



Rifle 16194  
Bayonet 3903

19  
26

The W & Bayley

12th Batten

3rd Brigade

Egypt

Dec. 3 Many changes have  
elapsed since last entry.  
On the 15<sup>th</sup> I spent the day  
at Swindon with Mr. Donald  
of the 1<sup>st</sup> Div Train. We had  
a fair time but the town is  
purely a working class place.  
On the 16<sup>th</sup> I went to Andover  
& met Molly. We had tea at  
her friends place & thence  
home. On Sunday I rode  
across & put in a very  
enjoyable evening. Monday  
morning I set out for  
France. We marched to  
Indworth & dined to Sh-  
ampton & spend the day

in the city. It is a very fine place & in the restaurant (Pieris) one saw some of the finest & best dressed of ladies. The town was all in gala gear & one would have enjoyed a few days here. <sup>long sleep with baby</sup> We sailed out at 9 o'clock past the huge Aquidania (my second time of passing seeing her at Lemnos 3 years previously) & the ferry boat to the Isle of Wight. The night was cold & bright

moonlight. I turned down the offer of a cabin @ £1 & slept on the table in the hall. Having a blanket it was not too bad & early next morning we were at Bellare. Shortly after daylight we landed, marched through the town to the train & thence to Harfleur. Harfleur is the usual collection of hut 5, YM's & mess rooms & our quarters were sent 5 (10 to a tent.) Next night I marched out with a draft to conduct them

to their destination -  
We embarked at  
the same Charonne &  
arrived at Rouen about  
daybreak. Back in this  
well known city I went  
to my old rooms & spent  
the day there. We  
proceeded on our journey  
that night & next morning  
awoke amidst the familiar  
scenes of Calve & Villers  
Brett. Later in the day  
we passed Peronne &  
then on to St Quentin.  
The Hindenburg line here  
shows plainly the

severe fighting of a few  
weeks before. St Quentin  
is not unlike Peronne  
with its surroundings  
of swamp & railway  
embankments but has  
not been so badly  
wrecked as Peronne.  
We debarked at Fresnoy  
& slept the night in  
a ruined woollen factory  
whilst sitting round  
a fire one had a great  
shock. Some of the timber  
had been detonated  
& the consequent explosion  
rather put the wind up  
one.

In the morning we "hopped  
trains" to Le Cateau.

Along this road we  
had our first view of  
the returning prisoners.  
One will never forget  
their wan, apathetic  
faces & the dull, hopeless  
faces of the civilians.

No where did I see the  
flags or <sup>hear the</sup> cheers that one  
read of in the papers.

Le Cateau is badly  
damaged. All bridges,  
railways, & banked  
roads were mined &  
blown up. Factories

absolutely destroyed & all  
machinery either taken  
away or rendered useless.

I had dinner with  
the Cyclists & met Roy  
Douglas, Ted Willey, Ted Bailey

Leaving Le Cateau I  
proceeded to Cambrai, which  
once fine city is on a  
par with St. Quentin &  
Le Cateau, back along  
the devastated country  
of Aisne to Arras  
thence to Doullens.

Remained there  
for the dance &  
continued to Amiens.  
From Amiens to Rouen

I had the company of  
some nice little WAAAC's  
& after the night at  
73 met them again  
& proceeded to leave.

Spent the evening  
in the city in company  
with Madge Evans. Have  
possesses some fine shops  
& wide streets which  
show off the buildings to  
a greater extent than is  
usual in most French  
towns. Thursday

set out in a drizzling  
rain, & with a full  
pack up, for Doullens.

The company slogged  
sullenly along and about  
midnight I saw us  
packed in trucks &  
canes, wet through  
cold hungry. The

law - brose grey &  
threatening. As the  
train steamed slowly  
past Amiens I jumped  
off & later in the day  
caught the train to  
Doullens. Here I  
arrived at 2 o'clock  
& immediately settled  
down as W/O of my  
new unit the 18th

A.D.V.S. Doullens is a typical French "occupied" town not without its importance. Here it was that the meeting was held that decided the supreme command in the dark days of the end of March.

Dec 4 Traveled across to Frevent & was accorded a warm reception. It seems strange to be back amongst the old familiar scenes of

two years ago. I hope to obtain leave to Nice about the 20<sup>th</sup> & after that am prepared to go home Dec. 25. I am sitting in the dining room of 30 R.R. after two weeks of Depot Unit the only part I enjoyed. Being Bill's company, the order came for me to proceed homewards. I was not sorry and on the 16<sup>th</sup> moved to Boulogne via

the old Fremont, Conchy  
road. On the 17<sup>th</sup> after  
a rough passage, arrived  
at Folkestone & reported  
to London. Spent a  
week there fixing up  
a passage to Russia  
via America. Met  
Stan Payne, Gordon &  
Pos Shaker & saw the  
Russian Ballet at the  
Coliseum & the Lila  
Deming at Daly's. On  
the 22<sup>nd</sup> arrived in  
Southport & on 23<sup>rd</sup>  
went to the Palladium  
with Doris & spent

a very enjoyable evening.  
It is now Xmas Day &  
am attempting to  
write a few letters.

Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. am booked to sail  
by Adriatic 25000 on Wed  
next. Have been spending  
10 days at Freetown  
where I had a very  
fine time going to  
Blackpool, Lyham,  
Preston & St. James with  
Mary. The Cooks  
are very fine people  
& made me feel quite  
at home.

Jan. 19. Expect to sail  
tomorrow.



Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>. Sailed from Liverpool  
on the 21<sup>st</sup>. to Brest & there  
took on board 2,000 Yanks.

My last Sunday in  
Southport I walked with  
Doris along the shore to  
Linsdale. It was with  
more than a little regret  
that I watched the  
rugged coasts of Wales  
grow dim & then dis-  
appear in the gathering  
dark. The lighthouses  
swinkled their final  
farewells & then it  
was Goodbye for  
ever. *Francis Day*

smiling in a warm sun  
but we were not able  
to go ashore.

The Adriatic is a  
good ship, berths comfort-  
able & meals plain but  
good. The people on  
board are fairly un-  
interesting but the  
greater part are  
soldiers. There are 10  
Australians proceeding  
homewards. The  
weather has been  
remarkably fine &  
warm & the  
sea very calm for  
this time of the year.

We arrived in New York  
harbour at sunset. Past  
Borey & Staten Islands so  
where the skyscrapers reflected  
the last rays of the setting  
sun. The Statue of Liberty  
we passed at close quarters.

My 4½ weeks stay in New  
York was a succession of  
social functions, dinner  
lunches & evenings. We  
met some very fine  
girls & seemed to be in  
great demand. New York  
is a fine place but one  
requires plenty of money.  
Alice Williams is the president  
of the feminine club I

have seen. We visited the  
Stock Exchange, Woolworth,  
& several other large &  
interesting buildings.

Mar 6 Left for Buffalo  
with Pizzie & Lammie to  
see us off. 7<sup>th</sup> Visited  
Magaid. Very fine but  
was not what one might  
call a westchester.

Mar 8<sup>th</sup> arrived in Chicago  
Don't like it very much.

Visited the Stockyards &  
Libby's. Offered 3 jobs -  
lecturing, yearbooks &  
a manager at Montgomery  
On the way to Kansas.

December 1918

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March 1919



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Australia  
War Memorial

