

MEMORANDUM.

Alexandra

12-7-15.

Dear Mum,

I was very anxiously waiting your letter on Tuesday afternoon to see what you had to say about me volunteering. I was very pleased you considered things & came to the decision you did. I had been up to the doctor's first morning to see what he thought of me & he said he thought I would be O.K. if I had my feet fixed. I then went straight of down to the dentist & got him to take my impression for a top set. We will be a very happy little party when we get away. There are about seven of us (all Reckharts) trying to get away together. Five of us will be going for sure. Two of my best mates

MEMORANDUM.

perc. Mansfield (Lilo brother) & Dave Collins
are among the number. perc, like me has
been trying to get away for a long time but
has been unable to get consent. As soon as
his mother knew Dave & I were going she
said she did not mind so much as she
thought we would be far better all being
together. You see there will be no need to
worry at all as we will all be able to look
after each other. We intend leaving here if
possible on the 3rd of next month. The
Church of England parson from here has
volunteered & has written to the Bishop
to make arrangements for taking over charge
of this parish. If he gets things fixed up
in time he might be one of our party also.
There were forty recruits left here by train

MEMORANDUM.

On Monday afternoon. They were given a bit of a send-off in the hall, & then they all marched to the station headed by the band. pretty well all the boys turned out to see them off. They had hard work to all get on to the station platform. About half past nine went away by the train yesterday & still they keep coming. Things will be quite quiet at the boarding house soon, Miss Kemp is being transferred, Ted White (that's Ma Collins' boy who is now boarding with us) has volunteered to leave next week, & then I go at the end of the month. There will be nobody left there at all. I was talking to Fred a while ago a few minutes ago & he said he goes on holidays tomorrow & does not think he will resume duty again. He is going to have

MEMORANDUM.

Another try at the doctor. I was sorry I could not get your letter written straight away last night, but I went out to the Intercession service which they hold here every week, & by the time I got home it was about bed time. This morning I did not get a chance at all as I had to go down again about my letter, & wrote a bit of a note this afternoon for you to fill in, so I hope you get it alright.

We have had a great day here today, the first row for some time. The local of this town are holding a French patriotic concert in the hall tonight so I suppose I will have to patronise them. I will have to drop Annie Nell a few lines in a day or so to see if she

MEMORANDUM.

Can put me up for the night when you go to town. Well I think I have said all there is to be said at present so will now wind up. I was sorry to hear of Bob Beyer being wounded. Oh I am having very news of the army of late. Well hoping all are well & with best love to all.

I remain

Your aff. son

Will.

I hope you will not worry at all about me going away, as I will be a right as pie. I have got some pretty good mates & then again we will have no chance of being right in the gray for at least six months (worst luck).

Kind regards to all friends. Will be up to see you all one of these fine days.

SAILORS' & SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE

24 NOV 15 4 30 A

VICTORIA

NEXT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
FLINDERS STREET, MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE
24 NOV 15 4 30 A



Mrs W Peach,
"Banking"
High St.
Beechworth.
Vic

JURNF
24NO154 10A
★ ★

VICTORIA

MELBOURNE
24NO154 10A
★ ★

VICTORIA

PR00597
Australian
War Memorial

SAILORS' & SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE

NEXT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL,

PROVIDED BY THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

MELBOURNE,

FOR MEN OF THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

23-11-1915

Dear Mum,

I came into the city from Port last night with the full intention of doing some writing. I wanted to go up to see Moll first to get her opinion on some proofs of photos I had taken. When I once got there I had no chance of getting away so that I put off my letter writing. She was saying she was writing home so I told her to tell you I would not write for a day or two. All being well we are going out to see Mrs Simpson tomorrow night. Having the nights all to myself gives me a chance to get around a bit. Last Wednesday night we both went out to Coburg to see Auntie Edie & family. All were well except Ethie. She had been off colour all day. I had a chance of getting a look all through portridge had I been able to get off on Friday afternoon. I put in my application for leave, giving a great (faked up) excuse for same, but it was not granted. Only very special cases are allowed leave from the school. We were all free to go where we pleased from 12.50 P.M. Saturday to 6.30 A.M. Monday. I spent the week end out at Auntie Nellie's. I was that tired Saturday night that I went off to sleep straight after tea & did not wake up until 9.30 Sunday morning. I went to church three times on Sunday.

SAILORS' & SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE

NEXT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL,

PROVIDED BY THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

MELBOURNE,

FOR MEN OF THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

In the morning I went to the Church of England with Auntie Nellie & in the afternoon & night I went down to the St Kilda Long Hall as the Methodist Sunday School were celebrating their anniversary there.

We are having a fair time at our school down at Port Melbourne. This morning was so cold as a cold day in the middle of winter & the rain came down in torrents. We did not mind this as we got out of a couple of hours drill. We finish up out there about 2 o'clock on Friday afternoon next. I don't know whether we will be going back to the show grounds or where we will be going. 200 of our company are to be picked out to go to Williamstown for 10 days from Thursday next. From Williamstown they will go to Broadmeadows & I understand they are to sail on the 23rd of December. I don't know yet whether I will be one of the number. There were a big crowd went away to the front today. The *Terania* with about 2600 on board steamed out from the Port pier. We could see it quite well from our camp.

The boys out at the show grounds had a great time on Thursday night last. Under scaled orders all the men from the show grounds (Infantry, Army Medical, Army Service Grenadiers, signallers, Miners, Parsons, black etc) set out at 6 pm. for a night attack. They were march right out through Eastwood & out the Keilor Road. They manoeuvred out around

SAILORS' & SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE

NEXT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL,

PROVIDED BY THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

MELBOURNE,

FOR MEN OF THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1915

The hills fell about 12.30 pm & then turned in for the night
with the stars shining down upon them. About 6 o'clock the
next morning they had to get at it again. They had to charge
down a steep hill, ~~just~~ jump into a river running along the
bottom, & wade across to the other side ~~peck~~ deep in water.
Officers & all were treated alike. They afterward had to
march back to camp, a distance of nine miles with their
clothes soaking wet. All they had to eat from the time they
started to the time they got back was a couple of dog biscuits,
& they got a cup of coffee to drink. My luck was right out,
I had the misfortune to miss it all. Now I'm afraid this
is all the news so I must close. With love to all.

I remain,
your aff son
Will.



39

Mrs W Peache,

84/90 Street,
Blackworth,

Australia.

Victoria.



5.8

Australian
War Memorial
650028



Resident Chaplain:
REV. F. T. CLEVERDON,

Methodist Soldiers' Home

Military Camp, Broadmeadows,

2-12-1915

The
13. Reinforcements,
7th Infantry Battalion,
Military Camp Broadmeadows.

Dear Vera,

Once again we are in a new home. We left
Williamstown at 9.25 this morning & arrived out
here about noon. Our kits which left by motor
transports about the same time as ourselves did
not reach the camp till about 5.30 p.m. Along all
our eating utensils were packed up in them we found
it rather awkward eating our stew at dinner time.
The whole night of us were dipping out of the tin
dishes with whatever we could find. I was using a
little pocket knife, but found it rather awkward
picking up the gravy, which by the way was all burnt.
I think they will have to get you down here on the
job. We did not relish the stew too much so cleared
out to a "joint" just outside the camp & got a
decent feed. There are very few in the camp here
at present as there has been such a lot going away
of late. I suppose there would be about 1000 of
us come in today. Up to the present we know



Resident Chaplain:
REV. F. T. CLEVERDON,

Methodist Soldiers' Home

Military Camp, Broadmeadows,

191

nothing of final leave. Our O.C. told us today he did not think we would get it for about a week now. We were asking him if he knew when we were to sail, but he says he does not. He told us he heard (unofficially) that we are to go across on a mail steamer which is at present in Port undergoing repairs. I hope we do, as we will then call in at nearly every Port on the way. We would probably go round via Colombo.

I called over to Uncle Reid's Studio this evening, but he is away at ~~Parsons~~ Seymour. I was having a talk to Mr Lucas & he says he thinks Uncle Reid will be back tomorrow.

Our O.C. was saying today that we are here now to do work & will have to bog into it a bit. It is just about time as, up to the present, it has been a real picnic. At Williamstown we did practically nothing. Now I have no more news just at present so will say good-night.

With best love to all,

Yours,

Your aff brother, Will.

METHODIST SOLDIERS' HOME,
BROADMEADOWS CAMP



VICTORIA



Miss Vera Beach
"Bentleigh"
High Street
Beechworth Vic

Australian
War Memorial



Resident Chaplain:
REV. F. T. CLEVERDON.

Methodist Soldiers' Home

Military Camp, Broadmeadows,

19 - 12 - 1915

13th Reinforcements,
7th Battalion,
Broadmeadows.

Dear Mum,

You will be thinking I have sailed or am lost or something of the sort. I had Ill out to see me today & she was saying she hadn't written yet but was going to do so today. I have not been in too good form for writing these last few days. We had our first taste of inoculation the day or so after we returned, & have been suffering from stiff arm ever since. My arm swelled up a good bit & was a bit sore. Thursday night it was at its worst. The swelling has not gone down altogether yet but it does not feel sore unless I give it a good knock. We have to be done again in a few days & then be vaccinated later.

We had a fair trip coming down from Beechworth. Ill & I had a carriage to ourselves all the way. I think I was sleeping all the way to Seymour & was lying down till I got to Broadmeadows. When the conductor came around the



Resident Chaplain:
REV. F. T. CLEVERDON

Methodist Soldiers' Home

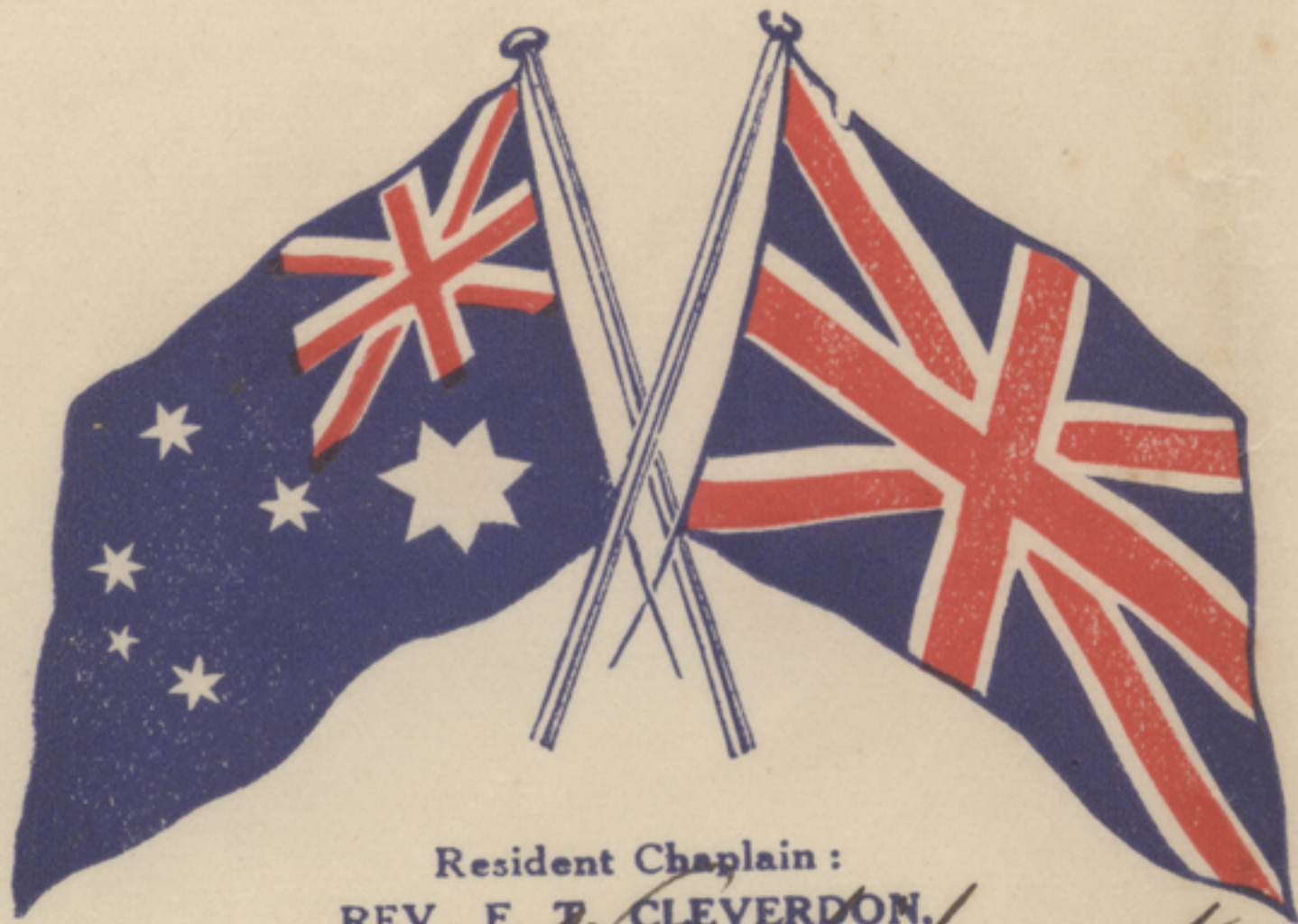
Military Camp, Broadmeadows,

191

first time for the tickets we were both stretched out on the seats asleep. He roused me up as he thought I would have both tickets. When he found I only had my own, he said not to bother waking Mr. The second time he came along I was having a glass of chili wine & the bottle was on the floor beside me. He said it looked suspicious & would probably account for us being asleep the first time.

Friday the boys & I had evening leave so we went into the city to do some shopping while we had a chance. Yesterday afternoon we had open camp on account of the 2ndas Military Sports at the A.B.C. grounds. In the afternoon Percie & I went down to Queen's Park to the New South England Band competition. We came back to Essendon & had tea at some friends of Percie's (also great friends of Mrs. Jones) At night we went down to Ruckle St to the Picture Theatre.

Will French & Miss McWill were both out to see Frank this afternoon. All the others out of my hat were away so they all came & had tea with me. (They brought some of their own with them).



Methodist Soldiers' Home

Military Camp, Broadmeadows,

191

Resident Chaplain:
REV. F. F. CLEVERDON.

We did not get away from here on Thursday as we expected. I think we will be sailing somewhere about Christmas. We are having some great music here at present. There are about a dozen of the lads around the piano on Alexander's Hymns. I have no more news so will knock off & join them. With kindest love to all,

I remain,

Your loving son
Will.

P.S. I have seen a couple more B. worth lads since I came back. Geo Anderson, Phil Brunning & Archie Trevasius.

195
12
15
16
160
160

1920
collected
1918

34
Mrs W Peach,
Thorp Street,
Geelong,
Victoria, Australia.



No. 54

Australian
War Memorial

No 1

No 4272
13th Reinforcements,
7th Battalion,
2nd Infantry Brigade
A. P. F. Abroad.

Dear Mum, This is the first time I have done any of this work, writing letters from on board. You would see by my telegram that I arrived here today. We did not expect to have to embark until 9 o'clock Wednesday morning but at 8 o'clock Monday night we were all called up & told we had been selected as advance guard & had to be ready to move off at nine this morning. As we had to pack our kits, get different things packed & return others, we had to put a spurt on. Bevalle sounded at 4 am so we had to be up & at it early. All arrangements went off well & we were ready to move off sharp at nine. We came down to Port by special train arriving here about noon. I understand from what some of the workmen say that the boat is not a bad one to sail on. They

PROCESSED
AUSTRALIAN
WAR MEMORIAL

say, all going well we should arrive at
Suva in a month's time. The name of the
boat is the "Demosthenes" or Troopship 1764.
The tonnage is 13000 tons, the number of
crew about 200 & there will be about 1600
troops going by it. We had a lecture today
about the strict censor to be made on all
letters etc so in future I will not be able
to tell you ^{much} about the boat we are on, the
boats we pass on the way, the ports of call &
so on. I am chancing a bit today &
I will try & give this to someone to post in
town. We had our first dinner on board
today; Soup, Roast-beef, Potatoes & faggots.
The soup & meat were not much but the
vegetables were good. Our quarters are
situated near the forward end of the boat
I hear it is not the best place, but yet
not too bad.

The remainder of the troops
will arrive here tomorrow ~~afternoon~~ morning
& we will probably steam off in the afternoon.
I had Grandpa & Le. out at the
camp to see me yesterday. Stan & Uncle Henry
were going out tonight, but they will find me

Missing. I got the photo of the group alright & think it very good. Tell Vera she looks just A1. That is the best photo I have seen of her.

If Dad has not sent my pair of breeches on as I asked her to do tell her not to do so as I do not want them in particular & they will probably go astray if she sends them on. If she has sent them to the meadow, ask her to write & get them to readdress them back to Beechworth.

Now I'm afraid this is all the news this time so I will say Au Revoir. I will write again as soon as I get a chance.

Hoping all are well as I am myself, & with fondest love to all,

Dennis

Your loving son
Will.

I am still in with all my mates & am quite well so don't worry about me.

No 1



Australian
War Memorial

Mrs W Peach
Bentley
High St
Beechworth
Vic.

2
S/Lt Col W. S. Peach,
No 4272,
19th Reinforcement,
7th Battalion,
2nd Inf. Brigade,
A.S. & A.M.

Dear Mum,

Once again I have the chance of writing to you before the boat begins to get a roll on. We are still in Port. I think now we are to sail about 2 pm. We have all been on the job this morning sweeping up the boat to be in readiness for the remainder of the troops who are now waiting on the pier.

It was very funny at breakfast time. The mess orderlies were all fallen in & marched off for the ration. They returned with bread, butter & tea & we all sat down & had a good feed. When we went down to get the hot water to wash up in, the cook wanted to know if we were not going to have any breakfast. We told him we had finished & were now ready to wash up, but he told us we hadn't drawn half our ration. We should have had Porridge, Stew & Mince Meat besides what we had already. For dinner we are to

get Roast Beef, Peas & Potatoes. If they feed
us up like that & give us nothing to do, we will be
getting quite fat by the time we reach Egypt.

We had a bit of an experience with
our sleeping accommodation last night - we all
sleep in hammocks strung up to the roof. We
found them a bit awkward at first, but they
got real comfortable when we settled down. We
didn't like turning out this morning. There
are 196 men sleep in our room & 206 sit down
for meals. The room, I suppose would be about
50 ft. square.

We were kept busy yesterday afternoon
passing the life belts into position! There is
a life-belt for every man on board & we put on
a few extra as well.

Well I parted with all my wool last
night. It feels real good. I don't have the
bother of combing or brushing it now. The
boys all have a good look at me & laugh.

They say I look just like a shorn sheep.

We had an inspection by the Gov.
General, & Staff Commandant this morning.

Well I have no more news so will say
Au Revoir again. Hoping all are well as we
all are here & with best love to all.

I remember
your loving son,
M. H. H.

1914
AUSTRALIAN
WAR MEMORIAL



VICTORIA



VICTORIA



No 2
Mrs W. Beach,
'Bentleigh',
High St.,
Beechworth
Vic

Australian
War Memorial



EXCHANGE STUDIOS

T.S.S. "DEMOSTHENES."

49 PITT ST. SYDNEY
N.S.W.

Still having a good time. Hoping all quite well & with
best love to all

POST CARD.

29/12/15

CORRESPONDENCE.

ADDRESS.

1900597
Australian
War Memorial
STAMP.

Dear Mum,

Germany
I am off soon with
a boat to leave in 2 an hour with mails & hear
No 4272 etc.

There is a possibility of getting a mail sent
back by the pilot boat tomorrow so I will send you a photo
of the boat we are on. We left Port at 1.30 pm. & am anchor-
ed about a mile out in the bay. We will proceed on again
either tonight or tomorrow morning. I started to write to all
this morning & then the crowd were let on to the pier so of
course I had to go up on deck. As the boat was about to sail I
did not get a chance to finish it. Percy's Uncle & young lady
were down to see him off so I threw a couple of letters overboard
for his uncle to post. In the photo the top cross is where I was to
have a good look about, the 2nd where we were when the boat moved off
& the third where our quarters are situated. There was a big crowd
on the pier to see us off. It was a sad sight to see them from near shore
but when we got out a bit the different colors presented a very pretty sight.

On Active Service

No stamps available

VICTORIA

No 9
31 DEC. 15. 12.15 AM

A.I. FORCES
-POSTAGE FREE-

*Mrs W Peach,
"Bentleigh"
High Street,
Beechworth*

Vic

PR00597
Australian
War Memorial

No 4

No 4272 etc.
30/12/15

Dear Mum,

I have no news much to write about, but will just scribble a bit of a note with a chance of getting the pilot boat to post it, at Queenscliff. We are just about to go through the heads. So far all well with all the boys. Have heard of no cases of sea sickness yet. The fun will probably start when we get out into the ocean. Things continue to get more comfortable with us. As we go on as we are just getting settled down. No more news so will go up on deck for a blow. I suppose this will be the last note for a while now. Hoping all are well & with best love,

Yr remain,

Your aff son,
Bill

Bill

No 4

On Active Service



Mrs W. Planch
Bentleigh
High Street,
Beechworth
Vic

PR00597
Australian
War Memorial