

Sunday Sept 30th 1917

About 4 pm we were wakened and dressed and then carried out to the ambulances waiting, these took us to the quay side at Boulogne and we were then carried onto the hospital ships waiting. There were two the Gan and the princess Elizabeth I was taken on board the latter we were in very comfortable bunks, but were two decks down, level with the water line, thoughts of a torpedo made one feel uncomfortable.

After all our early rising we did not leave port till 2 pm. French time (3 pm Eng). The convoy consisted of three leave ships and the two hospital ships with an escort of three destroyers one being the latest type. We had an uneventful voyage and a very calm sea. We crossed straight to Folkstone and then followed the coast up to Dover, keeping close inshore with the escort to seaward

After a short wait at Dover we were conveyed on to the breakwater and thence into a hospital train. There is a fine large railway station built on the breakwater. Our train must have left Dover about 6 p.m. and it was too dark to see the much of the town. We had not been travelling long before "lights out" was ordered as an air raid was in progress. We did not hear much as the train made too much row but could see the searchlights and see the shells bursting. Bone Gotha was brought down about a 10 minutes walk from one of the stations we passed through.

Monday Sept 1st

Our train arrived at Bristol somewhere about 2 a.m. We were taken out on stretchers and while waiting for the

stretchers were given tea and cake also cigarettes and a pocket handkerchief.

Seven of those taken to Red Maids Hospital (A fine big building in very pretty surroundings. Was originally a girls school)

Left We arrived about 3 a.m. and of course had to have the usual wash and then go to bed only to be awakened at about 4.30 a.m. for the morning wash. However as ~~soon~~ I had to stay in bed I made up for it during the day. The nurses were very kind and we received very good treatment. The only fly in the ointment was the tucker. We had five meals a day. Breakfast, three half slices of bread and butter and a cup of tea. This at 6.30 a.m. At 9 a.m. 1/2 slice bread & butter 1 cup of tea. Dinner, noon, was the only substantial meal and consisted of meat & vegetables followed by a sago or rice pudding on one occasion we had apple tart. Rarely would it run to a second helping. Then we had afternoon tea at 4 p.m.

consisting of 3 half slices of bread & butter and a cup of tea, this was followed by supper at 6 p.m. 1 cup of cocoa & 1/2 slice of bread & butter. Naturally we always had a very big vacuum.

For the first two or three days I was in bed but was afterwards allowed up in the afternoon. There were only a few Australians here. One who had lost a leg had been in since Bullecourt. May 6th of the others I met one had lost an arm and the other been very badly burnt by mustard gas in his last offensive.

Tuesday 9th Sept.

Went into Bristol this morning and drew our kit this evening I was transferred to Bishop Knoll Hospital. This hospital is the private house of Mr Bush and is run by him. it is for Australians. Hearing I was at Red Haids he very kindly had me transferred.

It is an awfully pretty place built on a hill overlooking the Avon River.

We only have four meals a day here but they are ~~four~~ meals. Breakfast consist of porridge and tea and as much bread and butter as you can eat. Sometimes there is fish or meat in place of porridge. Dinner consists of meat and vegetables, and pudding always as much as you want and at every day there is a change in the menu. Tea at 4 p.m. consists of tea and as much bread & butter as you like and then for supper we have hot soup and bread.

Wednesday 10th Sept.

This afternoon a party of us went to the opening of the museum. ^{2 wounded soldiers} We first strolled round and examined the Art Gallery and museum and then had afternoon tea this was followed by a speech by the Mayor of Bristol and then a concert

and ventriloquist show the latter being very good.

Thursday^{11th} stayed in all today.

Friday^{12th} went across to Red Snails to see several of the fellows there ~~who~~ before they leave for Dartford.

Saturday^{13th}

This afternoon I walked along the Downs to Clifton Suspension Bridge. The views from here and all along the downs are magnificent. ~~Then visited~~ You pay 1 penny to cross the bridge & pence return.

I then visited the Gaints cave in the cliff side. To reach this you first go to the Observatory on the cliff top and on paying the fee of 6 pence are given a lantern and shown the way down. You first descend about 30 or 40 feet on a spiral stair case and then travel down a narrow tunnel which leads into the cave.

It is supposed to have been used as a Roman Catholic



Chapel at some period. Had a very decent concert party here this evening.

Sunday^{14th}

Only had leave from ~~two~~ 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. this afternoon on account of church service. Went with Mr's Bush to visit Dr Scott. Dr Scott ~~was is now~~ was in West Australia for several years, he had his practice in Perth but was also at Geraldton for 18 months. We had a good old yarn about all the West Australians we all knew.

Monday^{15th}

This afternoon I visited the Cathedral which is a very fine building, but does not equal the Salisbury Cathedral.

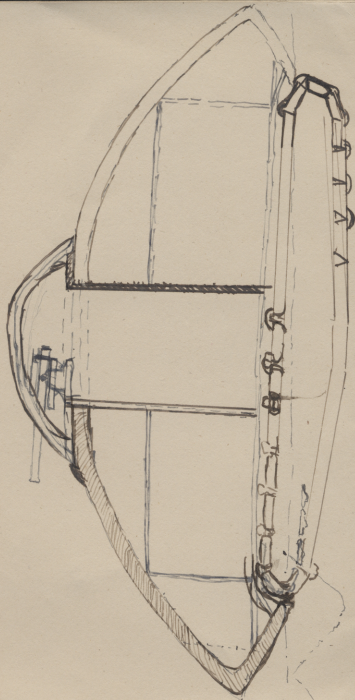
While examining it I noticed a plate on the wall, in memory of John John Latimer, the writer who had lived most of his life in Bristol.

On leaving the Cathedral I crossed College Green and walked up to Cabot's Tower. For the sum of 2 pence

You can go to the top so I went.
It is only about 80 feet high but being
on a hill you get a splendid view of
Bristol, unfortunately today was a
bit misty, so we could not see very far.
From this tower you look right
down onto the docks, which appeared
to be very busy, and I was ~~not~~
surprised to see the size of ship they
were turning out. I had no idea ~~small~~
the Avon would float such large ships.
On the stone railings of the landing of
this tower brass plates were let
in giving the direction of most
of the principal towns in England
and Europe and their distance
and also the same with all the
chief buildings in Bristol

Tuesday 16th

Today I went to the tramway centre
and then went up Clare Street



and all round but did not come across anything much, except the Old Dutch house in Wine Street.

Had a frightful bilious attack all the afternoon so did not have a very pleasant afternoon.

Wednesday 17th

Did not go out on leave today.

Thursday 18

This afternoon I walked down to Shirehampton and Avonmouth. Neither of the villages are much but the walk down there was very pretty and well worth the trouble. There are some very fine docks at Avonmouth but you cannot visit them without a permit.

Friday 19th

Today we had an early

dinner and were then taken to the Hippodrome where an entertainment was given to 2000 wounded soldiers. The performance was very good especially Darewsky and Alexander Prince.

Saturday 20th

Walked down the road to Hotiells this afternoon and then along the river, under the suspension bridge and then up to the top of the cliff again by the cliff railway which goes up through a tunnel, one car goes up as the other comes down. Frances day today and of course we were caught and had to buy a badge. Finished up the last of my pay at the F. M. C. A. dug out, in afternoon tea

Sunday 21st

Did not apply for a pass today but nurse - asked us to her home to tea so Diamond and I went in - came for us in the motor and we drove. Spent a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon. Arrived back in the motor just in time for church service.

Monday 22nd

Nothing much doing today, went into Bristol for the afternoon. Very few trams running on account of the strike.

Tuesday 23rd decided to stay in today as my cash is low and the trams are not running to part of Bristol I want to go to.

Wednesday 24th

Very wet today, but as I taken out a pass I went into Bristol took the tram down to Old Market and then walked back through Care St and changed my last Deux Francs

note into English coin at the Post Office.
Had tea at G.M.C. and returned to
hospital in time to have another
afternoon tea and wash up the tea
things.

Thursday 25th

Today being very windy and
cold we contented ourselves
with a visit to the pictures
and afternoon tea at G.M.C.
~~My funds having come down
as low as~~

Friday 26

Walked to Bristol and spent
my last 5 in ~~by~~ buying a Flight
Came back in time for tea.

Saturday 27th

Nothing doing today so had
to stay at home and play
billiards. Very decent concert
this evening. Especially

Sunday 28

Monday 29th

Today being pay day I was able to go
forth to see the sights of Bristol
once more with 3/6 in my pocket.
Spent the best part of the afternoon
searching the shops for a map of
England with railway systems, so
as to determine my route during
the leave.

Tuesday 30th

Wednesday 31st

Paid a visit to St Mary's Church Redcliff
It is a very fine old building and
has some beautiful work in it.

It also has a history, dating back to
the 14th century, it was eventually
finished by — one of the
richest merchants at Bristol

at that time, after resigning the
church he became a clergyman
and for some years was at St Marys
later he became Canon of Westbury
He had to pay the sum of
12000 marks to King Edward
for some grants made He did
this by giving several of his
ships. In the inscription
by the vault where he is buried
it gives the names of the ships and
their tonnage. 900 being the
largest.

Thursday 1st Nov
Just went out for a few hours
this afternoon and called on the
Dr Sects to say good bye as
I am leaving hospital

tomorrow
Friday 2nd

Having changed our beds for
bake and said our adieus were
were taken to the 2nd S G. in
ambulances and after the
usual military red tape marched
to South Meads Station, and caught
the train to London. Journey
was fairly interesting, passed through
Birmingham, Reading, etc. A great
many factories close to the
line at different places.

Edison gramophone, Horlicks malted
milk, Huntley & Palmers biscuits,
arrived Paddington 2.30, taken in
ambulances to H. F. S. via
Hyde Park, stayed at 4 hrs till

After waiting for passes and
pay which I eventually got
then with the good help of a
street archer made my way
to ~~the~~ Vic station and caught
the 5.48 train to Sunbridge
Wells, via E. Grinstead, and
arrived up at Grace's home
where after 7.45 p.m.

Saturday 3rd

Spent all this morning
shopping and trying
to find how the trains
ran to Broadstone.

eventually managed to
get everything fixed up
and then sent a telegram
to Aunt Bertina in

PPC 3660 (395) (11)