



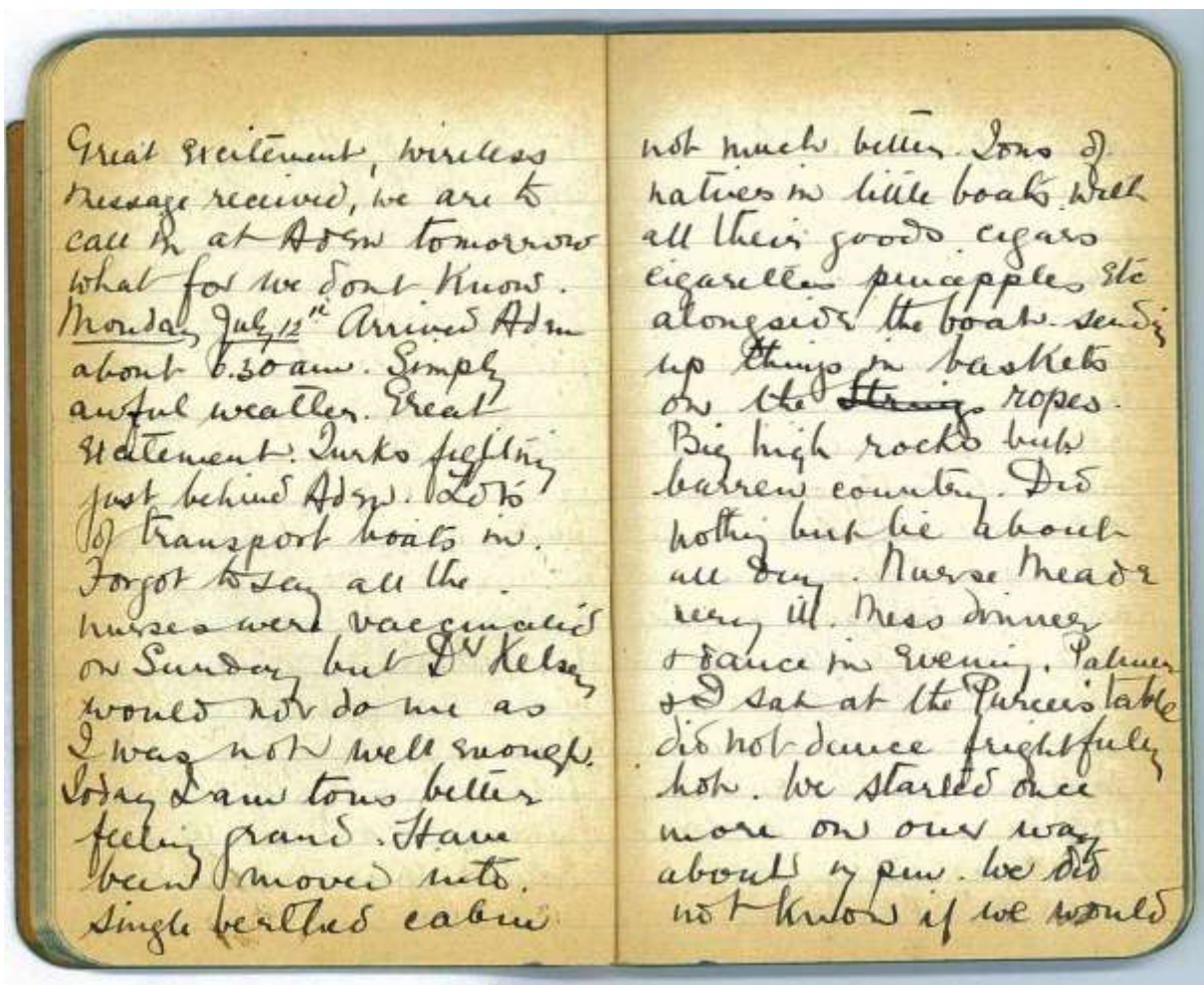
PRG 621/21/1-2 Two diaries kept by Irene Bonnin while overseas as a nurse in World War I. They were written while on the troop ship S.S. *Wandilla* and in Cairo, 1915-1918. Volume 1 covers 12 June to 27 November 1915. Volume 2 covers 28 November 1915 to 10 December 1916, then single entries for 14 March 1917, 4 August 1917 and 13 January 1918, and starts on page 19. Transcribed by Ernest Roe, Volunteer at the State Library of South Australia, 2014.

PRG 621/21/1

[Inside cover]

Diary of my Experiences as an Army Nurse
S.S. *Wandilla*
Troopship A.62
I Bonnin
1915

[at bottom of page upside down is the word balloon]



Sample page from diary 1 dated Monday 12 July 1915



Sat. June 12th My last day at home –Nat [?] came to lunch—Busy finishing up things. Tom came after lunch & helped. Percy came at 3.15 in Professor Mitchell's motor & took Nat Con & me also luggage to station. Ever so many friends to see us off among whom were N.A. nurses, M^{rs} Schomburgh, Molly Moncrieff, Millie Staynes, Ethel Butler & Ach. & M^{rs} Bussell & many others. Ever so many flowers, sweets & cakes also books. Dear old Nat & Con were so good—could not see them as the train left, made me feel horrid. Had sleeper with Palmer, had a fairly good night. Lieut. Stanton came & talked to us a little. Did not have dinner at Murray Bridge but had tea & dear Nat's lovely sandwiches

Sunday June 18th Had breakfast on dining car & paid 3/- for practically nothing, too rocky to eat! Saw \Dr/ Edgar Brown on train. Arrived at Melbourne about 10 am. Nurses Graham & Spriggins met us at station. No arrangements made for us & nobody to meet us. Felt most dejected!! Fixed up about leaving luggage, rang up club for rooms then took cab Graham, Giles, Smith Palmer & I—the others Spriggins, & the two Shepherds went off with friends. Very comfortable rooms at Club. The only welcome we had was a jolly little dog that barked round the cab as we drove up Bourke Street. Went to 11 o'clock church at S Peters M^r Cheong preached. Back to Club to dinner. After dinner went with others to M^t S^t Evans Hospital. Sisters awfully nice—had aft. tea there Walked home through treasury gardens. I went to 7 o'clock church Canon Hughes introduced me to Nurse Thompson & Nurse Purcell, both members of S.Barnabas Guild & both going with us on Wandilla. They were formerly dismissed at Evensong. Spoke to Nurse Lawrence who was awfully nice & asked me to go to breakfast with her tomorrow after early church. Home to bed.

Monday 14th Went to early church then to breakfast with Miss Lawrence. Met the others at S.Pauls Cathedral at 10 a.m. & we all went to Military Headquarters to report ourselves. Nobody seemed to expect us or know anything about us. Spent the whole morning bundling from one office to another trying to find out something definite. At last found out that we should be allowed 3/- a day to keep ourselves & that the Wandilla would not sail till Thursday!! In afternoon went out to Miss Lawrence's friend. Church in evening I think.

Tuesday 15th Church a.m. Went to see D^r Lawrence in morning. Washed out few things. Went to see Mary Delprat for a little while Then met Nurse Land. At 5 p.m. went to Melbourne Mansions to see M^{rs} K. & Jean at D^r's invitation. D^r was there—all very nice. Church in evening. Forgot to say I gave myself the great treat of telephoning to Nat! cost 2/4 for 3 minutes! Loved it.

Wednesday 16th Saw about luggage going down to Port in morning. Most disappointing—after going all the way down, no Wandilla in sight! At least only just coming in. Went back to town, had lunch with Mary Delprat at Wattle Tea Rooms, lovely. Then went home to Club & wrote letters. Met Mary again at about 4 p.m. & then went with her to tea at Linden. All there awfully nice—wanted me to stay the night but did not. Went with Mary in handsome & caught car at Chapple S^t. While at Linden had a talk with Nat & Con on telephone & said Goodbye.



Thursday 17th Busy fixing up things in the morning shopping etc. Had early lunch at 12 & Miss Luck gave each of us a sweet bunch of violets called at G.P.O. on the way down & sent a telegram home & called for letters Had lovely pile—heard of Bertie Stokes death in M^{rs} Bussell's. Graham, Stevenson Giles Smith Palmer & I all drove down to boat jetty there about 1 pm. Were the first nurses to board. Watched troops march on, most impressive sight. Fixed up cabins & arranged that Palmer Smith & I are all together in a 4 berth cabin, & all the other girls are down near us. Wonderful sendoff at 4 pm. All the Japs on the two Jap. training boats (which are said to be ones which were Russian & had been sunk by Japs & raised & fitted for use again) lined up & cheered & cheered & waved their caps. Then just as we were sailing the barriers at the end of the pier were taken down & all the friends & relations rushed down to see the last of their boys. Two of the S.B.G. girls came down & threw up ribbons one of which I caught. Lovely dinner then so rough going through the heads. One terrible wave at the Rip frightened the life out of me. One boy got drenched & wet about a bit on his head

Friday 18th Pretty rough—Felt horribly ill, up on deck part of day.

Saturday 19th Much the same as yesterday. Still feel wretched.

Sunday 20th Did not get up till late. Heard Church Parade & wished I could have been there.

Monday 21st Much the same Still sick, having meals if any, on deck. Nobody very interesting on board. Capt. Kelsey is P.K.O. & Capt Bennet is his Adjutant. Several other Doctors Griffith, Steele, Wall, Sinclair, Huckle, Duty Officers, Doctors, Ship's Capt & officers & nurses in saloon for meals. All the nurses seem nice girls. Specially Misses Thompson & Wilson

Tuesday 22nd Looking forward immensely to getting to Fremantle tomorrow. Feeling a bit better. Taking Atropine 1/100 most effective !

Wednesday 23rd Arrived at Fremantle about midday—feeling splendid enjoyed meals. Nice & calm for once. We did not get ashore till after tea as they could not get a gangway down because of the coalers there was a rope ladder which which the men got down & also two of the nurses. Poor girls, they did get it for doing it too ! D^r Bennet is away. After dinner we went ashore in a launch we are anchored out midstream, I suppose in case of the men deserting Dont think much of Fremantle only went to G.P.O. & sent lettergram home. & had a cool drink at some refreshments rooms. Then home to Wandilla or as she is no A. 62, to bed.

Thursday 24th Coaling all night. Went ashore \ Walker & Burke stayed on board because of Paddy !! / early & caught train to Perth. & sent wires etc. went to Cathedral also Roman did little shopping & had lunch in town & caught 4 o'clock train home. We only had shore passes till 5 pm. Walker & Bourke the two who got down the rope ladder were not allowed off !! Saw Davenport & Woodley in town. (Woodley was left in Melbourne but caught us up by the Zealandia). Music in evening. M^r Haslam a ~~Me~~ Tasmanian plays & sings awfully well.



The Major Lazarus gave comical bits. Forgot to say ever so many of our men took the ships boats & cleared off. M^r Haslam had an awful night trying to get them—We bought fruit for the boys & sent it down to the S.A. boys from SA. Nurses.

Friday 25th Went to Fremantle for little time in morning & sent farewell wire home. Sailed about 4 pm. amid great blowing of whistles etc. & cheering. The Karoola was in port too with many troops & nurses & left soon after we did. About 200 troops boarded us here. Really it is amazing where all the men are put. I think, all told there are about 1500 on board !! As soon as we got out it began to be rough.

Saturday. Very rough. Pitched a great deal. Waves came right over bows & the spray over decks. Wonderful sight. The Karoola quite near us & jumping about terribly. Never seen such a sea.

Sunday 27th Much calmer Were allowed upon boat deck in morning. Seemed like hens left out of coop for a run !! Felt fairly well—much better this time, since leaving Fremantle—must be Atropine ! Did nothing special little music in evening. Mustn't forget to mention that on one of the rough days the gramophone did a leap while playing clean off the table under the piano & Nurse Spriggins slid right off her chair. Of course we had the fiddlers on the tables, I don't think I have missed going down to the Saloon for meals since leaving Fremantle ! Very good eh ? Church Parade in aft.

Monday 28th Beautifully calm & fine—thoroughly enjoyed it. In the morning we were all innoculated—arm very sore during afternoon & evening. Music in evening.

Tuesday 29th Lovely day Not feeling grand. Impromptu dance

Wednesday 30th Beautiful day. Enjoyed dance though utterly ignored by the male sex as were most of the S As. Concert on boat deck in evening given by officers & men. Great fun. Bit of rumpus because the poor dear Chaplin took some of the girls (of course nearly all S.As) up before they had had an official order ! M^r Haslam sang & also the Adjutant. In the afternoon we had a Committee meeting or as we call them a party conducted by His Highness D^r Bennet with a few instructions Afterwards we had our first instructions in Boat Drill which consisted in us tearing into the smoke room as soon as the siren blew & forming into two divisions according to the boats we were to go in in case of fire. All of the S.A. nurses & Tasmanian & some Victorian are in A² There are armed guards at each door ready to shoot us if we attempt to move or cause a panic—most exciting.

Thursday July 1st

Very rolly. Felt a bit off in the morning. Dance given by officers in evening, great fun. Dear little programmes for each of us with pictures of Wandilla on outside. Men had to pick for partners, had to find mate to name on their card 1.2. Whiskey hunted for Soda Weary Willy—Sprightly Jane—etc. There were a good many blank cards to be drawn by the nurses as there were many more nurses than men. I drew 4 blanks then Thread & Needle who was



Capt Steele had gone to bed ! Then I was Doris & Doch who was Lieut. Scobie & I had the Lancers— He is a splendid dancer but a bit of an idiot ! Lovely supper in Smoke room, ice creams sandwiches, claret cup & cool drinks. I enjoyed it ever so much though not exactly rushed !!! by either sex !!

Friday July 2nd

Nothing particular Lecture to officers & nurses in evening on Esprit de Corps, very interesting Dr Bennet made a few remarks rather pointed—Good morning Sir etc.

Saturday July 3rd

A bit rolly, did not feel very grand. Several heavy showers during day. Beginning to get hot. Put on cooler things. The Major has allowed us to wear private (civilian clothes during Day, but we wear full uniform for evening dinner. Boys play while at dinner

Sunday July 4th Had our 2nd dose of anti enteric serum in afternoon. Allowed on boat deck all day. Felt off colour most of day, much worse in evening temp. 100⁸ horrid head. Went to bed early. Church parade in afternoon. All waited for toast to be drunk at dinner. Boys play orchestra on landing every night, Woodley amongst them, holds music.

Monday. Felt wretched nearly all day, did not get up till late. Very hot & sultry. Buriel on Karoola in afternoon awfully sad. Lay about on deck most of day –

Tuesday 6th Felt much better. Still sultry but nice breeze—Impromptu dance in music room in evening. I had one with M^r Stephenson & one with Palmer. Very hot. ~~Funeral~~ Played in ships competition deck games.

Wednesday 7th Meeting in drawing room after breakfast as usual. Capt. Bennett gave a few remarks ! Did not play many games, too hot. S.A. Army Med. Boys sent us up a lovely case of cool drinks & sweets awfully good of them. Nothing else of particular note. D ? Sinclair read my palm in evening. I am vacillating weak willed, dependent etc. Very true.

Thursday July 8th Still have a horrid cough, had it since day of officers dance. Have seen D^r Kelsey, who said it was a stomach cough & ordered calomel & Col & Hyos. which proved a bit too much & made me sick this morning. This aftn. saw D^r Sinclair very nice, will give me something for it if it does not get better. Beautifully cool all day. We crossed the line last night. Threw some of the chocolates down on some of the troops who were having a concert. In evening had a great fright. All summoned into the drawing room & Capt Kelsey & Capt. Bennett & Major came in the latter in a furious temper burst out at us saying a bomb had fallen in the midst of us & not before it was time !! Then Capt. Kelsey stopped him & they said a few words & then Major went out & Capt. Kelsey explained that something had been thought to have/ occurred which he need not go into details about but I think it is all right now. I was frightened out of my wits. The officers were called up too –



Friday July 9th Beautifully cool, almost cold. Still coughing a good bit. In afternoon went up to troops sports. In evening Neptune & his people had a procession round the deck & were afterwards received by Captain. Afterwards there was a concert given by the "Lucky 13th" souvenirs were given round & lovely refreshments provided

Saturday July 10th Still coughing & sneezing. D^r Kelsey told me to stay inside. In afternoon great goings on with Father Neptune. I tried to take a photograph but am afraid it will not be much good. The Major played & sang to Palmer & me afterwards. In the evening M^r Marconi put records on the gramophone for me. All the others went to a concert given by some of the troops on the boat deck.

Sunday July 11th Celebration in Music Room at 7.30 am. only a few nurses but about a dozen or more privates, nice boys. A simply boiling day. I felt terribly off colour sneezed continually all day. No church parade. Up on boat deck in evening Great excitement, wireless message received, we are to call in at Aden tomorrow what for we dont know.

Monday July 12th Arrived Aden about 6.30 am. Simply awful weather. Great excitement. Turks fighting just behind Aden. Lots of transport boats in. Forgot to say all the nurses were vaccinated on Sunday but D^r Kelsey would not do me as I was not well enough. Today I am tons better feeling grand. Have been moved into single berthed cabin not much better. Tons of natives in little boats with all their goods cigars cigarettes pineapples etc alongside the boat, sending up things in baskets on the ~~strings~~ropes.

Big high rocks but barren country. Did nothing but lie about all day. Nurse Meade very ill. Mess dinner & dance in evening. Palmer & I sat at the Purcer's table did not dance frightfully hot. We started once more on our way about 7 pm. We did not know if we would but barren country. Did nothing but lie about all day. Nurse Meade very ill. Mess dinner & dance in evening. Palmer & I sat at the Purcer's table did not dance frightfully hot. We started once more on our way about 7 pm. We did not know if we would have to land here but were thankful when we moved off again.

Tuesday 13th Oh what a night !! & what a day !! Going through the red sea, just like glass. High rocky country. M^cCarthy, one of the troops generally known as Scottie & took prominent part in Saturdays performances, frightfully ill all day with sunstroke, died in evening, buried at 9 pm. most solemn Poor fellow, such a gloom over everything. He had said that we must \ From tonight we are allowed to wear white dresses without caps etc for dinner/ not be behind the Karoola & must have a funeral before we land.

Wednesday 14th Another brute of a day. Gave tea to Matron in afternoon. M^r Grounds, M^r Stephenson, M^r Burton & Cap^t. Steele at our table Band played. Sang "For she's a jolly good fellow" Had ice creams etc. Most of us were feeling horribly sick after dinner but bucked up after tea. We have a deck orderly now to run & get things for us. Nurse Meade still very sick. Three cases of sunstroke taken to Hospital. Had a talk with Arthur Davenport who is on duty



in Hospital. In evening had talk with 3rd Mate who is an awfully nice chap M^r Fletcher, went with Mawson on his expedition knew Cecil & spoke very highly of him.

Thursday 15th Much cooler cross Tropic of Cancer today & so will be out of tropics. We are supposed to arrive at Suez & will probably land there & go overland to Heliopolis but so far nobody really knows anything we may go to Malta or even Marseilles— We'll know soon enough I suppose. Any how we cant go much longer on the boat as things are, water getting most horrible, no cool drinks left, no lemons. It will be simply grand to get a drink of good water again.

Friday 16th Beautifully cool. Lovely breeze. Matron had lovely letter from Major showing appreciation of her & her staff. Made copy—Land quite close. Probably land tomorrow. How I hope Palm & I go together—Last night—Bennett said to Nurse Meade that some of the nurses had the manners of 3rd rate housemaids ! Kind of him eh ? He also said once that he would rather look after a troop of horses than the nurses !! We were allowed to stay up till 11 oclock

Saturday July 17th We arrived a Suez during the early hours of the morning. Very hot. Lots of boats, big * small. Sea a glorious colour High barren hills on one side, town on other Quaint square flat roofed houses. Put into dock about 10 a.m. station just alongside—Tons of natives squatting on ground with long flowing robes. Strange policemen some with long robes others in white suits with scarlet on them—they carried little canes with which they spanked the natives at intervals—it was funny to see them scoot but as soon as he passed on they would go on just as before. The uncertainty of our disembarkation was most trying, first any time then 8 oclock on Sunday morning then 4, 12.30, 2 30 & ended up with 4. Two trains went before ours with troops & some doctors It was so sad seeing them go. All our luggage went too. Then off we went A.M.C. boys doctors, nurses & I think troops. The ship's officers came down to see ~~me~~ us off. A lady made us tea befor leaving & we also had some water. Sorry after that I had, wondered if mugs were clean & water good Hope so, never mind done now. I took two photographs of Suez as we went in. Oh the train so quaint—our carriage fearfully narrow, only room comfortably for one each side, very large windows. Passage down middle of car & little carriage opposite Palm & I together & Giles & Graham opposite. Long journey did not get to Ciara till about 10.30 p.m. Strange country, most interesting. flat desert country, canal in distance occassional ships. Small canal \said to have been made in Pharohs time/ running alongside train with beautiful green growth, tall palms rushes, solitary occassional villages, native children running out for “backsheesh” Armed native soldiers patrolling desert. Once three apparent Europeans soldiers waved their helmets to us right out in that lonely country, it was a strange sight. About half way we stopped for about ten minutes at a station & how I wished I had had another film in my camera but I hadn't

The sun was just down or going, & the natives in their quaint varied coloured dresses right to the ground swarmed the side of the train selling pie mellons it was like an eastern market. Such a weird feeling, right in that strange land. About 3 hrs before reaching Cairo we passed



through a most grand town Zadezing or something, one beautiful building all lighted up lights hanging over the doorways, clusters of natives

Sitting under verandahs etc. Lovely station, garden etc. ~~About 3 hrs from Ciaro.~~ At last about 10 p.m. we arrived at Ciaro. Electric cars motors, etc. beautiful large white buildings flat roofed etc. Did not go into Ciaro, stopped outside about ½ hour & then went backwards imagine our dismay !! Got out at some station met by officials & bundled into ambulance wagons & taken to Heliopolis Most magnificent. about 700 rooms fairly slack expecting rush. any time ! Lovely Supper waiting, natives in white robes & red bands & fezzes waited on us. Did not get to sleep –till about 2 am. Palm & I together bath room etc leading off our room & also another room with Giles Graham, Spriggins & Stephenson. Lovely beds etc. –

Sunday 18th Woke very early 5 a.m. & mouched round, watched men round rotunda. Breakfast in full uniform at 8 a.m. Lounge after R.C's went to mass at church at 9.30. There was mass in lounge at 6 but did not know in time to go. Heat great. Seven or eight \our/ nurses on duty—Palm & I went for little walk in evening were making beds for Karoola girls all the afternoon frightfully tired. Tried to send cable but too late. Wrote long letter home. Saw Cockburn in evening. Very depressed & cross in evening.

Monday 19th Still horribly depressed, worst & most unhappy day since I left home. Oh how I longed for Nat & home—Hardly spoke to Palm all day—She & Graham get Spriggins out all day, others on duty. I got dressed to go out in afternoon but no one to go with so undressed again. Found S.Hobler & had talk with her, very nice. She Palm & I went for stroll in evening. Heard from Dowell that we are off to Europe tomorrow but Nothing official is heard yet. Hope we dont go yet awhile. Oh why ever did I come out here, I dont know. Feel sure Palm doesn't really care two straws for me more than any of the others—never mind what matter—Have feeling I shall never see home again wish I could fly away home, but I can't be done. Think I shall desert

Tuesday \20th/ Still pippy—Went into Ciaro with Thompson & had my hair shampooed at Shepperd's Hotel—Lovely. Longed to spend more time in Ciaro, most fascinating. The Electric trams are like little trains in the way that they have little stations, & gaurds with flags—Thompson had to be back at the Palace at 12 so we did not have time to by anything—Perhaps I shall go in tomorrow In the afternoon Miss Bell the General Matron of the Egyptian Hospitals had us in the mess room & took all our names & next of Kin, age etc. All our paybooks were gathered up & handed up in the morning. In the evening—Palm, Graham & I went for a walk down the street in front of Palace & bought some postcards & then went on to the piazza at the Hotel opposite & had cool drinks & watched pictures. Did not go to bed till after 11. Graham has a chance of going back to Australia on a transport—I wonder if she will take it !

Wednesday \21st/ Still blazing hot—Neither Palm nor I are on duty yet. How I wonder what is in store for us ! One day in \out/ ~~Saw Prof~~ Went with Sister Hobler & Palm & some others to Zoo at Gizierah Hippopotamus very clever. Had cool drinks Lovely car ride along banks of



Nile. House boats etc most interesting. Got back in time for 2nd dinner. Sat on Hotel Piazza I think in evening. Wrote to Prof.

Thursday 22nd Saw Prof with Palm in Sister Mielson's Ward. Had long talk. Is going to take us/ out tomorrow. Walked out in street in evening.

Friday 23rd Prof., Col. Springthorp, Cap. Sinclair Graham, Giles, Palm & I went in Red Cross wagon to Gizierah Palace (Hospital) lovely drive. Saw Wards & some nurses—Then car into Ciaro & dinner at Continental Hotel & home. Were going back to concert at Gizierah but too late finishing dinner. Generals etc bristling everywhere at dinner !

Friday 24th \Saturday/ Day in. Did not do anything –

Sunday July 25th In morning went to Church at 6 a.m. in No 16. Only a few nurses & orderlies. The Priest tall fair don't know his name, knows M^r Moyses. No lights etc. In afternoon Frank Ringwood & Matt Woodley came. Went for walk & then sat on Hotel Piazza & had ice creams & cool drinks. I shouted—Felt as though I oughtn't to go being Sunday but there is absolutely nowhere else to go to see your friends so what are we to do. In the evening at 6. pm Hobler, Kerr, Smith Palmer & I & also a Sister Field took our tea & went in a motor ambulance & to Pyramids. It was simply lovely. We drove through the city of the dead, old Ciaro near the citadel, along the beautiful Pyramid on Mena Road next \ pasted/ to Mena Camp & Mena House right to the Pyramids. Oh it was glorious. We stopped & had our tea & then our driver took us right round the Pyramids & the Sphinx where we had our fortunes told by Dizzy Limit, sitting on the sand in the moonlight at the foot of the Sphinx. It was wonderful. Then we rode back to our motor on camels—Palm & I on one—oh it was killing fun, I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. We left about 9.30 & had a beautiful drive home, right round Gizierah Island & through Gizeh Gardens & got home at 10.20. I had not enjoyed anything so much since I left home—Matt had wanted me to go to church with him but as I had promised Hobler to go we thought I ought not to disappoint her. Next Sunday if we are still here & are off duty we'll go.

Monday 26th Palm & the others on emergency duty & I off so went by myself into Ciaro & bought 2 veils & hat saw two nurses from here & all came home together in ambulance. Took films to be developed. In evening went out with Frank Ringwood. For drive in Garry (?) Man argued & chased us for money—we had given him 10 piastres & had only been driving just an hour. Two soldiers saved the situation by jumping in the garry & pretending to drive off—Of course the man left us to get his garry !! Afterwards Frank Palm & I went for lovely walk.

Tuesday 27th Most of us put on Sewing Duty—Treyand & I sewed together in No 8. Ward all the morning, mending pyjamas & making T bandages. Two trains arrived one about 4.45 & other about 10 pm. Most of them were convalescent & were transferred to Luna Palm & I went into tow in aft: Palm bought pretty dress, stockings gloves, I bought pair of white shoes & called for photographs, some very good others no good. In evening went over to Hotel with Frank Ringwood & then for a walk with him –



Wednesday I was on emergency duty all day. Palm & Frank went into town in afternoon & went to Intermediate Base. Palm did not go out in evening.

Thursday 29th Sewed all the morning. In aft: went to town with Treyand in evening went for Garry ride with Palm Frank & Merring [?]

Friday 30th Sewed all the morning—In afternoon went with Frank Ringwood into Ciaro. Icecream at Groppi [?] then to Intermediate Base to find out about Glen Morphett. Sat. in gardens near Shepherds then home. Palm couldn't come was on Emergency duty & then relieved Sprig: as orderly sister. In evening Frank took me for a walk. All our A.M.C. boys went yesterday, at least about 70 of them. Matt & Arthur are in 4 Field Ambulance.

Saturday 31st Sewed all the morning In afternoon Palm, Hobler Row & I went to Mary's Wall & Tree & also church there. Then on to Obelisk. In evening got 7 home letters simply lovely—3 from Nat, 2 Con, Dwyer & Cornelius In evening Frank & Palm & me for walk—leaves for front tomorrow at 9.A.M. But he is awfully glad.

Sunday August 1st Church at 6 a.m. On Emergency duty so did nothing all day

Monday August 2nd Very hot stayed in all day. Sport's Club being opened—Sister Conyers matron some nurses went over today Walker & others more to go later. In evening Palm, Graham & I went & sat on Piazza to get a breath of fresh air –

Tuesday 3rd Palm on duty in wards 10 & 11, Graham in 6 me—nowhere as yet. cooler today. Relieved 9 orderly Sister in aft. saw Parriesh Luxmoore

Wednesday 4th

On Emergency duty as yesterday Last evening Palm & I went for motor drive with the matron & O.C. right out to the desert. Were told to "halt !" Hands up Who goes there !" etc I was frightened out of my wits !! We were asked for our passports but as we had none we had to turn back. The men from the camp were bivouacing that's what it was all about. This evening Giles & Spriggins went. We stayed home as were on Emergency. I forgot to say that last night Palm & I went over for an ice cream to the Hotel after our ride & coming home at 20 past ten, had our names taken by the guard, nothing came of it—we were entitled to be out til 11 oclock with our passes.

Thursday Aug 5th

A year today since war began ! Palm & Graham & I went to town & shopped I got darning cotton, tea towels, gloves & several little things. In the evening we went across to the Piazza. Major Lazarus & M^r Kruchledorff (?) came up & spoke to us & then who should I see but Fred Geyer !! Major went & asked him if his name was Geyer & when we found it was up I went & had a talk. He had been here five weeks & is a Major in 13th L.H. Said something about going up the Nile & also taking me to the theatre. Knows Topsy Tyson, S. Field & S. Garden I wonder how ?!



Friday Aug 6th

Nothing particular as far as I can remember

Saturday Aug 7th about 10 o'clock told to go duty in 10 & 11 where Palmer is working it is on the top of the rotunda & is a surgical ward. I loved it but felt horrible the first day. Palm & I were sent off together in the aftn. & we went with Miss Wilson & Tyson to the Gymkana at the camp to which we had all been invited—saw D^r Burston playing polo in shorts !! Killing sight ! Ice creams etc: most exciting drive home in Gary (?) man drove at a furious rate. Saw Bruce in evening

Sunday Aug. 8th

Over slept & so could not go to church. Long day on & very tired. Bruce came up to ward to see us.

Monday Aug 9th

Short day. Lay down all the afternoon—went with girls to watch pictures I think –

Tuesday Aug 10th Long day. A good many trains came in got lot of new patients in our ward—No news.

Wednesday 11th Short day pretty tired, busy morning.

Thursday 12th Long day. No news.

Friday 13th

Short day. Don't think I did anything. Heard private sing at Hotel in evening lovely voice.

Saturday 14th

Long day—no news that I can remember

Sunday 15th Church 6.am. New priest, don't care for him much ["August" at top of page]

M^r Bruce & M^r Graham took us to Ghezireh saw Dwyer & Gillick. Tea at Groppi's

Monday 16th

Long day on. Very tired, bed early. No news. Booth came up to see us.

Tuesday 17th Letter from Nat—lovely to get it.

[*Following entries in pencil*]

Wednesday 18th Short day—Nothing Special Doing –

Thursday 19th

On duty all day in No 3. Awfully Busy terrible cases.



Friday 20th Off duty. Went into town in aft with Nagel & 7 others. Shopped & had ice at Gropis

Saturday 21st On Emergency duty so stayed in—Washed, mended, tidied etc. Got two lovely letters from Con dated 14th

Sunday 22nd Still off duty Not on Emergency today. Church at 6 a.m. new priest candles—very nice S Walsh went with me into Ciaro to 9.30 Matins—very few there. She is a Karoola girl & at present is in great trouble as the man she is engaged to has been killed. Yesterday I got such a lovely lot of papers from home 2 Observers, 2 Faulding's Journals & 2 A.J.N.A Journals, also a letter from S. Basham. I am terribly sorry to have left No 11 ward I was so happy there but S. Quarcher [?] came up so I was shot out—Poor M^r Bruce is in again Came in on Friday, kicked by one of the horses—getting on all right –

[Back to ink]

Monday 23rd On Emergency duty & sent over about 10 a.m. to Sports Club to special Mathers & M^cGuinness cases two very bad surgical cases who have been in since April. Fractured femurs & bedsors galore. Am in Section 1 Surgical Ward with S. Hobler. There are lots of my old boys from No 11 Ward wick is jolly. Awfully nice but hot & lots of flies. Miss Conyers is in charge. M—Captain Carden our medical man We mess on the verandah There are two large wards Med. & Surg. Holding 360 (about) each & ever so many pavilions with 50 each & then tents for the very convalescent. Worked all day. Very hot & tired.

Tuesday 24. On all day. Very hot.

Wednesday. 25. Afternoon off—Went back about 5.pm & fixed up the boys. Palmer came down & went home with me

Thursday 26 Dear Nats birthday. On all day. Terribly hot & dusty Flies awful. Nearly sent me mad. Dwyer & Gillick came down with Prof. saw them for a minute. Soldier presented me with bunch of roses at the gate coming home.

Friday 27 Aft off.

August

28—31 Nothing that I can remember

September

1—3 Nil

Friday 3rd Palm & Graham left.

Sat. 4th Palm's boat left.

Sunday 5th Nil. Church as usual.



Monday 6th Nil.

Tuesday 7th As Usual Sleep—eat—work –

Wednesday 8th Nothing I think I went with Steph & Nagel to Mary's Well.

Thursday 9th Nothing Special

Friday 10th Stephenson & I went into Ciaro. S. bought camera.

Sep. 11th As usual. On all day.

Sep 12th My birthday. Church at 6.45 am & 8 pm at Sports Club. Otherwise nothing.

Sep. 13th Nothing particular

Sep. 14th Went with Stephenson to Mousky in aft. Bought little brooch. Letter for E.A.F. (?)

Sep 15th On all day. Cold horrid. Bed early. Out in orders "Uniform to be worn on all occasions

Sept 16th Nothing special. Aft. off. spent home nasty cold. Smith left on transport for Australia

Sep 17th Friday. On all day Nothing exciting. Letter from Fred Geyer.

Sep 18th Sat. Off in aft. Went to town with Sister Butler. Got Photographs.

Sunday 19th Church 6.45 am. Nothing special. New Sisters arrived somewhere about this.

Monday 20th Off in aft. did not get off till 3.30 waiting for Colonel Stodham (?) !! Wild. Sisters left am for Eng.

Tuesday 21 On all day Very busy. Letter from Mother Michael. Saw M\ajor [*Suporax?*]

Wednesday 22nd Off duty in aft. nothing special. Papers from Emmie.

Thursday. Nothing –

Friday Two lovely letters from Emmie dated end of August & Sep. 6th. also P.C. from M^s Scriven.

Saturday 25th On all day Mathers seemed a good deal worse.



Sunday 26th. Ch. at 6.45 Arch. Collick spoke to me knew Bil in W.A. quite well & thinks he is some relation of ours !!

Monday On all day Nothing special.

Tuesday. Went into town with Murray in aft. & bought my helmet had aftn. tea at Groppis with Thistlewaite. Mathers died in the morning. Went to dinner at Heliopolis Palace with Fred Geyer & into Ciaro for a drive afterwards.

Wednesday. On all day nothing special.

Thursday Whole afternoon & evening off !!! First one for nearly six weeks ! Took some photographs of Sports Club with Hobler & then rode with her in an ambulance wagon into Cairo took tram to Shezیره & then garry to gardens Simply lovely, enjoyed it all immensely. Took photographs. Home to 7 p.m. dinner & then back to palace. Was going for donkey ride with Murray but she could not go. Had letter from Con

Friday \1st/ on all day. Am Specially Still (amputation as well as M^cGuinness)

Saturday \1st/ In afternoon went to Pyramids with Hobler & Walker had lovely time rode camels & took photographs all the overflow of the Nile

Sunday \3rd/ Day on Church as usual.

Monday 4rd Went to Town with Stephenson I think & bought my watch & black bag.

Tuesday 5th On all day—Into town with Murray—photo frame. [*This entry moved with an arrow to Wednesday 6th*]

Wednesday 6th. ~~Aft. of ba~~ Aft. off

Thursday Changed days & had this aft. off instead of next Sunday. Went with Dalrymple & Butler to Mouski. Am having whole day off tomorrow we are all having one in turns. Went out & got oranges for breakfast

Friday Whole day off. Stayed in bed—Butler brought me in morning tea. She is also off. Had breakfast at about 9.30. Tongues, Tomatoe Ketchup, bread & butter tea jam. (with Butler). Loafed about during morning printing photographs & fixing photo: book also repacking trunk Lunched with Butler I went out & got some lime juice & plain biscuits also some jam. In afternoon Graham who is also off, & I went to Cairo, had aft. tea at Groppis & then went to Shezیره & took a Gharry for 1 hr. Lovely enjoyed it muchly. Came home & got lovely lot of letters—some of the July ones addressed to No 3 A.G.H.



Saturday 9th On all day. Told by Matron that I had to go back to the Palace for duty. So disappointed

Sunday 10th Went to the Sports for 6.45 Church then back & reported to Matron at 9 a.m. Told I could have day off & go on tomorrow Went into Cairo to church. Boy in car drove me in come from S.A. & knew all those I did. Got in at 10, Church began at 11. So called for films –Then church. Flew home had dinner went to pyramids with Stephenson Bonnilly & 3 others jolly nice. Just got into Cairo in time for Church. Good congregation lots of soldiers Home at last & bed . !!

Monday 11th

On duty in Ward 16 !! Medical 48 enterics !! Off in afternoon & went & had hair shampooed at Weinrich lovely treat –

Tuesday 12th Long day. Off for several hours in the morning—Went to Sports to say goodbye to M^cGuinness who went to Citadel Hospital today. Wrote.

Wednesday Off in aft. Wrote home to Marjorie went out to P.O. as too late for mail here. Bought biscuits. Came home. Left shoes to be soled. Listened to concert darned. Bath & bed not feeling very grand headache –

Thursday Long day. Nothing exciting

Friday Aft. off went to town with S. Green in ambulance Tea at Groppi's

Saturday Long day on Nothing special. \Saw dad Hamilton [?] one of these aft days./

Sunday Church 6 am. off wrote letters. Ch. in Cairo in evening

Monday \18/ Long day. Off in morning printed photographs. Off to Y. dinner

Tuesday 19th Dear Con's birthday yesterday. How I wished I could have been with her. A huge swarm of locusts swept over the hospital in early afternoon just as I came up from dinner, Such huge things quite like young birds. The niggers went about the trees beating tins & making a great din to frighten them away.

Wed. On all day. Off in morning for short time

Thursday Off in aft. Lay down & read all day. Was going for motor drive but fell through

Friday Long day

Saturday Went for drive in R + car with 6 boys. Tea at Gher. Sp. Club Into town after Mess meeting [?] in aft.



Sunday Church 6 am. Long day on. Lovely letters Nat Con Miss Hussey, Mother Michael, Scott John Gunson. Poor Nat worried over my health. I think I must cable.

Monday 25th. Off in aft. Went to Sporting Club saw Booker. Also Butler took her photograph in avenue at back of shack—she took mine—Nothing else particular. Had talk to Miss Conyers about mess etc especially 9^d a day business.

Tuesday On all day—Nothing special happened.

Wednesday In aft. went out with S.Good. bought picture in Cairo. Went for car ride into native quarters by Nile—we were looking for the Museum which is in town !! Had aft tea In evening went across & had ice cream –

Thursday Off in morning—Lovely lot of home letters Nat Con M^{rs} Gunson Nurse Scott Marjorie

Friday 30th. Day off. Went with party to Sakara. Lovely day. Left by 9.30 train from Cairo to Badreshian & on donkeys & sand carts to Sakara through the ruins of Memphis. A most lovely time Beautiful scenery from train, palm groves weird villages along the side of canal— all sorts of animals in & round the houses —one camel quietly walked into front door of one as we passed !! Not enough donkeys for us all so Ashton M^cDonald & I went in one cart & two others in another. Saw the two huge statues of Rameses II. & the Sphinx Arrived at Sakara about 12. Went to the tomb of Meirah wonderful then to lunch at the rest house—rather weird Sister Green & lots of convalescent men from Helonan were there too After lunch went to the tomb of the sacred bulls afterwards had cups of tea & rode home to train. I had a beautiful donkey & thoroughly enjoyed it. One of the donkeys died in the shafts coming home & the girls only just caught the train. They got an old mule without a saddle & one rode & the other ran !! Glad it wasn't me !! I got into town about 6 pm & M^cDonald & I got a garry & went to Steins & then to Saults & had an ice cream & lemonade then to Mitry's to leave my films & home after a lovely day. Sisters Moss Ring Ashton, Rogers, Campbell Lee Browns (from Abyssia), Keys & lots of others, Knox etc & several medical men Stevens, Griffiths Sutherland, Hamilton M^cClellan went too.

Saturday On all day nothing special

Sunday Church 6.30 am. Off in aft. Loafed. Church in Cairo in evening.

Monday on all day.

Tuesday Short day. Was going to Mousky but felt off so did not go. Loafed, wrote letters got letter yesterday from Emmie. Had lovely letters snaps of Gunson Kiddies in Emmie's letter.

Wednesday Long day. Nothing exciting



Thursday Short day. Went for motor drive with Convalescent boys from Ward VI along Pyramid road. Lovely. Back at 4.30 then into Cairo with S. Good got films met S. Thistlewait & others & went to Kursaal rather good variety show enjoyed it, a bit vulgar in parts. Home to second dinner.

Friday Nov. 5th Nothing Special. Long day on

Saturday Short day In aft went out with S. Good to Citadel to see M^cGuinness—but sad to say he had gone.

Sunday As usual long day

Monday went by myself to Ghezireh to see Dwyer found both she & Gillick gone to Alexandria. [*A new page begins in the middle of this sentence headed "Home letters"]*

Tuesday Long & busy day. Letter from Bil

Wednesday Short day went into town with Sister Bell & bought pudding etc to send the boys Matt & Arthur & Frank.

Thursday Long day

Friday Loafed [.....ly] in evening

Saturday Long day

Sunday church 6.30 a.m. Zoo in aft with S. Good Church in evening Got Emmies parcel yesterday I think, nightie, chocolate etc. Lovely

Monday Long day. Was to have gone for donkey ride

Tuesday 16th Loafed French in evening.

Wednesday 17th

Thursday 18th

Friday 19th One of these evenings went for donkey ride with Murray –

Saturday 20th Off—Went to Social at Continental Hotel

Sunday 21st Long day

Monday 22 Went to see Dwyer & Gillick—off to Luxor



Tues 23

Wednesday 24 Nov, Went to 6.30. St.C. & to Intercession service in Evening.

Thursd 25th Palmer & Graham returned Lovely letters

Friday P & G had day off we all went into town

Sat Long day—nothing

[*This is the end of the diary entries. However the diary is turned upside down to list photographs on the final 4 pages, as follows*]

Photographs 1st roll

1. Troops marching along pier to board Wandilla at Port Melbourne June 17th 1915.
2. Karoola troopship runing near Wandilla in Indian ocean on Sunday June 27th
3. Father Neptune July 10th Sat. afternoon.
4. Aden. Monday July 12th
5. Capt M^cKenzie & Major Lazarus 12th
6. Myself taken by Corp M^cCarthy 12th

2nd roll

1. South Aust. Nurses in S.A. corner just before Suez
2. Palmer on boat deck.
3. Suez going in
4. Suez “ “
5. Giles in cabin feeling sick
6. Giles “ “ “ “

3rd Roll

1. View from my window at Palace Hotel Heliopolis taken July 21st
2. Lotus bed & Palm at Zoo 21st
3. Hippopotamus & Keeper at Zoo 21st
4. Satinin [?] from corridor window 23rd
5. Thompson, Purcell & Begg on their bed
6. Palm & me on my bed taken by Purcell

4th Roll

1. Ambulance wagons waiting for train.
2. Ambulance train



3. “ “
4. Marys Well
5. Tree at “ “
6. Church.

5th Roll

1. Group of Nurse Taylor & patients at Sports Club.
2. “ “
3. Guard at gate going into Sports Club
4. “ “
5. Group S. Wilson etc & pts
- 6.

6th Roll

1. Children bathing on way to Mary's Well.
2. Tree at Mary's Well –
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6.

PRG 621/21/2

I.G.H. Bonnin
Heliopolis Palace Hotel. No I A.G.H.
Heliopolis
Cairo
Egypt

November 1915.

November 28th Sunday. Went to H.C. down in Room 16 at 6.30 am., was the only sister about 10 men. Had afternoon off, spent it doing up parcels to send to Arthur Davenport, Matt Woodley, Emmie M^cGuinness. In evening went to All Saints sat with Tyers & Nobbs (one of the patients from 15, knows Rex Back.

November 29th Long day on—nothing particular.

November 30th Afternoon off. Lay down. Wrote home

December 1st Long day



December 2nd Aft. off. Went into town with P. & G Saw Dwyer

Friday 3rd Long day. Nothing special

Saturday 4th Aft off. Went for walk round Heliopolis. French

Sunday 5th Long day. Bishop of Jerusalem held Confirmation

Monday 6th Aft. off. Stayed home. Washed. French in evening

Tuesday 7th Long day. Nothing special. Cousins ill

Wednesday 8th Aft. off. forgot to say that I had a letter from Roy Howard who is at the Sporting Club asking me to go & see him. He is over with Rheumatism Jim Ringwood he says is in England with the same Also on Saturday I had letters from Nat, Con, M^{rs} Bussell, M^{rs} Morphett & Effie Green Such a foggy morning—can hardly see across to the Stadium the weather now is glorious—So different from the heat, & I feel so awfully well. Had the pip a bit yesterday but better today. Fred Geyer came the other day, I think it was Sunday & wanted to take me for a drive, but I was on duty. Perhaps he may come another time I must now go on duty as it is nearly 9 am

Thursday 9th Long Day on—Nothing exciting.

Friday 10th Afternoon off—Great & exciting day. Went with Dwyer & Gillick, & Palmer to Gordon House to get S.A. party

Saturday 11th Long day on duty, nothing special –

Sunday 12th Church at 6.30 am. In aft. went with Palm Graham Thistlewait etc. to Procession at Mataria & then church

Monday 13th Put on night duty in my ward, Ward 16 !! So sorry but it will be nice to get it over. Did not sleep of course

Tuesday 14th Slept till about 2 pm. Went to aft. tea with Graham with M^{rs} Brown at Villa Montrose then town

Wednesday 15th Slept fairly well. Went into town about 5 pm to catch English mail.

Thursday 16th Slept well—Got up about 4 pm & went with Nott to call for her brother's letters at the camp. Another batch of reinforcements came the other day. Several S.A nurses among them—but they are at No 2, Sister Kildare among them. One of the new ones is on here in the day time, in Ward 16 I mean & one helps in 15 & 16 at night a nice girl. Lieut:



Stirling is in hospital. I believe it is Eric Stirling I am going to find out. Also Kingsley Roberts is in—I am going to see him tomorrow aft. I hope.

Friday 17th Fairly good day—Easy night.

Saturday 18th Fairly good day Easy night. Got another parcel. one of the ones for any nurse out here. M^{rs} Swifts name inside.

Sunday 19th Slept fairly well. Went to 6 pm. church in Soldiers Rest. Presbyterian minister I think.

Monday 20th Had another parcel ! We all went into Matron's office after dinner & each got a box like a large boot box tied up with R.W & B. ribbon given by the Australian womens league I believe in response to Lady Bridges appeal. Such jolly nice things—soap, scent, iodine & brush, boracic acid, stockings book, chocolates, biscuits, red cross brooch with 1915 on the back, block of postcards etc. Really such a very nice parcel. So awfully good of them to think of us. Today also I got a beautiful bundle of letters, two from Nat, one from Con, Miss Hussey, Mary, Mother Michael, Barry, & also one from Gladys Currie Elles who, she tells me is staying at the Continental !! I was surprised to get it, but not so surprised as I might have been as I found a telephone message pinned on my pillow case when I woke at midday telling me to ring up Miss Elles at the Continental as soon as convenient For a long time I could not think who she was & at last it dawned on me ! Of course I read the note wrongly & went in today without ringing her up but she was in & we had afternoon tea at the Continental such a lovely place. I hope to see more of her—she has grown terribly fat ! but is as nice as ever.

Tuesday 21st Nothing special.

Wednesday 22nd Nothing special. Think I went with Nott & Camp

Thursday 23rd Went to town to do a little shopping. Home letters

Friday 24th Xmas Eve. The two night orderlies & I had a great time filling the boys socks. Home letters

Saturday 25th A great day. Went to H.C. at 6.30, ever so many there, then to bed & got up early & went to ward to help with tea, Hospital looked lovely. Concert in aft. Rex Buckland turned up to see me. Had presents from Butler, Bell, Kerr, King, Cameron, Allan on my bed. Great fun with the boys & their socks in early morning. Got home letters.

Sunday 26th Nothing Special went to church in evening.

Monday 27th Went into town with Mowbray in aft.



Tuesday 28th Had the night off. Went with Currie Elles to tea at Groppi's & then to dinner at Continental. Lovely. Enjoyed muchly.

Wednesday 29th Did not sleep after sleeping all night went with Sister King to aft tea with Major Brown at Abbassia

Thursday 30th Did not sleep much during early part—not feeling v. grand. Palmer got me tea & hot bag. Better. Did not get up

Friday 31st Fairly busy night. Did nothing in the aft. got up & wrote letters. Got home letters, ones from Nat & Con.

Saturday January 1st 1916. Busy night. Glorious day

Sunday Jan. 2nd

Monday Jan. 3rd

Tuesday Jan 4th

Wednesday Jan. 5th

Thursday Jan 6th

Friday Jan 7th

Saturday Jan 7th

For these 7 days there are no diary entries and the diarist has written at angle across this blank space, as follows:

Evidently nothing exciting. I am terribly lazy with this old diary & never keep it properly written up, wish I did it may be interesting later

Sunday Jan 9th The new chapel which the C.E.M.S. boys have made at night had the first services held in \it/

Monday Jan 10th

Tuesday Jan 11th

Wednesday Jan 12th *Another 6 days with no entry*

Thursday Jan. 13

Friday Jan 14

Saturday Jan 15

Sunday Jan 16th Jack Seeck & a friend turned up & we went for a walk round aroplane camp.

Monday Jan 17



Tuesday Jan 18 Miss Currie Elles came today or yesterday & I went into town with her.

Wednesday Jan 19

Thursday Jan 20 M^cRinnall came off N.D. today Several of us, 8 or 9, went to tea, eggs & bacon business at Ctn [?]

Friday Jan 21 Poor Sister Mowbray died this morning she had only been ill with pneumonia about a week. \Went to church in morning./

Saturday Jan 22 Got up very early 12.30 & went to poor Sister Mowbray's funeral. Real military one with firing party etc

Sunday Jan 23 Had a great treat went with Sister Whipham & S. MacDonald to Helovan with M^r Leahy & M^r Pierce

Monday Jan 24 Stayed in bed till late & then just went \to Dairy/

Tuesday Jan 25 Turnbull Verey & I went into Cairo to order hamper from Groppis for our Nile trip \tomorrow/

Wednesday Jan 26 Had a lovely time. Turnbull, Vhery [?] & I went up the Nile with three friends of Turnbells Sary, Otway, Sary: & Private Wilberforce all N.Z.

Thursday 27th Stayed in bed till about four then into Cairo to try & get a pr. of shoes no good. Dear E's birthday

Friday Jan 28 Did not say that several of our Sisters Annie Bell, Bonnily, A Hart, Thistlewaite, Allan. & went to Tel-el-Kebir on Friday morning—they believe to No I or II Stationary Hosp. I should much have liked to have gone too. Old Nellie Smith returned from Transport the other day looking very well. So many of the men are going off to Tel-el-Kebir there must be thousands there now. The aroplanes are always hovering about all over the place it seems quite the ordinary thing ! About fifty of the Lemnos girls arrived here the other night, about Monday, Mary Reed & Mullins amongst them. Another bunch have gone to Ghezireh. I believe they are to start a garrison hospital at Abassia & I believe it is quite true that we are moving off to France sooner or later. Captn.Sprech, who was in charge of my ward went to Tel-el-Kebir some time ago, about a fortnight or more. We are sorry as he took such an interest & knew what he was about. Smith, Aunt Clara's gardener's son at M^t Lofty has been one of my patients for some time. I don't know why I have got so lengthy all of a sudden. Suppose I shall not write again for ages. Before going to bed this morning Turnbull & I went for a lovely donkey ride to Matarieh. Sister Whipham & S. Gibbings were coming but could not get a gharry so we went off on our own It was a glorious morning the air was so sharp & fresh & the sun so bright. We went right down to the Ismalia Canal & took several



photographs. We got home about 11.15. had some breakfast & ~~went~~ or lunch I should say, & went off to bed & had a good sleep.

Saturday 29th

Sunday 30th *No entries for these 4 days and diarist writes at angle across the space*

Monday 31st Forget if anything of any importance happened but think not jus the same old

Tuesday Feb 1 game

Wednesday 2nd

Had note from Arthur Dav: one of these days. He is at Abbassia

Thursday 3rd with No 3. A.G.H back from Lemnos.

Friday 4th Went with Miller to No III General at Abbassieh to see Arthur. Arranged to go out with him tomorrow if all is \well/

Saturday 5th Off night duty to report for duty, after first dinner, in Ward 15 ! In afternoon went with Arthur Davenport to Camel Corps. He is looking \so well/

Sunday 6th Church in morning. In aftn. we went, Butler & I to the Camel Corps & took photographs—mine are all failures. \7 pm Church/

Monday 7th In morning went to Continental & spent morning with Miss Elles—morning tea at Gropis then home. After dinner on duty in Ward 15. with S.Cuthbert, Smith, Tyson & \Peterson/

Tuesday 8th Feel just like a fish out of water in my new home. Dont like leaving my old boys,

Caffyn, Moss, Sanderman etc. Aft. off. Went for lovely excursion with Matron & about 8

other sisters ~~Wednesday 9th~~ to the petrified forest out beyond the tombs of the Caliphs.

Captain Douglas came with us. We had great fun. took car to town then gharries to tombs of

Caliphs or thereabouts then donkeys. We rode right out into the desert, miles it seemed, to

this petrified forest which is supposed to have been growing in the time of Moses. It was just

desert with pieces of petrified wood, large & small lying all over the place. Most interesting

but not much to see. On we rode to Moses Well, a small dark hole in the side of a sandy

stony hill at the end of which was a spring with a pool of water known as Moses Well. Then

we rode on to the Mokattam Hill & had aft. tea which we took with us & watched the sunset

which was simply lovely, the colouring was beautiful & we could hear the Mohammedans

calling to Prayer it was all so wonderful Came on to the Citadel & caught train to Cairo &

then home.



Wednesday Feb. 9th *No specific entries for these 4 days but the following written at an angle*

Thursday 10th *across the blank space* Nothing special Transferring & discharging all

Friday 11th our enteric patients as our ward is to be mixed medical & Skin diseases !

Saturday 12th Cleaning & tidying chiefly

Sunday 13th

Aft off. took Adams to the pyramids & to tea afterwards at the Military Club. Rather a funny day ! Church 7 30 am Still no patients

Monday 14th Long day, still no patients till late in afternoon when I believe 2 or 3 came \in/

Tuesdays 15th Day off. Went for donkey ride with night Staff in morning. In aft. went to Barrage with \M^cKinnell/ \most lovely place/

Wednesday 16 Long day. Very busy. Got Home & Eng. letters, lovely. We got a good many pts yesterday.

Thursday 17 Nothing special did nothing but lie down all aft. Felt a bit off.

Friday 18th Long day. My poor double pneumonia Gardner, died.

Saturday 19th In aft. went to lunch at Contin: Hotel with Currie Elles then to Helonan. Killing day. \Tea with Butler at Military Club/

Sunday 20th Long day. Church in Chapel at 6.30. Nothing special.

Monday 21st Day off. stayed in bed to break. which Thompson brought up. Tidied up & loafed, wrote etc all the morning. In aft. went to Matareh with Turnbull & McKinnell. Mac & I went No 2 A.G.H. to \tea/

Tuesday 22nd Getting quite hot again Ann Bell & Bonnily came up from Ismalia for the day yesterday. So nice to see Bell again.

Wednesday 23rd Short day. Was going with Palmer & others up the Nile or with Murray & her brother to the tombs of the Caliphs but had to be home in time to go with ~~Thursday 24th~~ Fred Geyer for motor ride—promised to be ready at 7.20. of coure he was late so I could have go. Jolly ride to Maadi—tea there & home.

Thursday As usual

Friday 25 Aftn. off. Can't remember if anything exciting happened but dont expect so.

Saturday 26th Long day on. Nasty cold nothing special



Sunday 27th Whole day off. Nasty cough & cold, stayed in room lying down most of day. Church in morning & evening.

Monday 28th Long day on. very busy.

Tuesday 29th Aft. off. Turnbull & Sargeant Otway & I went out to the Aquarium at Ghezireh such a lovely place, grotto & gardens etc: Tea at Club afterwards.

Wednesday March 1st Long day on. Pretty busy Nothing special happened

Thursday 2nd Afternoon off. Terrible day Khamseere blowing strong. Lay down & read all aft. French alone in evening.

Friday 3rd Long day on duty. Felt pretty tired in evening.

Saturday 4th I am trying to write up my diary before "lights out" goes—Have begun with "todays" but have to write back to Wednesday 23rd dash it. It seems only the other day since I wrote the old thing up ! Today was my aftn. off. Washed hair—loafed—did a little sewing putting clean cuffs in dress etc. went with S. Tait to French in evening—didn't feel a bit "Frenchy" & couldn't talk !

Sunday 5th Long day on. Church 6.30 am. Pretty busy day. Innoculated in the morning Paratyphoid & enteric serum I think Felt pretty off colour in the evening –

Monday 6th Short day. Busy morning. In aft went with Turnbull to the New Zealand nurses home & then with Sisters Douglas & Lowe into Cairo—bought meuslin for caps grey zephyr for dress; came home in a N.Z. Ambulance. All the supernumeries left here today to live at Abbassia, No 3 A.G.H Sporting club staff coming here or Abbassia very soon & No 2. A.G.H. going to Sporting Club. Everything is in a muddle—rumours & reports flying everywhere—we are going to France Bombay, England etc ! We hear that after 10th of this month no A lot of us, members of the A.T.N.A I think had parcels sent from ATNA association the other day, a tin of cocoa & milk & a tin of chocolate. so go of them to send them.

Tuesday 7th Another short day, as Sister Whipham asked me to go for a motor drive with

~~Wednesday~~ 8th her & a great friend of hers Colonel Spencer Browne also a Lieut. Turner Sister Peterson stayed on for me. Had a lovely afternoon motored to the Barrage enjoyed it immensely. The Colonel is a dear old man & bought a whole lot of sweets for the native Kiddies & threw them out in handfuls for them. Of course there were dozens round him. Took some snaps. Had aftn tea there & then went to the Directors House, M^r Drapers such a beautiful home, lawns, palms, flowers etc & all sorts of interesting things inside. M^r Draper let us pick some violets & also gave Sister & me both a pot of geranium & primula each. Got home about 7.15.

Wednesday On all day Saw Guy Burke



Thursday On all day one of these days quite accidentally in the [...] Hall. He is not long back from England & is not yet feeling himself—has been pretty ill with rheumatism.

Friday Whole day off. Spent morning in bed went for donkey ride with Turnbull & several N.Z. Sisters—went down to the Ismalia Canal. Of course I had a spill & hurt my face a bit but still it was a jolly ride.

Saturday 11th Face too swollen to go on duty so stayed in bed all day—got up for dinner.

Sunday. Stayed in bed & went to 9 o'clock church Went down to matron, who said if I stayed "off" another day I wd. Have to report "sick" So sent me to sit with Sister Taylor who is pretty ill with pneumonia. Went to 7 pm church.

Monday 13 Back in 15 Ward, M. Millar is there too. Poor old Hardie died yesterday. Off in after : Went into town to get in aft. Had motor drive home with some strange man who was jolly nice. Went for gharry drive in evening with Wilberforce & Turnbull.

Tuesday On all day—Alone in aft.

Wednesday Half day—Went into town with Miss Whipham. Home in time for 7.30 pm church which we are having on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Had my 2nd dose of Para: A & B & enteric this aftn, arm pretty sore in aftn. Took photos of Chapel

Thursday On all day. Sister Pines sent to help in our ward. It really is beginning to look like moving now. Wards are being closed & beds & lockers packed & I believe we are not admitting any cases except immediates, so I suppose we are off somewhere. I feel quite sad at the thought of leaving I dont know where we we be going to I'm sure.

Friday Whole day off. Stayed in bed till dinner (midday) then got up & went into town with Christina Murray. did little shopping with her, called for photographs had tea & home. Felt a bit off colour, arm very sore—Very hot. Heard today that Matron Knowles is off to Australia tomorrow. About fifty Sisters are going too I believe. I think most of us are glad about Matron (!) though we are sorry she had such short notice.

Saturday. March 18th

Matron & Sisters left this morning for Australia. Who is going to be our Matron now ! We are all wondering. The big hall where 13 & 44 \12/ ward patients are is looking very bare, half the beds have been taken away. I believe we'll be off in no time—Where to, I wonder !!! Oh what an exciting life this is—every hour brings forth fresh movements almost.

Sunday 19th) Nothing very exciting just emptying the poor old Palace & clearing & the boys till) packing. Sister Cuthbert went to Luxor also Turnbull. Sister Weston came to



Sunday 26th) the Ward at the end. I was made orderly Sister & helped Miss Whipham a bit. Sister Kerr came & slept in Turnbulls bed as all the white beds had to be out of our rooms. On Saturday all No 2. departed for France –

On Sunday 26th no church at the Palace, so Tyers & I went to H.C. at the Sporting club in one of the tents! As I had the day off I went into Cairo to All Saints at 11 a.m. Stayed home & packed etc in afternoon. In evening went to Sporting club but too late for church, saw Sister Kildare though. Our new matron, Miss Finlay, arrived yesterday. She seems charming but looks so ill

Monday 27th We are sure to be going any day now & are only allowed leave at times. Went into Cairo & did shopping, red capes etc. In aft. went into old Cairo with Ashton, & Weston, took some snapshots. Pretty hot, & oh such smelly native quarters. Went to Coptic church & to the Mosque of Armrow (?) or something like that!

Tuesday 28th Nothing startling. We go tomorrow. Turnbull came home from Luxor, which she enjoyed muchly. Went into town in the morning saw Currie Elles & did some shopping—Morning tea at Groppie's with Kerr, then home. Thought leave was stopped at 12 a.m. but found it wasn't. Helped tidy rooms in aft. & then over to Abbassia to see Palmer, who I found very down. Leave tomorrow morning! Palace days over!

Wednesday 29th Up early breakfast at 7 a.m. Great excitement leaving the poor old Palace. Such a host of us! All those in the "pool" who had not been disposed of were sent off to Luna Park early before breakfast. We left about 8.30. by ambulances to P^t de Koubeh station where there was a train waiting for us. Miss Conyers & several officers also some N.Z. sisters were there to see us off. The M.O's & orderlies marched from the Palace; pretty hot. Came straight on to Alexandria arriving about 1.30 or 2 p.m. right alongside H.M.H.S. "Salta" March on in single file & were given our quarters, huge wards with 30—40 in each in swinging cots. I am in B. ward with my head against the hatchway next to Wilkins, Christina Murray, Sisters Guille, Margaret Stephenson, Samsing etc are there too. In the afternoon we had leave granted until 9.30. Sister Turnbull & I had afternoon tea on board & then went by gharry (one horse affairs) to town & met a N.Z. pal of Turnbulls who went with us to Nouzah gardens. Came back, did a little shopping & had tea at Groppi's & then gharry back to ship with Scott & Kelly who we met on the way. Of course we went to the wrong dock first of all but finally got back safely & went to bed (in public!!!) most of them, as the loading was still going on. No baths until tomorrow! Did not have at all a good night—could not sleep.

Thursday 30th March. Did not leave till 5 p.m. Some of the girls went out as leave was granted but I did not as I felt too seedy. We have our meals partly in dining saloon & partly on deck as there are too many of us all to go into the saloon. Turnbull, Nerey, White, Jacobson, another & I are all at a table on deck, it is so lovely. Still there are two sittings, staff nurses chiefly go to the first 7.45.—12. 6 One solitary Scotchie played on his bagpipes as we left—it was a sorry spectacle, but so amusing—~~but~~ poor old thing he did his best to give us a send off!



Friday March 31st Felt very squeamish but up all day though very miserable; retched a good bit. Not rough, but a good swell.

Saturday April 1st We are really having lovely weather but I still feel anything but good. Sister Guille is very off. Was very sick today (I think) after dinner—felt better after.

Sunday March 2nd Went to church at 7 a.m. & 10 a.m. Felt much better. We had a bit of a concert on Saturday evening given by the boys. Also this evening Sisters Kendall & Newton sang a little. There is an Imperial medical & nursing staff on board & one of the nurses is a N.Z. who was torpedoed on the Marquette. How she can do Hospital Ship work I don't know. She must be very plucky. Sister Guille is awfully nice, I like her so much. Today we passed a British Torpedoe boat destroyer No 69 All our cameras were handed in today I wonder if we shall ever see them again Had the pip in the evening, miserable. Idiotic I know—but couldn't help it.

Monday April 3rd. Beautiful day. Feeling very well. Passed the coast of Sicily lots of little fishing boats. We hear there was some boat torpedoed near us & that we passed through the wreckage in the night & also has S.O.S. signals but being a hospital Ship could not go back.

Tuesday April 4th Another lovely day. Danced in evening. Passed Sardinia. Several boats Nothing exciting happened.

Wednesday April 5th Up early as we had orders to be ready to disembark at 9 am. at Marseilles. Simply lovely going into Marseilles harbour during breakfast high barren cliffs etc. etc. Some lovely green patches with tents which we suppose is No 2. A.G.H. or else some camp. Heaps & heaps of ships of all kinds. Hospital ships, troop ships & others also a torpedoe boat. One troop ship was crowded with Australian troops who greeted us with "Saida" We hear one troop ship has small pox on board & has to be quarantined. We can see Notre Dame Cathedral right on the top of a hill, standing out so beautifully Of course we did not disembark at 9. am but anchored in the harbour surrounded on all sides by ships & only a very little way from the docks. Glorious day but so cold—much warmer in afternoon. Don't know for certain what is going to happen to us, may stay & may go on to Havre I believe.

Thursday 6th April. Moved in alongside quay. No leave granted. Very cold & wet. Unloading all day. Nothing special happened.

Friday 7th April Still miserable weather. No leave granted, thought we were disembarking but of course did not. Matron went ashore with O.C. to see about things & returned in evening & broke the unhappy news to us that our unit was being broken up & that we were being sent to five different places Rouen, Havre, Boulogne Etaples La Treport. Oh the excitement when M^r Downs read out the lists !! Our names had just been popped down any how as Matron had not had time to try & find out who were friends. Anyhow it is probably only for a time. I am booked for Rouen with fifty altogether including Matron, Sisters Guille



Turnbull, Murray & most of the Sisters. I am very glad. The O.C. & M. Os & orderlies & also going no one knows where. It is decided now that while we are at Marseilles we all stay at one Hotel instead of being split up between two as at first arranged. at the other hotel Matron says is “impossible” !

Saturday 8th Disembarked this morning & were taken in loads by the Ambulance wagons to the Hotel Regina, a most lovely place, ever so big. A most miserable rainy day—but we all saw the funny side as we trundled off through the muddy streets, bumping along. I have a bedroom to myself, some are in double rooms Mine is on the 5th floor, a good way up ! In the aft. after lunch which we enjoyed muchly, Sisters Kendall, Douglas Guille & I went out for a tram ride (I bought some galoshes first as it was so wet.) Of course we took the car going the wrong way & went down the back streets instead of going for the very pretty ride round the Corniche which it goes when going the other way !! I had to be in by 5 p.m. as all those who had any cameras n their trunks which they were unable to get out on board, were to doss them. The others went for the proper ride. When I got to the hotel no fatigue party had turned up to fish out our trunks so I couldn't get the jolly camera after all. Found Matron & we had aft. tea together—M^r M^cDermott, Q.M. joined us. After tea Sister Lowrie & I went for a wee walk in the wet, I bough a nightgown etc. There are the most beautiful statues & fountains etc in Marseilles & the avenues of trees are beautiful. Had dinner at 8 p.m. & then to lovely bed.

Sunday 9th April. Did not go to church as was not sure where it was & also if I should be home late for breakfast. No leave granted after breakfast till we got orders. Coffee, rolls & butter (lovely) for breakfast. Washed hair & few clothes. At 11 a.m. we had leave granted till 1 p.m. Sisters Kendall, Douglas Guille \Kennedy/ & I went up to Notre Dame de la Garde Cathedral—most beautiful Kennedy & I came home in a cab as the others got too far ahead & we could not catch the car & thought we would be late home. In afternoon our leave was extended so Sisters Kendall, Douglas Guille & I went for a lovely gharry drive round the Corniche Such lovely trees, fountains etc & beautiful round the sea coast, then through the fish mareket. Saw —several torpedoe boats. Had aftn. tea at Café Linders & then walked along & looked in lovely shop windows & fountains. Went into S. Vincent de Paul's Church, lovely. Home for 8 p.m. supper then bed.

Monday 10th April.

Up early did a little shopping, rolls etc for journey. Breakfast & lunch (in one) at 10am rolls, coffee, eggs much enjoyed. Left hotel in batches beginning about 12. Went by trains, not specials, rather a muddle as no one knew for certain where the station was, but we all arrived there all rightly. Very long train—all nursing & medical staff as well as orderlies & equipment. Sisters Douglas, Kendal Guille Kennedy & I in one carriage very comfortable. Started on our long journey at 2.30. Soon after starting went through a very long tunnel lasting about 20 min. began to think we would never get out of it ! Lovely scenery everything so green



[From here there are two full pages of the diary which are out of sequence. They are numbered 1, 1, 4, 5, 2, 3 and acknowledgement and are transcribed later]

& all the trees in their Spring clothes. Had tea at the Buffet at Avignon about 7.30 which we all greatly enjoyed, Soup meat etc. Spent rather an uncomfortable night trying to share seat with Guille & ending with her getting on the floor !

Tuesday 11th Had most lovely breakfast, Coffee rolls ham & eggs at \Macon/ forget the name—Had walk on platform etc. Washed (!!) with Eau –de–Cologne in carriage before we arrived ! Lovely day Travelled through very pretty country cowslips violets buttercups etc fairly flat lots of cultivation & pretty villages. Stopped at Dijon for lunch & after which we had leave granted for an hour. S. Guille & I went into the town & bought a cushion each & the orderlies went for a march through the streets causing much excitement Left Dijon at 2 pm. very dull & cold, raining toward evening Stopped for evening meal at La Rocher had dinner at 9.15 left again at 10 pm. I went into next carriage where there were only three, Steele, Smith & Doherty. Slept much better but very cold. Arrived at Nantes next morning

Wednesday 12th Nantes at 9.30 am no proper breakfast, but rolls \with ham/ & black coffee on the platform, much enjoyed by the company while pacing up & down the platform to keep warm. Cabinets in great demand at all stations. Capt Turnbull looking very ill has been for the last week. Still wet & miserable. Arrived at Rouen about 12 stayed in train till 2 when we were drafted off in batches to various English Hospitals in motor busses Sisters Kendal, Creswick, Cleland Kennedy Davis & I went to No 10. etc All those who are going on to Havre etc batched over in No 12. Stationary huts. S. Kendal & I in a bell tent together. The English Sisters were most good to us—hot bags, bed socks etc. lovely mess hut & sitting room. Horribly wet. Bed early. Did not sleep very well. Mattress on floor.

Thursday Breakfast 7.30. Went over to see all the other girls. Interviewed by Miss Slaney, one of the real “Red Capes”) who took all our particulars She told us we could have the day off, to go on duty tomorrow. Douglas, Kennedy, Kendall, Guille & I went into town to do some shopping, jug, basin etc. Had lunch at Cathedral Café lovely. Went inside Cathedral also along Grosse Horloge. Saw Col. Newland he is at No 1. Casualty Clearing Station. Also saw Capt. East. Aftn. Tea at the Normandy. Lost Kendall & Guille for a while but found again Home, tea & bed. Slept well.

[The 2 misplaced pages of the diary are transcribed here]

Friday. On duty in Med. Hut. Chiefly pneumonia & nephritis. Miss Taylor in charge beautiful ward but not enough to eat !! & washing !

Saturday Off 2–5 into town but had to hurry back Very wet & cold.

Sunday Off 5–8 Miss Gower went on St George transport today, I think. Went to have a peep at S. Guille in aftn. at No 12.



Monday Don't seem to get much satisfaction as to how long we are to stay. Off 2-8 repacked

Tuesday Off 5-8 Went for a walk with S. Kendall

Wednesday Off 2-5 Into town with S.K. to get some biscuits. Had some music in evening. Went to early service in Quiet Room at back of Y.M.C.A.

Thursday Had joyful news that we were all to rejoin No 1. A. G. H. this afternoon! Very excited! Went over after dinner, all the others were there — packed up & everything sent over. Slept in the wooden huts 2 in a room but luckily I had one alone. Went to early Service also at 6 pm

Good Friday Early service 6.30, breakfast 8 am. Went into Rouen to 3 hrs service in Ang. Chapel behind the Cathedral. Beautiful addresses Pouring with rain when I came out about 3.30. Aftn tea 4 pm. Went to bed & wrote up diary. Johnnie Medley spoke to me after church his father was killed at Gallipoli.

Saturday Very wet. Did not go out. Church 6 pm.

Sunday. Lovely day. Went to church 7 a.m. here Homan & I went to Rouen at 10 am. S. Douglas & I went to see S. Guille in the aft. (she was sent to the infectious Hospital Meerut yesterday with mumps !!) Looks pretty sick, enormous face. In evening S. Steele & I went into Rouen to church again.

Monday Lovely day again. Forgot to say O.C. came to dinner yesterday. Capt Stephens, Alsop M^cClennan today. In aft. Chris Murray & I went into town to ordnance stores & Art Gallery. had aft. tea & home.

Tuesday On duty. Topsy, Garden & I are with Sadie MacDonald Worked hard all day. Church 6.30 pm Anzac. Anniversary.

Wednesday worked till 5 p.m. then went to Lena Ashwell's concert at Y.M.C.A. Very good. Concertina man splendid. Feel I am in for a cold. Hope not.

Thursday. On duty preparing medical tents. Bonsecours in aft. with Mardon.

Friday On duty all day. Final duty list up. I am with S. Homan, medical, Capt Turnbull M.O.

Sat. No patients. Worked in morning fixing tents off in aft. Town with Kendall. S. Owen.

Sun. Ch. 7.am. & 11 am—Few transferred patients. Went to forest with Steele, Turnbull etc in aft.



[So ends the transcription of the 2 misplaced pages. The main diary continues as follows]
May 20th Saturday Today the 20th & I look back & find I have not entered anything in this precious book since April 18th !! What am I to do. I have a few scanty notes so must fill in as much as I can. Still in Rouen & oh so hot today, beautiful cool air but such hot sun. Mardon & I are sharing a bell tent now which is glorious at night but rather warm in the day time. At present I am sitting on my stretcher, or rather S. Taits which I am using, writing this old diary. This my afternoon off & S. Guille has gone into town but I felt too "off" to go, back giving me fits but am better now. Going to a concert given in Y.M.C.A. Hall at 5.30. S. Kendal is to sing. Still in Medical unit II with S. Homan, pretty busy but no very bad cases, but still quite enough to keep you on the go all the time. We are evidently going to stay here indefinitely & everybody is most sad as here it will be impossible to nurse our own boys except a few stray ones for myself I like the English just as well (if not more) & what does it matter who we nurse we are all helping one another. At least "thems my sentiments !"

June 22nd Here I am again—nothing written in diary for over a month !! How lazy I have been ! Never mind nothing very exciting has been happening. Still in same old spot which is improving in little ways daily. It has been very cold since I last entered anything & wet off but today is pretty hot again. Mardon & I are still sharing our tent & are quite happy—we are both down for night duty when the new tents are opened. The staffs in the different wards have been decreased during the last fortnight to three instead of four as a great rush has been & still is, I believe, expected, & the extra sisters were wanted to prepare the new wards. Times off have been changed to every 3rd aft. off & the other two on, the second one 3 hrs off. But as the rush is not yet & the tents not opened the surplus nurses are helping in other wards & in the sewing tent. I had a bit of a "bust up" with Sister Homan & was taken out of her ward some little time ago & have been a kind of general "slushy", first in one ward & then another !! I have been in seven altogether but chiefly in Med 1 Sister Andersons, where I am now. Sister Guille is on night duty has been on about a month, but she often gets up early & we go out. Have been for lots of nice excursions on days & afternoons off S^t Adrien with S Guille S^t Martin de Boscherville with Lightbody & several others, right through the forest of Rouvra, beautiful long walk, lovely wild flowers foxgloves, poppies etc—we came home laden Bon Secours twice lovely view church & monument to Jeanne d'Arc. La Bouille twice or three times once with S. Guille & we walked to la maison brulee & came home by the aft. boat enjoyed muchly. S.Steele & I went for a lovely walk one day to Grand Quevilly crossed Seine in ferry to Duppedalle & walked up into forest lovely. caught La Boille aft. boat home Of course we have also poked about in the town, cathedrals, Tour J. d'A, P. de Justice, Art Gallery. Everything so interesting We also went to La foret Verte one day, the two Murrays & myself. Lovely poppies, corn flowers etc growing in a field just outside the race course, the girls often go & pick them for the tables & wards. A good many of our girls are getting sick, Weston Kennedy Heath, Creswick, Baudinet, Fidge, Verey Negus & go to No 8. B.H. & some have been sent to England for a change

I am longing for my holidays but dont suppose I'll get any yet. S. Wall has gone on a hospital train & S. Margaret Stevenson has come back. A good many others have come back too by degrees, Lightbody, Doepke, Scott, M^cLean N Stephenson, J. MacDonald. Baudinet,



Negus etc. Sadie MacDonald has gone to America about some will business. About a week ago another bunch returned, Dunn Kerr, Rowe, Corkhill, Doherty, H. Smith. We are getting our home letters all right now, we got our first mail about a month ago, it was so lovely. Of course

I get lots from Emmie. Had one or two from M^r Forbes, Miss Maw, M^{rs} Bussell Miss Hussey M^{rs} Gunson etc so lovely to get them. Last Sunday our new "longue" was "opened". It is so awfully nice & comfortable. I am writing in there now lying full length on a lounge. It is a large marquee with stained wooden floor with pretty cocoanut mats on it, cane chairs lounges etc pot plants hydrangia's etc pretty little tables electric light & a piano which has come all the way from Australia! So we are most lucky. Matron takes such an interest in it all. & so do the Red Cross people, Miss Rigall, Miss Smith Miss Smythe. How I do so wish the girls were here to enjoy it.

Friday June 30th I have not entered anything I see since 22nd so I shall just write up a few notes! I am on night duty, tonight is my fifth night, one week nearly done! After being on duty all day in S. Andersons ward last Monday. Matron told me I was to take over Med V at 10.30 pm as a convoy was coming in Med V is a Med section, 3 tents 36 beds so on I went Convoy did not arrive till 2 a.m. received about 14-15 patients, none, very sick Minn, my orderly, was very good & worked well. Slept out in tent first two \or three/ days & then moved into hut as it was too hot & besides Matron said we had to as the tents were wanted for others of the staff who are returning. Moved in with Sister Doepke—am sleeping very well. Patients continually coming & going, 19 out today, convoy of 8 (eight) last night! Have the great number of twelve patients! Am writing this in the bell service tent, just had my supper & am very comfortable! Bradford is my orderly now, Minn had to go to the eye ward—He seems very good I think. hope he will turn out to be so any how!

Sunday July 22nd What ages since I wrote anything in this old diary!! And what heaps of things have happened since!! The Sunday after my last Entry, July 2nd was a most terrible night!! July 1st was a big offensive & of course all day Sunday pts were pouring in. New tents & wards opened etc etc: all the A. lines were the only Med. ones when we went on duty & S. Guille & I were put there together, with one orderly—10 tents with 15 beds in each & then an emergency tent with only some \ 10 minutes (about) after we went on duty the wards were made surgical / some kind of tarpaulin stuff on the floor & some mattresses. They, the pts, simply poured in—we admitted 110 during the night!! I can tell you we were somewhat in a whirl in the morning! And the next three days & nights were impossible times, a perfect whirly go round of convoys & evacuations. And ever since it has been busy but not quite so dreadful

Last night we had 1 convoy & 1 evacuation. How long is this going to last? I'm getting sick of it.

I have been on night duty now four weeks tomorrow hurray!! I have sent in my application for leave & am dying to get away. Am really very well. Was not so very grand about a week or 10 days ago & had two nights off & was hauled up before the Col.!! We have had several Zepp\elin alarms, quite terrifying. Must go on duty now.



Monday August 14th Am off night duty again—came off Friday night. After Sister Guille went off about a fortnight ago I helped S. Tyers for a bit then Doepke, M^cLean & then took on Cleland's ward with poor Jolly in it, fearfully ill. He died on Friday morning. I had Fri Saturday & Sunday off & today I am in the Mess. Did not do much on my days off pretty hot on Saturday— went up to the forest in the morning; in the aftn. went into town with S. Tait got my disc etc.

Yest. I went into town in the morning to the new church which has just been built, a large wooden building on the way to Bon secours. No news, all the wards are altered again; all A. lines are medical. Col. Summons. S. Guille is with S. Watt in E. III & IV wonder where I shall go when I begin work again ! There are rumours that leave is to begin again next month—Wouldn't it be lovely if I was in England for the 12th !!

Sunday Aug 27th

I only stayed in the mess about two days & then went to S. Sadie Macdonald's ward E. I & II Kelly & Davis are the other S.Ns there & I have been there ever since. Today is my day off. Got up & went to 7.30 been tidying & fiddling round since & am now just off to church. No news had letter from Emmie the other day telling me poor old Al is in hospital operation Poor old chap—hope all goes well. Very few home letters, only Nat & Con, only got Con's dear one this time—Nat's will turn up soon I suppose

Monday Aug 28th

Tuesday Aug 29th

Wednesday " 30th

Thursday 31

Friday Sept 1st

Saturday Sep 2nd

There are no entries for these 6 days and the diarist has written across the blank space Evidently nothing very interesting

Sunday 3rd Sept Church 6 30 am. Matron decided to put me \in the Mess as wards were going to be with 3 only/

Monday 4th " Put in mess. Had aft. off

Tuesday 5th " Off in aft. back for dinners. Kerr Steele & I read \took aft. tea to forest/

Wednesday 6th " Long day on.

Thursday 7th " Aft off ~~back for~~ Carlile & Bonsecours.

Friday 8th S. Guille heard of her father's death. Nothing special.

Saturday 9th " Off in aft. back for dinners. Meldrum & I lay under trees & wrote



Sunday 10th Went to 6. 30 church. Off in aft. & helped Stevenson in Lounge with aft. teas & then went into town to church.

Monday 11th While reading new home letters in lounge Matron brought in two Eng. lads, ones out of K.E.H. & one was Denys Lawrence ! Such a fine looking boy he is now. & a corporal ! Must write to Jean & tell her I have seen him Had lovely long letters from Con & Nat, Palmer who is coming out with No 14 General to England !! And also one from M^r Green & John Medley— ~~Tuesd~~

Tuesday Sep 12th Birthday in France ! Off in aft & went to town & bought statuette of Jean d'Arc for Nat & several little things—Home for dinners. No letters but lovely parcel from dear old Em—all sorts of things. Bradford one of my old night orderlies saw me & told me he was off up the front the next day so gave him the socks paper, milk & chocolate & a cake of soap out of the tin box which he much enjoyed

Wednesday 13th Whole day off. Lovely breakfast in bed, egg & bacon, porridge etc brought by Stevenson & greatly enjoyed by me. In aft went into town with Carlile & went to S. Oven's etc: Compline in evening new chaplain. Forgot to say that yest \today/ I got a birthday wire from the girls wasn't it lovely ! & a letter from Emmie & also a P.C. from Edith Scriven. Today I got a long letter from Nat. They have started to build our extra shack ! Looks as though we are well here for the winter eh ? I am in for a bit of a cold—sneezing grandly today ! Found M^r Forbes' window in S. Oven's R. Transept

Thursday Sep. 14th. Whole day on—Nothing special happening. Big rush expected any day Dont think I mentioned that my old patient Hall with the revolver bullet right through his chest (accident) died—poor boy.

Friday Sept 15th —Aft. off. but back for dinners. Went into town & bought a new felt hat My old one is too “disreputable altogether. also some pictures –

Saturday—aftn. off. All leave stopped rush started but nothing like the July rush & 300 odd I think admitted during the day. Sat out, or rather lay out in sun on grass all the afternoon. A N.Z. Capt came to see Steele & she introduced him to me we all three sat outside & talked

Sunday 17th. Church 7.30 am & 11 \Compline/ (as I was off in the morning it being my long day. Several men to aft. tea—Major Prior of course & another Aust. & also an Eng. Officer— 2 V.A.D's & a British nurse Busy aft jolly tired in evening—cold nasty Sister Wilkins from No 1. C.C.S. returned Miss Macarthy our dear Maud, paid us a visit on Saturday & was very pleased with everything Lamsing & Kitchen are being returned from the C.C.S & S. Kerr and I am not sure who else are going ! Leave still off—convoys arriving constantly but they are not very big ones evidently as the girls dont seem frantically busy. S. Lowrie still off duty ! Wonder what they are doing with her—it must be an awful life just sits in her room all day Some weeks ago she & Col. Summons had a “bust up” & great goings on & Lowrie has not been on duty since! Now I must write some letters home as the mail closes tomorrow !



Lovely letters today, 2 fr Nat, Con & Em. just grand. About last Monday sent my money home by the Pay Office £43 to Australia & £10. 15 to Em hope they get it all rightly.

Monday 18th [No specific entries for these four days but the following written across the space]

Tuesday 19th One of these days I was put on duty in E 1 & 2 again. Walsh back again too

Wednesday 20th Quite nice to be back in the wards again only much heavier than Mess work.

Thursday 21st

Friday 22. Off in aft. Think Kelly had day off.

Saturday 23. On all day.

Sunday 24 Whole day off. Aft. tea at No 10. Ch. Y.M.C.A. 6.30 pm \Conce Murray went C.C.S./

Monday 25th Sep. Spec. tetanus in E.P. tent but scratched finger & sent to Med. lines

Tuesday 26th Sep. Still in Med lines

Wednesday 27th Moved to Geogham's ward B 1 2 3 & C 1 2 3 (90 beds—surgical) Very busy day—2 convoys, evacuation—death & operations !! Quite enough for anyone

Thursday 28th Still in S.G.'s section. Letter from Emmie.

Friday. Moved again !! Sister Yuill's section this time Surgical E 3 & 4 mostly chest cases pretty heavy—off at 5 pm.

Saturday. Still there, aft. off. Spent the whole aft trying to get shoes—no good must wait till I get to Blighty !

Sunday Oct. 1st. Church with Steele 6.30 a.m. On all day. Very busy.

Monday 2nd Good many new cases early this morning—Busy morning—off in aft. Drizzly & wet; lay down & mended stockings etc.

Tuesday, 3rd Oct. On all day in S. Green's ward. Pretty busy all day. Moved into Murray's room.

Wednesday. Half day off. Tidied room etc. S. Yuilli & I went into Ruon & took coat & skirt to be shortened shoes to be repaired etc: no letters. Am going back to S. Yuilli's ward tomorrow, probably for good –



Thursday. Long day.

Friday. Aft off. Miss Spencer, V.A.D. from No 10. & I went into Ruon, I bought 2 prs bloomers, overall, pair walking shoes. Had tea at Leopolds with Murray & Martin—Went to No 2. C. Camp concert in evening—Very boring—Has “A Sister to assist her “

Saturday Long day.

Sunday. 8th Half day. Lay down all aft. Went into S. Georges in evening with M^cKinnell & Watts. Of course led right up into very front pew. Tons of soldiers.

Monday Long day very busy aftn. two convoys.

Tuesday. Half day—lay out in sun & wrote Got 8 mail letters lovely—Rumours about leave being open !! Oh—if I get mine !

Wednesday Long day. No more news about leave ! I believe matron said to S Stephenson that leave was open but she could not let anyone go till some of those who were away came back, Steele, Curtain Avenell etc. I suppose she meant ! Never mind, may come soon.

Thursday. 12th. Half day. Got a lovely parcel of bags, handkerchiefs etc from Emmie with socks, mittens, cigarettes etc & book. Also a lovely parcel from Miss Maw 1 dozen bags & 1 doz. handkerchiefs. Delightful getting them. Stayed in all the afternoon darning & writing. No letters. No news.

Friday. Long day

Saturday. Went to No 29 Inf. Base to get some flowers for matron with Newton & then into town with Keenan & Newton. Bought slip for Emmie & a few little things for the boys etc. Whole day off.

Sunday church 8 A.m. Long day. No news.

Monday Oct 16th Half day—Burke had yest. & today off. In aft. Murray, Lightbody, Keenan & I went into town, walked, glorious aft. had tea, did little shopping & then went to moving pictures—not half bad—quite enjoyed them in fact ! Home in time for 8 p.m. dinner.

Tuesday. Long day. Sister Guille having today & tomorrow off. Wonder if I'll get two consecutive days too !! S. Garden is relieving while we are, getting “days off.”

Wednesday. 18th. Dear old Con's birthday ! How I wish I could just pop in & see her & have a gossip ! No news—Cold, oh very cold & wet. Half day off— had letter from Emmie. poor old girl she had just got my wild note saying I thought we would meet soon. Wonder when I will go ! Surely it ought to be soon—hope so at any rate !



Thursday. Long day.

Friday 20th. Short day. Went for most lovely trip to Candeher, S^t Wandrille & Jumieges with Martin, Chris Murray, Langford & O Lee Browne. Most wonderful old ruined Abbeys which were most fascinating especially Jumieges which I hope to visit again some day. 17 frs. 60 was the cost then of course a little went in tips & post cards etc. We left the camp at 1.30 & got back again at 6.30 a most perfect day too sunshine all the time. At Jumieges we saw the old subterranean passage which led one to S^t Wandrille, one to Agnes Sorrel's home & one to S^t Martin de Boscherville. S^t W. was 22 miles long I believe—we were only allowed to go a little way along as of course it is dangerous now as the roof is falling in. The terrace garden was beautiful but the old ruins of the Abbey & Church of S. Peter are marvellous. The Cloisters of the old Abbey at S Wandrille are wonderfully preserved, but all was destroyed at the time of the Revolution. Before the war Maurice Materlinck lived in part of it but where he is now I don't know. Had letter from Bil.

Saturday Ought to have been long day on but instead had whole day off !! Stayed in bed late then went with S. O Connell, Ron & Turnbull up to No 46 Base for Matron to get some flowers from Col. Monteith (Mrs Humphrey Martin's uncle I think) In afternoon S. Macdonald & Langford & I went for a walk to Foret Verte—on the way home & bought a little French soldier doll for Kitty.

Sunday Short day ! In aft. S.Steele & I went for a walk, home for aft. tea. Capt. Hammond fr. the Pay Office & Capt Kiddle (Red Cross chap) also two V.A.Ds Miss Fields I think they were & Miss Greaves turned up. Hilda & I went to S^t Georges at 6.30 pm. home in time for 8 p.m. dinner.

Monday. Not feeling very grand have not been the last couple of days—Last two nights have wakened up feeling horribly sick. Had day off spent it lying down Still waiting & longing for leave—Wish it would hurry up & come through—just longing to get away.—

Tuesday On duty in morning. Off in aft. Nothing special

Wednesday Long day on –

Thursday. Short day—Nothing Special

Friday Long day—heard that my leave is through & that Jacobson Bromley & I go probably tomorrow. Can't believe it !

Saturday Was overhauled by the C.O. at 3 pm. says my chest is quite all right & that the sickness is most likely due to adhesions round my old appendix scar. I don't agree, but malush !! In evening went to matron's office & asked if the O.C. had said that anything else was up with me & she said just the same except that he said I was in need of a long rest !



Saturday 28th. Did not go on duty. Packed & tidied etc. Had talk with matron who seems to think I may not come back for some time ! Jacobson is not coming back & she told me I wasn't.

Got terrible shock. Saw the O.C. & ran up & asked him if he was sending me away from the unit altogether—he was awfully nice & said I needn't think I hadn't done my share etc. & that as I had done 7 months "on the field" he thought I ought to go to a "softer job" for a bit as I had not looked or felt well lately ! Was so nice to me !

We three started off in the ambulance at 5.30 & got to the R.T.O.'s office where we were told that all leave was stopped via Havre as the Port was closed ! Oh it was too funny ! Out we all trapped again with our cases rugs etc. & came back home again !!! I roared with laughter. There was one woman there most anxious to get across & beseeching the R.T.O. if she couldn't go Via Boulogne ! Slept on Margaret Stevenson's bed (She went on leave some days ago) just got my blankets & eiderdowns out of Kit bag.

Sunday 29th Off all day—went to 7.30 church no news of leave being open yet. Wonder what is up—surely leave is not off altogether it would really be too bad !!! Went to church at S. Georges Military Church in the evening—(if I remember rightly !)

Monday 30th Nothing special (am writing this at the Whitehall Hotel Bloomsbury Hotel London on my first morning in London !) Looked after the sick Sisters, Carruthers, Hilyard Smith, Miller, Douglas. But Carruthers & H. Smith went up to No 8 in the morning so there was not much doing. Off in afn back for dinners.

Tuesday. 31st In mess for a few days.

Wednesday Nov 1st. Back in S. Yuilles ward either today or tomorrow—same old chest cases. Sergeant M^cLeod in.

Thursday 2nd Still in S. Yuille's department

Friday 3rd ~~Told today that leave is open again & Bromley Jacobson & I go tomorrow Can't believe it wonder if we'll get further than the Ruon Station this time !~~ On all day.

Friday 3rd Nothing exciting

Saturday 4th Still in the same old spot. Moved to new \section midday today/ –

Sunday 5th Moved to new section which is being opened, B 4, 5, 6. & C 4, 5, 6, S. M^cKinnell in charge, Newton Bromley & I. Just preparing Nelon & I to church at S. Georges in evening—wet & cold, not feeling up to much.

Monday. Told this morning that leave is open again & Bromley Jacobson & I leave tonight. Hope we go further than Ruon Station this time !! Got off duty about 2 pm then packed & got everything ready—Left in ambulance at 5.30 Matron & Miss Anderson came too but not as far as the station. Saw the R.T.O. etc etc. & got a comfortable carriage & off we went about



7.30 arriving at Havre about 9. or 9.30. Had to go down to the quay in the train very funny ride. Boat terribly crowded & stormy night, wretched thing bobbing up & down like anything. No berths arranged for us. At last, apparently after everyone else had got their berths we were given some, I was squashed in a four berther one with 3 women I had never seen in my life but who were very nice. For some reason we did not go out that night so woke up to find we were still in Havre.

Tuesday Spent the day in Havre. Allowed off from 11.30 till two. A Little V.A.D. & I had lunch together at the Normandy Hotel & went for a short walk round the town then back to boat. Sea looked a bit more promising in the afternoon. Sailed at 6 pm. Stayed upon deck till about 8 when I could stand it no longer but tore down to bed ! Horribly ill, but slept a bit. Forgot to say that Col. De Crespigny is also on board, looks terribly ill.

Wednesday. Woke to find ourselves calmly sitting in Southampton !! Can't realise it— Seems too good to be true. I was a bit scared coming across & am thankful it is over ! Don't fancy the idea of going back again ! Had a nice journey up to London, went ashore about 7 am & then to Embarkation office etc: the train for London leaving about 8.30. Didn't know what to do about telling Emmy & Bil Know but after talking things over with Miss Humphreys (who was in my cabin) decided it was best to leave it all till I was at the Hotel or wherever I was going, which I did. Arrived at Waterloo Station about 10.30 took taxi to this Hotel as Bromley had stayed here before last year, got rooms & after a little while Jacobson & I went to a P. Office quite close to here & wired to Emmie & Bil back to Hotel, bathed & had lunch. Then we three took a taxi & went to our Matron Miss Conyers at A.I.F. Headquarters Horseferry Road Westminster. She was very nice—we have to report to her w/h/en we come over here on leave & also the day we go back. Saw White who looks terribly ill, Loughrey whom I had not seen since we first arrived in Egypt & Timmins too who had just arrived from Boulogne. Drew some pay also £10 for Bromley terrible time there while Jacobson got her dress allowance fixed up. Then taxi'd home. getting quite dark & such a lot of traffic. Found wire from Emmie giving me her telephone no. The other two had gone out shopping so I just skipped across to the P.O. & after a long long wait I got her. Lovely to hear her dear voice though very indistinct Arranged for her to come up here tomorrow How lovely it will be to see the dear old girl again ! Home to dinner & then to bed

Thursday 9th Had lovely night—slept like a log. First thing this morning the porter came up with a note from Bil, the poor old boy did not get my wire till 6.30 last night when he came home & then tore up here again to see me & I was so sound asleep that I never heard the jolly old porter & of course he went down & said I was out—Poor old boy was very upset ! “Why on earth didn't you ring my office—Perhaps you don't want to be bothered etc. “ So awfully sorry. I'm not going to budge from here till I fix up all of them ! I've tried to ring up his office today but of course the wretched telephone has gone wrong & I cant get him yet ! Hope he wont get very cross with me ! I am at present waiting patiently for something to turn up—The others have gone out shopping.



Dear old Bil turned up about 11.45 looking just the same only more stooey perhaps—After a talk we started off together to me Emmie whose train we found out got in to Waterloo about 12.30. We took a taxi there, saw the train come in, but no Emmie. Waited for the next which got in about ¼ hr later but still could see no Emmie so we took a taxi back to the Hotel & who should be waiting for us in the Hall but the dear old girl herself ! It was good to see her—she looked thinner I think & not extra well but still I may have forgotten what she looked like when she left home. Bil then took the two of us out to lunch at some very swagger Restaurant. After lunch Emmie & I watched the Lord Mayors Show & Bil went back to his office having arranged that we both go down to Gidea Park tomorrow. Had good fun watching the Show, stood on a young box which was offered to us & for which we paid 6^d. Then went to Sorosis Boot Shop in Regent Street & bought a pair of jolly nice tan boots. Then home.

Friday. 10 Off fairly soon after breakfast to Waterloo St. in taxi & down to Gidea Park. Amy & children in—all dears. Of course Josephine howled when she saw us but soon got over it. Kitty was quite friendly. Think we went for a little walk in afternoon. Dear wee house.

Saturday 11th If I remember rightly we went for a walk in morning. Bil home early he & I went for a jolly bicycle ride in afternoon & watched a football match on the way back. Amy, Emmie & the children were watching it too !

Sunday 12th Did not have a good night woke up shivering etc. In a.m. had brute of headache & pains all over the place. Stayed in bed. Deal old Al came down to lunch & spent the afternoon. so wild to have to see him in bed. Bil would have his doctor to see me—told me I was all right, neurasthenia, to rest etc

Monday \13/ Rested ! little walks, played with children, etc. etc. nothing exciting till Friday 17th to relate.

On Friday Emmie & I again sallied forth to London & back to the old Whitehall Hotel. In afternoon we went to see Matron & find out if they knew anything about my doings. Sister Davidson said she was just going to write to us (Jacobson & myself) to tell us we were to be “boarded” on Monday. She was very nice & said she did not think I would be going back to France. We then went to the Aus. Branch of the B.R.C., about my camera which they said would be ready for me on Monday. After that I fancy we either went into Westminster Abbey to evensong or else we did some shopping—oh I forgot to say that we met Betty & M^{rs} Sandover, by appointment & took them to lunch at Regent’s Palace Hotel Think I got my jersey on my way home.

Saturday 18th . Very thick fog. Little rain & snow Stayed in most of morning just went to Mudie’s book shop on the way to meet Bil & Amy who we were to meet at a little restaurant in Old Compton Street but didn’t. Instead we went the Maison Lyons & lunched together & met the other two afterwards. & we all for went to a ‘matinee’ of Romance (we had bought the tickets yesterday) We enjoyed it muchly.



Sunday 19th . Em & I to early church at ———. Home to breakfast & then to S^t Paul's at 11. Bishop of London preached. Was not greatly impressed In afternoon went to Miss Maws I had written to her telling her I was over & as she happened to be spending this week end in London she asked us to go. She was just as nice as ever & we had a jolly time. Went with her to Southwark cathedral in evening

Monday 20th Did some shopping in the morning bloomers combs etc. Home to lunch & then Jacobson Emmie & I to Horseferry Rd. Several other nurses & tons of officers waiting to be boarded. Col. Maudsley & Col Ryan asked me a few questions, put Debility on my papers & gave me a month's extra leave ! After which saw matron who told me she ws going to keep me in England for the present at any rate & I was to send over for my luggage. Then called for my camera & went by underground to see Daisy Stephen who was out so we went across & saw Ellie Spence. Ada Mac. Soon came in & Daisy came too so we had a jolly time.

Tuesday 21st Bromley left for France yesterday. Jacobson goes up to Leeds today to relatives. Em & I met Betty at Waterloo St. at about ¼ to two & we all caught the 2 train down to Bournemouth arriving there about 4.30. after rather a cold journey. We were greeted by the landladies Miss Key & Miss Moyle who seemed ever so glad to see Betty & Emmie back again. Miss Knowles who lives here also seemed very pleased to see them home again.

Wednesday 22nd Have been spending a jolly time down here at Broadmead & now I only have
till one more week. I am out most of the day, walking, as it is so lovely by the

Sunday Dec 10th sea. We have been to Falkland several times & one morning he took me on the pier. We have been several times to concerts & pictures at the Winter Gardens & also Miss Knowles & I went to the skating rink & watched. M^r Quilliam, a N.Z. relative of Miss Bewley's came & spent a week end here was jolly nice, we were sorry when he went. Emmie has not been well all the time & now is in for the "flu" or else a horrid cold, the place is swarming with them. Had a great surprise last Sunday while walking along the under cliff walk to Boscombe who should we meet but Gertie Hole, her husband & little girl ! And then, after talking to them on we went & who should come beaming up to us but dear old Trestrail ! It was delightful to see her & we had a great old talk. She was down here with a patient & staying at the Imperial Hotel not far away. We met several times after that but yesterday I had a note, or rat\h/er the day before, saying she was going back to London that day. So sorry. There are two lovely churches down here, S.Peter's & S. Stephens we go to either & there are ever so many others too. Lovely shops & beautiful parks & gardens. Heaps of convalescent soldiers & others, lots of Australians but have not spoken to any.

March 14th 1917 Oh gracious what a time since I touched this old thing !! Suppose I must try & fill up a bit though how I'm going to do it I don't know ! Well of course I left Boumemouth with a bit of a cold & Emmie just recovering ! Still I'd had a jolly time & enjoyed



it all. Scenery lovely, the cliffs & gardens, parks & beach. Liked Miss Bewley & Miss Knowles so much.

Left Bournemouth with Betty on Monday morning December 18th went straight to Miss Conyers—boarded again & pronounced fit again. Went to No 2 A. A. Hospital at Southall for the night (rather a terrifying journey down as I did not know the way at all & it was about 4 pm & rather foggy. Matrons assistant took me to the top of a tube station (or underground) & gave me directions which I followed never failing to ASK frequently (!) & arrived safely at Southall about 6.30.) Saw Jacobson, Margaret Stevenson, Tessa Dunn, Janet MacDonald there. Up again to Miss Conyers & taken by ambulance to station Charing Cross to catch train to Dartford, No 3. Aust. Aux. Hospital where I have lived ever since. A large hospital of huts & covered ramps two sisters to a hut of 48 beds. Mostly convalescent patients & constantly being sent either to Australia or to furlough. & thence to camp. I have done a month's night duty & have been off & on day duty a month. Everything was brightly & prettily decorated for Xmas We had a swell dinner, officers etc but didn't care for it much.!! Padre not up to much here but he has made a dear little chapel which Bishop Harmer from Rochester, not far from here, came & dedicated not long ago, when one of the pts was confirmed.

I have been up to London a good many times, we get concession but even then it is 2/8. Graham is here & also Herbertson, & others are always coming & going. Calile & Macpherson have both come since I have been here. Emmie came & spent from Friday to Monday with me when I came off night duty, a month ago. it was grand having her. We went to London on the Saturday & to Matinee of Peg o' my heart which we loved. Sister Keith came with us. Several of us went to Windsor Castle & Eton the other day—Miss Nicholson who lives there is most good & takes such an interest in all Australians. She took us round everywhere—It was all most interesting & wonderful. Went to the Castle library, the Curfew tower & dungeons & St Georges' Chapel—Then at Eton we saw the boys assemble & afterwards were taken over the old schoolrooms & Chapel—Saw Shelley, Benson, Fletcher, Gladstone & many other noted names on the walls.

Since I have been here Palmer has arrived from Abbassia where she went with No 14 A.G.H. when she returned from Australia. She only stayed in London about a week when she & all the others who had come across with her went over to France where they have been lent to the English Hospitals. I have had a letter from her since her arrival there & she hates it all—She is at Havre with one other Australian. Poor Sister Knox who went over with her died after a few days with C.S.M. dreadfully sad. Enough for this time will add more later.

August 4th. 3.30 a.m. I have been meaning & meaning—but that's all, to write up this old diary & now I have such tons to enter I dont think Ill ever do it !!

I see at the end of my last entry I mention Palmers arrival in France. Well she has been invalaided back here where she has spent a good many weeks & at last has gone back to Australia, left about a week ago. Lots of things have happened since I wrote last—my furlough, Matrons & the O.C.'s departure also Sister Fleming's & other sisters. Miss Graham



is our matron at present & Major Sutherland O.C. Graham (S.M.J.) is still here & is on night duty in the next wards to me. I have 18 & 19 both surgical & full except one bed, but really very light. Together they hold 92 pts. Capt. Downing who is engaged to our Theatre Sister, S. Marsh, is the M.O. for both wards. & is really very good to the boys—Oh & I have forgotten to mention the Air Raid ! Where shall I begin ? I think I shall have to leave it till tomorrow night & start off with my furlough !

Jan. 13. 12.a.m. 1918 Still at No 3. A.A.H. Dartford Kent. Here I am on night duty once more & I have never touched this diary since August !! And such a lot, & yet really nothing, has happened—I see I have said nothing yet about my glorious 14 days furlough, so shall just run over it quickly. Thompson & a Sister Billie Williams from No 2. A.G.H. & I went off together on June 4th by the Evening train from Euston, I think it was, to Glasgow where we arrived the next morning. Had breakfast at the Caledonian Hotel & went off to Loch Lomond though it was raining & was altogether miserable. Still we loved it; some of our boys Australians, I mean, were on the launch & we chummed up & altogether had a jolly time.

The next day raining again—bought a mackintosh & went for a car ride to Ruken Glen where we had lunch. I left early & came back to town, caught a train to Hamilton as I wanted to see G.A.F. After walking a good bit I finally found the church & Rectory only to be disappointed, as all the house was shut up & he was away on holiday. The church was open so I went in & looked round & took some snaps all of which have turned out failures except one of ~~of~~ the outside. The next day, Saturday, we left Glasgow by an early train & went to Connell's Ferry [?] where we had lunch & caught another train to Ballachulish on Loch Leven. M^{rs} Fairnside, the proprietress was most good & gave us a most sumptuous afternoon tea & wired to Fort William for a motor for us as we had missed the ordinary public conveyance.

After tea we were towed across the Loch, got into the motor & off we went, all along by the side of the glorious locks to Fort William & on to the foot of Ben Nevis then to Spear Bridge where we had dinner & caught the train on to Fort Augustus, a most beautiful spot. Here we spent the week end at the Lovat Arms, & much enjoyed every minute of it. The scenery there is glorious, looking right up Loch Ness A Miss Burns, who was staying at the same Hotel, was so good to us & took us to a great procession at the Monastery there it was Corpus Christi. This is a Benedictine monastery & I went there to High Mass. The choir was composed of monks with their cowls (?) on In the afternoon after the procession, two of the fathers came up to the Hotel to aft. tea with Miss Burns & she asked all 3 of us two We had some good laughs & then they took us down to look over their new church which is being built.



[At the end of the diary is a full page sketch in coloured pencil of "No 1. A.G.H. Rouen"]



[Written along one side of the sketch]

Barter Anderson Von Lambert & Keynes The Nurses Mother Michael Ringwood
Tratham, Em & Home

[Several calculations on inside back cover]