 Division as a whole will join  
 action, or work independently.  
 I do not think we will leave  
 here for another month at  
 least; I said Good bye to Tom  
 Seabill he leaves tomorrow morning  
 with the French Mortar battery,  
 we had a final gas at 4 o'clock  
 together, extending to long nights  
 light's out, finally we parted, I  
 have now lost out of the list for

198  
man ever had. I felt about as  
happy as a starved handi-craft  
when I saw him march away.  
God only knows when we will  
next meet.

71  
My trip to France  
About the middle of Day  
while still on Salisbury  
I caught a heavy cold  
finally it turned into  
I reported to the Doctor, and  
taking my temperature it was  
found to be over  $102^{\circ}$ , I was  
immediately sent to a hospital  
and there remained for eight  
days, I was sorry in one  
way to be ill at this point  
of the game for that week our  
batting these practical  
firing tests at targets on the  
other hand the weather was  
bitterly cold, and the thought  
of being out all day in the



ofent was not at all pleasant. Our battery did rather good work, slightly contrary to expectations, for the previous tests ~~for~~ and the way they paid out did not point to first class performances in the future, but our battery Commander commended to prove his ability just then, and carried things through very successfully, a few days later we were notified we would soon now be on our way to France.

After spending eight days in hospital, I was discharged, still feeling rather dicky, I applied for and was granted five days leave, and about the 16<sup>th</sup> December I started

for Dublin, my first trip to the Emerald Isle, arriving in London at Waterloo Station. I found I had just 12 minutes to catch the Irish mail from Euston, a taxi just managed to land me there with but 30 seconds to spare, a very near thing, if I missed it, it meant my spending a whole day in London, and the big city just then, was a very depressing place to be in, a heavy fog hung all over the city, and one could hardly see from one side of the street to the other.

My travelling companions proved very agreeable company, one a Naval Fleet Surgeon, knew Australia very well, he told me he was still

there for three years, and knew the beautiful spots around Sydney even better than I, his wife was I believe a daughter of New Zealand Dick Seeson; travelling by night I could get little idea of the country we were passing through, but my new found friends, described the different Counties and towns as we proceeded, passing through Wales, a very pretty view of the snow Caped mountains could be seen, they were a very pretty sight; about dawn we arrived at Holy Head, the Dublin boat was waiting alongside, and within a quarter of an hour we were on our way to Kingstown, the boat

running between Holy Head and Dublin are of a very fast type, they are named after the four provinces in Ireland, "Ulster, Munster, Leinster, Connaught", and are capable of a speed of 26 knots; the Irish Channel is considered a fairly rough one, it was by no means smooth on this occasion, but did not worry us in the least for I slept nearly all through the trip; my friends of the train also crossed over to Kingstown, and one of them accompanied me from Kingstown to Dublin, some thing like eight miles, on the way I was shown parts and places associated with

84  
Since the rebellion some  
seven or eight months be-  
fore, our section of railway  
lines was torn up and  
trains derailed and thrown  
across the street to cut off  
all traffic and transport  
from Kingstown; it was  
early morning when we arrived  
in Dublin about 7 am, and  
coming into Sackville St. hardly  
a person was to be seen,  
my friend took us to a  
very decent hotel "The Edinburgh",  
and after partaking of a  
very substantial breakfast,  
we strolled along <sup>ruined</sup>  
Sackville St, before the <sup>Since then</sup> war  
it was acknowledged to be one  
of the finest in the world, but

85  
now for some 200 yards,  
in the centre of the street,  
nothing but skeleton buildings  
and debris meets the eye, the  
outer walls of the G. P. O  
are still standing, and give  
one an idea of what a splen-  
did structure it once was,  
this and Liberty Hall were  
chosen as the main targets,  
and a gun boat lying opposite  
the Customs House in the Liffey  
bombed both these buildings,  
practically at point blank  
range, Liberty Hall is now in-  
deed L-shaped, great  
holes were torn all through  
it, I don't think it would  
provide shelter for a mouse  
let alone man.

86  
The afternoon I spent in tram rides through the town, and a walk through Phoenix Park, one of the finest in the world, owing to it being winter it was not looking its best, but I should say it would very lovely during the summer months, I also went through the Zoo, very fair but not to be compared with our Garden at Moss Park, a number of their most valuable animals have died, during the last year or two,

Arms with a letter of introduction, I visited some people at Kilmawham, a suburb of Dublin, they made

87  
me very welcome, truly Irish, and I felt at home at once, I spent three very pleasant evenings at their <sup>my new friends</sup> house and Mrs Fitzpatrick (~~the lady~~) invited us to an evening at the Opera, "Maritana" was then running, it was a first rate performance, and I enjoyed it immensely.

The City of Dublin is not large, and during my first days there, I saw practically all of it, I visited the spot where the Donnybrook Fair was held, ages ago now there is only remaining now the name, and I suppose that will last while Ireland is Ireland.

88  
College Green stands  
in the centre of the city, and  
the majority of Irishmen are  
waiting anxiously for the day  
when Parliament will be once  
more sitting there; Trinity College  
stands opposite, famous for  
the men it turns out, Doctors  
etc; a little way further up  
is the Museum, a splendid  
building containing a fine collection.  
I was surprised and in-  
terested to see a keg of Pet-  
rified butter found on the  
property of a certain Sir  
Kernahan of Donaghadee,  
whose Christian name was  
I don't know, but as he  
bore the same name as ~~myself~~ <sup>myself</sup>, it  
is possible he was my

89  
31<sup>st</sup> Great Grandfather.  
My stay in Dublin  
was very enjoyable, and  
would have been even more  
so, if I was in good health,  
but I had not nearly recov-  
ered from my recent illness,  
and my throat caused me  
a good deal of trouble, I thought  
it advisable to see a Dr. and  
interviewed a Dr. Dempsey of  
Merion Square, after using  
some of the medicines he  
prescribed I felt a good deal  
better, my cough was not  
nearly so persistent.

At last my trunk  
was up, but I was quite  
satisfied with my trip; I caught  
the Steamer at North Wall, this

90  
time travelling by a different route, slightly longer, but I was desirous of travelling both ways; arriving at Holy Head I was in ample time to catch the night mail to London, but I decided to remain at Holy Head for a few hours and then catch the morning train leaving about 7, thus doing the whole trip by daylight, after a fairly interesting run I arrived in London about 2pm, I had several hours to spare before my last train to Salisbury, but London was a very cheerless place to us just then, nothing but fog & rain, I walked from Fuston

21  
to Waterloo, and caught the 5 pm train back to Camp, arriving there about 11 pm, with the prospect of fire manoeuvres on the morrow, in snow or sleet. Christmas day fell shortly after my return from leave, in the early morning some slight snow fell, but apart from this and some very light showers of rain the day was by no means unpleasant; our lads altho' far from home decided on spending the day in the best way possible, caterers from neighbouring towns were engaged to supply a real Xmas dinner, and the boys were not disappointed.

92  
for an excellent dinner was provided, one could almost imagine oneself back in Aussie; I was more than pleased to receive two parcels from among very many very kind and thoughtful friends at home, I appreciated them very much indeed, more so as they arrived on the day they were intended to.

Preparations were now in full swing for an early move to France, the lads were delighted with the idea of at last getting away, everything went splendidly, and at 5 am on the morning of December 29<sup>th</sup> we moved off from 17 camp Larkhill,

93  
at Amersbury railway station, we entrained, this work was carried out in a remarkably short space of time, the arrangements for trucking the horses guns etc were perfect, and very soon the special trains were on their way, carrying the different brigades of Artillery belonging to the 3<sup>rd</sup> A.S.D.; a few hours later we arrived at Southampton, our ship for the horses was awaiting us, they were immediately placed on board, and a couple of hours later made the crossing to France; only a certain number of the boys went across in this boat, to look after the horses, the remainder, myself among them were marched along.

to another portion of the docks, past the largest British ship now afloat "The Olympic", she is a magnificent looking ship, her tonnage is somewhere around 48,000 tons, at the present time she is requisitioned for red cross work, but I understand she rarely leaves port, being too valuable to take the ordinary risks with; we went aboard our ship about 5 pm, we were crowded together a good deal, only a small boat and some 2,000 troops were stowed on board; we remained at Southampton that night, for some reason or other, we could not rightly find out; but the following evening about 5:30

we moved out, about the time we were leaving, I chose a little nook where I could partly lie down, and promptly went to sleep, when I woke up I found myself in Le Havre harbour, of the trip across the channel I have only the faintest idea what it was like, I woke up occasionally to find somebody scrambling over me in a hurried rush to the ship's side, the old sea sickness had them in ~~the~~ grip, but I was fortunate, it did not worry me in the least.

We left the ship about 9 am, it was a miserable morning, cold and wet,



46  
Our first view of France was very much the same as if we were in any of the English ports, plenty of merchant ships were in port and a few French Cruisers, these latter seemed to be out of date compared to our British cruisers, much higher out of the water, and presenting a much larger target.

We marched to the place where our horses were awaiting us, and after an hour or two getting our gear together we were off to the railway station, it took us a little over an hour to entrain the horses, and get all the guns, waggons

97  
etc on board. We were to start at noon, but did not get away till 2 pm. ~~All was very quiet, day,~~ our carriages consisted of horse trucks, a notice on the door stated they would accommodate 8 Chevaux (Horses) or 10 Hommes (men), it was certainly not travelling "train de Luxe", but still we managed ourselves fairly comfortably altogether there was 27 men in our trucks, and by this time we were pretty accustomed to roughing it, and we made the best of the trip, it was a very monotonous journey, train, travelling at a snail's pace

all the way, we had very little food to eat, our loaf of bread between 8 men and a tin of bully beef to 5 men <sup>per day</sup>, this was our rations for 3 days, once or twice our cook managed to make us a daisy of tea, luckily however we managed to buy sardines and other eatables at different points of the journey. So we managed to peg along alright, we travelled right through the night, and new years day found us still on our way, many joking remarks were passed by the boys as to how other previous New Years days

were spent, it was certainly by a novel way to spend this day, travelling in a cattle truck through France, we wondered what the next year would bring us, and if it would be our fortune to be back in Aussey again before that day next year, the future was <sup>very</sup> uncertain to us just then.

All along the route french peasants begged for bully beef, biscuits etc, but nowhere were we offered anything. <sup>few</sup> many came offering to sell us coffee, 4<sup>00</sup> per pound cup, and extortionate prices