

Priscilla Isabel Wardle

A Nurse at the Front

“Your qualifications as a nurse must include, gentleness, cleanliness, truthfulness, observation, order, courage, coolness and tact”

Contents

Contents.....	1
Foreword & Dedication.....	2
The Transcription.....	3
Transcription rules.....	4
THE DIARY	5
Attachment One – The extra pages.....	209
Attachment Two – Isabella’s letter.....	237
Attachment Three – Harry’s letter.....	243
Attachment Four – Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badges..	249
Priscilla- A brief Biography.....	261
Diary – What Diary!.....	265
Basic conservation.....	266
First qualified nurses to volunteer.....	267
Nursing in 1915 & Changing world.....	268
Which nurse is which.....	269
Which hospital does what & Currency.....	270
List of nurses on RMS Orontes.....	271
Priscilla’s Service History.....	272
Facts, Thoughts and Characters.....	273
Bibliography – Of sorts.....	282
Additional Pages and Page Updates – January 2020.....	285

Front cover: Priscilla circa 1915

A studio portrait thought to be prior to her departure for France in 1915. Priscilla is wearing her Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) cape which is all red. She is also wearing her white muslin cap. At her throat she is wearing the nurses Silver Army Rising Sun or General Service “throat” badge worn only by nurses.

Foreword

It is now over one hundred years since the Diary was written and in November 2018 it was the centenary of the end of World War 1 in November 1918.

In June 2019 it was one hundred years since Priscilla's return home and her marriage to Cyril in November 1919. The Transcription is therefore a timely remembrance of this part of their lives.

This is certainly no novel or authoritative work .

Please feel free to correct and change any errors or mistakes you may find and for which I apologise in advance.

My motive in undertaking the Transcription was to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War in 2019 and to commemorate Priscilla's service and the service of all the other nurses in the Great War as well as to make the Diary available to read for everyone but particularly her family.

My special thanks go to Priscilla's grandchildren, Richard, Judy, Kay, Mandy, Jenni, Jane and John and especially Jenni for suggesting the need for the Diary transcription. And to the lovely Kay for supporting a husband often living in 1915-1916.

It was a challenge to complete however it was also a very interesting and rewarding task. The transcription and the many "page notes" at the end of each transcription page explaining who, when, where and what has taken around ten months to complete between October 2018 and September 2019.

It would be really nice to think that the transcription may encourage families to celebrate and record the lives of those who have "been here" before us , as well as those who we are still able to ask, and to document their lives and experiences which after all are so much a part of our own lives.

Dedication

Dedicated to Priscilla and all the nurses in all the wars who dedicated themselves so bravely and unselfishly and with so much devotion* so that others may live.

*[Devotion - See Australian War Memorial (AWM) Hall of Memory.]

The Transcription

This transcription was started initially from a photocopy of a photocopy provided by the State Library of Victoria. This photocopy was of a very poor quality particularly for Diary pages numbered 1 to 51 with Diary pages numbered 52 to 100 just above poor. Priscilla's handwriting too was initially difficult to understand.

We subsequently found Priscilla's original Diary (see Diary what Diary! page 265) the first fifty Diary pages are still very hard to read and very faint but the last fifty Diary pages are in Priscilla's original handwriting. What a find!

A "transcription" is simply that. Read and understand the words and transcribe them into a document which faithfully mirrors the original. However my approach of wanting to understand the context as fully as possible made it more than this.

It has taken longer than originally planned as a result of the need to research the people, names, places, dates, family links, cities, articles, diseases, war history, events and stories detailed by Priscilla in the Diary. I did not want people to have to search for this information by having to go to other pages within the document and to avoid this I have added "page notes" to each of the transcription pages but this has resulted in the repetition of some information. However I hope you will appreciate the easy access to this "page note" information.

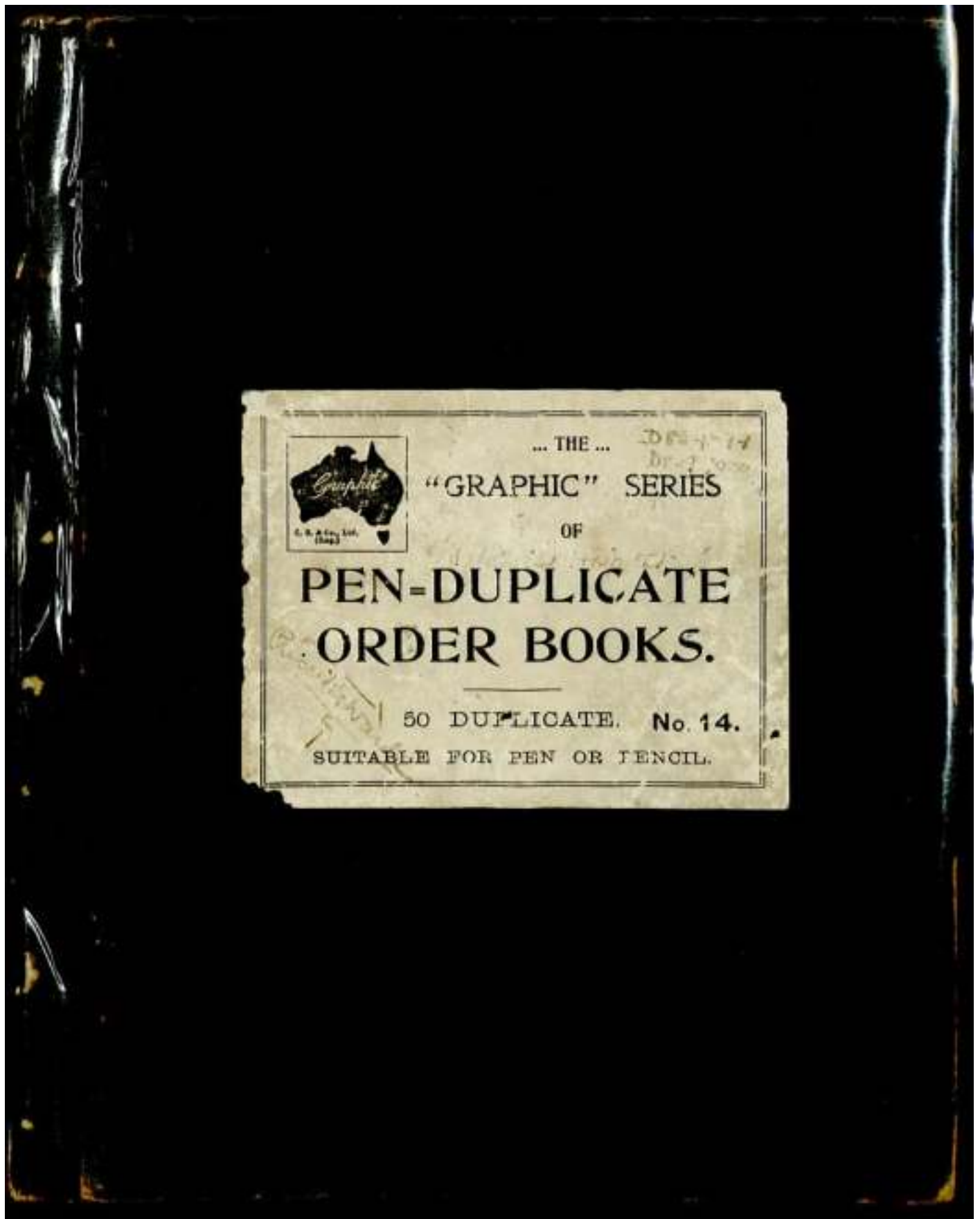
There is further detailed information attached in the document. This includes a brief Priscilla biography, information about finding the original Diary, the conservation undertaken, information on the volunteer nurses, a changing time, nursing hierarchy, what each hospital did, a currency comparison, a list of nurses on the ship to England, Priscilla's service history, extra associated diary type pages, family letters, photographs and a number of "facts, thoughts and characters". Importantly

"This is a sympathetically created transcription which transcribes the original text as accurately as possible"

Transcription rules

- a. Each “Diary page number “ indicated on the transcription page corresponds to the Diary page number of the original diary.
- b. The format of the dates varies in the Diary but they are transcribed as they were written.
The day of the week and/or the month and/or the year have been added to the date entry by me where required. The additions are in brackets. Example (*Sunday*)
- c. The Diary has 97 Diary pages with entries, two pages with no entries and Diary page 100 has 41 signatures. (Transcription of the front cover and fly leaf is also included.) (The back cover and fly leaf have no information and are not included)
- d. Priscilla used the symbol ~ to indicate a break in entry and this has been retained in the transcription.
- e. Priscilla used the symbol & which has been **changed** to the word **and** in the transcription to assist in making the text easier to read.
- f. Researched words are highlighted in grey with an explanation in the “page notes” at the bottom of each transcription page .
- g. The Diary is sometimes difficult to read for different reasons , see also Diary what Diary! on page 265.
- h. Where word(s) could not be identified *unknown?* is entered.

“For complete accuracy please refer to the original Diary pages.”



Diary ~ Front cover

Central Label

Top right hand corner two numbers written

D 829699

D 82990-0

Name of Hospital written
Above the word

Malassises Hospital
PEN=DUPLICATE

Bottom left hand corner written
Above the word

Priscilla Wardle
SUITABLE

D 829699 - Unknown

D 82990-0 - Unknown

Malassises Hospital - No 7 British General Hospital Malassises in Saint Omer, France

Priscilla Wardle - Priscilla Isabel Wardle the Author

Priscilla Wardle.
R. W. S. "Orator."
April 1918.

Rep. Aunt L. J. Smith
& Aunt E. Smith.

Diary ~ Title page

Priscilla Wardle

R. M. S. "Orontes"

April 1915

Roju ?~ Aunt ?Lizbeth?

Aunt? Ekuara?

Priscilla Wardle - Priscilla Isabel Wardle the Author

R.M.S. - Royal Mail Service , Royal Mail Ship, Royal Mail Steamer

Orontes - Orient Line Steamer, launched 10 May 1902, accommodation 200 first class, 200 second class and 600 third class

Roju - Elder or Elders in Japanese language?

Aunt - Sister of one's father or mother or the wife of one's uncle

Lizbeth - May be Elizabeth Agnes (Lizzie) Wardle

Ekuara - A person's name in the Japanese language?

1

R. W. S. Montes April 22nd 1945

[illegible]

“ I felt very sad watching the last little bit of Australian shores”

Diary page 1

R.M.S. Orontes April 22nd 1915 (Thursday)

We left Freemantle yesterday at 11 am punctually and I felt very sad watching the last little bit of Australian shores wondering if and when I would see it again – like everyone gathered on the stern of the ship to see a most ‘wonderful sailing, in fact it was a dawn of such vivid colouring I have never before seen and on the beautiful sea it was an exquisite sight. Bert Howson took me to his home at 7 am in a motor and it was such a nice ride – the? air? was fresh and keen and the bougainvillea that mother and I love so much in almost every garden.

None of us had any sleep the previous night as we got into port at midnight and unloading and loading straightaway. Both the Howson family and the Wardles were most kind and I enjoyed my visit to them – all came to the boat to see me off – it seemed quite an event for them all. We are now just beginning to enjoy the voyage – at 11 am today we had a massed meeting in the saloon to appoint a sports committee and arrange for a good time – it was decided to ask the men for 10/- and the ladies 5/- subscription – to have a dance tonight and ask all the first saloon folks to come out. We are 69 ladies and 35 men in the 2nd. So if we did not have our Doctors company we would indeed be desolate but they on the other hand are lonely and need our company too – it was very jolly this afternoon.....

R.M.S – Royal Mail Service , Royal Mail Ship, Royal Mail Steamer

Orontes - Orient Line Steamer, launched 10 May 1902, accommodation 200 first class, 200 second class and 600 third class.

April 22nd 1915 – Thursday 22 April 1915

Yesterday – Wednesday 21 April 1915

Freemantle – A suburb and the port area of the city of Perth the capital city of Western Australia

Bert Howson – Herbert Thomas Howson, 22 yrs (1893-1962) son of Mary Ann Wardle. Bert enlists in 1915. Injured in France Brother Ivon James Howson who loses leg in the war and dies in 1919.

Home – 14 Hampton Rd Freemantle.

Bougainvillea – Thorny ornamental vines, bushes or trees with brightly coloured pink, red, orange, white or purple flowers.

Wardles – Wardle relatives living in Western Australia and in the capital of Perth

Howson family – See Bert Howson

Massed – Everyone

Saloon – Ship’s Saloon - Large social lounge on a passenger ship sometimes with drinks available.

10/- shillings = \$1 in decimal currency and worth \$59 today

5/- shillings = 50 cents in decimal currency and worth \$30 today

First – First class

2nd – 2nd class

Jolly – In good spirits, happy, cheerful, lively, enjoyable, merry

2

The, all came on & did knitting & sewing with us
 many of the men have knit very well. The Master
 officer is wonderful - he does my brown scarf as I
 started with the tubular effect - never makes a mistake
 either - one of the doctors is making washers & another
 took a Camisole from one of the girls & did the allopi
 quite well. Yesterday I had my photograph taken. The
 boat deck with two of the girls & I'll get a day
 will send it - quite splendid of us it is. Toifit
 us as I had 3 sets of deck quoits & had &
 intend practising as well. Have prize for
 on the Treasurer reports having collected \$5
 for sports & in the 1st salon over £50. The chief
 says it is most expensive then - a quarter
 sports for & all sorts of incidental expenses.
 Am sending our passenger list - please keep it for me,
 when I come home. I must buy a sort of get hair
 in Colombo as it is getting too long - The effort
 today, all came as a white suit & tomorrow I
 have to get at a sport dress. I must find out how
 much it will cost us to go to the big ball at Cebu
 as I've heard it is rather expensive - as the ship
 is behind time it is rumoured that we may
 not be able to stay long as usual then which
 would be very disappointing. You'd have probably
 heard that Bertie Hanson & Reg Wardle etc

“Many of the men here knit very well”

Diary page 2

...they all came over and did knitting and sewing with us many of the men here knit very well – the Marconi officer is wonderful – he does my brown scarf that I started with the tubular effect – never made a mistake either – one of the doctors is making washers and another took a camisole from one of the girls and did the scalloping quite well. Yesterday I had my photograph taken on the boat deck with two of the girls and if I get a copy will send it – quite splendid of me it is. I had 3 sets of deck quoits today and intend practising as we'll have prizes later on. The treasurer reports having collected £35 for sports and in the 1st saloon over £50. The Doctors say it is most expensive there – a guinea for sports fee and all sorts of incidental expenses. Am sending our passenger list – please keep it for me when I come home. I must buy a sort of pith hat in Colombo as it is getting hot now – The officers today all came out in white suits and tomorrow I'll have to get out a cool dress – I must find out how much it will cost us to go to the big ball at Colombo as I have heard it is rather expensive – as the ship is behind time it is rumoured that we may not be able to stay long as usual there which would be very disappointing. You'd have probably heard that Bertie Howson and Reg Wardle came.....

Marconi officer – Radio officer who manages ship communications Mr Shay

Tubular – Knitting creates a seamless tube may use 4 or 5 needles

Washers – Face washers

Camisole – A sleeveless top or undergarment for women

Scalloping – Series of small curves that form an ornamental border on clothes, tablecloths or handkerchiefs

Boat deck – The deck where lifeboats are launched

Deck quoits – Throwing metal, rope or rubber rings to land in point scoring zones or over a spike

£35 pounds = \$70 decimal currency worth \$4130 today

1st saloon – First class large social lounge on a passenger ship sometimes with drinks available.

£50 pounds = \$100 decimal currency worth \$5900 today

Guinea – 21/- shillings = \$2.10 decimal worth \$126 today

Pith hat – Lightweight “sholapith” covered in fabric also called helmet, safari helmet, sun helmet.

Big Ball – formal dance party may include ballroom dancing

Bertie Howson – Herbert Thomas Howson, 22 yrs (1893-1962) son of Mary Ann Wardle. Bert enlists in 1915. Injured in France Brother of Ivon James Howson who loses leg in the war and dies in 1919.

Reg Wardle – Reginald Wardle son of Reginald Thomas Wardle and Kathleen Watson in Freemantle

-

to the boat at 2.30 in the morning, having
 decided that it would not have been quite the
 thing "coming out" to have gone out at that time
 of the night with ~~the~~ only a lady in the party, so B.
 came back at 7.1 in the meantime I tried to get
 another sleep but it was impossible with the noise
 on the wharf. It is so smooth now that one would
 think one was on the Hygieia going down to Sordento.
 My fountain pen is splendid - some of the girls are
 unable to use theirs as they "kick"; we are all
 trying so hard to master French but I find it very
 hard to talk it out all. We had Sir ~~Robert~~ David
 Hardie come on to see us today - he is a medical
 man from Bristow - Mr Glasgow from Gympie is also
 a passenger - he is Jim's father - I must speak
 to him & tell him who I am. One of the Green-
 land nurses Miss Chapman is a Presbyterian
 minister's daughter & her father used to be in Gympie
 10 years - she knows the Burhidges quite well.
 & lots of other people I met there. One married
 man is quite the most fascinating man on the ship
 we've met so far - he's everybody's body as
 "Handing Allan" would have said. At Fremantle
 we read the news news and it rather de-
 pressed us - discussed it with each other
 then decided to try & forget it until we

“It is so smooth now that one would think one was on the highway going to Sorrento”

Diary page 3

..... to the boat at 2.30am and wakened me up, however Matron decided that it would not have been quite the thing “Comme il faut” to have gone out at that time of the night with out a lady in the party. So B came back at 7 and in the meantime I tried to get another sleep but it was impossible with the noise on the wharf. It is so smooth now that one would think one was on the highway going down to Sorrento -My fountain pen is splendid - some of the girls are unable to use theirs as they “kick” We are all trying so hard to master French but I find it very hard to talk it at all. We had Sir David Hardie come over to see us today - he is a medical man from Brisbane - Mr Glasgow from Gympie is also a passenger - he is Jim’s father - I must speak to him and tell him who I am. One of the Queensland nurses Miss Chapman is a Presbyterian minister’s daughter and her father used to be in Gympie for years. She knows the Burbidges quite well and lots of other people I met there. Our Marconi man is quite the most excruciating man on the ship we’ve met so far - he’s everybody’s body as Grandad Allan would have said. At Freemantle we read the war news and it rather depressed us - discussed it with each other then decided to try and forget it until we.....

Matron - Janey McRobie Lempriere AANS Matron not QAIMNSR

Comme il faut - French for Conforming to accepted standards

B - Bert Howson

Sorrento - Beach township on Mornington Peninsula Victoria 263kms from Ballarat, Priscilla’s home.

Fountain pen - A nib pen with internal ink reservoir. Works by gravity and capillary action.

Kick - Assume this is when pen becomes dry and digs into paper without writing.

French - The people or the language of France.

Sir David Hardie - Scottish doctor working in Brisbane, Australia, aged 59, famous and knighted in 1913

Brisbane - Capital city of the state of Queensland in Australia

Mr Glasgow - Samuel Glasgow prominent storekeeper and mining magnate in Gympie in Queensland in Australia

Jim’s - Lieutenant James Glasgow lost a leg in France and dies in 1923 has famous brother Sir Thomas William Glasgow.

Queensland - A State in the North of Australia

Miss Chapman - Jemima “Minnie” Logie Chapman QAIMNS Reserve nurse.

Her father - Rev Andrew Chapman

Gympie - Coastal city 160kms north of the capital Brisbane in the State of Queensland in Australia

Marconi man - Radio officer who manages ship communications Mr Shay

Everybody’s body - May mean he agrees with everyone and does what they want. Has no thoughts of his own.

Grandad Allan - Robert Allan (1818-1897) father of Priscilla’s mother Isabella. Priscilla would have known him till she was 13.

Freemantle - A suburb and the port area of the city of Perth the capital city of Western Australia

4

can no longer do so. there are so many - distracted
 on board that it is hard work to get half an hour
 to myself. there are few passengers in the third class
 and they seem to be dreadfully overcrowded. A man
 whom I named a Claudon. Homer - a little English
 man is in the third class - returning home as he
 has had enough of Australia. the Walker the
 Settle people I told you of are relations of Lady
 Bluman - they are such awfully nice people. Miss
 Donaldson the girl Toby and Hillic met at Sorrento
 is a second cousin to Annie Swan so we have
 quite notable folk - today nothing of an Indian
 Prince who is coming on at Colombo. Dr. Tunica
 was on the "Granada" the hospital ship that went
 to the South Seas at the first of the war. Spoke
 is most interesting on the subject and has
 a number of photographs that he took while on
 that trip. He is like me so we've both told
 both in looks and mannerisms - could easily
 be taken for brother sisters. Had Winnie Miller's
 box of sweets today they were very good ones. &
 on the outside of the box was a black velvet
 cat which I have pinned on in the front of my
 blouse for luck. One of the girls calls me
 the "Splinter" but in French. I never answer
 to it now. My name Priscilla seems to fascinate

“There are so many distractions on board that it is hard work to get half an hour to oneself”

Diary page 4

..... can no longer do so. There are so many distractions on board that it is hard work to get half an hour to oneself. There are 400 passengers in the third class and they seem to be dreadfully over crowded. A man who I nursed at Clarendon House - a little English man is in the third class - returning home as he has had enough of Australia. The Walker's the Scotch people I told you of are relations of Lady Denman - they are such awfully nice people. Miss Donaldson the girl Toby and Hillie met at Sorrento is a second cousin to Annie Swan so we have quite notable folk - to say nothing of an Indian Prince who is coming on at Colombo. Dr Trinca was on the "Grantala" the hospital ship that went to the South Seas at the first of the war so he is most interesting on the subject and has a number of photographs that he took while on that trip. He is like me so we're both told both in looks and mannerisms - could easily be taken for brother and sister. Had Winnie Miller's box of sweets today they were very good ones - and on the outside of the box was a black velvet cat which I have pinned to the front of my blouse for luck. One of the girls calls me the "Splinter" but in French - I even answer to it now my name Priscilla seems to fascinate.....

Clarendon House - A Medical Home at 150 Clarendon St Melbourne, Demolished 1960-1964.
Priscilla managed this venue prior to her departure
English - The people or language of England
Australia - The continent of Australia
Scotch - "Scottish" people from Scotland
Lady Denman - Gertrude (Trudie) Mary Denman (1884 - 1954) Married 1903. Wife of Lord Denman the fifth Governor General of Australia. Officially named Canberra in 1913.
Miss Donaldson - Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Priscilla's best friend
Toby - Florence (Toby) Vines family friend and AANS Sister. (1885 - 1979)
Hillie - probably Hilda (Hillie) Allan Wardle Priscilla's sister aged 27 in 1915.
Sorrento - Beach township on Mornington Peninsula Victoria 263kms from Ballarat, Priscilla's home.

Annie Swan - Annie Sheperd Swan famous Scottish journalist and novelist (1859 - 1943)
Indian Prince - Unknown - Could be Prince Sikya or Prince Gorok or Price Balukin
Colombo - Capital city of Ceylon in 1915 now Capital of Sri Lanka
Dr Trinca - Alfred John Trinca (1884 - 1981) 31 years (Alfie or AJT)
Grantala - Australia's first and only Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Hospital Ship
South Seas - Rabaul, New Guinea and Antarctic Waters
Winnie Miller - Unknown
Black velvet cat - Maybe Black Cat chocolates by Pascall/Cadbury. Later they had a plastic cat attached to the box.
Splinter - "éclat" in French - maybe because she was wearing the black cat and it sounds like "cat"
French - The language of France

people - They want to call me by my name much
sooner than if it had been Effie or something like that.
Now I must make myself look as nice as I can tonight
for the dance. We had "Gipsy Love" music last Tuesday
night & it put me in mind of Gussie Allan &
Florence - as it was then that I saw "Gipsy Love"
for the first time.

Let's stop now for awhile, as I only have 4 hours
more chance, in which to dress my pretties.
as is a dance tonight you know & I particularly
want to fascinate a gentleman at our table.
So I think I kindly incline towards your
sister. I'll be sure to be opposite. you know if
my maternal feminine instinct has failed me
: This case, you know.
in getting quite a lot of deck games, you
know. - let you know that I overheard
someone say the other day that I was quite
a sport, you know.
To morrow, gods. I'll tell you of the
dance.

Friday night 23rd April. One of the doctors took
up my book & wrote the above few silly lines.
The dance was just lovely - I had every one -
there is an army of men today complaining
that they did not get a chance of a dance.

“The dance was just lovely ~ I had every one”

Diary page 5

.....people ~ they want to call me by my name much sooner than if it had been Effie or something like that. Now I must make myself look as nice as I can tonight for the dance. We had Gypsy Rose music last Tuesday night and it put me in mind of Gussie Allan and Toowoomba ~ as it was then that I saw “Gypsy Rose” you know.

Must stop now for a while as I only have 4 hours before dinner in which to don my prettiest dress for a dance tonight you know and I particularly want to fascinate a gentleman at our table I think is kindly inclined towards yours truly. I'll be most disappointed you know if my natural feminine instinct has failed me in this case you know. I'm getting quite a dab at deck games you know ~ do you know that I heard someone say the other day that I was quite a sport you know. Tomorrow girl I'll tell you of the dance.

Friday night 23rd April. One of the Doctors took up my book and wrote the above few silly lines. The dance was just lovely ~ I had every one ~ there is an army of men today complaining that they did not get a chance of a dance.....

Tonight ~ Probably Thursday 22 April 1915. The day Priscilla started her Diary entries

Gypsy Rose ~ Too early for Gypsy Rose Lee she would have been four years old. Maybe the music of the Ragged Ragtime Gypsy Girls influenced by Gypsy style music. It's a mystery

Last Tuesday night ~ Tuesday the 20th of April? The night before departure from Fremantle. We are assuming Priscilla has boarded Orontes for departure from Melbourne on Wednesday 14 April or Thursday 15 April. The Orontes then stopped at Adelaide before going to Fremantle where it departed on Wednesday 21 April 1915 at 11 am in the morning.

Gussie Allan ~ Was this referring to James Allan who owned dress stores in Gympie and Brisbane?

Toowoomba ~ “The Garden City” 125 kilometres west of Queensland's capitol city Brisbane

Don ~ Put on

One of the doctors ~ Was it the same suspect doctor as in Diary page 7. Dr Walter Cecil Marsden

6

I saw a dance at night a man who shall be name
 less & enjoyed it more than dancing - the night
 was perfect & a lovely week old moon streaming
 on the water - beautiful music - High Jinks, Reeling
 Rags & good Rags. I know ^{that} you will not receive
 this until we have arrived in London. So will
 tell you that the authorities on this ship are most
 anxious about our safety - tomorrow afternoon
 we are all to muster at 4.30 for practice
 with life belts & boats - The women irrespective of
 class in the 1st class deck - the men on the 2nd
 with our life belts on. Tonight as we are
 hearing the danger zone we had to dine
 with very few lights & the deck is hardly lighted
 at all. At Gibraltar we stop for 24 hrs for the
 engines to be properly cleaned so as to ensure
 a quick run up the Channel - all ladies
 & men passengers if ~~they~~ prefer are to be
 put off at Plymouth & we are to train it up
 to London instead of going up the Channel.
 The passengers are advised to put their money
 from the purses & hang it on their person in a
 little bag so you see great precautions are
 being taken. On Monday we are to be vaccinated
 & on Sunday our bread inoculation. I must
 get a slouch hat at Colombo - I should have

“ Authorities on this ship are most anxious about our safety”

Diary page 6

..... I sat a dance out with a man who shall be nameless and enjoyed it more than dancing – the night was perfect and a lovely week old moon streaming on the water – beautiful music – High Jinks, Gypsy Rose and good Rags. I know that you will not receive this until we have arrived in London so will tell you that the authorities on this ship are most anxious about our safety – tomorrow afternoon we are all to muster at 4.30 for practise with lifebelts and boats – the women irrespective of class on the 1st Class deck – the men on the 2nd with our life belts on. Tonight as we are nearing the danger zone we had to dine with very few lights and the deck is hardly lighted at all. At Gibraltar we stop for 24 hrs for the engines to be cleaned so as to ensure a quick run up the Channel – All ladies and men passengers if they prefer are to be put off at Plymouth and we are to train it up to London instead of going up the Channel. The passengers are advised to get their money from the purser and hang it on their person in a little bag so you see great precautions are being taken. On Monday we are to be vaccinated and Sunday our second inoculation. I must get a slouch hat at Colombo – I should have.....

High Jinks – Boisterous fun or carefree antics or horseplay.

Gypsy Rose – Too early for Gypsy Rose Lee she would have been four years old. Maybe the music of the Ragged Ragtime Gypsy Girls influenced by Gypsy style music. It's a mystery

Rags – “ Ragtime” may come from “ragged or syncopated rhythm” – a “rag” in ¾ time is a ragtime waltz

Lifebelts – Or life jackets very basic in 1915 with cork wooden battens sewn into waterproof canvas very bulky.

Gibraltar – British overseas territory on a Spanish headland dominated by the Rock of Gibraltar

Channel – English Channel the body of water between England and France

Plymouth – Port City in Devon in South West England often used as port of entry and departure instead of London.

London – The capital city of England on the English east coast.

Monday – Monday 26 April 1915?

Vaccinated – Injection of dead or weakened pathogens to induce immunity

Sunday – Sunday 2 May 1915?

Inoculation – Injection to live pathogens to infect a person to induce immunity

Colombo – Capital city of Ceylon in 1915 now Capital of Sri Lanka

On route to the family circle on we all hope to meet
 in the dim future - I forget to mention this is my
 diary - In the big city of London where the nurses
 will be scattered to the four winds, how sad &
 every will 18 medical men be but they all hope
 to see the nurses & meet them again in the future
 either professionally or otherwise - God's will be done
 Yours Priscilla, 22/4/15 10 heartily and kin

If you are wise, This is the work of
 as I sometimes am the doctor
 You'll be wary of the maiden passengers
 with the dreaming eyes

for Jean to have made me a washing hat.
 Had no sports meeting and it was decided to
 ask if for ladies - I have entered for bridge
 & the tournaments also deck quoits. Other
 tournament are held in chess, dominoes, deck
 billiards & ball board. Today we all came
 out in light clothes white foot wear - the appear-
 ance of the lot looked awfully well. All
 morning the orchestra played on and
 I asked them for Melody in F. & Gipsy Land
 & then had requests, had lags, intermissions &

"Today we all came out in light clothes and white footwear"

Diary page 7

*Enroute to the family circle où we all hope to meet in the dim future - I forgot to mention this in my diary
- In the gay city of London where the nurses will be scattered to the four winds how sad and weary will
18 medical men be but they all hope to see the nurses and meet them again in the future either
professionally or otherwise - God's will be done*

RMS Orontes

22/4/15

W Cecil Ward Esq

If you are wise

This is the work of

As I surmise

another doctor

You'll be wary of the maiden

passenger

With the dreamy eyes

WW

.....got Jean to have made me a bashing hat. Had our sports meeting and it was decided to ask 5/- for ladies - I have entered for bridge and euchre tournaments also deck quoits. Other tournaments are held in chess, dominoes, deck billiards Unknown board. Today we all came out in light clothes and white footwear - the appearance of the lot looked awfully well. All morning the orchestra played on our deck. I asked them for Melody in 7 and Gipsy Rose and others had requests, had rags, intermezzo? and

Où - French for "when"

Gay - Cheerful happy, jolly, joyful.

London - The capital city of England on the English east coast.

Medical men - Doctors

God's will - The will of God, Divine will. Avolition or plan of God.

RMS Orontes - Ship they are travelling on

22/4/15 - This is the day of departure from Freemantle

Thursday 22 April 1915, some records say Wednesday 21 April 1915

W Cecil Ward Esq - Invented name - Suspect Dr Walter Cecil Marsden his signature is on page 100.

WW - for W Cecil Ward Esquire. Invented name - Suspect Dr Walter Cecil Marsden his signature is also on page 100.

Bashing - Could be dashing (impressive) but I think she means a hat for "bashing around" in. Casual non formal wear.

5/- shillings = 50 cents decimal worth \$30 today

Bridge - A trick taking card game using the whole deck of 52 cards.

Euchre - A trick taking card game played with 24, 28 or 32 cards.

Deck quoits - Throwing of rope or rubber rings at a target of rings or a stake. Highest score wins.

Chess - A strategy game played on 64 squares. (chessboard) Ancient battle/war like game.

Dominoes - Tile based game played by joining tiles with similar number of dots. Winner is one with no tiles.

Deck billiards - Or "shuffleboard" Standing game of pushing coloured disks with a long "cue" stick at a target. Nearest the target wins.

Melody in 7 - Unusual time signature (septuple meter) 7/8, 7/4 in music

Gipsy Rose - Too early for Gypsy Rose Lee she would have been four years old. Maybe the music of the Ragged Ragtime Gypsy Girls influenced by Gypsy style music.

It's a mystery

Rags - "Ragtime" may come from "ragged or syncopated rhythm" - a "rag" in ¾ time is a ragtime waltz

Intermezzo - A composition which fits between other musical or dramatic items.

8

I read a lovely long letter from Uncle and this morning - it was letter that I shall keep always - such a nice one. Mrs French is progressing but Maria Kempson is studying more than we are I'm afraid - she is becoming quite a good linguist. Did I tell you that in a shop in Freemantle I came across Mrs Campbell - Percy Campbell's mother - like a fort I told her who I was & I could hardly get away - she is a great teller. A Miss Clarke from Queensland told me that her sister knows Jack King saw him on the wharf & she told her I was on board. I'm told that we are

hearing the Coco Islands the scene of the 16th Dec fight but do not think we shall go from our course to see them. Monday 6th It is getting better & better - last night a number of the passengers slept on deck but the Command - as far as order that no mattresses were to be taken up on deck so I believe the sleeping in the chairs was not much of a success. After we left Freemantle we got ice twice in two times a day so that helps to keep us cool - we have them for 11 o'clock instead of beef tea. Iced water for a us order lime juice in them - a bottle goes in a day & a half - between 5 of us but the water is so dry tasteless by itself. Inoculated again today at 12 a.m. & am beginning to feel it - got 500 million & 250 million.

"It is getting hotter and hotter"

Diary page 8

....I read a lovely long letter from Uncle Will this morning – it was a letter that I shall keep always – such a nice one. Our French is progressing but Matron Lempriere is studying more than we are I'm afraid – she is becoming quite a good linguist. Did I tell you that in a shop in Freemantle I came across Mrs Campbell – Percy Campbell's mother – like a fool I told her who I was and I could hardly get away she is a great talker. A Miss Clarke from Queensland told me that her sister knows Jack King saw him on the wharf and he told her I was on board. I am told that we are nearing the Cocos Islands the scene of the Emden Light but do not think we shall go from our course to see them..

Monday 26th. (April 1915) It is getting hotter and hotter – last night a number of passengers slept on deck but the commander gave an order that no mattresses were to be taken up on deck. So I believe the sleeping in the chairs was not much of a success. After we left Freemantle we got ices two or three times a day so that helps to keep us cool – we have them for 11 o'clock instead of beef tea. Iced water too and we order lime juice in town – a bottle goes in a day and a half – between 5 of us, but the water is so very tasteless by itself. Inoculated again today at 12 am and am beginning to feel it – got 500 million and 250 million.....

Uncle Will – William Edward Burbidge?

French – The people or the language of France.

Matron Lempriere – Janey McRobie Lempriere

AANS Matron not QAIMNSR

Linguist – A person who speaks different languages

Freemantle – The port area of the city of Perth in

Western Australia

Mrs Campbell – Not found

Percy Campbell – Not found

Miss Clarke – Evangaline Alice Clarke (also Clerke)

Queensland – The State of Queensland in the north of Australia

Jack King – Not found

Cocos Islands – Cocos (Keeling) Islands a remote territory of Australia in the Indian ocean

Emden light – Wreck of SMS Emden the German light cruiser sunk and beached on Cocos in 1914

Commander – Commander or Master or Captain – F S Symons R.N.R.

Ices – Probably Ice Cream often in fruit shapes and flavours

Beef tea – A very thin soup made from beef. Strained and refrigerated and served cold in cup like tea.

Lime Juice – Juice of a lime. Slightly bitter. May be mixed with iced water and ice for drinks.

Inoculated – Injection to live pathogens to infect a person to induce immunity

500 million – Cells ? or Organisms? or Bacterium?

250 million – Cells? or Organisms? or Bacterium?

last week so have a big dose. Tonight we are
 having a concert - a Mr. Mackenzie is on board
 he is one of the Dandies but under the name
 of Kirta. I think - he is a splendid singer
 also comedian. I had a dance with him. Last
 Thursday. I won the Ruchie tournament on
 Sat. night - I was awfully wild that I had
 entered for it because it was so hot in the
 Saloon & beautiful moonlight on deck & I was trying
 hard not to win so that I could go up - but had
 to play off in the end & won much to my amaze-
 ment. The prizes will be given near the last
 of the voyage. This is a very wealthy boat
 Mr. Glasgow (Jim's father) from Gympie told me
 that we have 6 million pounds of gold on
 board so they are giving us an escort from
 Suez - it is the wealthiest boat going home
 since the war started & carrying over 700
 passengers. I was talking to a lady from
 India today - she was over to Australia (to Port
 Tasmanian really) by this boat & the Cadets
 went home by it - she knew the Hemmings boys
 and the boy Walker - they must have had
 a jolly trip home - got very excited as they
 heard Australian shores & one night broke
 out so many electric lights in their merriment.

"I won the Euchre tournament"

Diary page 9

.....last week so have a big dose. Tonight we are having a concert ~ a Mr Mackenzie is on board and he is one of the Dandies? went under the name of Kirton? I think ~ he is a splendid singer also comedian. I had a dance with him last Thursday. I won the Euchre tournament on Sat. night ~ I was awfully wild that I had entered for it because it was so hot in the saloon and beautiful moonlight on deck and I was trying hard not to win so that I could go up ~ but had to play off in the end and won much to my amazement. The prizes will be given near the last of the voyage. This is a very wealthy boat. Mr Glasgow (Jimi's father) from Gympie told me that we have 6 million pounds of gold on board so they are giving us an escort from Suez ~ it is the wealthiest boat going home since the war started and carrying over 700 passengers. I was talking to a lady from India today ~ she went over to Australia (to Devonport Tasmania really) by this boat and the Cadets went home by it ~ she knows the Herman boys and the boy Walker ~ they must have had a jolly trip home ~ got very excited as they neared Australian shores and one night broke ever so many electric lights in their merriment.....

Mr MacKenzie ~ Not found. Is this Mr Kirton.
MacKenzie/ Kirton or Curtin (see also Diary pages 22 & 23)

Dandies ~ The Dandies a Vaudeville entertainment group maybe Edward Branscombe's Dandies.

Kirton ~ Not found Is this Mr Kirton. MacKenzie or Curtin (see also pages 22 & 23)

Thursday ~ Thursday 22 April 1915 the departure day?

Euchre ~ A trick taking card game played with 24, 28 or 32 cards.

Sat night ~ Saturday night 24 April 1915

Saloon ~ Ship's Saloon - Large social lounge on a passenger ship sometimes with drinks available.

Mr Glasgow ~ Samuel Glasgow prominent storekeeper and mining magnate in Gympie in Queensland in Australia

Jimi's - Lieutenant James Glasgow lost a leg in France and died in 1923 has famous brother Sir Thomas William Glasgow.

Gympie ~ Coastal town in Queensland. 120 kilometres north of the capitol Brisbane

6 million pounds of gold ~ Assume she means £6 million pounds worth of gold. £6 million pounds would be \$12 million dollars in our decimal currency. Comparative value in 2019 is \$1,112,699,246 dollars. Over a trillion dollars.

Suez ~ Town at the Southern end start of the Suez Canal

India ~ Country in South Asia.

Australia ~ The continent and country of Australia surrounded by the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Devonport Tasmania ~ Port town on north coast of Tasmania in Australia

Cadets ~ Those training to become Officers or Soldiers

Herman ~ Did she mean Newman boys Albert and Stanley?

Walker ~ Not found

Australian shores ~ Approached the coast of Australia

10

Tuesday 27th. Last night we had rather a good concert. The doctor came & our little group was the likeliest there. They took off their dinner jackets & snuggled down at feet & we did enjoy ourselves. Marmaduke (D. Maudslayi) was carrying so, that today I wrote this wife (he is the only married one on board) such a funny letter telling of his naughtiness & I gave it to E. Trice just now to post at Colombo, keeping all the time he will open it as soon as he left me, which was just what I wanted him to do. Had two group photos taken this morning - French lessons for today are off on account of the heat. Last night I felt dreadful with effects of inoculation & the heat. Our nightgowns were ringing wet 5 minutes after we put them on. Even E. Trice was carried up exhausted from the engine room yesterday & from the day before. They do a four hour shift which seems too much. This hot weather yesterday we passed through a heavy rain storm & afterwards the heat was worse than ever. Had a nice little dance last evening - 8 dances in all & I was in the flower for the lot - had such good partners. Went over to the first class deck yesterday afternoon to look at a cricket match between 1st & 2nd passengers. The first won. We had Reserved Chairs

“Yesterday we passed through a heavy rain storm”

Diary page 10

.....Tuesday 27th (April 1915) Last night we had rather a good concert the Doctors came and our little group was the liveliest there. They took off their dinner jackets and snuggled down at our feet and we did enjoy ourselves. Marmaduke (Dr Marsden) was carrying so, that today I wrote to his wife (he is the only married one on board) Such a funny letter telling of his naughtiness and I gave it to Dr Trinca just now to post it at Colombo, knowing all the time he will open it as soon as he left me, which was just what I wanted him to do. Had two group photos taken this morning – French lessons for today are off on account of the heat. Last night I felt dreadful with effects of inoculation and the heat our nightgowns were ringing wet 5 minutes after we put them on. Seven stokers were carried up exhausted from the engine room yesterday and from the day before. They do a four hour shift which seems too much this hot weather. Yesterday we passed through a heavy rain storm and afterwards the heat was worse than ever. Had a nice little dance last evening – 8 dances in all and I was on the floor for the lot – had such good partners. Went over to the 1st Class deck yesterday afternoon to look on at a cricket match between 1st and 2nd and first won. We had reserved chairs.

Marmaduke – nick name for Dr Marsden

Dr Marsden – Dr Walter Cecil Marsden Esq his signature is on page 100.

Carrying so – Maybe carrying on so. Making fuss

Dr Trinca – Alfred John Trinca (1884-1981) 31 years (Alfie or AJT)

Colombo – Capital city of Ceylon in 1915 now Capital of Sri Lanka

French – The people or the language of France.

Inoculation – Injection to live pathogens to infect a person to induce immunity

Stokers – Stokers shovel coal into the furnace of the ships engine. This is a hot, dirty and often dangerous job in the bowels of the ship

Last evening – Monday 26 April 1915

Cricket – A sport or game in which two teams of eleven players try to score runs by hitting a small hard ball with a bat and running between two sets of small wooden posts. Most runs wins.

1st and 2nd – 1st and 2nd class passengers

There are some very gay doings on the ship now become more apparent as the weather becomes warmer. The only way to keep well these days is to take plenty of exercise & baths. I'm playing in a cricket match today - everyone is getting thinner, but it is absolutely no good lying about. We only did 322 knots yesterday - would have no chance if an enemy attacked us now - one of the engines is not working properly - There is a rumour that we may have to wait in Colombo until it is fixed up. Some of the doctors have warned us about 3 or 4 of the men on board - they are rotten, so they have told us to have nothing to do with them. It was 180° in the storeroom yesterday & today we pass the equator but there is a cool breeze today & it is bearable. I'm getting more & more like a fop, the Commander has vetoed a fancy ball on account of the war & the passengers as well - he is rather unpopular now. Friday - We arrive in Colombo tonight at midnight & leave the ship & have breakfast at 6.45 - We are all going together with some of the doctors & visiting the Marine officers to see the sights of the town & do a little shopping - Then at 11 we are to go to the Galle.

“Would have no chance if the enemy attacked now”

Diary page 11

.....There are some very **gay** doings on the ship now becomes more apparent as the weather becomes warmer. The only ways to keep well these days is to take plenty of exercise and baths. I'm playing in a **cricket** match today ~ everyone is getting *Unknown* But it is absolutely no good lying about. We only did **322 knots** yesterday ~ would have no chance if an enemy attacked us now ~ one of the engines is not working properly- There is a rumour that we may have to wait in **Colombo** until it is fixed up. Some of the doctors have warned us about 3 or 4 of the men on board ~ they are rotters, so they have told us to have nothing to do with them. It was **180°** in the **stokehold** yesterday and today We pass the **equator** but there is a cool breeze today and it is bearable. I'm getting more and more like a **gypsy**. The **Commander** has vetoed a fancy ball on account of the war and the passengers are wild ~ he is rather an unpopular man. **Friday** ~ We arrive in **Colombo** tonight at midnight and leave the ship and have breakfast at 6.45 ~ we're all going together with some of them and **Mr Shay** the **Marconi** officer to see the sights of the town and do a little shopping ~ then at 11 we are to go to the *Unknown*.....

Gay ~ Cheerful, happy, jolly, joyful.

Cricket - A sport or game in which two teams of eleven players try to score runs by hitting a small hard ball with a bat and running between two sets of small wooden posts. Most runs wins the game.

322 ~ 322 miles is 518 kilometres

Knots ~ I think she means miles. (kilometres) Knots is a speed measure Example Orontes can travel at a speed of 18 knots.

Colombo - Capital city of Ceylon in 1915 now Capital of Sri Lanka

Tonight ~ Tuesday 27 April 1915

180° - Fahrenheit which is 82.2 degrees Celsius.

Stokehold ~ Compartment in a steamship in which the boilers and furnace are housed. Usually in the bowels of the ship.

Equator ~ An imaginary line at 0 degrees of latitude dividing the earth into the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

Gypsy ~ A Romani person known as Gypsies or Roma. Often a wandering or nomadic lifestyle

Commander or Master or Captain - F S Symons R.N.R.

Friday - Friday 30th April 1915

Mr Shay ~ The Marconi officer or Radio Communications officer

Marconi officer - Radio communications officer Mr Shay

12

for morning tea at the invitation of Sir David Hare.
 The well medical man of Bristol - he has collected
 all of the doctors. We are looking forward to a
 jolly time. Then after lunch we all go to Mount
 Kew for the afternoon. Yesterday I did 4 home
 nursing - one of the doctors had been prostrated with
 the heat & Miss Cumming & I did 4 home each - I
 did the last shift & he was recovering quickly. It
 had a good time. O. T. Co. ordered afternoon tea
 for the three & he had it with us - he wanted
 join me & then have to be the sick man to a
 famous etc. etc. Had as 4 to 6 - he was all
 Priscilla, Alfred & Maudie until Maudie came in
 then we were quite professional. The humidity
 was worse yesterday than it has yet been & several
 have prostrated with heat including our mother. So
 school classes are off for today. I am sending some
 laundry ashore tomorrow - they charge 3/6 a dozen
 for things of any and every size. I had a awfully
 nice chat with a man the other night - he is a person
 going home to the war & then afterwards to Oxford
 for further study. He is such a dear little fellow
 & he has a bed & a sofa on the ship that he is a
 minister & has worn naval dress, played tennis
 cricket & all games with them, gone into the bar with
 them but not drank with them - all this so that he

"The humidity was worse yesterday than it has yet been"

Diary page 12

....for morning tea at the invitation of Sir David Hardie the well medical man of Brisbane – he has also invited all of the doctors, so we are looking forward to a jolly time. Then after lunch we all go to Mount Lavinia for the afternoon. Yesterday I did 4 hours nursing – one of the doctors had been prostrated with the heat and Miss Cumming and I did 4 hours each – I did the last shift and he was recovering quickly and I had a good time. Dr Trinca ordered afternoon tea for three and he had it with us – he would fan? me and then want to be the sick man to be fanned etc etc mad as 40 Cats – we were all Priscilla, Alfred and Maisie until Matron came in then we were quite professional. The humidity was worse yesterday than it has yet been – several were prostrated with heat including our Matron so French classes are off for today. I'm sending some laundry ashore tomorrow – they charge 5/6 a dozen for things of any and every size. I had an awfully nice chat with a man the other night – he is a parson going home to the war and then afterwards to Oxford for further study. He is such a dear little fellow and he hasn't told a soul on the ship that he is a minister and has worn normal dress, played tennis cricket ball games with them? Gone into the bar with them but not drank with them – all this so that he.....

Sir David Hardie – Scottish doctor working in Brisbane, Australia, aged 59, famous and knighted in 1913
Brisbane – The capital city for the State of Queensland in Australia
Mount Lavinia – Suburb of Colombo. It is known for its beaches, tourist areas and nightlife.
Miss Cumming – Nurse Margaret Cumming
Dr Trinca – Alfred John Trinca (1884 -1981) 31 years (Alfie or AJT)
Mad as 40 cats – Idiom for weird, strange, unbelievable
Alfred – Dr Alfred John Trinca (1884 -1981) 31 years (Alfie or AJT)
Maisie – One of the 30 nurses. Not identified which.
Matron – Janey McRobie Lempriere AANS Matron not QAIMNSR

Humidity – Amount of water vapour in the air. High levels can mean extra perspiration and tiredness.
French – The people or the language of France.
Today – Tuesday 27 April 1915
5/6 Five shillings and six pence = 56 cents in decimal currency worth \$31 today
Oxford – City in southern England. Home of Oxford university.
Minister – Member of the clergy. Also Father, Priest, Vicar, Pastor.
Bar – A place that serves alcoholic beverages.

could know exactly, what he did, talked about
 etc - he told me that he has had his eyes opened
 I guessed him to be a person. So he told me all
 about himself - of course I'm not telling anyone he
 is since it will be known before the trip to Australia.
 Unless we miss the mail to Australia I shall not cable
 as it is very expensive - the "sterling" will leave Colombo
 tomorrow afternoon with the mails but before that of course
 some thing may delay it. The joke on the ship is
 that I'm so fond of purple - the M. says I'm fond
 of "un peu de mauve" & she told me - Jane
 about a lady who went to India. He often to several other
 friends - she was told that they had white trimmings for
 single people purple for married & black for old people. So
 she said she would have white with a dash of
 purple in it. I'm writing this to musical accompaniment
 while I play. After our pianist leaves tomorrow
 I'm going to try some accompaniment. Had you
 dear sweet letter this week better dear & found
 it a great treat to fly to my cabin. That's a good
 keep. I'm enjoying my mailbag very much.
 how dear ones I must stop write a p.p.s.
 I love you all very dearly - keep well until I come
 back.

“I’m going to try some accompaniments”

Diary page 13

..... could know exactly what men did, talked about etc. he told me that he has had his eyes opened I guessed him to be a parson and so he told me all about himself – of course I’m not telling anyone but he is sure it will be known before the trip is over. Unless we miss the mail to Australia I shall not cable as it is very expensive – the “Osterley” will leave Colombo tomorrow afternoon with the mails but before that of course some thing may delay us. The joke on the ship is that I’m so fond of people – that they say I’m fond of (“au per de wars?”) and one told me a yarn about a lady who went to order the coffin and funeral arrangements – she was told that they had white trimmings for single people purple for married and black for old people so she said she would have white with a dash of purple in it. I’m writing this to musical accompaniment of violin and piano. After our pianist leaves us tomorrow I’m going to try some accompaniments. Had your dear sweet letter this week Mother dear and opened it on deck and had to fly to my cabin and have a good weep. I’m enjoying my mailbag very much. Now dear ones I must stop and write a few p.c.’s. I love you all very dearly – keep well until I come back.

Parson – Member of the clergy. Also Father, Priest, Vicar, Minister.

Australia – The continent and country of Australia surrounded by the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Cable – Send a telegram or a message by the undersea cable instead of writing.

Osterley – Steam Ship SS Osterley. Ocean Liner/Troop Carrier

Colombo – Capital city of Ceylon in 1915 now Capital of Sri Lanka

Tomorrow afternoon – Wednesday 28 April 1915

Au per de wars – Being part of the war process or the “war family”

Yarn – Story

Coffin – A funerary box or casket for a corpse.

Funeral – A ceremony connected with a burial, cremation or internment of a body

Accompaniment – A musical part that supports or partners another instrument, voice or group.

Violin – Wooden stringed instrument with a hollow wood body in the violin family. Smallest instrument in the violin family. Maybe played by bowing or plucking

Piano – Acoustic stringed instrument in which the strings are struck by a hammer.

Pianist – Person who plays the piano

Mother dear – Endearment term Mother my dear, Dear Mother.

Fly – Rush, run or move fast

Mailbag – Delivery of the mail. Very difficult during war time.

P.c.’s – Postcards

14

Sunday May 2nd 1946

I have been to Service. The singing was beautiful - there are several stewards who sing very well. I occasionally pinch myself to see if I am alive. The past few hours have been so very wonderful. Friday afternoon we saw land, the hills of Ceylon and then new pines along the coast. The smoke from them cast a mist over the whole scene, later on we saw twinkling lights along the coast. Of course we were beginning to feel rather excited & simply could not believe it to be true that in a few hours we would be in the 'Far East'. Had some singing, it played a few accompaniments (one boy borrowed a 'cello from one of the ship's bandmen & a lady played the fiddle so we had a couple of songs with violin & 'cello ~~accompaniment~~ accompaniment. By ten o'clock we were all dressed ready for landing but it was 11.15 before we went ashore - the scene was most picturesque. huge boat shaped like canoes came alongside with scores of black men in them, there were the coolies. They were making a fearful noise, talking & yelling to each other, most of them were almost naked. We watched them & it seemed as if we were living a chapter out of 'Arabian Nights'.

“ Could not believe it to be true that in a few hours we would be in the Far East”

Diary page 14

.....Sunday May 2nd 1915 | have been to service. The singing was beautiful- there are several stewards who sing very well. I occasionally pinch myself to see if I am alive_ the past few hours have been so very wonderful. Friday afternoon we saw land , the hills of Ceylon and there were fires along the coast , the smoke from them cast a mist over the whole scene late on we saw twinkling lights along the coast. Of course we were beginning to feel rather excited and simply could not believe it to be true that in a few hours we would be in the “Far East.” Had some singing and I played a few accompaniments one boy borrowed a Cello from one of the ships bandsmen and a lady played the fiddle so we had a couple of songs with violin and? Cello accompaniment. By ten o'clock we were all dressed ready for landing but it was 11.30 before we went ashore – the scene was most picturesque huge boats shaped like canoes came alongside with scores of black men in them, these were the coalers. They were making a fearful noise talking and yelling to each other most of them were almost naked. We watched them and it seemed as if we were living a chapter out of “Arabian Nights “

Service – Church service. A religious ceremony.

Stewards – Stewards may set tables, manage the linen, take out rubbish, carry drinks, wash u dishes, make beds, or other tasks requested by passengers and look after passengers

Friday – 3Friday 30 April 1915

Ceylon – The island of Ceylon now Sri Lanka

Far East – Probably mistaken Priscilla is in the Middle East or Near East.

Accompaniments – A musical part that supports or partners another instrument, voice or group

Cello – A large version of the violin family played by sitting down with the wooden hollow body resting on the floor. Maybe played by bowing or plucking

Landing – Going ashore. Leaving the ship.

Fiddle -Colloquial term for a violin. Also a term used to describe how the violin is played.

Violin – Wooden stringed instrument with a hollow wood body in the violin family. Smallest instrument in the violin family.

Maybe played by bowing or plucking

Ten – 10 am in the morning

11.30 – 11.30am in the morning

Picturesque – Like a picture or a painting

Coalers – Men who do the dirty job of transferring the coal from lighters to the stoke hold. Orontes was a steam ship and coal was the fuel required to heat the boilers. Other ships were using oil as fuel.

Arabian Nights – From the book “One Thousand and One Nights” a collection of Middle Eastern” folk tales. Often called the Arabian Nights in English after translation in 1704.

of course we had great sport all excited with
 the idea of spending the night ashore. Grand lights
 were thrown on us every few minutes. The Wiltshire
 a troopship got into the harbour just before us &
 we passed it & heard voices from one man. The
 harbour is at night just a little bit like Sydney
 only much smaller. While still a few miles out
 we smell the spices, cinnamon & sandalwood.
 well as the smell of the rocks which is rather
 pronounced. Launches came alongside & off we
 went at midnight to the Grand Oriental Hotel
 (G.O.H.) it is usually called. The place was lined
 with Rocks - The room in which we waited had
 hundreds of pakins & pendants & the brass bowl
 the largest I've ever seen. Although late there were
 found many ladies about in evening frocks - at night
 no lady in Colombo ever goes about unattended.
 Well as the G.O.H. They could not put us all up &
 waiting for one to leave so off we all marched
 to the Bristol further up the street. Followed by numbers
 of ricksha men & motor cars - quite 50 of them
 jabbering away & trying to get us into their rickshas.
 We walked two abreast & one doctor walked ahead
 others by our sides & another bringing up the rear
 This was all for our safety or I doubt if we
 would have been quite safe. It was hours

“ Quite 50 of them jabbering away and trying to get us into their rickshaws”

Diary page 15

.....of course we had great sport all excited with the idea of spending the night ashore. Searchlights were thrown on us every few minutes “The Wiltshire” a troopship got into the harbour just before us and we passed it and heard “cooees” from our men. The harbour is at night just a little bit like Sydney only much smaller, while still a few miles out we smelt the spices, cinnamon and sandalwood as well as the smell of the blacks which is rather pronounced. Launches came alongside and off we went at midnight to the Grand Oriental Hotel (GOH) it is usually called. The place was lined with blacks – The room in which we waited had hundreds of palms and fountains and brass bowls the largest I’ve ever seen. Although late there were a good many ladies about in evening frocks – at night no lady in Colombo ever goes about unattended. Well at the G.O.H. they could not put us all up after waiting for over ½ hour so off we all marched to the Bristol further up the street, followed by numbers of ricksha men and motor cars – quite 50 of them jabbering away and trying to get us into their rickshaws. We walked two abreast and one doctor walked ahead others by our sides and another bringing up the rear. This was all for our safety or I doubt if we would have been quite safe. It was most.....

Searchlights – Or spotlights An extremely powerful luminous source (bulb) with a mirrored reflector projecting a powerful beam

The Wiltshire – His Majesty’s Australian Transport HMAT Wiltshire Troop Carrier/Ocean Liner

Troopship – A ship deigned or used for carrying troops

Cooees – A shout used in the Australian bush to attract attention, find missing people or indicate your location.

Best if done loudly and shrilly. Unique

Sydney – Capital city of the state of new South Wales in Australia

Spices – Substances use for flavouring, colouring and preserving food. Many spices taste “hot” for example pepper.

Cinnamon – From the inner bark of the Cinnamomum tree. Very aromatic and used in cooking.

Sandalwood – Very aromatic and yellow wood from a tree. Used for fragrance and the extraction of oil.

Launches – Motor - boats used to transfer passenger from ship to shore when port facilities are limited.

Palms – Indoor palms probably the Golden Cane, Lady or Parlour palms.

Fountains – Architecture which pours water into a collection basin and jets it back into the room. Very decorative and dramatic designs possible

Evening frocks – A special dress, usually long, worn to formal occasions often in the evening.

Colombo – Capital city of Ceylon in 1915 now Capital of Sri Lanka

G.O.H. – Grand Oriental Hotel still operating today

Bristol – Bristol Hotel

Ricksha men – Or rickshaw runners who pull or pedal the rickshaws

Jabbering – Talking rapidly, indistinctly, incoherently or nonsensically or all at once.

Rickshaws – A two or three wheeled transport cart pulled or pedalled by one man.

Two abreast – Two people side by side

16

fascinating. At this hotel is all hard lime Squashes
 and whilst enjoying this in a glorious lounge,
 looked up and found dozens of black fellows
 gazing at us from a balcony all around the
 room. more peeping at us from behind the
 furniture. More than one we heard them
 talk of Karen - before long we found that the
 general idea abroad that we were a Karen
 let loose. Edith Dickinson & I Normed together
 and had a beauty - full, soft lips & about 20 ft
 long - polished cedar floor & furniture too lovely
 big beds & a huge fan going all night about
 them - no windows only one wall reached
 out facing the balcony. A black man came
 with our morning tea, toast & butter & marmalade
 & fruit & grapes & pineapples. At 7.30 we
 all got into rickshaws for our first ride to
 the Cinnamon gardens. The bunter tried to get
 to get her away by themselves - I hit my
 ankle on the bare back because he would not
 keep with the others - he was so picturesque looking
 bare to the waist & bright orange loincloth. I was
 surprised along with some others getting into my
 rickshaw so well to close me. After seeing the Cinnamon
 gardens which were very pretty, we returned
 for breakfast to the hotel. Both going & coming, we

"I hit my coolie over the bare back because he would not keep with the others"

Diary page 16

.... fascinating, At this hotel we all had lime squashes and whilst enjoying this in a glorious lounge looked up and found dozens of black fellows staring at us from a balcony all around the room more peeping at us from behind the furniture. More than once we heard their talk of harem ~ before long we found that the general idea abroad that we were a harem let loose. Edith Donaldson and I roomed together and had a beauty- fully 30ft long and about 20ft long ~ polished cedar floor and furniture two lovely big beds and a huge fan going all night above them ~ no windows only one wall knocked out facing the balcony. A black man came in with our morning tea, toast and omelette and marmalade and tea and fruit pawpaw and pineapple. At 7.30 we all got into rickshaws for our first ride to the Cinnamon Gardens. The brutes tried dodges to get far away by themselves. I hit my coolie over the bare back because he would not keep with the others ~ he was so picturesque looking bare to the waist and a bright cerise loin cloth. I was snapshotted along with some others getting into my rickshaw so will enclose one. After seeing the Cinnamon Gardens which were very pretty we returned for breakfast to the hotel. Both going and coming we.....

Lime squashes ~ Lime flavoured lemonade.

Lounge ~ Area in hotel where people can sit, wait and relax

Black fellows ~ Descendants of African slaves brought to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in the 17th century by the Portuguese

Harem ~ Incorrectly portrayed in Western society as a group of women(wives) living in a den of sex and depravity and owned by their husbands (males)

Edith Donaldson ~ Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Priscilla's best friend

30 ft long ~ 30 feet long or 9 metres

20ft long ~ 20 feet long. This may be 20 feet wide or 6 metres

Cedar ~ Wood from the cedar tree. Very aromatic and water and decay resistant and insect repellent

Fan ~ Large rotating ceiling fan

Omelette ~ Made from beaten eggs fried in butter or oil in a frying pan. When folded may be filled with cheese, chives, vegetables etc.

Marmalade ~ Preserve (jam) made from juice and peel of citrus fruit boiled with sugar and water.

Pawpaw ~ A large yellowish ~ green fruit from the Paw Paw tree

Pineapple ~ Tropical plant with large edible fruit of coalesced berries also called pineapples.

7.30 ~ 7.30am in the morning Monday 3 May 1915

Rickshaws ~ A two or three wheeled transport cart pulled or pedalled by one man.

Cinnamon Gardens ~ A formal garden of Cinnamon trees.

(correctly Cinnamomum trees)

Picturesque ~ Like a picture or painting

Bright cerise loin cloth ~ Deep vivid reddish pink one piece cloth covering the genitals and partially the buttocks

Snapshotted ~ Photographed

where there the native streets & it was most well kept
 when the tourist babies are Italian & beg. are quite
 in the netting. "was carried alongside on rickshaws
 by his little brother who could not have been more
 than a year old & his hand was outstretched for
 pennies. The kiddies ran alongside with Portia &
 then of course we had to give them pennies. They had
 great bunches each of bright scarlet flowers &
 frangipani etc. After breakfast we went to some of
 the shops - it was marvellous the prices they asked
 for some of the things - saved very much money & I
 got in the beginning & they would gradually come
 down & as we were going to the boat they were
 offering them to us for 7^d each. Then at 10.30
 we got into rickshaws again & on to the Galle Hotel
 in morning to visit Sir David Hardie - Sir H. was
 & it was so on a wide verandah with black
 women selling lace & black men waiting & us
 & an Indian conjurer with his female assistant
 out on the lawn (he was doing most marvellous
 tricks) we all had snapshots taken - R. Thorne &
 D. Meredith were most awfully good to us - indeed he
 for them we should not have enjoyed our few
 hours at Colombo nearly so much. Our boat left
 at midday so we left the shore at 11.30. Some
 people went to Mount Lavinia in cars but

“Even the tiniest babies are trained to beg”

Diary page 17

....went thro' the native streets and it was most wonderful even the tiniest babies are trained to beg- one quite in the altogether was carried alongside our rickshaws by his little brother and he could not have been more than a year old and his hand was outstretched for pennies. The kiddies rang alongside with flowers and then of course we had to pay them pennies for them. We had great bunches each of bright scarlet flowers and frangipani etc After breakfast we went to some of the shops - it was marvellous the prices they asked for some of the things - carved ivory fans? were 7/6 and 5/- at the beginning and they would gradually come down and as we were going to the boat they were offering them to us for 7p each. Then at 10.30 we got into rickshaws again and went to the Galle Face Hotel for morning tea with Sir David Hardie - 50 of us and it was set on a wide verandah with black women selling laces and black men waiting on us and an Indian conjuror with his female assistant out on the lawn. He was doing most marvellous tricks we all had snapshots taken - Dr Trinca and Dr Marsden were most awfully good to us - indeed but for them we should not have enjoyed our few hours at Colombo nearly so much. Our boat left at midday so we left the show at 11.30 some people went to Mount Lavinia in cars but.....

Thro' - Through

Native streets - Local streets where natives live

Beg - Ask for food or money as charity

In the altogether - Naked or without clothes

Rickshaws - A two or three wheeled transport cart pulled or pedalled by one man.

Outstretched - Extend or stretch out particularly hand or arm

Pennies - Money. Large 1 penny copper coin in 1915 size of 20 cents today

Kiddies - Young children

Scarlet - Colour similar to Cardinal Red

Frangipani - Shrub or tree with very fragrant white yellow flowers

Carved ivory - Carving of Ivory (animal tooth or tusk) into ornaments

7/6 Seven shillings and six pence = 76 cents decimal worth \$45 today

5/- Five shillings = 50 cents decimal worth \$30 today

7p Seven pence = 7 cents decimal worth \$4.50 today

10.30 - 10.30 am in the morning Monday 3 May 1915

Galle Face Hotel - Name derives from Galle Face Green or lawn opposite. Built 1864 and still operating today

Sir David Hardie - Scottish doctor working in Brisbane, Australia, aged 59, famous and knighted in 1913

Verandah - Roofed open air porch on outside of building

Black women - Descendants of African slaves brought to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in the 17th century by the Portuguese

Laces - Yarn or thread made into open web like patterns. Made by hand from linen or silk with gold and silver threads.

Black men - Descendants of African slaves brought to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in the 17th century by the Portuguese

Indian conjuror - Or Magician performing tricks or juggling or he Indian rope trick - May come from India.

Snapshots - Photographs

Dr Trinca - Alfred John Trinca (1884-1981) 31 years (Alfie or AJT)

Dr Marsden - Dr Walter Cecil Marsden Esq his signature is on page 100.

Colombo - Capital city of Ceylon in 1915 now Capital of Sri Lanka

Midday - Noon Monday 3 May 1915

11.30 - 11.30am in the morning

Mount Lavinia - Suburb of Colombo. It is known for its beaches, tourist areas and nightlife.

18

under the "Circus" We thought it better not to go too far away. I shall be able to talk for a year about this trip when I come home. I'm learning everything about it. Last night went over to the 10th class farouade dock for a dance - the dancing space was reduced so that the bright light could not be seen. as at least the walls covered in grey paper & the roof perforated with colored electric lights. You could not imagine you were on board ship at all - it was frightfully hot but the men were minded that we had plenty of ice & drinks, ice, hot cup etc etc. particular for me. D. Mansden is a Mason and is looking after a hall he says as I'm a mason's daughter I'm his daughter too. Rather funny as he is not many years old than I. Mother is not at all well today, she has been overdoing things. Frances & Frank etc etc is worried up with the heat. On Sunday we were vaccinated & are not looking forward to the next few days with much pleasure. Am sending you some postcard taken at Port Melbourne - I'm quite in the foreground. Some of the girls can recognize their friends in the background but my little group are out of it.

Friday May 7th We are just entering the Red Sea & it is not nearly as hot as we expected. Although I'm afraid 5th around that I'm

"We are just entering the Red Sea"

Diary page 18

....under the "círcs" we thought it better not to go too far away. I shall be able to talk for a year about this trip when I come home, I'm loving every minute of it. Last night went over to the 1st class promenade deck for a dance - the dancing space was enclosed so that the bright light could not be seen out at sea and the walls covered in gay flags and the roof festooned with coloured electric lights. You could not imagine you were a board ship at all - it was frightfully hot but no one much minded that we had plenty of iced drinks, ices, hock cup etc and pastries to feed? one. Dr Marsden is a Mason and is looking after us well he says as I'm a mason's daughter I'm his daughter too. Rather funny as he is not many years old than I. Matron is not at all well today, she has been over doing things games and French etc and is knocked up with the heat. On Sunday we were vaccinated so are not looking forward to the next few days with much pleasure. Am sending you some postcards taken at Port Melbourne - I'm quite in the foreground. Some of the girls can recognise their friends on the wharf but my little group are out of it.

Friday May 7th (1915) We are just entering the Red Sea and it is not really as hot as we expected although I'm afraid you would find it.....

Círcs - Circumstances

Last night - Monday 3 May 1915

Promenade deck - A deck that runs from front to back of ship on both sides. A continuous outside walkway.

Gay flags - Brightly coloured flags

Festooned - A string or chain of in this case lights hanging between two points

Iced drinks - Drinks with ice cubes or ice in them

Ices - Ice cream often shaped for example like fruits

Hock cup - May mean a cup of Hock wine or a Hock

Cup recipe cocktail drink

Pastries - Baked products, pies, buns, rolls, cakes, slices, pancakes, cookies etc

Feed - To eat food, have a meal

Dr Marsden - Dr Walter Cecil Marsden Esq his signature is on page 100.

Mason - Freemasons. Exclusively men. A fraternity of men with like objectives and goals and adhering to a set of strict principles

Mason's daughter - Priscilla's father was a Mason

Matron - Janey McRobie Lempriere AANS Matron not QAIMNSR

French - Learning the French language

Knocked up - very tired, lacking energy, sick

Sunday - Sunday 2 May 1915

Vaccinated - Injection of dead or weakened pathogens to induce immunity

Port Melbourne - Dock area for Melbourne the capital city of the state of Victoria in Australia

Wharf - A structure where ships can dock to load and unload

Red Sea - A sea water inlet of the Indian Ocean accessed via the Gulf of Aden

dreadfully so but we are quite used to it now
 today there is a head wind & it is just lovely.
 I shall be awfully sorry to leave the boat - a
 fortnight more from today & we shall be to
 shore of England. Miss Duprier our captain
 is ill - has had a nervous breakdown & she
 has to be nursed until we get to London. I'm afraid
 we are having musical treats from - violinists
 from the first class - he is son of a Count and
 plays most wonderfully well. of course all
 classical stuff - O'Tuohy brought him on to play for
 us yesterday & he played his accompaniments to
 a concerto is used to professionals & got a bit
 him when he made a mistake etc. it was so
 funny. We can see Odessa it is just behind us of
 the port light & it looks beautiful. I'm longing for
 news from home so much I'll get anything I hear
 from you.

Saturday 5th Yesterday I was stopped writing this &
 play accompaniments for some of the passengers for
 the cruise last night - I was down in the salon
 rehearsing the last part of the morning. Feel dread-
 fully homesick too & had to go away from the table
 at lunch time - sang for the steward & thinking
 we a whisky toddy after which I felt better &
 went back & finished my lunch.

"Felt dreadfully homesick too"

Diary page 19

..... dreadfully so but we are quite used to it now. Today there is a hard wind and it is just lovely I shall be awfully sorry to leave the boat ~ a fortnight more from today and we shall see the shores of England . Miss Lempriere our matron is ill ~ has had a nervous breakdown and she has to be nursed until we get to London I'm afraid. We are having musical treats from a violinist from the first class ~ he is son of a Count and plays most wonderfully well ~ off course all classical stuff ~ Dr Trinca brought him over to play for us yesterday # and he played his accompaniments and Dr Mascio is used to professionals- and growled at him when he made a mistake etc. oh it was so funny. We can see Aden it is just located out of the port hole and it looks beautiful. I'm longing for news from home so much I'd give anything to hear from you.

Saturday 8th (May 1915) Yesterday ◊ I was stopped writing this to play accompaniments for some of the passengers for the concert last night ~ I was down in the saloon rehearsing the best part of the morning. Felt dreadfully homesick too and had to go away from the table at lunch time ~ rang for the steward to bring me a whisky and soda after which I felt better and went back and finished my lunch.....

Dreadfully ~ Terribly, immensely, frightfully, very, extremely, exceedingly

England ~ Country in the British Isles bordering Wales and Scotland

Miss Lempriere ~ Janey McRobie Lempriere AANS

Matron not QAIMNSR

London ~ The capitol city of England

Violinist ~ Person who plays the Violin

Son of a Count ~ Dr Luigi Di Mascio whose signature is on page 100 with his Paris address. Name spelling from signature

Classical ~ Rooted in the traditions of western culture.

Composers between 1750 and 1820.

Dr Trinca ~ Alfred John Trinca (1884-1981) 31 years (Alfie or AJT)

Yesterday # ~ Thursday the 6th of May 1915

Dr Mascio ~ Dr Luigi Di Mascio whose signature is on page 100 with his Paris address.

Aden ~ A port city located on the eastern approach to the Red Sea

Yesterday◊ ~ Friday 7 May 1915

Saloon ~ Ship's Saloon - Large social lounge on a passenger ship sometimes with drinks available.

Rehearsing ~ Prepare, practise particularly music, speeches, or plays etc prior to presentation or performance

Dreadfully homesick ~ Very, extremely, terrible missing the people and being at home in Ballarat

Whisky and soda ~

A mixed drink of Scotch Whisky and soda water with or without ice and may have a citrus (lemon) twist

20

It was Daniel Ross's birthday yesterday so after
 the concert last night we had a champagne supper
 on the quiet. Just a little party 5 minutes
 & 4 decorations - figs & biscuits. The boat is so dark
 & pitch black at night & no one saw us
 having it - most of the folk have drinks for supper
 on deck mostly lemon squashes. It is so hot that
 nothing the bottle is on ice all the time yet it is a
 city state. I have a palm leaf fan with a little bit
 of tortoiseshell on it - the shell is melting today.
 We passed ~~Sardinia~~ ^{Sardinia} at 5 o'clock yesterday but saw
 most beautiful sights - several men & women lying in
 the harbour & they & we saluted each other. We are
 now in the Red Sea - parts of which are mined by the
 English so we are really in the danger zone. At 11 o'clock
 yesterday, ~~hearing~~ ^{hearing} the fire bell rang - we had to leave
 our ice cream & run & put on our life belts & take
 our places - there was a strong smell of fire & oil
 really thought the ship was in danger but it was
 only a little chain that had caught fire from
 someone's pipe. Anyway we were only about 3 miles
 out from shore. Odeh - I cannot describe the
 beauty of it - the sea was brilliantly blue & the
 portness of Odeh rose majestically out of the
 steep high cliffs & sandy patches beneath which
 made it look simply beautiful - through the

“The sea was brilliantly blue and the fortress of Aden rose majestically out of the sea”

Diary page 20

.... It was Isabel Ross's birthday yesterday so after the concert last night we had a champagne supper on the quiet. Just our little party 5 nurses and 4 doctors – iced fizz and biscuits – the boat is as dark as pitch now on deck at nights and no one saw us having it – most of the folk have drinks for supper on deck, mostly lemon squashes. It is so hot that altho' the butter is on ice all the time yet it is in an oily state. I have a palm leaf fan with a little bit of tortoise shell on it and the shell is melting today We passed Perim Island at 5 o'clock yesterday and it was a most beautiful sight – several man of war lying in the harbour. They and we saluted each other. We are now in the Red Sea – parts of which are mined by the English so we are really in the danger zone. At 11 o'clock yesterday morning the fire bell rang – we had to leave our ice creams and run and put on our life belts and take our places- There was a strong smell of fire and we really thought the ship was in danger but it was only a little chair that had caught fire from someone's pipe. Anyway we were only about 3 miles out from shore – Aden – I cannot describe the beauty of it – The sea was brilliantly blue and the fortress of Aden rose majestically out of the sea – huge cliffs and sandy patches beneath which made it look simply beautiful – Through the

Isabel Ross – Nurse Isabel Russell Ross

Yesterday – Friday 7 May 1915

Concert – A live music performance in front of an audience

Last night – Evening of Friday 7 May 1915

Champagne – A sparkling wine that comes from the Champagne region of France

Iced fizz – Fizz is a mixed drink (cocktail style) of lemon or lime juice and carbonated water can also have alcohol for example a gin, whisky or rum fizz and with ice.

Lemon squashes – A lemon juice flavoured drink often with soda water or lemonade. Can be with or without ice.

Altho' – Although

Palm leaf fan – A hand held fan shaped like a palm leaf often made from raffia.

Tortoise shell – Semi-transparent mottled yellow and brown turtle shell used to make jewellery or ornaments

Today – Saturday 8 May 1915

Perim Island – At the southern entrance to the Red Sea an extinct volcano.

5 o'clock – 5 pm on Friday 7 May 1915

Man of war – Battleships

Red Sea – A sea water inlet of the Indian Ocean accessed via the Gulf of Aden

Mined – Under water mines laid to explode and sink enemy ships

English – People born or from England

11 o'clock yesterday – 11 am Friday 7 May 1915

Life belts – Or Life Jackets simple water-proof canvas with cork wooden slats inserted all around. Very bulky

Pipe – Tobacco pipe a bowl or chamber for the tobacco and a hollow stem to draw the smoke. Hot tobacco often remains in the bowl

Aden – A port city located on the eastern approach to the Red Sea

Fortress of Aden – Sira Fortress located on Sira Island which is a volcanic rock that dominates Aden harbour

Majestically – With impressive beauty or scale

glasses you could see the military barracks & Port of Spain.
 I believe that most of the crew were called
 up in the middle of the night. There is a lady
 passenger in the third class who is seriously ill
 with pneumonia & pneumonia - 3 of the girls are
 nursing her taking 24 hours each - two others
 are nursing Miss Lempriere so there are five on
 duty - we are in the Red Sea. Our French leaves
 are still being continued in spite of the fact that I am
 getting hopelessly muddled with it. I can't
 keep more than 1 candle 3 weeks ago. I'm so
 often thinking of little Dan & wondering how he
 takes our photographs often & looks through them
 that I think accounted for my nostalgia of
 yesterday. The second saloon men passengers are
 fearfully jealous of the doctors coming on board
 & they have been rather nasty about it along - I
 today they are sending a petition to the Commander
 to prohibit them coming on our deck. Of course, we
 think it is very mean of them when you consider
 that probably we're going to have a very hard time
 later on & possibly we may never reach England
 & we have such a lot in common with the
 & know people they know etc, that if it
 they would let us have a good time as
 possible but no they are making a fearful fuss

"Our French lessons are still being continued"

Diary page 21

....glasses we could see the military barracks and fortification. I believe that next lifebelt drill we are to be called up in the middle of the night. There is a lady passenger in the third class who is seriously ill with pneumonia and pleurisy ~ 3 of the girls are nursing her taking 4 hours each ~ two others are nursing Miss Lempriere so there are five on duty ~ no joke in the Red Sea. Our French lessons are still being continued in spite of the heat but I'm getting hopelessly muddled with it ~ still can certainly speak more than I could 3 weeks ago. I'm so often thinking of little Jan and wondering how he is ~ Take out my photographs often and look through them that I think accounted for my nostalgia of yesterday. The second saloon men passengers are fearfully jealous of the doctors coming over so much? and they have been rather nasty about it all along ~ and today they are sending a petition to the Commander to prohibit their coming on our deck. Of course we think it is very mean of them when you consider that probably we're going to have a very hard time later on and possibly we may never reach England and we have such a lot in common with the Dr's and know people they know etc. that you'd think they would let us have as good a time as possible but no they are making a fearful fuss.....

Glasses - Binoculars which magnify what you are seeing.

Military barracks - A group of buildings that house soldiers

Fortification - A defensive wall or other reinforcement built to strengthen a place against attack

Lifebelt drill - Put on Life Belt and practise getting in life boats and abandoning ship

Pneumonia - Infection that inflames the air sacs in the lungs

Pleurisy - Inflammation of the tissues that line the lungs and chest cavity

Miss Lempriere - Janey McRobie Lempriere AANS

Matron not QAIMNSR signature on page 100

Red Sea - A sea water inlet of the Indian Ocean accessed via the Gulf of Aden

French - Learning to speak French

Muddled - Not clear or coherent, confused

Second saloon - The second class saloon. Presumably the Doctors were in First class.

Jan - Henry George Jan (Billy) Wardle, also called "little Billy" Born with brain damage in 1914 before Priscilla departed and passed away aged 12 years in 1926. Billy would have been 5 when Priscilla returned. There are photographs of "Billy" in her album

Fearfully jealous - Extremely jealous

Jealous - Envious resentment of perceived advantages

Commander or Master or Captain - F S Symons R.N.R.

Prohibit - Stop

England - Country in the British Isles bordering Wales and Scotland

Dr's - Doctors

Fearful fuss - Very great fuss

Fuss - Anger greater than the situation deserves

22

I'm Billie & to our little party - one is Jack, one is
 Tommy, one the Pat & mother. Sam. Hibbs' hole
 here is a great success - such a lot achieved it
 & I got it launched at Colombo beautifully, & will
 get another for deep wear at it. Am not allow-
 to use my iron so I'm rather handicapped in
 doing any washing - however, can get a hot flat iron
 from the store occasionally. Get my hot water bag
 for the patient in the steerage - the doctor will like
 for patients & is allowed the hot bag instead. My
 white boots look like the best thing I've had - wear
 them every day. Since Colombo we have had a new
 fruit called Pomele - it is like a lemon in
 time enlarged but inside more like a tart
 orange, white with a tinge of ~~pink~~ pink.
 The Curry we had at Colombo was the most
 beautiful thing I've ever tasted. The dish from
 which it was served was in 3 different compart-
 ments & a different Curry in each - first you help
 yourself to rice then take a spoonful from each
 division & mix it then together. It was very
 hot & delicious - Curried vegetables, curried fish
 & food we know what. I had a most interesting
 conversation last night with an actor Mr. Carter
 he knows Queen's Burrows very well & was
 galled with her. He has been in everything from

"The curry we had at Colombo was the most beautiful thing I've ever tasted"

Diary page 22

.....I'm "Billie" to our little party - one is Jock one is Tommy, another Pat and another Sam. Hilda's *helio*? frock is a great success - such a lot admired and I got it laundered at Colombo beautifully so will get another few days wear out of it. Am not allowed to use my iron so I'm rather handicapped in doing any washing - however can get a hot flat iron from the steward occasionally. Lent my hot water bag for the patient in the steerage - she does not like ointments? so is allowed the hot bag instead. My white shorts have been the best thing I've had - wear them every day. Since Colombo we have had a new fruit called a Pomelo - it is like a lemon 10 times enlarged but inside more like a tart orange, white with a tinge of pink. The curry we had at Colombo was the most beautiful thing I've ever tasted - the dish from which it was served was in 3 different compartments and a different curry in each - first you helped yourself to rice then took a spoonful from each division and mixed them together. It was very hot but delicious - curried vegetables, curried fruit and goodness knows what. I had a most interesting conversation last night with an actor Mr Curtin? he knows Queenie Burrows? very well and has acted with her. He has been in everything from.....

Hilda's - Hilda Allan Wardle, Priscilla's younger sister aged 27 in 1915.

Helio - Colour Pink/Purple after the Heliotrope flower. Was it a Pink/Purple dress?

Colombo - Capital city of Ceylon in 1915 now Capital of Sri Lanka

Handicapped - Having a condition that markedly restricts the ability to function physically, mentally or socially

Flat iron - Or Sad Iron A thick flat slab of cast iron, delta shaped with a handle. Heated in fire or on stove

Steward - Person who looks after passengers on ship

Hot water bag - Maybe hot water bottle.

Steerage - Cheapest accommodation for passengers on a ship

Ointments - Smooth oily substance rubbed on the skin for medical reasons

Pomelo - The largest citrus fruit. White and also pink or red flesh

Tart orange - Bitter or sour orange

Curry - A complex combination of herbs and spices.

May contain chilli leaves for extra spice.

Rice - A cereal grain is the seed from a special grass.

Curried vegetables - Vegetables mixed with a curry mix

Curried fruit - Fruit mixed with a curry mix. Example raisins etc

Mr Curtin - Is this Mr Kirton on Diary page 9.

MacKenzie/ Kirton or Curtin (see also page 23) Singer in The Dandies

Queenie Burrows - Not found

Grand opening to audience. His real name is
but the alias is - Stage name Carter. Went to school
this morning - the Salon. He ended with singing
particularly good. Showed on case tonight in the
3rd class - we'll all bought programmes &
have got them Carter in signature. So am
posting it to you. I cannot believe that
I can actually see Turkey on one side
of the ship and Egypt on the other.
Tomorrow we are hoping to see soldiers
now my darling goodbye for a
little while - will write again soon.
My heart's love to you all.
Priscilla

“Tomorrow we are hoping to see soldiers”

Diary page 23

.....grand opera to vaudeville. His real name is Mr MacKenzie? – stage name Curtin? Went to service this morning – the saloon was crowded and the singing was particularly good.

May 10th? (1915 Monday) Stewards concert tonight in the 3rd Class – we’ve all bought programmes and have got them covered in signatures so am posting it to you. I cannot believe that I can actually see Turkey on one side of the ship and Egypt on the other. Tomorrow we are hoping to see soldiers. Now you darlings goodbye for a little while – will write again soon.

My hearts love to you all.

Priscilla

Mr MacKenzie – Is this Mr Kirton on page 9. MacKenzie/ Kiron or Curtin (see also page 22) Singer in the Dandies Service – Church service

Saloon – Large social lounge on a passenger ship sometimes with drinks available.

Stewards – Stewards may set tables, manage the linen, take out rubbish, carry drinks, wash u dishes, make beds, or other tasks requested by passengers and look after passengers

Tonight – Sunday 9 May 1915

3rd class – Steerage – Cheapest accommodation for passengers on a ship

Turkey – Country in Western Asia the Balkans and Eastern Europe. Bordered by Greece, Bulgaria, Georgia, Armenia, Iran, Iraq and Syria

Egypt – Country linking Africa with the Middle East. Home of the Pharaohs , the Nile and the Pyramids.

Tomorrow – Monday 10 May 1915

24

May 1st Entered the Canal this morning at
 6.30 am we were up at 8. In Madrid in p.m.
 Mother dear. You will remember the fare that is
 it has been a wonderful day - passing ships
 of different nationalities. We all sang the Marseillaise
 also when we passed a French armed cruiser
 & we have clapped every soldier we have seen
 & they have been all kinds, Sikhs, Arabs, Egyptians
 French, Canadians & our own boys. We have
 thrown them parcels of dates, chocolate, newspapers,
 & they have straightway dived into the
 water. If they failed to get them, they have
 all. Coconuts have been being up and pulled
 overboard and now at 6 o'clock I'm just
 dressing for dinner, sitting at my trunk
 writing a few lines, utterly worn out with
 excitement - you cannot possibly imagine how
 upsetting it is to see these brave fellows all
 along the Canal - in the arid desert doing
 outpost duty - dull & monotonous. He also
 serves who stands & waits. We have just
 heard of the dreadful loss of the Lusitania -
 it is appalling - it makes no chance of
 getting home safely, less. I'm writing
 my thoughts because I know that
 your anxiety will be over concerning my

“We have just heard of the dreadful loss of the Lusitania”

Diary page 24

.....May 11th (Tuesday) Entered the Canal this morning at 6.30 am we were up at 5 for medical inspection. Mother dear you will remember the farce that is. It has been a wonderful day passing ships of different nationalities ~ we all sang the marseillaise when we passed a French armed cruiser and we have clapped every soldier we've seen and there've been all kinds, Sikhs, Arabs, Egyptians, French, Canadians and our own boys. We've thrown them parcels of dates, chocolates, newspapers and they have straightaway dived into the water if they failed to get them clothes and all. Cooees have been ringing out and we've hurrahd and more. At 6 o'clock. I'm just dressing for dinner, sitting at my trunk writing a few lines, utterly worn out with excitement ~ you cannot possibly imagine how upsetting it is to see these brave fellows all along the Canal ~ in the arid desert doing outpost duty dull and monotonous. It also serves who stands and waits. We have just heard of the dreadful loss of the Lusitania ~ it is appalling ~ it makes our chance of getting home safely, less ~ I'm writing my thoughts because I know that your anxiety will be over concerning my.....

Canal - The Suez Canal

5 - 5am in the morning

Farce - Joke, absurdity, mockery, sham.

Nationalities - From different nations or countries

Marseillaise - The National Anthem of France

French - Belonging to France.

Sikhs - People who are associated with Sikhism religion which originated in the Punjab region. Men wear turbans.

Arabs - People inhabiting the Arab world. They live in the Arab States of Western Asia, North Africa, Horn of Africa and Western Indian Ocean islands.

Egyptians - Soldiers born or from Egypt

French - Soldiers born or from France

Canadians - Soldiers born or from Canada

Own boys - Australian soldiers

Dates - The fruit of the Date Palm.

Cooees - A shout used in the Australian bush to attract attention, find missing people or indicate your location.

Best if done loudly and shrilly. Unique

Hurrahd - Hip Hip Hurrah or three cheers

6 - 6pm in the evening

Trunk - Travelling trunk large suitcase/trunk being used as a table.

Fellows - Soldiers

Desert - A barren landscape with very little precipitation. Often sand and rocks. No plant life. Hostile living conditions.

Outpost duty - Or border outpost duty. Working and manning strategic locations along a border.

Monotonous - Dull, tedious, lacking in variety and interest

Dreadful - Extremely bad, terrible, horrible, awful

Lusitania - RMS Lusitania. An Ocean Liner sunk by a German submarine on 7th of May 1915 with the loss of 1198 passengers. The sinking brought America into the war.

Appalling - Shocking, horrific, horrifying, ghastly

Safely before we get this. It has naturally
terribly depressed us all today & moreover we
now learn that in consequence of so many
Australians being wounded that the doctors
& nurses were taken off the "Makro" at
Port Said so that we have to pack up
ourselves as we have to sail tomorrow at 11.30.
The Arabs have been all day selling
trinkets, beautiful things but only bought
a strip of pale pink coral and about 30 lovely
post cards. Now I must hurry & dress.

My 11th was I - that is the ship & we left Port Said
on Monday a Wednesday. Many of the people on the
ship expected to see their soldier relatives & we do
not & their sorrow & disappointment they had left
2 days before we arrived. Mr. Glasgow of Gynsborough
highly cut up - he got telegrams from his sons
to say they had left the hospital & were all well &
some of our girls went to the hospital but the way
the Australians at Port Said. He heard today that
some of the Australians had got out of hand &
the Mardachilles & that the losses had been enormous.
Many of the passengers are going overland from
Ipswich - they are afraid of the submarine which
is supposed to be at large. Last night & from now
onwards we slept with a little pile of clothes &

“Australians had got out of hand in the Dardanelles and that the losses had been enormous”

Diary page 25

..... safety before you get this. It has naturally terribly depressed us all today and moreover we have learnt that in consequence of so many Australians being wounded that the doctors and nurses were taken off the “Malwa” at Port Said. So tonight we have to pack up in case we have to go ashore tomorrow at P.Said. the Arabs have been aboard all day selling their wares, beautiful things but I’ve only bought a strip of pale pink coral and about 30 lovely post cards. Now I must hurry and dress.

May 15th? (Saturday) Well I’m still on the ship and we left Port Said at midday on Wednesday. Many of the people on the ship expected to see their soldier relatives and friends. But to their sorrow and disappointment they had left 2 days before we arrived. Mr Glasgow of Gympie was frightfully cut up – he got telegrams from his sons to say they had left. The hospitals were all full and some of our girls went to the hospitals but there were no Australians at Port Said. We heard to our great sorrow that the Australians had got out of hand in the Dardanelles and that the losses had been enormous. Many of the passengers are going overland from Naples – they are afraid of the submarine which is supposed to be at large. Last night and from now onwards we slept with a little pile of clothes and.....

Australians – People from or born in Australia

Malwa – S.S. Malwa- Steam Ship Malwa

Port Said – Egyptian city at the northern end of the Suez Canal

P. Said – Port Said - Egyptian city at the northern end of the Suez canal

Arabs – People inhabiting the Arab world. They live in the Arab States of Western Asia, North Africa, Horn of Africa and Western Indian Ocean islands.

Coral – Skeletal structure of a marine animal. Part of coral reefs. Multi coloured.

Wednesday – 12th May 1915

Sorrow – Sadness, misery, despair, low spirits

Disappointment – Regret, dismay or sorrow

Mr Glasgow – Samuel Glasgow prominent storekeeper and mining magnate in Gympie in Queensland in Australia

Gympie – Coastal town in Queensland. 120 kilometres north of the capitol Brisbane

Dardanelles – Also Gallipoli by which this battle became known in Australia. Commenced 25 April 1915.

Enormous – Australia had approximately 8000 soldiers killed and 18,000 soldiers injured at Gallipoli

Naples – City in southern Italy on the Bay of Naples with nearby Mt Vesuvius

Submarine – Watercraft capable of operating underwater. Military application during time of war.

Pile – Heap, stack, mound, bunch or jumble.

26

a lifebelt & a shady hat as the port of our tanks
 also having such bad luck in being delayed a lot
 this trip. Yesterday an engine broke down for an hour &
 from this means that we got into Naples later - at 6:30 in
 instead of 3 or 3. One of the attendants ~~to~~ is going
 to call us tomorrow morning early to see the passage
 through the Straits of Messina. Two day night we were
 put 2 a.m. & got thru the Canal about 1 a.m. The
 view looked like pictures one east of Venice - the
 streets were right on to the water's edge & all brilliant
 lit up - it is the richest city in the world so
 they said it certainly looked it. The coal tramps
 were one mass of torches & black men juggling up
 as they came alongside our ship. At that time
 from black men came on board selling ~~to~~ us, & a
 very clever conjurer with tiny yellow live chickens
 he made two or three & made them appear in all
 sorts of funny places & different persons. He called
 me high laughing & another girl Mrs Cornwallis
 1851 - he was up on the 1st class deck with
 the doctor & had great fun - except the all
 read papers on coming Australian news. He
 then the doctor went off in launch & they
 came back at 4 a.m. & we all went ashore
 at 6:30 for breakfast which we had out
 on the streets at little tables. We had our

"Port Said looked like pictures one sees of Venice"

Diary page 26

..... our lifebelts and a shady hat at the foot of our bunks. We're having such bad luck in being delayed a lot this trip - yesterday an engine broke down for an hour and now that means we get into Naples late - at 6pm instead of 2 or 3. One of the stewards is going to call us tomorrow early to see the passage through the straits of Messina. Tuesday night we waited up till 2am and got there. The Canal about 1am and Port Said looked like pictures one sees of Venice - The streets were right on to the water's edge and all brilliantly lit up - it is the wickedest city in the world so they said and it certainly looked it. The coal barges were one mass of torches and black men jabbering as they came alongside our ship. At that late hour black men came on board selling wares and a very clever conjuror with tiny yellow live chickens he made two out of one and made them appear in all sorts of funny places on different persons. He called me Lily Langtry and another girl Mrs Cornwallis West - we were up on the first class deck with the chickens and had great fun - except when we read papers concerning Australian losses etc. Then the doctors went off in launches and they came back at 4a.m and we all went ashore at 6.30 for breakfast which we had out on the streets at little tables - we had our.....

Lifebelts - Or Life Jackets simple water-proof canvas with cork wooden slats inserted all around.

Very bulky

Bunks - Or beds on a ship.

Usually two beds one above the other

Yesterday - Friday 14 May 1915

Naples - City in southern Italy on the Bay of Naples with nearby Mt Vesuvius

2 Or 3 - 2pm or 3pm in the afternoon.

Stewards - Stewards may set tables, manage the linen, take out rubbish, carry drinks, wash u dishes, make beds, or other tasks requested by passengers and look after passengers

Straits of Messina - Strait of Messina between eastern tip of Sicily and western tip of Calabria in Southern Italy.

Tuesday night - 11th of May 1915

2am - Which makes it Wednesday 12th of May 1915

Canal - Suez Canal - Man built waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea at Port Said in the north to the Red Sea at Suez in the south.

Port Said - Egyptian city at the northern end of the Suez Canal
Venice - Venice in northern Italy is built on more than 100 islands. It has no roads just canals.

Wickedest - The most evil, sinful, mischievous, naughty, devilish, wrong or bad.

Coal barge - Large flat-bottomed boat sometimes towed by tow boat used to transport bulk coal for steam ships as fuel for their steam boilers

Torches - Probably wooden handle with wick wrapped around one end and set alight. May be dipped in sulphur and lime to

prevent torch being put out by water

Jabbering - Talking rapidly, indistinctly, incoherently or nonsensically or all at once.

Alongside - Next to.

Wares - Various items for sale.

Conjuror - Magician or juggler doing tricks.

Lily Langtry - Emilie Charlotte Langtry (Lillie Langtry) (Lily Langtry) (Lily Langtree) British Socialite, actress and producer.

Mrs Cornwallis West - Mary Adelaide Virginia Thomasina Eupatoria "Patsy" Cornwallis - West . An Irish born aristocrat.

Australian losses - 8000 killed and 18,000 injured

6.30 - 6.30am in the morning.

fortune told by Egyptians during breakfast - of course
 we were surrounded by black men selling beads, fruit
 roses, fans, etc etc. He got quite expert in waving
 them off & telling them to go about their business.
 the after-breakfast of lunch, French coffee delicious
 French bread rolls butter & croquette we
 went into the wonderful shops. At Port Said there is
 only the city to see - no interesting outskirts like
 Colombo. About 100 yards there was an
 orchestra in the street of men & girls (Russians)
 playing mandolins, guitars & piano & singing.
 I had ref. to spend 10 my Russian paise to get
 a lovely little chessing square of pale yellow. Orp
 with wistaria as it is lined with yellow pop. It
 was ref. to 1 wouldnt pay it to the, followed me
 out to the street & offered it as the last 10 ref.
 I also for a string of green beads 10/100. We had
 our photographs taken many times - I hope to
 send you some of them. After we got back to the ship
 for them, jumping into the water & an Egyptian dived
 for them - put them into his mouth & dived for
 more. Little boats with Russian girls & men
 singing & playing mandolins dodged around our
 ship & held out an open umbrella for coins.
 More jugglers were on board until we actually
 started - doing most wonderful tricks

"We threw pennies into the water and an Egyptian dived for them"

Diary page 27

.... fortunes told by Egyptians during breakfast ~ of course we were surrounded by black men selling beads, fresh roses, fans etc etc. We got quite expert in waving them off and telling them to go about their business. Then after breakfast of lovely French coffee delicious French bread rolls and butter and French omelette we went into the wonderful shops. At Port Said there is only the city to see ~ no interesting outskirts like Colombo. About every 100 yards there was an orchestra in the street of men and girls (Eurasians) playing mandolins, guitars and piano and singing. I had 10/- to spend for my Euchre prize so I got a lovely little dressing sacque of pale yellow crêpe with unknown? on it and lined with yellow jap-silk ~ it was 15/- but I wouldn't pay it so they followed me out onto the street and offered it at the last for 10/6. I also got a string of free beads and a fan. We had our photographs taken many times ~ I hope to send you some of these. After we got back to the ship we threw pennies into the water and an Egyptian dived for them ~ put them into his mouth and dived off again for more. Little boats with Eurasian girls and men singing and playing mandolins dodged around our ship and held onto an open umbrella for coins. More jugglers were on board until we actually started ~ doing most wonderful tricks

Egyptians ~ People born in or from Egypt

French coffee ~ Probably plunger style coffee made with a Cafetiere (Coffee plunger or French press)

French bread ~ Baguette a French stick or French loaf or French bread.

French omelette ~ Made from beaten eggs fried in butter or oil in a frying pan. When folded may be filled with cheese, chives, vegetables etc.

Port Said ~ Egyptian city at the northern end of the Suez canal

Colombo ~ Capital city of Ceylon in 1915 now Capital of Sri Lanka
100 yards ~ 92 metres

Orchestra ~ Large instrumental ensemble using stringed, brass, woodwind, percussion instruments grouped in sections

Eurasians ~ A person of mixed Asian and European ancestry

Mandolins ~ Stringed instrument in the lute family. Usually plucked with a plectrum or pick.. Has four sets of double strings.

Guitars ~ Fretted instrument usually with six strings and using either a pick or the fingers to pluck the strings.

Piano ~ Acoustic stringed instrument in which the strings are struck by a hammer.

10/- = 10 shillings or \$1 decimal worth \$59 today

Euchre ~ A trick taking card game played with 24, 28 or 32 cards.

Sacque ~ Short loose-fitting sack-style garment for women

Crêpe ~ Silk or wool fibre fabric with a distinctly crinkle, crimped or grained appearance.

Jap-silk ~ Japanese silk.

Lightweight and wonderful range of colours. Hangs beautifully and has a luxurious look

15/- = 15 shillings or \$1.50 in decimal worth \$89 today

10/6 = 10 shillings and 6 pence or \$1.06 decimal worth \$63 today

Beads ~ Small decorative objects with a small hole for threading or stringing

Fan ~ Or hand fan or folding fan

Pennies ~ Large copper English coin. One penny or 1 cent in decimal currency worth 60 cents today

Egyptian ~ A person born in or from Egypt

Jugglers ~ Person who performs juggling. Usually "toss" juggling keeping a number of objects in the air at once.

28

bed after ^{noon} we started as usual. We
 spent a bed as we were all dreadfully tired by
 up the morning very early - at 5.15 I had said
 it was wonderful being in Killybegs. I
 actually saw some of the old stone bridge
 the island which St. Paul was wrecked.
 Last night we had a big dance on the dock it
 was beautifully decorated - the of our passengers
 danced up as stewards & more little things
 hands & helped the Stewards with Supper. They
 said they were very of fun - I have enjoyed it more
 more in my life - could have filled my program
 twice over easily - We took a very interesting
 looking people at Port Louis but all not known to
 them yet. I have just heard that the boats are all
 ready to be lowered tonight - in fact they ^{before} will
 spread out on the dock - the Commandos did not
 leave the bridge for dinner - double watches are to be
 put on all night to the boats provisioned.

I'm just telling you this because if we land
 safely in Guy. it will be all the more interesting
 I know that we came through great dangers.
 I want you to know that if you get this it
 did not get into safety. That I'm not afraid
 I do not feel at all upset. Now this is
 possibly, would I do not want to make you
 feel sad.

"I want you to know that if you get this and I did not get into safety that I'm not scared"

Diary page 28

....Wed afternoon after we started we were *unknown?* in bed as we were all *dreadfully* tired being up two mornings very early ~ at Suez and Port Said. It was wonderful being in biblical country ~ we actually saw mount Sinai in the distance and Crete the Island on which St Paul was wrecked. Last night we had a big dance on A deck it was beautifully decorated ~ two of our passengers were dressed up as stewards and wore little *French?* beards and helped the stewards with supper ~ they said they saw a lot of fun. I never enjoyed a dance more in my life ~ could have filled my programme twice over *easily*. We took on some very interesting people at Port Said but have not spoken to them yet. I have just heard that the boats are all ready to be lowered tonight ~ in fact the ropes are all spread out on the deck ~ the Commander did not leave the bridge for dinner ~ double watches are to be put on all night and the boats provisioned. I'm just telling you this because if we land safely in Eng. it will be all the more interesting to know that we came through great dangers. I want you to know that if you get this and I did not get into safety that I'm not afraid. I do not feel at all upset how this is a horrible world and I do not want to make you feel bad....

Wed - Wednesday 12 May 1915

Dreadfully - Very, terribly, immensely, frightfully, exceedingly tired.

Suez - Town at the southern end of the Suez Canal.

Also base for trench system to protect against the Turkish invasion.

Port said - Egyptian city at the northern end of the Suez Canal

Tonight - Saturday 15 May 1915

Biblical - Where the events in the Bible took place

Mount Sinai -

Crete - Greece's largest island. Part of Greek mythology. The Apostle Paul said to have been on the island while a prisoner of Rome

St Paul - Or Paul the Apostle or Saul of Tarsus. He was an Apostle who taught the gospel of Christ and wrote 13 books of the Bible.

Wrecked - Destroyed, badly damaged when applied to a ship it is "wrecked at sea".

A deck - The main deck probably the "promenade deck"

French beards - A "full" beard often with a long bristles off the chin.

Stewards - Stewards may set tables, manage the linen, take out rubbish, carry drinks, wash u dishes, make beds, or other tasks requested by passengers and look after passengers

Supper - Evening meal typically a light or informal one.

Programme - Dancing programme. List of partners to dance with.

Commander - Commander or Master or Captain - F S Symons R.N.R.

Watches - Assignment of specific roles to crew to allow the ship to operate continuously and safely.

Provisioned - Supply of food, drink, equipment etc.

Eng. - England their destination

Dear one, I love you all very, very much. I
 do not get a blow up in sleep & have
 breakfast - when sleep is wanted, we sleep -
 have to rest for I think - it is needed -
 I suppose.

Monday. I can picture you all at home reading
 the Australasian - Oh, it is not Sunday with
 you all. We have not had the Portman Co.
 now for several days but instead have the Great
Blue & the Blough. I must get used to the
 warm wind being from the South etc.

I feel all twisted around. Do not miss
 a mail for letters for me will you?
 Love dear ones

“We have not had the Southern Cross now for several days but instead have
The Great Bear of the Plough “

Diary page 29

..... Dear ones, I love you all very very much. I have to go now and get a blow ? up on deck and have some fun – when danger is nearest we seem to have the most fun I think- it is reaction I suppose.

Saturday I can picture you all at home reading the Australasian – only it is not Saturday with you at all. We have not had the Southern Cross now for several days but instead have The Great Bear of the Plough! I must get used to the warm wind being from the South etc. I feel all twisted around. Do not miss a mail for letters for me will you? now dear ones.

(The remainder of the page is empty. Did Priscila finish or was the carbon sheet removed or folded over?)

Blow – Get some fresh air. Have a break. Breathe/fresh air.

Saturday – Saturday 15 May 1915

Australasian – A newspaper published in Melbourne, Victoria and available in her home town of Ballarat.

Not Saturday – Priscilla may not be correct as 6am in her time is around 4pm our time on the same day Saturday 15 May 1915

Southern Cross – The most familiar star pattern in the Southern Hemisphere sky.

The Great Bear of the Plough – The constellation of Ursa Major or the “Big Dipper” in the Northern Hemisphere sky.

30

on day 16th May. Last night after getting ready
 for shore I waiting for our anchor we were not
 allowed to land on account of badness of weather
 on board - the Italian doctor was a funny looking
 individual - he was dressed in short boots & trousers
 high collar & like a white washed face & shiny
 black jacket of puffed sleeves. The Bay of Naples
 extremely very beautiful but not quite up to expectations
 because was enveloped in haze & about 30 miles
 at all other ports we did not find a wharf & a great
 number of small boats came alongside - some had
 huge high poles and at the top several glorious
 bunches of flowers beautifully arranged with
 ferns etc - these they clunged in pairs of an flower
 or more together some for us - I was given three
 bouquets by different doctors one of dark velvet
 red roses & ferns with others about 15' long and
 pink roses just 2 of the most perfect roses I ever
 saw & another of pink carnations without arrange-
 ment they were the size of a small saucer.
 they had these in blue (memory blue) also. Our
 tables at dinner last night were just - perfect
 & I was also in dark red room in my cabin.
 We did appreciate flowers after not seeing them
 for a long time had a very hurried dinner &
 up again on deck with a handful of hats &
 hairpins.

“Vesuvius was enveloped in haze and cloud”

Diary page 30

Sunday 16th May (1915). Last night after getting ready for shore and waiting for over an hour we were not allowed to land on account of having measles on board – the Italian doctor was a funny looking individual – he was dressed in black had a ludicrously high collar like a white washed fence and a shiny black jew hat of pedal straw. The Bay of Naples is certainly very beautiful but not quite up to expectations. Vesuvius was enveloped in haze and cloud. As the custom at all other ports we did not go into a wharf and a great number of small boats came alongside – some had huge high poles and at the top several glorious bunches of flowers beautifully arranged – with ferns etc – these they dangled in front of our faces our men bought some for us – I was given three bouquets by different doctors one of dark velvety red roses and ferns with stems about 15in long another? pink roses just 8 of the most perfect ones I’ll ever see and another of pink carnations and without exaggeration they were the size of a small saucer. They had these in blue (mauvy blue) also. Our tables at dinner last night were just a picture and I have also very dark red roses in my cabin. We did appreciate flowers after not seeing them for so long. We had a very hurried dinner and up again on deck with a handful of nuts and raisins.....

Last night – Saturday 15 May 1915

Land – At Naples

Measles – A viral infection that causes fever and distinctive rash. Highly contagious

Italian – Born in or from Italy.

Ludicrously – In a way that is foolish, unreasonable or out of place as to be amusing

White washed – Type of lime paint normally white.

Jew hat – Possibly a straw boater

Pedal Straw – Finely woven straw

Bay of Naples – Gulf of Naples also called Bay of Naples. 15km wide gulf along the south west coast of Italy. Opens into the Mediterranean.

Vesuvius – Mount Vesuvius volcano located on the Gulf of Naples. About 9kms east of Naples.

Enveloped – Surrounded completely, covered, blanketed, engulfed or encased.

Custom – A traditional and widely accepted way of behaving or doing something.

Ports – A maritime commercial facility where ships dock to load and unload passengers and cargo.

Wharf – A structure where ships can dock to load and unload

Alongside – Next to

Ferns – Excellent plant for low light area and inside.

Often used in floral arrangements. Could be Leather leaf fern, tree fern, Ming fern etc.

Dangled – Hang or swing loosely

Velvety – Having a smooth soft appearance, feel or taste.

Roses – Over 300 species with thousands of types.

Stems often armed with prickles. Beautiful perfume.

Many colours including blue and black.

15in – 15 inches or 38 centimetres

Carnations – From the Mediterranean and 2000 years old. Many colours. Light red for admiration. Dark red for deep love.

Exaggeration – Overstatement, enhancement, magnification making better than it really is.

Saucer – 11.5cm or 4.5inches.

Mauvy blue – Light mauve/purple / dark pink with a blue tinge

Dark red roses – Dark red and almost mauve . Wine colour

Nuts – Almonds, peanuts, cashews, coconut, brazil, chestnut, pistachio

Raisins – Dried grapes. Can be eaten raw or used in cooking, baking and brewing.

It was a fascinating evening, watching Naples lightings & ships passing to & fro quite near us. Italians in the boat beneath playing mandolin & violin & singing. Then we heard that there were hints & guesses known what Gung & Co. Italy & political news & then we heard a rumor that Italy had that day, declared war. This we learned afterwards was not correct. Edith & I spent the last part of the evening on the top deck of the first class with two men. Edith met one of the doctors - I with the Italian volunteer the son of a Count. He is a Neapolitan by birth but has lived in Paris nearly all his life & knows Paris better than any place in the world. He told Naples to me & told me very many interesting things - then was a thin new moon the moon set & I had seen just above the city & the Cathedral bells were chiming and altogether it was most fascinating. We were all wearing real orange blossom. Edith had a bouquet given her of

" I read heliograph. After we left we went down stairs from our deck & sat up till late with some of our doctors. I told you about Mussolini & the hole in the floor & saw the ruins of the city of Messina which was destroyed by earthquake in 1908 - the town has been rebuilt since of course.

“Saw the city of Messina which was destroyed by earthquake in 1908”

Diary page 31

.....It was a fascinating evening watching Naples light up and ships passing to and fro quite near us. Italians in the boats beneath playing mandolins and violins and singing. Then we heard that there were riots and goodness knows what going on in Italy and then we heard a rumour that Italy had that day declared war. This we learnt afterwards was not correct. Edith Donaldson and I spent the first part of the evening on the top deck of the first class with two men. Edith with one of the doctors and I with the Italian violinist the son of a Count. He is a neapolitan by birth but has lived in Paris nearly all his life and adores Paris more than any place in the world. He described Naples to me and told me very many interesting things – there was another new moon, the newest one I've ever seen just above the city and the Cathedral bells were chiming and altogether it was most fascinating – We were all wearing real orange blossom Edith had a bouquet given her of orange blossom? and real heliotrope. After we left we went downstairs from our deck and sat up till late with some of our doctors. I told you about Messina and Stromboli in the post cards – I saw the ruined city of Messina which was destroyed by earthquake in 1908 – the town has been rebuilt since of course.....

Evening – Usually after sunset on Sunday 16 May 1915

Naples – City in southern Italy on the Bay of Naples with nearby Mt Vesuvius

To and fro – In both directions

Italians – Born in Italy or from Italy

Mandolins – Stringed instrument in the lute family.

Usually plucked with a plectrum or pick.. Has four sets of double strings.

Violins – Wooden stringed instrument with a hollow wood body in the violin family. Smallest instrument in the violin family. Maybe played by bowing or plucking

Riots – Violent outburst by a crowd

Italy – European country with a long Mediterranean coastline

Rumour – Story or report of uncertain or doubtful truth

Declared war – The formal declaration of war on another state.

Edith Donaldson – Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes.

Priscilla's best friend

Edith – See Edith Donaldson

Violinist – Person who plays the violin.

Italian violinist the son of a Count – Dr Luigi Di Mascio whose signature is on page 100 with his Paris address.

Spelling from signature.

Neapolitan – A native or inhabitant of Naples

Paris – The capital city of France

Adores Paris – Loves the city of Paris

New moon – The first lunar phase in which the disk is not visible to the naked eye.

Cathedral – Christian church which contains “seat” of a Bishop. Central church of a diocese

Orange blossom – Fragrant flower / blossom of the orange tree which is said to bring good fortune.

Heliotrope – Refers to the colour of the purple pink flowers of the Heliotropium plant

Messina – City with a large port on the island of Sicily.

Stromboli – Island of Stromboli off the north coast of Sicily with Mt Stromboli an active volcano at the centre.

32

In the ruins of past still remain. I saw a most pathetic
 little woman - one of our Italian friends at Naples
 was not allowed to land & his wife & baby, were
 alongside in a little boat - he gave her all his money,
 & the baby was handed over to him to kiss & then his
 wife - it was so very pathetic. Monday morning
 I have just read a dear letter from Florence - I saw
 in a paper in for at Naples that Alcega had
 been wounded in the Dardanelles. Poor fellow - I
 believe Boris saw quite a lot of him in Egypt.
 Passed Sardinia yesterday & expect to arrive in Italy
 tomorrow when we stay 3 days - it will be quite 6
 weeks journey before we arrive in England. I
 heard from Mr. Macdonald that a Red Cross Committee
 going to Serbia were stopped at Malta & taken off
 there & named one man who had been sent for
 the Dardanelles for the wireless message also said
 that Mr. Macdonald would be able to go home in a
 week's time. We have such a number of interesting
 people on board, one is Portuguese, just married
 & going on a sailing to his new home, laugh
 he loves to show me & gives me tricks & I do not
 he is travelling for his health with his sister.
 French nurse & also a French who has been
 nursing the wounded at the front & I said to her
 her husband who is returning from the front - can

"Passed Sardinia yesterday and expect to arrive in Gib. tomorrow"

Diary page 32

..... but the ruins of part still remain. I saw a most pathetic? little scene – one of our stewards an Italian living at Naples was not allowed to land and his wife and baby came alongside in a little boat – he gave her all his money and the baby was handed over for him to kiss and then his wife – it was so very pathetic. Monday morning I have just read a dear letter from Florence – I saw in a paper we got at Naples that Alan Green had been wounded in the Dardanelles. Poor bugger – I believe that Doris saw quite a lot of him in Egypt. Passed Sardinia yesterday and expect to arrive in Gib. tomorrow where we stop 2 days – it will be quite 6 weeks journey before we arrive in England. I heard from Mr Marconi that a Red Cross contingent going to Persia were stopped at Malta and taken off there to nurse our own men who had been sent from the Dardanelles but the wireless message also said that many wounded would be able to go back in a week's time. We have such a number of interesting people on board, one a Portuguese priest he is jolly as a sand boy and has such a merry laugh. He loves to tease us and gives us tricks to do etc. he is travelling for his health with his sister a French nurse is also on board. She has been nursing the wounded but went to Pt Said to meet her husband who is returning from Madagascar

Pathetic – Pitiful, inadequate, worthless, despicable

Stewards – Stewards may set tables, manage the linen, take out rubbish, carry drinks, wash u dishes, make beds, or other tasks requested by passengers and look after passengers

Italian – Born in or from Italy

Naples – City in southern Italy on the Bay of Naples with nearby Mt Vesuvius

Monday morning – 17th May 1915

Florence – Nurse Florence

"Toby" Vines also family friend. In photograph album.

Paper – Newspaper

Alan Green – Unknown

Dardanelles – Also Gallipoli by which this battle became known in Australia. Commenced 25 April 1915.

Bugger – Mild English swear word.

Doris – Unknown

Egypt – Country linking Africa with the Middle East. Home of the Pharaohs, the Nile and the Pyramids.

Sardinia – Second largest Italian island in the Mediterranean after Sicily

Yesterday – Sunday 16 May 1915

Gib. – Gibraltar – British overseas territory on a Spanish headland dominated by the Rock of Gibraltar which has large fortifications

Tomorrow – Tuesday 18 May 1915

6 weeks journey – Priscilla means Australia to Plymouth 22 April 1915 to 9th June 1915

England – Country in the British isles bordered by Scotland and Wales.

Mr Marconi – Radio communications officer Mr Shay

Red Cross contingent – Group of Red Cross nurses

Persia – Now Iran was known as the Persian Empire.

Malta – Island of Malta between Sicily and the North Africa coast.

Taken off – The nurses were sent to various hospitals to help with the injured from Gallipoli

Portuguese – Born in or from Portugal

Priest – A religious leader who performs sacred rituals of a religion

Jolly as a sand boy – Designates a merry fellow who has tasted a drop. Had some alcohol.

French – From or born in France

Pt Said – Port Said – Egyptian city at the northern end of the Suez canal.

Madagascar – An island country 400km's off the east coast of Africa.

the Mr. Hamilton, English from Manchester and also a
 visitor - He danced & talked with people whom they
 would have come to the boat with in Australia - it is
 the wonderful Miss Walker (2) Aunt & daughter
 whose home is in Edinburgh have asked me to go
 stay with them when I go to Scotland. They are
 really (certainly a la carte) one look at them &
 you would know they are somebody. He took fresh
 fruit & a basket of various kinds, cherries, figs
 & plenty of oranges. This morning when I awoke
 I could see the Sierras of Spain - a range of
 mountains right down to the water's edge & very
 with them.

Thursday night May 20th It was Miss Purney's
 birthday. We had morning tea on deck with
 Sir David Hurdie & the other medicals - all
 strawberries as large as a 1/2 pice. He arrived
 here at Gibraltar on Tuesday about 4. clock but
 was not allowed to land until 7. today morning
 on account of the yellow flag flying - he had
 7 cases of measles on board. It is a most
 wonderful place - we are lying right under the
 Great Rock 1300 ft high. I cannot tell you of
 all the marvellous sights I've seen because
 of the old censor but I hope I shall remember
 them all & tell you - 7. cannot imagine what

"It is a most wonderful place ~ we are lying right under the great Rock 1300ft high"

Diary page 33

..... Then we have an engineer from Khartoum and several aviators ~ I've danced and talked with people whom I never would have come into contact with in Australia ~ it is too wonderful. Misses Walker (2) Aunt and Daughter whose home is in Edinburgh have asked me to go and stay with them when I go to Scotland. They are really (crème a la crème) one look at them and you would know they are somebody. We took fresh fruit on at Naples and now we have cherries, loquats and plenty of oranges. This morning when I awoke I could see the sierras of Spain ~ a range of mountains right down to the waters edge and capped with snow.

Thursday night May 20th. It was Miss Cummings birthday we had morning tea on deck with Sir David Hardie and all the other medicos ~ ate strawberries as large as a 5/- piece. We arrived here at Gibraltar on Tuesday about 4 o'clock but were not allowed to land until yesterday morning on account of the yellow flag flying ~ we had 7 cases of measles on board. It is a most wonderful place ~ we are lying right under the great Rock 1300ft high. I cannot tell you of all the marvellous sights I've seen because of the old Censor but I hope I shall remember them all and tell you ~ you cannot imagine what.....

Khartoum ~ Capital city of the Sudan. Where the White Nile and the Blue Nile meet.

Aviators ~ Pilots

Misses Walker (2) ~ Not found

Aunt ~ Not found

Daughter ~ not found

Edinburgh ~ Capital city of Scotland

Scotland ~ Northern most country of the British Isles

Crème a la crème ~ Best of the best

Somebody ~ Person/people of importance

Naples ~ City in southern Italy on the Bay of Naples with nearby Mt Vesuvius

Cherries ~ Red fruit from the Cherry tree.

Loquats ~ Yellow pear shaped fruit from the Loquat tree.

Oranges ~ Orange coloured round fruit from the Orange tree.

This morning ~ Thursday 20th May 1915

Sierras ~ Mountains

Spain ~ Country south of France on the Iberian Peninsula. Gibraltar the most southern tip.

Miss Cummings ~ Nurse Margaret Cumming

Sir David Hardie ~ Scottish doctor working in Brisbane, Australia, aged 59, famous and knighted in 1913

Strawberries ~ Red conic shaped fruit from the Strawberry bush. Very aromatic.

5/- piece ~ Known as a Crown about the size of current 50 cents and same value. Worth \$30 today due inflation

Gibraltar ~ British overseas territory on a Spanish headland dominated by the Rock of Gibraltar which has large fortifications

Tuesday ~ 18th May 1915

Yellow flag flying ~ On a ship means the ship is in Quarantine because of disease and passengers may not disembark and the public may not board the ship.

Measles ~ A viral infection that causes fever and distinctive rash. Highly contagious

Rock ~ The Rock of Gibraltar which has large fortifications

1300ft ~ 1300 feet or 396 metres

Censor ~ Official who reads in this case letters and removes any parts that are a threat to security

34

wonderful ships the steamships that have been in the thick of war. Yesterday morning we went ashore at 9.30 and came back in the last tender. I think I was dead tired - the torpedos is just so that it will upset the ship took it over - narrow crooked streets but the fortifications are wonderful - we went for a drive to Spanish town across the neutral country a strip of land about 100 paces wide. A fine track led to the arena where they have the bull fights - there is one every Sunday night. The town was filthy & the Spaniards filthy - had sore legs & looked scabby & deformed - even the dogs were muzzled they had hydrophobia & look mean.

May 25th 1918 On the Bay of Biscay, how it is not at all rough but very very cold - unwell this morning & find the ship in the midst of a thick fog & the foghorn sounding & another one answering so not far away. Last night & ~~the night~~ no sleep in our quarters & tonight we have been asked not to sleep at all - some people are dead starved and sleep on deck with all their clothes on & the ship has been there. Our gun was tested yesterday at ten o'clock & was well cleared off the deck in case it kicked. Two out of 4 shots hit the case thrown on board for a target. We were dreadfully disappointed.

“Some people are dead scared and sleep on deck with all their clothes on and the life belt beside them”

Diary page 34

....wonderful ships I've seen – ships that have been in the thick of war. Yesterday morning we went ashore at 9.30 and came back in the last tender 6 o'clock and we're dead tired – The township is just as it was before the Eng. took it over – narrow crooked streets but the fortifications are wonderful – we went for a drive to Spanish town across the neutral country a strip of land about 100 yards wide. A guide took us to the arena where they have the bull fights – there is one every Sunday night – The town was very dirty and the Spaniards mostly had sore eyes and looked scabby and deformed, even the dogs were muzzled they had hydrophobia and look mangy.

May 24th 1915 (Monday) In the Bay of Biscay now and it is not at all rough but very very cold – awoke this morning to find the ship in the midst of a thick fog and the foghorn sounding and another one answering us not far away. Last night we slept in our gowns and tonight we have been asked not to undress at all. Some people are dead scared and sleep on deck with all their clothes on and the life belt beside them. Our gun was tested yesterday 4 times and we were all cleared off the deck in case it kicked. Two out of 4 shots hit the case thrown overboard for a target. We were dreadfully disappointed....

War – State of armed conflict between governments. Extreme violence

Yesterday – Wednesday 19th May 1915

9.30 – 9.30am in the morning

Tender – A boat or larger ship used to service and support other boats and ships

6 – 6pm in the afternoon

Dead tired – Extremely tired.

Completely exhausted

Township – I think she means small town area around the rock

Eng. – English – People born in or from England

Fortifications – A defensive wall or other reinforcement built to strengthen a place against attack

Spanish – Part of Spain

Neutral – Not supporting or helping either side in a conflict

100 yards – 92 metres

Arena – An enclosed area for sport or events.

Bull fights – Contest that involves humans attempting to publicly subdue, immobilise or kill a bull

Spaniards – Born in or living in or coming from Spain.

Scabby – Covered in scabs

Deformed – Not having the normal or natural shape or form

Muzzled – Device placed over

snout of an animal to prevent biting

Hydrophobia – Or Rabies a deadly disease spread to people from the saliva of infected animals

Mangy – Having Mange, scabby, diseased, scruffy, unkempt

Bay of Biscay – Gulf on the western coast of France

Fog – Cloud at surface level.

Greatly reduced visibility

Foghorn – Loud signal device to warn other ships

Gowns – Dress, frock, shift or robe.

Dead scared – Extremely scared, very scared, scared stiff.

Life belt – Or life jackets very basic in 1915 with cork wooden battens sewn into waterproof canvas very bulky.

Gun – Weapon designed to discharge solid projectiles of different sizes

Dreadfully – Terribly, immensely, frightfully, very, extremely, exceedingly

leaving Gibraltar. It was to last heavenly 3 days.
 We had a lunch at the Hotel Oak on day - I was done
 in the table first in silver, dishes, plates, silver may
 & had baked off in only drinking & a selection of butter
 Cakes & all sorts of queer things - we all had a helping
 of one or all of these & they fastened an appetite &
 were delicious. Then the Spanish waiter brought round
 a huge silver salver with a steaming Serrano mutton
 rolled up in it - must have been 15" in long. After
 this we had delicious fresh fish, then hot veal &
 better beans & gravy. Then in before the veal, we had
 chicken braised & new potatoes & tiny butter mushrooms
 & corn & Caper with it. Then Caramel Custard
 & pastry, then fruit of all descriptions & black
 coffee & liqueur - all for 4/- each. Next day we
 stayed on board ship till after lunch then went
 to Gibraltar & had afternoon tea at the Grand
 Hotel of each lovely tea & toast & fruit cake
 (like homemade Swiss cake) & everything plain like
 including Kings & Caper & Serrano with honey on
 them. - Simply delicious afterwards we did
 our shops & went for a drive up the Rock
 to the Military Hospital - waved to the Army
 Sisters & Convalescents - did not go in as one
 of our Sisters & doctor had already been &
 it was too hard talking to them. So we off

“Went for a drive up the Rock to the Military Hospital”

Diary page 35

.....leaving Gibraltar. It was the most heavenly 3 days. We had a lunch at the Hotel Cecil one day- hors d'ouvers on the table first in silver dishes, olives, salmon, mayonnaise and hard boiled eggs in oily dressing and a mixture beetroot capers and all sorts of queer things ~ we all had a helping of one or all of these and they gave us an appetite and were delicious. Then the Spanish waiter brought round a huge silver salver with a steaming savoury omelette rolled up on it ~ must have been 15 in long. After that we had delicious fresh fish, then hot veal and butter beans and gravy. *Then* no before the veal we had chicken braised and new potatoes and tiny button mushrooms and capers with it. Then Caramel custard and pastry, then fruit of all, descriptions then black coffee and liquers ~ all for 4/- each . Next day we stayed on board ship till after lunch then went to Gibraltar and had afternoon tea at the Grand Hotel 1/- each lovely tea and toast and fruit cake (like homemade Xmas cake) everything plate silver including trays and cups and salvers with monograms on them ~ simply scrummy ~ afterwards we did some shops and went for a drive up the Rock to the Military Hospital ~ waved to the Army Sisters and convalescents ~ did not go in as many of our Sisters and Doctors had already been and the patients were tired talking to them. Seven of

Gibraltar – British overseas territory on a Spanish headland dominated by the Rock of Gibraltar which has large fortifications
 Heavenly – Giving great pleasure
 Hotel Cecil – In Main Street
 Gibraltar below the Rock
 Hors d'oeuvres – Appetizer or light snack often before a meal
 Silver – Soft white/glossy lustrous metal. Normally solid silver
 Olives – Small fruit from the olive tree. Rich in oil. Strong flavour
 Salmon – Probably Atlantic salmon
 Mayonnaise – Thick sauce/dressing made from oil, egg yolk, vinegar and may have different flavours added
 Hard boiled eggs – Eggs cooked so the egg white and egg yolk both solidify
 Beetroot – Tap root of the beet plant. Usually purple in colour

Capers – Edible berries/buds of the caper bush usually salted and pickled. Strong flavour
 Queer – Strange
 Spanish – From or born in Spain
 Silver salver – Flat tray made from solid silver metal.
 Savoury omelette – Egg omelette which may contain or be filled with cheese, smoked salmon, smoked ham, bacon etc
 15 in – 15 inches or 38 centimetres
 Veal – Meat of calves.
 Butter beans – Large/long creamy coloured beans
 Gravy – Sauce made from the juices of meats and often thickened with flour
 Chicken braised – Cooked in moist-heat method to tenderize. Chicken normally browned first
 New potatoes – Young/baby potatoes Thin often white/light skins

Grand Hotel – In Main Street
 Gibraltar below the Rock
 1/- shilling ~ or 10 cents decimal worth \$5.90 today
 Xmas – Christmas
 Plate silver – Thin layer of silver applied to base metal like brass etc.
 Salvers – Tray typically made from silver
 Monograms – A motif made by overlapping or combining two or more letters
 Scrummy – Delicious
 Rock – The Rock of Gibraltar
 Military Hospital – Owned and operated by the armed forces for military personnel
 Army sisters – Australian Army Nursing Service nurses
 Sisters – Nurses

36

An Australian man was in hospital having
 been seriously wounded & he was to be sent with
 the others. They were very glad to see Australian
 men's women - a full 100 were in Gt. but 2 of them
 died & the flags on the battle ships in Harbour
 were lowered while the funeral was read. None of
 us knew any of them but Miss Kempster took
 their addresses & is writing to their people. The drive
 to the hosp. was beautiful somewhat like bits
 of Sydney Harbour only we were going uphill all
 the way & we were in the midst of fortifications.
 Although the men at the barracks there don't know
 the positions & hiding places of their own guns &
 do not know any others - in Gt. they have 3
 guns provided in case of a siege. Every night
 at sunset there was a gun fired & all Spaniards
 working then had to leave & the entrance to the town
 was guarded. Only British Subjects were allowed
 to land from one ship. We were at the Admiralty
 Wharf for 2 days but the gangway out to the
 ship was guarded by a sentry with a rifle &
 only officials & women went on to the ship.
 I have been told that Eng. letters to Australia
 will not be censored so I'm going to tell you of the
 ship we saw in the harbour at Gt. First of all
 was the Comd. Elizabeth the Empress house

"In Gib. they have 7 years provisions in case of a siege"

Diary page 36

.....our Australian men were in hospital having been too seriously wounded to go on to Eng. with the others. They were very glad to see Australian men and women ~ while we were in Gib. two of them died and the flags on the battle ships in harbour were lowered while the funeral was made. None of us knew any of them but Miss Lempriere took their addresses and is writing to their people. The drive to the hosp was beautiful somewhat like bits of Sydney Harbour only we were going up hill all the way and we were in the midst of fortifications. The men at the barracks there only know the positions and hiding places of their own guns and do not know any others ~ in Gib they have 7 years provisions in case of a siege. Every night at sunset there was a gun fired and all Spaniards working there had to leave and the entrance to the town was guarded. Only British subjects were allowed to land from our ship. We were at the Admiralty Wharf for the 3 days but its gangway onto the wharf was guarded by a sentry with a rifle and only officials and workmen went onto the wharf. I have been told that Eng. letters to Australia will not be censored so I'm going to tell you of the ships we saw in the harbour at Gib. First and foremost was the Queen Elizabeth the Super dreadnought

Australian ~ Soldiers who come from Australia or were born in Australia.

Eng. ~ England ~

Gib ~ Gibraltar ~ British overseas territory on a Spanish headland dominated by the Rock of Gibraltar which has large fortifications

Battle ships ~ Large armoured war ships with large calibre guns to project large solid objects (shells)

Miss Lempriere ~ Janey McRobie Lempriere AANS

Matron not QAIMNSR signature on page 100

Hosp ~ Hospital ~

Sydney harbour ~ Or Port Jackson is the natural harbour of Sydney, Australia

Fortifications ~ A defensive wall or other reinforcement built to strengthen a place against attack

Barracks ~ Building or group of buildings to house soldiers

Siege ~ Military operation surrounding enemies and cutting off essential supplies to obtain surrender

Spaniards ~ People who are from or who were born in Spain

Guarded ~ Watched over, protected, defended, secured, safeguarded

Sentry ~ A soldier stationed to keep guard or to control access to a place

Rifle ~ A long barrelled firearm designed for long range accurate projection of a solid of a solid object (bullet)

British ~ From the United Kingdom of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Admiralty wharf ~ Or Queensway Quay Marina in Gibraltar

Gangway ~ A raised walkway providing passage

Officials ~ Persons holding an official office or having official duties and representing an organisation or government department

Workmen ~ Men employed to do manual labour

Eng ~ English ~ From the country of England

Australia ~ The continent/country of Australia

Censored ~ Removal of words or details especially for security reasons during war.

Queen Elizabeth ~ Battle - ship called the Queen Elizabeth named after an English Queen

Super dreadnought ~ Orion class. First ships with 13.5inch (343mm) guns. Largest battle ships at the time.

He was mentioned in the papers as being in the hospital. He was getting out there for 2 days at a time in each day going in the launch to the town. He was only out for about 2 to 3 hours.

The Commander's mother-in-law was on these ships so we cannot find her a visit. The Inflexible was in dry dock being repaired - she was thought at one time to have been lost but had a narrow escape - had a huge hole in her side, her funnel blown away, & a fearful lot of damage done to her - however she is being repaired now & will soon be ready. Besides these there were a big cruiser with 2 funnels & 2 with 2 funnels & a French cruiser came in to coal and making water out again at night. Several destroyers were hovering about. Search lights in fact were played all about the harbour & up in the sky in search of aircraft. While we were at Port Said a French monoplane circled over us twice. I was told by Signor de Marsais that in Paris one can go in the aeroplane for 1/2 hour for 10 francs (5/-) & I may fly before I can leave the Magdalen from London. Came in while we were there & saw of our pilot & doctor.

"I may fly before I come home"

Diary page 37

.....She was mentioned in the papers as being in the Dardanelles . She was getting oil there for 2 days and we passed her each day going in the launch to the town. She has only oil for fuel and is 27,000 tons.
(25mm gap on the page)

The Commander's mother - in - law was on this ship so he called and paid her a visit. The Inflexible was in dry dock being repaired - she was thought at one time to have been lost but had a narrow escape - had a huge hole in her side , her funnel blown away and a fearful lot of damage done to her - however she is being repaired now and will soon be ready . Besides these there were 4 big cruisers with 4 funnels and 2 with 2 funnels and a French cruiser came in to coal one morning and went out again at night. Several destroyers were hovering about. Each night search lights in galore were played all about the harbour and up in the sky in search of aircraft. While we were at Port Said a French monoplane circled us twice. I am told by Signor de Marscio that in Paris one can go in an aeroplane for ½ hour for 10 francs (8/4) so I may fly before I come home. The Margolia from London came in while we were there and some of our girls and doctors.....

Dardanelles - Also Gallipoli by which this battle became known in Australia. Commenced 25 April 1915.

Town - Probably Gibraltar but may be Algeciras

Largest city on the Bay of Gibraltar. Opposite side of Bay and 21.9km (26mins) by road from Gibraltar

Commander's - Commander or Master or Captain - F S Symons R.N.R.

Mother in law - Commander's wife's mother

Ship - Unsure which ship she was on. The Queen

Elizabeth? This information may be in the missing text.

Inflexible - HMS Inflexible an Invincible class Battle Cruiser

Funnel - Or smokestack or chimney which expels boiler steam or engine exhaust

Cruisers - Type of warship. Normally the largest ships in the fleet

French - Belonging to France.

Destroyers - Fast manoeuvrable long endurance warship used to escort larger ships

Hovering - Linger close at hand

Search lights - An extremely luminous (light) source with a parabolic mirror reflector which projects a powerful beam of light

Aircraft - Enemy aeroplanes

Port Said - Egyptian city at the northern end of the Suez Canal

French monoplane - Probably a Morane - Saulnier

Type N fighter aircraft also used by the British and nicknamed the "Bullet" by the Royal Flying Corps.

Signor de Marscio - Dr Luigi Di Mascio, son of an Italian count whose signature is on page 100 with his Paris address. Spelling taken from the signature.

Paris - The capital city of France

10 francs (8/4) - or 84 cents in decimal worth \$50 today

Margolia - Probably HMS Magnolia a minesweeping sloop used to locate enemy mines and destroy them

London - The capital city of England

38

and Queenie attended to the Turkeys. I was
 inside her. She looked very well so they said I
 was very happy, had put on 2 stone and her
 stomach is better. I was born on her side, with the
 nurses to make to nurse them. They were all very
 excited talking & holding hands & sweating
 hand & face full of tears. I had a number of
 Canadian nurses also & talked with them.
 Of the day, at Algeciras I've told you a little
 in the letter I sent from there but not all. I simply
 cannot put down half I want to. I think
 sometimes you will be disappointed with my letters
 but if I could only write just at the time that
 could be better for me to be much longer at the time
 to write. The lunch there at Hotel Cristobal was
 up of a exquisite - how I enjoyed much. I saw at
 Hotel Cecil also had dishes of sliced tomatoes & was
 so beautifully flavoured & also dish of sliced capers
 then fish & rolls - cold tongue & ham & a potato salad.
 Such and never tasted with bits of watercress with it
 thick with creamy dressing - huge strawberries in
 wine - helped out of his silver bowls. Fruits of all
 kinds - I forgot I told you of the butter - it was like honey
 made butter - had hardly any salt in it. We had
 black coffee out on the piazza facing the sea with
 flowers & garden and photographs taken and

"Jean will be disappointed with my letters"

Diary page 38

..... met Queenie Allander in the town - I was so sorry I missed her - She looked very well so they said and was very happy, had put on 2 stone had been 3 months in Serbia and was now on her way with other nurses to Malta to nurse there. They were all very excited talking and holding hands and swallowing hard eyes full of tears we met a number of Canadian nurses also and talked with them *Unknown?* of the day at Algeciras. I've told you a little in the letter I sent from there but not all. I simply cannot put down half I want to - I think sometimes Jean will be disappointed with my letters but if I could only write just at the time they could be better but there is too much doing at the time to write. The lunch at Hotel Cristina was 4/- and exquisite - hors d'ouvres much the same as Hotel Cecil - also had dishes of sliced tomatoes in oil and beautifully flavoured and also dish of sliced capsicum then fish and rolls - cold tongue and ham and a potatoe salad such as I never tasted with bits of water cress in it and thick with creamy dressing - huge strawberries in wine helped out of big silver bowls. And nuts of all kinds - I forgot to tell you of the butter - it was like home made butter and had hardly any salt in it. We had black coffee out on the piazza facing the sea and the glorious garden. Had photographs taken and.....

Queenie Allander - Nurse Leonora Millicent Allander QAIMNSR from Ballarat, Priscilla's home town.

Town - Probably Algeciras Largest city on the Bay of Gibraltar. Opposite side of Bay and 21.9km (26mins) by road from Gibraltar

Serbia - Land locked country on Europe's Balkan Peninsula. Belgrade is the capitol city.

Malta - Island of Malta between Sicily and the North Africa coast.

Canadian - Born in or from Canada

Algeciras - Largest city on the Bay of Gibraltar. Opposite side and 21.9km (26mins) by road from Gibraltar

Jean - Janet Merton (Jean) Wardle (29) sister of Priscilla.

Hotel Cristina - Hotel Globales Reina Cristina in Algeciras

4/- shillings - 40 cents decimal worth \$24 today

Hors d'oeuvres - Appetizer or light snack often before a meal

Hotel Cecil - In Main Street Gibraltar below the Rock

Beautifully - In a way that pleases the senses. Excellent.

Capsicum - The "pepper" but not very hot. Red or green and used as a spice and a vegetable

Rolls - Bread rolls

Tongue - Usually beef or cow

Ham - Pork usually from the leg cut. Cured and often smoked.

Potatoe salad - Boiled potatoes cut up and mixed with, peas, hard boiled eggs, bacon, onion, mustard, salt.

Pepper and mayonnaise

Water cress - Or yellow cress which is an aquatic leaf plant used as a vegetable.

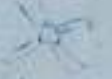
Creamy dressing - Probably Mayonnaise a thick sauce/dressing made from oil, egg yolk, vinegar and may have different flavours added

Strawberries in wine - Strawberries soaked in wine, lemon juice and sugar. Soaked for an hour and well refrigerated. Must be served within two hours or the fruit is spoiled.

Nuts - Cashews, Peanuts, Brazil, Macadamia, Almonds, Chestnuts, Coconut, Pecans, Pistachios, Pine nuts.

Piazza - A public square or open area

unfortunately did not turn out well. At Loguete in the trees - afternoon tea & cool breeze by bunch of sweet peas given as a gift by 6 o'clock boat.

In the postcards you can see the whole of the building it is built like this . One gun is at the stern it is a 6 in. v. a. & the shell weighs 447 lbs. it is covered over with a tarpaulin & has a few powder cases on it to keep with the gun. A man is always on duty & 6 rifle shooters take turns on the bridge with the Captain - he never leaves the bridge more than a few minutes. The vehicles are called gharries & the horses are covered with harness all decorated with yellow & red wool & dozens of tiny bells jingle - they have hoods too of different colours. There are a lot of monkeys they are used for the hard work - in the public park there are 12 monkeys they are loose & jump from tree to tree - there is an old legend that when the ship at this Gibraltar will pass from the hands of the English, so they guard them very carefully. Gil was taken by two men & only 50 dead & wounded while the enemy's lost numbered them & suffered severe losses.

London 28th Spent last evening with Mrs. Stagg & her son & daughter - Edith & Donaldson & I have not met about 6 times in the railway. Ted

“London 28th. Special last evening”

Diary page 39

.....unfortunately did not turn out well. Ate loquats *from?* the trees ~ afternoon tea and each had a big bunch of sweet peas given us and left by 6 o'clock boat. In the postcards you cannot see the whole of the building it is built like this (sketch of cross with circle in middle) Our gun is at the stern it is a bigger *one?* And the shell weighs 47lbs it is covered over with a tarpaulin and has a few packing cases on it to hood wink the enemy. A man is always on duty and 6 rifle shooters take turns on the bridge with the Captain ~ he never leaves the bridge now for more than a few minutes, the vehicles at Gib. and Algeciras are called gharris and the horses are covered with harness all decorated with yellow and red wool and dozens of tiny bells jingle ~ they have hoods too of different colours. There are a lot of mules? here they are used for the hard work ~ in the public park there are 12 monkeys they are loose and jump from tree to tree ~ there is an old legend that when they die out Gibraltar will pass from the hands of the English, so they guard them very carefully. Gib. was taken by 200 men and only 50 dead and wounded while the enemy outnumbered them they suffered significant losses.

London 28th (May 1915 Friday) Special last evening with Mrs Steggall and her son and daughter ~ Edith Donaldson and I went and got lost about 6 times in the railway tube.....

Loquat ~ Oval, round or pear shaped sweet ~ sour fruit 3-5cms in size from the Loquat tree.

Sweet peas ~ Probably the grass pea, blue sweet pea, chickling pea, India pea, which all have a white pea which is toxic when taken in excess.

6 o'clock boat ~ 6pm boat back to the Orontes

Stern ~ The back of or aft of a ship

Shell ~ A large projectile containing explosives

47lbs ~ 47 pounds or 21.3 kilos

Tarpaulin ~ Or Tarp. A large sheet of strong flexible water resistant or water proof material often canvas

Packing cases ~ Large often wooden crates.

Rifle shooters ~ Marksman with a rifle

Bridge ~ The room or platform from which a ship is commended.

Captain ~ Commander or Master or Captain - F S Symons R.N.R.

Gib. ~ Gibraltar ~ British overseas territory on a Spanish headland dominated by the Rock of Gibraltar which has large fortifications

Gharris ~ Or Gharrys or Gharries a horse drawn carriage available for hire.

Harness ~ Horse harness. Straps and fittings to fasten a horse a cart and also used for control by the drivers

Hoods ~ Decorative and sometime colourful covering on a horse's head that leaves both eyes exposed.

Mules ~ Are the offspring of a male donkey and a female horse.

(Reverse is a Hinny)

Monkeys ~ Tailless Barbary Macaques monkeys also called

Barbary Apes and Rock Apes they live in troops (groups) on the Rock.

Legend ~ A traditional story regarded as historical but not authenticated. A tale, fable, folk tale, story or myth.

English ~ Born in or from England

Guard ~ Watch over, protect; defend; secures safeguard

Mrs Steggall ~ Not found

Edith Donaldson ~ Edith Victoria

Donaldson ~ Trained at Ballarat

Hospital and departed with

Priscilla on the Orontes. Priscilla's best friend

Tube ~ The London underground railway system

40

is like Alice Lane, only she wears glasses
 like her brother, large like the Lane girls - The
 son Frank is a Salvation Army man - Mrs. Stappell
 told me in the morning this house is studying for the
 interesting, but I got a check when I saw him. S. A.
 "brother". I got like asking him who he did best for
 in the work - however Edith asked him & he told her he had
 to had the call from God yet & go - he looks to see that he
 stay at home though. They are very nice but very narrow
 minded - know very little of the outside world except
 their Zulus mission work & church work. They have
 two gentlemen boarders - one maid & a dog - and
 cook & six with snow white hair black dress, and apron
 and crochets work always in hand. Although I told her
 such a long time before there was only one house-keeping
 woman in her house. Today, I got excited over a letter
 from Hugh Miller saying he was coming down to see
 me but it grand of him?

May 31st. I met Hugh Miller Jr. & Mary Miller's
 cousin brother & his wife May. They are not com-
 ing at 6:30. To his wife & me at the hotel in their
 hotel - he is like me & I can just now think of
 yet he gets me in mind of someone we know
 he is a mixture of Scotch & American - he lives
 most of his life in America in the States - his
 wife is very Irish came from Dublin. Hugh is

“Although it took us such a long time to get there we were only ¾ hour coming home”

Diary page 40

.....Lois is like Alice Lavis Only she wears glasses. She and her brother laugh like the Lavis girls – The son Frank is a Salvation Army man – Mrs Steggall told me in the morning that he was studying for the ministry had got a shock when I saw him in SA clothes. I felt like asking him why he did not go to the war – however Edith asked him and he told her he had not had the call from God yet to go he looks the sort that would stay at home though. They are very weak and very narrow minded – know very little of the outside world except their Zenana mission work and church work. They keep two gentleman boarders – one maid and a dog – Mrs S looks so nice with snow white hair black dress, silk apron and crochet work always in hand. Although it took us such a long time to get there we were only ¾ hour coming home in two buses. Today I got excited over a letter from Hugh Miller saying he was coming down to see me isn't it grand of him?

May 31st (1915 Monday) I've met Hugh Miller Junior? Meg? Miller's brother and his wife May. Tonight as I came in at 6.30 he and his wife were at the hotel in their motor – he is like no one I can just now think of yet he puts me in mind of someone we know he is a mixture of Scotch and American – he lived most of his life in America in the States – his wife is very Irish came from Dublin. Hugh is.....

Lois – Lois Steggall? the daughter of Mrs Steggall- Not identified

Alice Lavis – Cousin

Lavis girls – Cousins: Emma

Rachel; Mary Ann; Blanch Isabella; Alice; Florence; Clara.

Frank – Frank Steggall the son of Mrs Steggall – Not found
Salvation Army man – Belonging to and working for the Salvation Army a Protestant Church and international charitable organisation

Mrs Steggall – Not found

Ministry – The activity of serving the purposes of the church.

SA – Salvation Army –

Edith – Edith Victoria Donaldson – Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes.
Best friend

Call of God – Or Calling.

Invitation given by God to man to preach the gospel

Zenana mission – Church of England Zenana mission.

Missionary society to spread Christianity in India, Japan and China.

Boarders – People who pay to rent rooms to live in.

One maid – Or housemaid or maid servant is a female domestic worker.

Mrs S – Mrs Steggall

Silk apron – Apron made from silk to protect dress.

Crochet work – Creating a fabric, example tablecloth, by interlocking loops of yarn thread or strands of other materials using a crochet hook.

Hugh Miller Junior – Son of Hugh Miller (senior)

Meg Miller – Hugh Miller senior's daughter

May – Hugh Miller junior's wife.

6.30 – 6.30pm in the evening.

Scotch – I think she means Scot's.

A person from Scotland

American – A person from or born in America

America – Country of 50 States in North American continent,

Hawaii and Alaska. Also called United States of America

States – Another name for “The States” the United States of America.

Irish – Born in or coming from Ireland

Dublin – The Capital of the Republic of Ireland.

Hugh – Hugh Miller Junior

My wife indeed & we took a taxi to the station
 to the meeting all on her own & on a dinner & a
 taxi. The taxi did not take us to the station but
 to a place called the Green. It
 is the main room one of the many rooms & it
 not only allowed the men in suits - my British
 people of all nations then with Chinese gentlemen &
 ladies - we sat down one supper & talked & laughed
 like old friends. Now I have the right to be
 like it is Roy. But his is taller, more
 face & has a very wide prominent forehead
 & a close shaven head - a much like Charles
 Alcock. The Dr. Humphreys' Cousin Hugh is come
 tomorrow (Wednesday) he has written me the
 letter - he is a little too good with the young
 with family - young he is doing the agency
 in London for the Glasgow firm of making golf balls
 than other part of the business was making
 he has paid his boat to Scotland - in the
 house one it has affected their business wonderful
 in the book room here for Cousin Hugh so it is
 is only for me to have him at the same time
 tonight. Hugh is to call for me here at 5.5
 make me out to his place - he says he is the
 person of the family but they agree to be
 well enough off but to be left - to be left

“Have been motoring all over London”

Diary page 41

.....very nice indeed and we took to each other at once. *Have?* been motoring all over London since dinner and only at 9 o'clock did we have to light up. Then we had hot supper at a big place called the Corner Shop in the Mirror Room, one of the many rooms and ladies are only allowed there with an escort – very Bohemian people of all nations there even Chinese gentleman and ladies – we sat over our supper and talked and laughed like old friends. Now I have thought who he is like it is Roy Coutts? but he is taller, rounder face and has a very wide prominent forehead and a clever shaped head – a mouth like Charles Alexander The Evangelist and Cousin Hugh is coming tomorrow (Wednesday) he has written me the nicest letters – he is a little tin god with the young Hugh Miller family – young H is doing the agency in London for the Glasgow firm of making golf balls their other part of the business and was making horse pads? but that is secondary – since the war broke out it has affected their business wonderfully. I'm to book a room here for Cousin Hugh so it will be lovely for me to have him at the same hotel tonight – Hugh is to call for me here at 5 to motor me out to his place – he says he is the poor one of the family but they appear to be well enough off but the car he *uses now compared to?*.....

Motoring – Driving by car

London – The capital city of England.

9 o'clock – 9pm in the evening of Monday 31 May 1915

Light up – Turn on the car lights

Corner Shop – Was she in Soho. There is a Corner Shop Bar? (see Bohemian)

Mirror Room – Not found

Escort – To accompany someone. Guard, minder, protector.

Bohemian – A socially unconventional person involved in the arts or unconventional in an artistic way.

Chinese – Born in or from China

Roy Coutts – Probably soldier Whitcombe Roy Coutts from Ballarat

Charles Alexander – Charles McCallon Alexander (CMA) Singer and song leader. Toured with John Wilbur Chapman in Ballarat in October 24 to November 2 1912

The Evangelist – A person who seeks to convert others to the Christian faith especially by public preaching.

Cousin Hugh – Hugh Miller senior

Wednesday – Wednesday 2 June 1915

Young Hugh Miller – Hugh Miller Junior

Young H – Hugh Miller Junior

Agency – To act independently and to make own choices.

London – The capital city of England

Glasgow – The capital city of Scotland

Horse pads – Or saddle pads or other pads for pack horses.

Hotel – The Ivanhoe in London now the Bloomsbury Street Hotel.

Hugh – Hugh Miller senior

5 – 5pm in the evening

Motor – Driving

42

before the war he had a chaplain - certainly it
 is only a third. On Sunday, February 3, of an
 early St. Paul's service which was a magnificent
 service. In the choir - the Cathedral is the highest
 in many places & cannot then at all. I never saw
 any of the clergy until they marched out
 for the service. The choir book I could not read
 followed the service. The chorists boys & girls were
 wonderful. Some of the chorists after a prayer, were
 like a burst of songbirds in a wonderful little boy,
 sang a solo in Latin. I never heard such a voice
 it was a most impressive service - well known
 of the hundreds of soldiers then & some of them
 of widows many go to France but all of them, when
 I saw them. He looked across the Cathedral
 after the service and the date of the service is that
 a man, I saw lights nearly all of them had
 fallen in battle or been in the navy - I could
 not help a few years when I thought how many
 more had gone to share the numbers in the
 afternoon. If the church took up no more
 Hampton Court built in the time of Queen
 Elizabeth. One of the clerics was Frank
 Martin a friend of Miss Jackson's. I saw
 in the time I got there on the top of a tree
 it was late when he arrived to only be

"The hundreds of soldiers there and sick ones and scores of widows"

Diary page 42

.....before the war when he had a chauffeur - certainly *it? is?* only a Ford. On Sunday morning 3 of us went to St Paul's at 11 - oh it was a magnificent service under its dome - the Cathedral is so high that in many places one cannot hear at all. I never once saw any of the clergy until they marched out and if it hadn't been for my prayer book I couldn't have followed the service. The Chorister boys singing was wonderful. Some of the Amens after a prayer were like a burst of songbirds in a wood one little boy sang a solo in latin - I never heard such voices. It was a most impressive service - more so because of the hundreds of soldiers there and sick ones and scores of widows many quite young but all wearing medals. We looked around the Cathedral after the service - saw the Duke of Wellington's tomb and many lesser lights nearly all men whom had fallen in battle or been in the navy - I could not help a few tears when I thought how many more had gone to swell the numbers. In the afternoon 3 of the Doctors took 3 of us to Hampton Court built in the time of Queen Elizabeth one of the doctors was Frank Martin a friend of Nola's (Jacksons) It took us 1 ¼ hrs to get there on the top of a bus and it was late when we arrived So only had.....

Chauffeur - Person employed to drive a passenger

Ford - Probably a Model T motor vehicle

Sunday - Sunday 30 May 1915

St Paul's - St Paul's cathedral in London an Anglican cathedral with a world-famous dome. Seat of the Bishop of London.

11 - 11 am in the morning

Amens - Response to prayers

Prayer - Communication with Deity (example Christ)

Wood - Forrest

Latin - The language of ancient Rome often used in scholarship

Widows - Women who have lost their husbands by death (lost a soldier husband)

Medals - Military Medals. An award for conduct sometimes heroic.

Cathedral - A church that contains a "seat" of a Bishop
Duke of Wellington's tomb - In St Pauls Cathedral London

Battle - A combat in war fare between two or more armed forces

Navy - Maritime force of the armed services

Hampton Court - Hampton Court Palace in London

Queen Elizabeth -

Frank Martin - Unknown

Nola's (Jacksons) - Nola Jackson? - Unknown

Top - Top level of a double decker bus

I curiously look at the rooms of
 also at the, stand at 6.15 we had plant
 1/2 the ground, which went to the
 of the Thames River. See the falconer window
 has a special bath in it its own 24-10-11
 in circumstances at the hole left 7/2 a 1/2
 the base - it is here and here, dead, it is
 has a dead hare buried beside it very frequently in nature.
 1/2. A very bad in the numerous garden, had been
 perhaps in it and nearly, all over 24-10-11
 then there were the clock going the time, the
 time of morning, tide, the day, at the sunset
 & everything in our clock. We had too at the
 O'Neishore's Lane then went back to the Point
 & went through the bridge, I was very
 (since I have been) & one of the two walls,
 (the wall, Raleigh) & the 1/2 of wall,
 & they got lost as we did. Came home then
 Bushey Park passed for its 1/2 of the
 down then 3 miles of roads of 1/2 of
 where will go to it while all 1/2 of the
 the park is now short with 1/2 of the
 & then was deer, grazing about 1/2 of
 can imagine its beauty. The 1/2 of the
 Saturday he was visited to 1/2 of the
 about 1/2 of the 1/2 of the 1/2 of the
 Hospital. Belong to 1/2 of the 1/2 of the

"Saw the awesome vine which has a special hothouse of its own"

Diary page 43

.....a cursory look around the rooms of the Palace as they closed at 6 but we had plenty of time for the grounds which went to the edge of the Thames River. Saw the awesome vine which has a special hothouse of its own and it is 5ft in circumference at the base 41ft 9in aloft? from? the base ~ it is huge and hundreds of years old and has a dead horse buried beside it very frequently for manure. Every bed in the enormous garden had tulips in it and nearly all over 2ft high. Then there was the clock giving the time, the time of noon, tides, the day of the month and everything on our dial. We had tea at the Greyhound Inn then went back to the Court and went through the maze. I was Liz (Queen Elizabeth) and one of the Drs Wally (Sir Walter Raleigh) and I wondered if Wally and Liz got lost as we did. Came home through Bushey Park famed for its Chestnut Trees drove thru' 3 miles of groves of horse Chestnuts pink and white all in flower ~ the whole park is mown short with steam mowers and there were deer grazing about so you can imagine its beauty. The day before Saturday we were invited to Harefield Park about 20 miles out ~ it is an Australian Hospital. Belongs to a Mr Leake and.....

Palace ~ Hampton Court Palace
Thames River ~ 215 miles long runs through London
Awesome vine ~ The Great Vine
251 years old in 2019, A large Grapevine
Hothouse ~ Glasshouse of its own.
Thought to produce larger crops of grapes.
5 ft in circumference ~ is 1,5 metres in 1915. In 2018 it is 5 metres or 13 feet circumference.
41ft 9inches ~ is 12,7 metres in 1915. In 2018 the longest branch is 36 metres or 120 feet.
Hundreds of years old ~ In fact 147 years old in 1915.
Bed ~ Garden bed
Tulips ~ Various bright colours.
Most famous "Queen of the Night" dark purple almost black.
2ft high ~ Tulips 2feet or 600mm tall.

Noon ~ Midday
Tides ~ Time of high water at London Bridge
Dial ~ 15feet (4.6metres) in diameter. Shows, hour; month; day; sun position; zodiac signs; number of days since start of year; phases of moon; age of moon. Completely refurbished 2007-2008
Greyhound Inn ~ Now The Greyhound Weston Green, Thames Ditton.
Court ~ Hampton Court Palace
Maze ~ Hampton Court hedge maze planted 1689-1695 covers 1/3 acre and contains 1/2 mile (805 metres) of paths
Liz (Queen Elizabeth) ~ Elizabeth the first
Drs ~ Doctors
Wally (Sir Walter Raleigh) ~ Famous mariner

Bushey Park ~ Correctly Bushy Park
Chestnut Trees ~ In Chestnut Avenue.
3 miles ~ 5 kilometres
Groves ~ Groups of trees
Horse chestnuts ~ Flowering large deciduous trees toxic nuts inedible
Steam mowers ~ Steam powered lawn mowers
Deer ~ Red Deer and Fallow Deer
The day before Saturday ~ Friday 28 May 1915.
Harefield Park ~ Harefield Park House and its grounds
20 miles ~ 32 kms out of London
Australian Hospital ~ No 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital
Mr Leake ~ Mr & Mrs Charles Billyard-Leake

44

"They have lent it for the duration of the war"

Diary page 44

..... some of the family live in Western Australia. They have lent it for the duration of the war ~ it is an old Eng. house like we have read about and has hundreds of acres around it and a village with *alius?* houses? and Church in Churchyards etc etc. They are expecting 300 wounded this week and have 20 huts in *promise?* of expectation to each hold 21 beds. These huts are built in a very short time. Sides and roofs etc etc all lying on the lawn in waiting simply to be put together. I suppose they are about 100 ft long and 50 ft wide. In the house? all the windows? are covered over with wood and carpets off the floors and beds in every room. The walls in some rooms are covered in tapestry and the original Dining Hall is panelled in

Oak but new cupboards of pine are guarding this.

Solid Oak staircase and rough oak beams across some of the ceilings. Two stables are covered in ivy and clocks in the stable towers. They sent two big conveyances to meet us and had to drive 3 miles ~ had afternoon tea on the lawn and the Leakes had left their servants to ourselves? and several maids so it was as it should be ~ all the maids here call us Ma'am and are very well trained ~ we went into the woods and picked buttercups, daisies

Western Australia ~ The state of Western Australia in Australia.

War ~ World War 1, The Great War 1914-1919

Eng. ~ English

Acres ~ One acre is 66 feet (20 metres) by 660 feet (200metres)

Village ~ Clustered human settlement or community

Alius ~ Latin for different or diverse. Not sure why Latin.

Church ~ Building where Christians go to worship

Church yards ~ Patch of land adjoining or surrounding a church
300 wounded ~ Soldiers. Probably Australian soldiers.

Expectation ~ A strong belief that something will happen or be the case

100ft ~ 100 feet or 30 metres

50ft ~ 50feet or 15 metres

House ~ Harefield Park House

Off ~ Taken off the floors

Tapestry ~ Form of textile art woven by hand on a loom

Dining Hall ~ Gallery style room for family or communal dining

Oak ~ A hard wood dark in colour often used for furniture

Stables ~ Building in which livestock especially horses are kept

Ivy ~ Evergreen climbing or ground creeping woody plant

Stable towers ~ Towers on a stable complex

Conveyances ~ A means of transport, vehicles

3 miles ~ 5 kilometres

Leakes ~ Mr & Mrs Charles

Billyard-Leake

Servants ~ A person who works within the employers family

Maids ~ Housemaids or maidservants female domestic workers

Ma'am ~ Respectful or polite address used for a woman "excuse me ma'am"

Trained ~ Having a particular skill or type of behaviour through sustained practise and instruction.

Woods ~ Forest or group of trees.

Buttercups ~ Flowers with yellow shiny petals often grows wild it is poisonous to eat for humans

Daisies ~ Probably "common daisy" yellow centre with white petals.

+ Bluebell, orchids which I wanted to
 send to Mrs. East to Mr. East.

Jan 2nd Last night though called for at 7:11
 but not till 10:30 in the morning - he brought little
 girl with him - The child called him "Mr. Carter"
 and "Auntie Peggy" - was disappointed because
 did not wear the uniform - he is 3 1/2 years old & he like
 the James Carter family little friend of his, twice.
 May's sister living with them her name is Betty - he is
 very pretty like May Stewart & May is like Betty
 only with an Irish brogue (as thick as pea soup - it
 is so much - I could hear he talk - he lived in Dublin
 all his life) and an exceedingly high ~~and~~ Colours -
 I got back with Hugh by the "Heathly Tube" (I had
 scared of the tubes) just & quarter to 12 - it was the last
 night with our doctors as we all went in 2/3 & 1/2
 together, hoping it would not get to Mother's Land - went
 round the Block a couple of times - 3 times to the station
 then a when we had to see P. in the evening came down
 to our room & stood outside for about 1/2 hour - saying
 goodbye - we were frightened that too would get Mrs.
 East's 1/2. I was. Spent the afternoon with Mrs. Stewart.
 Their cousin came about 7 o'clock - they visited their
 minister's wife. Then in - Mrs. B. Watson she & her
 husband came from Mull. 1/2 way ago - Mr. W. came on
 came for the house a dear not much like Mr. John

"It was the last night with our doctors"

Diary page 45

.....and bluebells, orchids which I would have loved to have sent to Hillie.

June 2nd (1915 Wednesday) Last night Hugh called for me at 7 and went out to his house for the evening - he brought little Hugh for me - the child calls me his Australian Red Cross Aunt "Percy?" - and was so disappointed because I did not wear the uniform - he is 3 1/2 years old and a bit like Mr? James Aunt Laura's little friend only tinier. May's sister lives with them her name is Betty and she is very pretty like May Stewart and May is like Bess only with an Irish brogue (as thick as pea soup oh I do wish I could hear her talk - she lived in Dublin all her life) and an exceedingly high colour. I got back with Hugh by the beastly tube (I'm dead scared of the tubes) at a quarter to 12. It was the last night with our doctors so we all went out for a walk together hoping it would not get to Matron's ears - went round the block a couple of times 3 girls and 3 doctors then 2 whom we hadn't seen for the evening came down to our room and stood outside for about 1/2 hour - saying goodbye - we were frightened that two would get keen over? 3rd. I have spent the afternoon with Mrs Steggall. Lois came home about 9 o'clock - they invited the ministers wife to meet me - Mrs E. Watson? she and her husband came from Melb 4 years ago. Mr W Carstairs? came for tea he is a dear not much like Mr John

Bluebells - Common bluebells,
blue bell shaped flowers, grow in
profusion in woodlands

Orchids - Many colours and
fragrant flowers difficult to grow

Hillie - Hilda (Hillie) Allan

Wardle, Priscilla's sister

Last night - Tuesday 1 June 1915

Hugh - Assume Hugh Miller

Junior

7 - 7pm in the evening

Little Hugh - Presume there was a
Hugh Miller senior and junior and a
son of Hugh junior also called
Hugh.

Australian Red Cross - Founded
in 1914. Provides humanitarian aid
and community services.

Uniform - Nurses uniform.

Mr James - Not identified

Aunt Laura - Not identified

Friend - not identified

Tinier - Smaller

May's - Hugh Miller junior's wife.

May Stewart - Not identified

May - Hugh Miller junior's wife.

Bess - Elizabeth

Irish brogue - Irish accent

Thick as pea soup - Very thick.

Dublin - Capital of the Republic
of Ireland

High colour - Someone who has a
pink or red face

Hugh - Hugh junior?

Tube - London underground
railway

Dead scared - very scared.

Scared to death.

12 - Midnight

Matron's - Janey McRobie

Lempriere AANS Matron not
QAIMNSR

Block - City block in London.

Around the Ivanhoe

Afternoon - Of Wednesday 2
June 1915

Mrs Steggall - Not identified

Lois - Lois Steggall Mrs Steggall's
daughter.

9 o'clock - 9pm in the evening

Ministers - Minister of a church or
Parliamentary Minister

Mrs E. Watson - Not identified

Melb - Melbourne Australia the
capital city of the state of Victoria.

Mr W. Carstairs - Not identified

Dear - Special, precious,
treasured.

Mr John - Not identified

46

[illegible]

“Have to be ready by next Tuesday to leave on Wednesday”

Diary page 46

..... in appearance . He gave me his photograph to bring home to Grandma. Mrs Steggall has the most beautiful complexion a lot like a girl's of 16 pink and white. Dorothy Mitchell has asked me to church? with her tomorrow and two Misses Walker of Edinburgh whom we met on the “Orontes “ have asked about a dozen of us to afternoon tea at Harrods Store (a very swank place) Have been very busy this week buying our kits ~ have to get rubber boots up to our knees, collapsible waterproof bath and basin, bucket, w'proof sheet, stretcher, cork mattress, sheets and blankets, spirit stove, kettle, towels, serviettes, coloured handkerchiefs, tins condensed milk, cocoa etc etc. 3 Zepher sheen dresses, 4 Zepher aprons, 1 Staff Uniform and cape and bonnet, panama hat. Have to be ready by next Tuesday and leave Wednesday ~ 10 of the girls are to be left in Eng at Harefield for a while some for health reasons and some for discipline. Now I must tell the girls about the fashions ~ full skirts are the correct thing and one feels quite out of place in a tight skirt. The new ones are very short ~ coats are full and short also ~ nearly all navy, black or else black and white check (tiny) ~ Many are braided some cut in tabs around both coat and skirt and bound in braid. Girls in grey gabardine or blk and white check wear grey stockings and lace shoes with low Eng . heels. The last is very important . Hats are small and as shiny as possible - coarse straw is the smartest

Grandma – Assume Priscilla Wardle (nee Bryan)

Mrs Steggall – Not identified

Beautiful complexion – Flawless skin primarily on the face

Of 16 – Of sixteen years of age

Dorothy Mitchell – Not identified

Misses Walker – Not identified

Edinburgh – Scotland's compact hilly capital

Harrods Store – Large emporium in London with Food hall

Swank – Elegant, fancy, fashionableness

Kits – Army kit including uniform, utensils, bedding, equipment etc.

Tuesday – Tuesday 8 June 1915

Wednesday – Wednesday 9 June 1915

Girls – Nurses

Discipline – Punishment for bad behaviour

Rubber boots – Gumboots,

Wellingtons waterproof leather or rubber.

Eng. – England the country.

Harefield – Harefield Park the No 1

Australian Auxiliary Hospital

Health – Sick

Collapsible waterproof bath – Made from waterproof foldable canvas and very difficult to use

Basin – Wash bowl

W'proof sheet – Assume a waterproof ground sheet

Stretcher – Canvas folding bed

Cork mattress – mattress filled with cork

Spirit stove – Cooking stove that burns alcohol spirit

Kettle – For boiling water and making tea

Serviettes – Table napkins

Tins condensed milk – Milk with water removed and sugar added often called “sweetened condensed milk”

Cocoa – Chocolate flavoured powder

Zepher sheen – Also Zephyr or

Zephir. Satiny, glossy fine woven cotton fabric

Uniform – Military Nurse's Uniform

Cape – QAIMNSR nursing cape in grey with wine red border

Bonnet – Special nurses bonnet

Panama hat – Traditional brimmed straw hat

Stockings – Close fitting elastic garment covering the legs

Lace shoes – Lace up shoes

Eng. English. Like women in England wear.

Shiny – Satiny, glossy, gleaming

Course straw –

Full skirts – Ankle length

Very short – Knee length

Braided – Complex weave formed by interlacing three or more strands of textile yarn on them

Bound in braid – Edged in braid

Grey gabardine – Grey durable and smooth woven cotton cloth

Blk – Black

Today, I was amazed to find myself staring into
the sky, as a terrible balloon - it looked like the
man off his chair wandering into the air with a train
dragged. Zeppelins have again visited London this
week - there is plenty of aircraft guns on big buildings
here but the Zeppelins come alright. They seem to
be of no account. Other the people seem to forget the
Zeppelins seem such a long way off now - I believe
the London Union Bank represented my letter - for a
few pounds in the street on account and made arrangements
for the bank office to pay my salary, as my full
allowance. I think will be enough to me this time. The
last letter to the manager (Mr. Mackenzie) was written but
I did not see him as he was away, they were very kind
to be going to send my certificate & testimonials for

“Zeppelins have again visited London this week”

Diary page 47

.... one flower such as camellia or daisy or else a tiny posy is pinned under the left ear or the coat lapel. The hair is all brushed as far off the face all around the head as much as is possible and just a very light curl or two on forehead or side of face – the hair is *Unknown?* into knob or bun or rolls of any description. Showy boots are popular grey or buff and the only black on these is the top cap and part of the front of the boot. Some are laced up the side.

Accordion pleated serge or plain or striped silk skirts are all the rage or else close fox pleated ones. Today I was amazed to find myself staring into the sky at a dirigible balloon – it looked like the sun off his chain wandering over London with curtains drawn. Zeppelins have again visited London this week – there is plenty of aircraft guns on big buildings here but the Zeppelins come alright. They cause a lot of commotion bother? The people seem to forget that Australia seems such a long way off here – I called at the London Union Bank and presented my letter – put a few pounds in to start an account and made arrangements for the war office to pay in my salary as my field allowance I think will be enough for me to have in France. Mr Willis is the manager

(Miss ?Mackenzie knows him) but I did not see him as he was away, they were very kind and are going to mind my certificates and testimonials for me

Camelia – Flowering bush/tree from eastern and southern Asia. Many colours with multi petaled flowers.

Daisy – Common daisy white petals with tallow centre

Tiny posy – Very small bunch of flowers or a single flower

Lapel – Part on front of each side of a coat just below the collar which is folded back on either side.

Curl – A lock of hair that coils

Knob – Probably means hair knot

Bun – Another name for a hair knot

Rolls – may mean plats or braided hair

Buff – Light yellow brown leather colour

Accordion pleated – narrow evenly spaced vertical folds/pleats pressed into fabric forming alternating raised and recessed ridges

Serge – T will fabric. The worsted variety is used to make military uniforms, coats and trench coats

Striped silk – Luxurious textile that shimmers and shines and is very light and comfortable to wear

Fox pleated – Maybe box pleated.

Large and small alternating fabric gaps between upward and downward folds in the fabric

Dirigible balloon – Airship often cigar shaped or she may mean a hot air balloon used for reconnaissance with her reference to “moon”

London – Capital city of England and the United Kingdom

Zeppelins – Rigid Airships cigar shaped

Aircraft guns – Ground based large calibre guns to attack aircraft

Commotion bother – disturbance, turmoil, upset,

Australia – The Australian continent

London Union Bank – Union of London & Smiths Bank

Letter – Letter of introduction identifying who she was

Pounds – English currency used by many colonies including Australia.

Account – Bank account

War office – Department of the British Government responsible for the British Army 1857 to 1964

Salary – Payment for service

Field allowance – Payment for working “in the field”

France – Country in western Europe.

Paris is capital city

Miss MacKenzie – Nurse Myra

MacKenzie from the Orontes?

Mind – Store. Look after. Probably keep in a safe or safe place

48

"Well here I am in a hostel at Boulogne France"

Diary page 48

9th of June (1915 Wednesday) and Hugh's birthday. Well here I am in a hostel at Boulogne France - crossed the channel and leave in the morning for *No text entered*. Hugh Miller has been to see me and is back again in Glasgow. He is a perfect dear. Hugh Jun and I went to meet him last Friday night but the train was two hours late and it was 1am when he arrived at the Ivanhoe. So at 11.15 Hugh took me home. He was travelling from 2pm till 1am 400miles. We met at breakfast and knew each other straight *unknown*. Sat, Sunday and Monday we had together - went to the theatre Sat afternoon Edith Donaldson and I and the two Hugh's. At the Coliseum an immense Music Hall saw Ethel Iroring? in a delicious little play - Phyllis *unknown*? sang. Harry Welden? friend of Hugh Sen. (comedian) and many others. Motored all Sunday morning and had Dinner at Hugh Junior's - sat on their balcony, had gramophone, photographs - in afternoon we saw Harry Hawker doing a record flight $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles up - just over our heads - the aerodrome is but two miles from their house. Motored all day Monday over to Wales? Hugh called in at some of the biggest golf clubs in the world - *Club*? houses like mansions - came home past Windsor Castle and Eton College had afternoon *tea*? at a town very old fashioned called *Oxbridge*? Lunched at Sunning Dale near Aldershot. Hugh may come back with me. He and Jenny love Australia - in fact he has promised he will *unknown* in about a year's time. We talked ourselves dry and he was so good to me and the other girls they all liked him so much. He called them by their nick names and always paid for their sandwiches etc He was awfully upset saying goodbye too and said he only wished we were on our way back again...

Hugh's - Assume Hugh Miller junior.

Boulogne - Town on French coast. 52kms west from Saint Omer

France - Country in western Europe. Paris is the capital city.

No text entered - Due to secrecy and censorship. Assume it is Saint Omer.

Hugh Miller - Assume Hugh Miller senior
Glasgow - Port City in Scotland on the river Clyde.

Hugh Jun - Hugh Miller junior -

Last Friday night - Friday 4 June 1915

1am - 1 am in the morning on Saturday the 5 June 1915

Ivanhoe - Ivanhoe Hotel now Bloomsbury Street Hotel in London

11.15 - Assume 11.15pm on Friday night 4 June 1915

Hugh - Hugh Miller junior

He - Hugh Miller senior

2pm - On Friday 4 June 1915

1am - In the morning on Saturday 5 June 1915

400 miles - 644 kilometres

Sat - Saturday 5 June 1915

Sunday - Sunday 6 June 1915

Monday - Monday 7 June 1915

Theatre - Coliseum

Edith Donaldson - Edith Victoria

Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes.

Priscilla's best friend

Two Hugh's - Hugh Miller junior and senior

Colosseum - Largest theatre in London

Music Hall - Variety show type theatre

Hugh sen - Hugh Miller senior

Motored - Travelled by car

Hugh junior's - Hugh Juniors house

Harry Hawker - Harry George Hawker

MBS AFC Australian Pioneer Aviator, Designer and Test Pilot. Flying at Hendon near London

$3\frac{3}{4}$ miles - 5.6 kilometres, 18,393 feet

Two miles - 3.2 kilometres from Hendon

Wales - Country in southwest Great Britain

Hugh - Assume Hugh Junior

Golf clubs - Maybe Maesdu, Witchurch, etc

Mansions - Large luxurious dwellings

Windsor castle - Seat of the Royal family in Windsor

Eton College - Private boarding school near Windsor

Oxbridge - Not a town but made up word for Oxford & Cambridge. Probably had tea at Cambridge

Sunningdale - Populous village 37 kms from London

Aldershot - Town in England 32 kms southwest of London

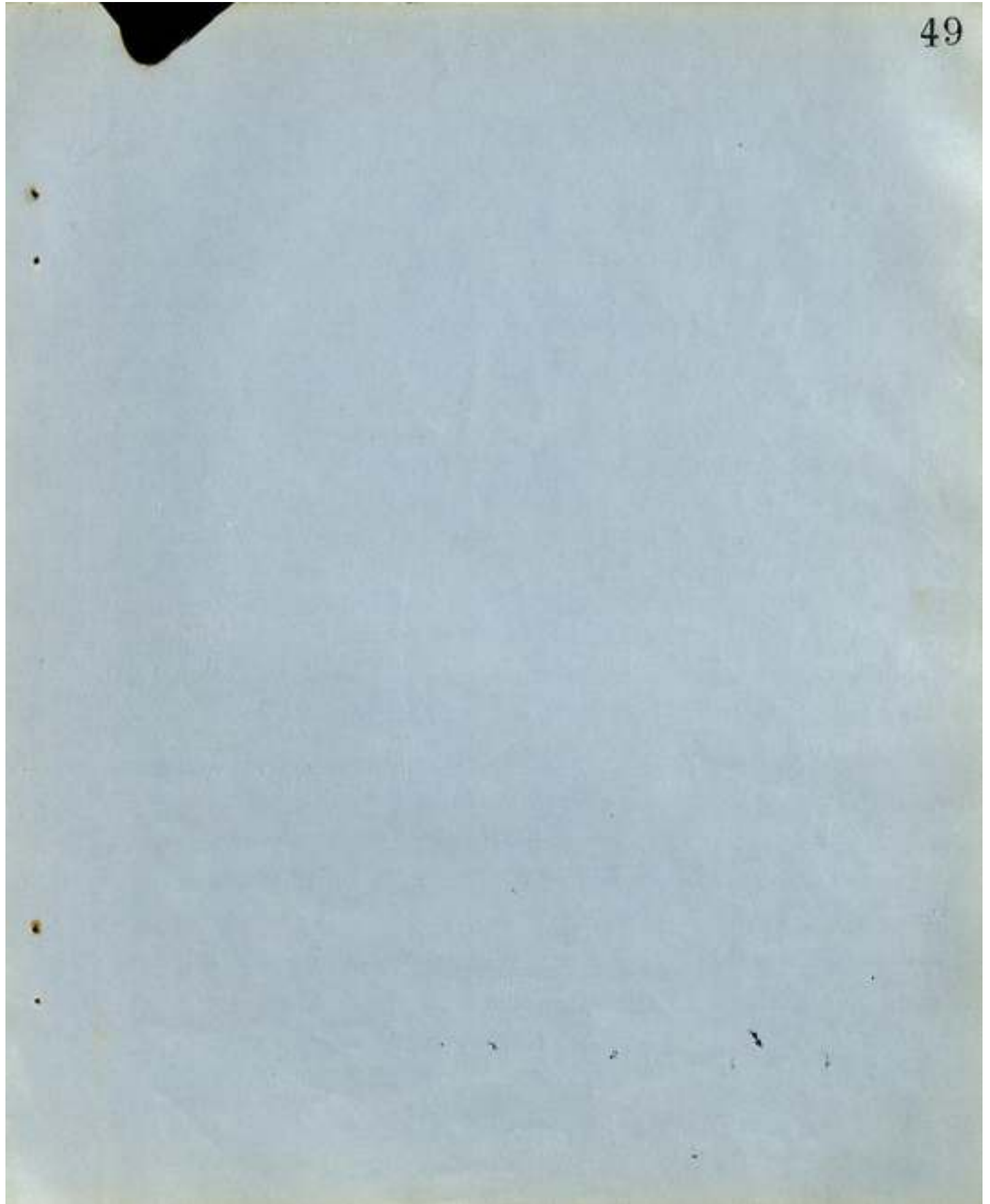
Hugh - Assume Hugh Miller senior

Jenny - Wife of Hugh Miller senior?

Australia - Continent of Australia

He - Assume Hugh Miller senior

Nick names - Substitute name for proper name commonly used with affection



Page 49

Note:

There are no marks or entries made on the carbon copy page of Diary page 49.

However the text on Diary page 48 appears to be followed on by the text on Diary page 50

Diary page 49 was not used.

50

We are going to write to the friends & family who
 are in the hospital and very much in danger, my mother
 has been in bed since it was the 20th of the month
 yesterday we are all very much distressed for the last
 24 hours off & on with her. We are all very much
 (Venerable) & had afternoon tea with Colonel Thomas
 & his wife in the afternoon. Voluntary, Mary & Co.
 have been as Lady, Bridle, she was then, many of
 painting beds & chairs etc. & we went to the shop. Philip
 & William a friend of Lady Bridle's, he was out
 for 24 hours & 24 hours work & books for the
 sick etc. As you know we are hobnobbing with titled
 people all the time, when Miss Walker & Miss Lady
 Walker, passing one day, at Harwood they told us
 that their cousin Lady Loch (her husband was an
 Governor of Victoria) was sorry she could not be present
 as she had promised to take some convalescent with
 her out driving. The Walkers, Miss Emmet & Miss Lady
 who are going to Harwood Park all came down
 to see us off yesterday, at Victoria Station at 7.30.
 The Walkers came in a full hall. held a large bouquet
 full of admiration & gave a bunch each. I was
 tied with Frederick Dutton & the women to hand
 them. The members of Victoria have all
 they were all this time to the home of the
 & nearly everyone is in dead black.

“They wear crêpe veils down to the hems of their skirts and nearly everyone is in dead black”

Diary page 50

.....he is going to write to both Edith and me. He asked us both to go up and stay with him in Glasgow afterwards? when? we? had? served ? Unknown Unknown we get 96 hours leave. Saturday? after we arrived here had lunch then had the afternoon off and went to Wimereux pronounced (Vinero) and had afternoon tea with Colonel Horne, Matron and Sisters at the Aus Voluntary Hosp. Once known as Lady Dudley's. She was there herself painting beds and chairs etc ~ we met the Hon Phillip Woodhouse a friend of Lady Dudleys he stays out here and attends to clerking work and books for the sick etc. So? you know we are hobnobbing with titled people all the time. When Miss Walker and Miss Gladys Walker gave us our tea party at Harrods they told us that their cousin Lady Loch (her husband was once Governor of Victoria) was sorry she could not be present as she had promised to take some convalescent soldiers out driving. The Walkers, Miss Conete? and our girls who are going to Harefield Park all came down to see us off yesterday at Victoria Station at 7.30. The Walkers cousin a Mr Walker held a huge basket full of carnations and roses a bunch each for us tied with tricolour ribbon and the nurses had handed them round. The numbers of widows here is pitiful. They wear crêpe veils down to the hems of their skirts and nearly everyone is in dead black.....

Edith - Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Best friend

He - Hugh Miller senior

Glasgow - Port City in Scotland on the river Clyde

Saturday - Saturday 12 June 1915

Wimereux - French coastal town 56.6 kms from Saint

Omer

Colonel Horne - Possibly Lieutenant Colonel Henry Sinclair Horne.

Matron - Ida Greaves

Aus Voluntary Hospital - Australian Voluntary Hospital

Lady Dudley's - Lady Rachel Dudley

Philip Woodhouse - Hon Phillip Charles Woodhouse ?

Hobnobbing - Mixing with people perceived to be of a higher social status

Miss Walker - Lois Walker? Not identified

Miss Gladys Walker - Not identified

Harrods - Large emporium in London with Food hall

Lady Loch - maiden name Elizabeth Villiers Age 88 years.

Governor of Victoria - Baron Henry Brougham Loch - Governor 1884 to 1889

Convalescent - Recovering from illness and/or injuries

Miss Conete - Unknown

Harefield Park - Harefield Park House and its grounds 20 miles - 32 kms out of London site of No 1 Australian

Auxiliary Hospital

Victoria Station - Central London railway and underground railway terminus.

Carnations - Flowers with very many different colours. 2000 years old.

Roses - Many different colours. Flowering shrubs and climbers. Often have thorns

Tricolour - Assume red, white and blue

Widows - Married women whose husbands have been killed in the war

Crepe veils - Silk or wool fabric with a crimped appearance and shaped as a veil head covering in black for mourning

I only had a few patients at being - but have
 known when they might get hundreds at a time.
 The Hosp - house on the Golf Club house is the best &
 opposite 7 doctors. Dinner after play for recreation.
 They bath for as the sea is 6 stones thick every
 June 11th Well I am settled at last, and can write
 as one can be in the East - you can address
 my mail Misses Sept. P. Wardle M. 7 General
British Expeditionary Force France. I really do
 not notice much - this is a beautiful old man
 looking in Porty garden - number still here. I
 of Belgian refugees here & my French is only under-
 stood by 1/2 of them as they speak Flemish and
 French - I will write up till 7 - everything
 when I come home - it is impossible now. I am
 sharing a tent - a friend of young Hugh's is here.
 Every of the other friends was just as well, &
 I day & I took one address to land back to the hotel
 with my bundle with shoulder bag & a few things
 & have specialities in my pocket etc. I am not
 worried if you only get a p.c. as I cannot tell when
 you will write again. Tell me all the news - whether you
 has lost any cash yet etc etc. I am for everything
 so far that I wish for it more - I feel as if I
 am living in a bubble. I pray for you all & hope
 you are all praying for me. My heart's love to all
 that I love. Priscilla

“Nursing Sister P. Wardle No7 General British Expeditionary Force France”

Diary page 51

They only had a few patients at Wimereux but never know when they might get hundreds at a time, The Hosp was in the Golf Club House and the links are opposite and doctors and nurses often play for recreation. They bathe too as the sea is a stone's throw away.

Jun 11th (1915 Friday) Well I am settled at last and am as well as one can be under the circs. You can address my mail Nursing Sister P. Wardle No7 General British Expeditionary Force France. Exactly like that nothing more. This is a beautiful old Monastery in lovely gardens ~ monks still here. Crowds of Belgian Refugees here and my French is only understood by 1/20 of them as they speak Flemish with a fearful accent. I will save up and tell you everything when I come home ~ it is impossible now Edith and I share a tent ~ a friend of young Hugh's Mr Jack Elvery? of the Dublin Fusileers was with us all day today and he took our address to send Edith and me lovely waterproof bonnets with shoulder capes on them ~ his father and he are specialists in waterproofs etc. Please do not worry if you only get a p.c. as I cannot tell when I can write again. Tell me all the news ~ whether mam? has sent any cash yet etc, etc. I've got everything so far that I've wished for and more ~ I feel as if I am living in a book. I pray for you all and know you are all praying for me. My hearts love to all those I love. Priscilla.

Wimereux ~ French coastal town 56.6 kms from Saint Omer

The Hosp ~ Probably the Australian Voluntary Hospital was in the Hotel du Golf et Cosmopolite Golf Club House ~ In fact the officers mess

Jun ~ June in French. Priscilla showing off her French.

Friday 11 June 1915

Circs ~ Circumstances

Monastery ~ Building or complex of buildings comprising domestic quarters, workplaces and worship places for monks or nuns.

Belgian refugees ~ Belgian people who have fled Belgium their own country due to German occupation or because their homes were at the war front.

French ~ The language of France.

Flemish -- A form or dialect of Dutch spoken in Belgium

Edith ~ Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Best friend

Young Hugh's ~ Hugh Miller junior.

Jack Elvery ~ Maybe John (Jack) Henry Elvery Dublin Fusileers ~ Royal Dublin Fusiliers an Irish infantry regiment of the British army.

Bonnets with Shoulder capes ~ Waterproof medieval style "shoulder cape hood" or 'hooded shoulder cape" or as we might say today a "shoulder cape hoodie" to keep off the rain and drizzle.

P.C. ~ Postcard

Mam ~ Mother

52

June 13th 1915. Tonight Edith & I had a hot bath in
 our waterproof bath & I'd have died to have seen
 us - they're such uncomfortable things. Went for a
 lovely motor drive this afternoon with two other
 sisters - the Chaplain drove like mad 50 miles an hour.
 That is 80 kilometres & his top speed is 98. The British
 will not believe the things I will be able to tell & for
 my experiences are not even real to myself - it is
 like living in a novel. I believe you get more news
 of the war out there than we do - perhaps not quite as
 authentic. I have decided not to send this so will
 write more fully. Drove out in the Colonel's car with
 two French soldiers - went to P. ~~for~~ Cappel to
 say to the firing line. We passed 3 hospitals & a horse
 & 2 flying schools - a machine gun was practising quite
 close to & scared 6 months growth out of me. Our Chaplain
 was a Frenchman & beside him sat the owner of the car
 another Frenchman. Sir John French often passes along the road
 near the 107th General. There is a military chapel in St. Omer
 in which the Prince of Wales often worships - Edith & I intended
 going last night but we did not have passports so could
 not go beyond a certain distance of the hospital - yesterday
 when we motoring we were held up many times & our
 French officer had to show his passport. There are Belgian
 doctors here & 18 priests all old men - the young
 ones have to fight. Most of the patients at present are

“There is a military chapel in St Omer in which the Prince of Wales often worships”

Diary page 52

June 13th 1915 (Sunday) Tonight Edith and I had a hot bath in our water proof baths you'd have died to have seen us – they're such uncomfortable things. Went for a lovely motor drive this afternoon with two other sisters – the chauffeur drove like mad 50 miles an hour that is 80 kilometres and his top speed is 95. You surely will not believe the things I will be able to tell you my experiences are not even real to myself – it is like living in a novel. I believe you get more news of the war out there than we do – perhaps not quite as authentic. I have decided not to send this so will write more fully. Drove out in the Colonel's car with two French soldiers – went to Cassel ½ way to the firing line – we passed 3 hospitals for horses and 2 flying schools – a machine gun was practising quite close to us and scared 6 months growth out of me. Our chauffeur was a French man and beside him sat the owner of the car another French man. Sir John French often passes along the road near the No 7 General. There is a military chapel in St Omer in which the Prince of Wales often worships – Edith and I intended going last night but we did not have passports so could not go beyond a certain distance of the hospital – yesterday when out motoring we were held up many times and our French officer had to show his passport. There are Belgian doctors here and 18 priests all old ones – the younger ones have to fight. Most of the patients at present are

Edith – Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Best friend

Water- proof bath - Made from water- proof canvas – almost impossible to use – could not keep the water hot – nurses often resorted to metal bowls and jugs ;

French – The people or the language of France.

Cassel – French town 21 kms east of Saint Omer

Firing line – Front line where the conflict was happening

Sir John French – Earl of Ypres – Commander of the British Home Force

No 7 General – No 7 British General Hospital

Malassises (previously a Monastery now a Private

School - College Lycee La Malassise Saint - Omer)

Military chapel in Saint Omer – May be the Notre Dame Cathedral Saint Omer

St Omer – Saint Omer – France - The general Head Quarters (HQ) of the British Expeditionary Force October 1914 to March 1916

The Prince of Wales – Future King Edward VIII who abdicated for his love of Wallis Simpson . (Edward, Albert, Christian, George, Andrew, Patrick, David Windsor)

Belgian - Person from Belgium

18 Priests – Probably means monks. Men who practise their religion by monastic living either alone or with any number of other monks.

Belgian refugees - in my ward there are 72 beds & mostly all occupied by Belgian women refugees - Some quite mental most of them have had typhoid - they are the lowest type of female I think - the Scum of the Earth. Shall I ever forget their gibberish all talking together. The guns are going night & day since we have been here - some days worse than others - on Sat. night most of the Sisters were awake all night with the deafening noise of them but I slept all the time - it gets on your nerves dreadfully when they roll on all day with no ceasing - constant thunder. There is a flying school only 1 mile away, biplanes are an hourly occurrence over our heads - I do not even go out to look at them now.

15.6.15: one of the priests died last night & is to be buried here today - There is a tiny cemetery not 200 yards from our camp of Sisters's Mother Superior the first one buried was in the year 1865. one was a naughty Sister because she has not a cross above her grave. There is service going on almost all day here in the Chapel - you can hear them praying & singing at all times. At 7 every evening the refugees say their prayers one at each end of the ward leading them & the others answering the noise is awful the Flemish tongue is very like the German - only a few can speak French so we get those to interpret for us ~~from Eng. into French~~. one woman who is quite mental was told yesterday by some of the girls in the ward that St. Martin passed

“There is a flying school only ½ mile away and biplanes are an hourly occurrence over our heads”

Diary page 53

..... Belgian refugees ~ in my ward there are 72 beds and mostly all occupied by Belgian women refugees ~ some quite mental most of them have had Typhoid ~ they are the lowest type of female I think ~ the scum of the earth. Shall I ever forget their jibberish all talking together. The guns are going night and day since we have been here ~ some days worse than others ~ On Sat. night most of the sisters were awake all night with the deafening noise of them but I slept all the time -it gets on your nerves dreadfully when they roll on all day without ceasing ~ constant thunder -. There is a flying school only ½ a mile away and biplanes are an hourly occurrence over our heads ~ I do not even go out to look at them now.

15.6.15 (Tuesday) One of the Priests died last night and is to be buried here today ~ there is a tiny cemetery not 200 yards from our camp of sisters and mothers superior the first one buried was in the year 1865, one was a naughty sister because she has not a cross above her grave. There is service going on almost all day here in the chapel ~ You can hear their praying and singing at all times. At 7 every evening the refugees say their prayers one at each end of the ward leading them and the others answering the noise is awful ~ The Flemish tongue is very like the German ~ only a few can speak French and we get those to

interpret for us. One woman who is quite mental was told yesterday by some of the girls in the ward that

St
Martins part

Belgian ~ Person from Belgium

Typhoid ~ Caused by Salmonella bacteria spread by not washing hands through food and water contaminated by faecal matter.

Jibberish ~ Correctly gibberish language that sounds like nonsense.

Flying school only ½ a mile ~ located at the racecourse site in St Omer

15.6.15 ~ Tuesday 15 June 1915

Priests ~ Probably means monks. Men who practise their religion by monastic living either alone or with any number of other monks.

Flemish tongue ~ A form or dialect of Dutch spoken in Belgium

French ~ The people or the language of France.

St Martins ~ St Martins Cathedral in Ypres (Belgium)

54

of Agnes has been razed to the ground - she does not know where her 7 children are & she has found quite mad - we have in one ward several mental cases - some the effects of typhoid & others from shock. The ward is called Elizabeth - after the Queen of the Belgians - she sends clothes for the refugees when they go out. Yesterday evening I went on duty at 8. It was told that the Director General & Lord Charles Bessford would probably be coming this. However they did not come after all - & at one mess afternoon tea had been provided for them. 16.6.15. Sir Wilmer Herringham a big physician came into the ward today & last evening the Director General from General Headquarters commonly called G.H.Q. Last evening a good many of us went for a walk to Blendiqueux to try & find some Australians we heard were camped there. We walked until we were tired but could not hear of any encamped around. Spoke to a brave Highlander who had been in the trenches just recently. There are only strawberries & cherries in the garden here but we are not allowed to pick them. The whole hospital is full of pictures of Catholic Saints and Calvaries & crucifixes etc etc. Of course the Belgians are all Catholics & a most ungrateful lot they are too. There is one called Sylvia & if Sylvia Burbridge could only see her she would take fit after fit. The greatest drawback of this place is that about half the nurses are untrained

"Ypres has been razed to the ground"

Diary page 54

.... of Ypres has been razed to the ground – she does not know where her 7 children are and she has gone quite mad – we have in our ward several mental cases. Some thro' effects of typhoid and others from shock. The ward is called "Elizabeth" after the Queen of the Belgians – She sends clothes for the refugees when they go out. Yesterday evening I went on duty at 5 and was told that the Director General and Lord Charles Beresford would probably be coming there. However they did not come after all – and at our mess afternoon tea had been provided for them.

16.6.15 (Wednesday) Sir Wilmot Herringham a big physician came into the ward today and last evening the Director General from General Headquarters commonly called G.H.Q. Last evening a good many of us went for a walk to Blendecques to try and find some Australians we heard were camped there. We walked until we were tired but could not hear of any encamped around. Spoke to a brave Highlander who had been in the trenches just recently. There are lovely strawberries and cherries in the garden here but we are not allowed to pick them. The whole hospital is full of pictures of Catholic Saints and Calvarys? and Crucifixes etc etc. of course the Belgians are all Catholics and a most ungrateful lot they are too. There is one called Silvia and if Sylvia Burbidge could only see her she would take fit after fit. The greatest drawback of this place is that about half the nurses are untrained

Ypres – Town in Belgium 58kms north from Saint Omer in France.

Razed to the ground - Destroyed

Elizabeth – Correctly Elisabeth

Queen of the Belgians - Queen Elisabeth of Belgium the "Angel Queen" stays with the King in war zones. Is a qualified doctor and treats injured soldiers.

Director General – General Sir Arthur Sloggett,

Director General Army Medical Services – DG AMS

Lord Charles Beresford – MP Member of Parliament

16.6.15 – Wednesday 16 June 1915

Sir Wilmot Herringham – Specialist doctor in Typhoid

Director General from General Headquarters –

General Sir Arthur Sloggett, Director General Army Medical Services – DG AMS

Blendecques – An area 7 kilometres south east of Saint Omer

Highlander – The Highlanders (Scottish Regiments) made up of the Seaforth, Gordon and Cameron Highlanders.

Catholic Saints – Catholic Church Saints are people who have made it into heaven after their death through their saintly deeds while on earth.

Calvary's – Probably models of Jesus Christ on the cross or Mary and the baby Jesus etc.

Crucifixes – Probably large gold and/or silver crosses often with an image of Jesus Christ.

Belgians – Person from Belgium

Catholics – Christians who believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.

Sylvia Maria Burbidge – Priscilla's cousin, Daughter of Maria Esther Burbidge (nee Wardle)

They are called V.A.D. voluntary aid detachments - well they have 6 who training in Eng. hospitals & come here - and now there is a new act coming in by which they are paid workers so that they are in the place of trained nurses & there are still hundreds of nurses in Eng. who would give anything to come to say nothing of those in Australia. In any other capacity they would be invaluable. Some do the cooking here & one girl is very clever at carpentering & makes cupboards & drawers out of packing cases. Another sees about our laundry & so on. One nice tent is very big capable of seating 100 at table and has two big tables a big cupboard & two smaller tables for serving - hanging lamps (4) with yellow silk shades. Next to this & connected with a little tent is our ^{big} recreation tent - which has a boarded floor & tables for reading & writing - we are also expecting to get a piano soon. Isabel & Sammy are on night duty but miss them very much - see very little of them now.

June 24th Oh we did enjoy ourselves last night - The "Artists' Rifles" came from St. Omer & Kenneth Rumbold came with them from Bologna or thereabouts - he was just like a big boy let out from school - he sang till he couldn't sing any more. The men from the rifles are all gentlemen and professional artists. We had a varied programme - Kipling's poems, 199 songs piano & solo, Mad^{lle} Davant (our French instructor)

“We had a varied programme – Kipling’s poems, rag songs, pianoforte solos”

Diary page 55

....they are called V.A.D. voluntary aid detachments – well they have 6 wks training in Eng. Hospitals and come here – and now there is a new act coming in by which they are paid workers so that they are in the places of trained nurses and there are still hundreds of nurses in Eng. who would give anything to come to say nothing of those in Australia In any other capacity they would be and are invaluable – some do the cooking here and one girl is very clever at carpentering and makes cupboards and drawers out of packing cases another sees about our laundry and so on. Our mess tent is very big capable of seating 100 at table and has two long tables a big cupboard and two smaller tables for serving – hanging lamps (4) with yellow silk shades. Next to this and connected with a little tent is our big recreation tent which has a boarded floor and tables for reading and writing – we are also expecting to get a piano soon. Isabel and Sammy are on night duty we miss them very much – see very little of them now.

June 24th (Thursday) Oh we did enjoy ourselves last night – The “Artists Rifles” came from St Omer and Kennerley Rumford came with them from Boulogne or thereabouts – he was just like a big boy let out from school – he sang till he couldn’t sing any more. The men from the rifles are all gentlemen and professional artists. We had a varied programme – Kipling’s poems, rag songs, pianoforte solos, Madlle Davant? (our French instructress).....

V.A.D. – Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurses.

Eng_ England

Australia – The Country/Continent of Australia.

Carpentering – Ability to undertake carpentry – working with wood

Our mess tent – Picture available on page 255

Isabel – Nurse Isabel Ross from the Orontes

Sammy – Maybe Sara Marie Marron from the Orontes

June 24th – Thursday 24 June 1915

Artists Rifles – Volunteer fighting unit with painters, actors, musicians and other creative men. Won many bravery awards.

St Omer – Saint Omer in northern France – The general Head Quarters (HQ) of the British Expeditionary Force October 1914 to March 1916

Kennerley Rumford – A famous English baritone singer.

Bolougne – Major French fishing port on the English Channel 52 kilometres west of St Omer.

Kipling – Joseph Rudyard Kipling English journalist, short story writer, poet and novelist.

Rag – “Ragtime” may come from “ragged or syncopated rhythm”. A “rag” in ¾ time is a ragtime waltz

Pianoforte – Piano

Madlle – Mademoiselle

Davant – Or Davaut, Not identified

56

Sang also. It was quaint to hear her sing Tipperary in her hissing French voice but oh the whole evening was just beautiful the Sisters looked so jolly nice in their scarlet trimmed caps & the men's uniforms all added to the unique scene. The pianist was very good & he played accompaniments perfectly & also filled in the time with raps & waltzes etc etc between the items.

28.6.18 Last night Edith & I with Sisters McKittrick & Broom walked into Church at St. ones - there were only 10 Sisters there & the room was otherwise filled with soldiers from Generals to Tommies - Sometimes the Prince of Wales is there but last night he must have been otherwise engaged. It was wonderfully impressive - enough to just hear these men sing ~~themselves~~ responses to the prayers. After service we had our tea in the town as we would have been late getting back for our dinner. We had lovely omelette, bread & butter, cider & strawberries & cream. Saw a nice little lingerie shop which I must more closely examine when I have some more money. Today I paid 9 francs for my laundry - I must not let that happen again though. And then I wore my uniform a fortnight & two days & the sheet on my bed is nearly 3 weeks old.

29th 1918. I had a letter from Mrs. Steggall this morning addressed to me at no 7 Australians hosp of course. That explains why my letters have

“ I wore my uniform a fortnight and two days and the sheet on my bed is nearly 3 weeks old”

Diary page 56

.....sang also. It was quaint to hear her sing Tipperary in her lisping French voice but oh the whole evening was just beautiful the sisters looked so jolly nice in their scarlet trimmed capes and the men's uniforms all added to the unique scene. The pianist was very good and he played accompaniments perfectly and also filled in the time with rags and waltzes etc etc. between the items.

28.6.15 (Monday) Last night Edith and I with sisters Mc Kitterick and Broome walked into church at St Omer – there were only 10 sisters there and the room was otherwise filled with soldiers from generals to Tommies – sometimes the Prince of Wales is there but last night he must have been otherwise engaged – It was wonderfully impressive – enough to just hear these men sing the responses to the prayers. After service we had our tea in the town as we would have been late getting back for our dinner. We had lovely omelette, bread and butter, cider and strawberries and cream. Saw a nice little lingerie shop# which I must more closely examine when I have some more money. Today I paid 9 francs for my laundry – I must not let that happen again though. And then I wore my uniform a fortnight and two days and the sheet on my bed is nearly 3 weeks old.

29th 1915 (Tuesday) I had a letter from Mrs Steggall this morning addressed to me at No 7 Australian hosp Of course that explains why my letters have.....

Tipperary – “It's a long way to Tipperary” best known song of the First World War. Even the Germans sang it in German.

Rags – Ragtime” may come from “ragged or syncopated rhythm”. A “rag” in ¾ time is a ragtime waltz

Waltzes – Music/songs in triple time.

28.6.15 – Monday 28 June 1915

Edith – Edith Victoria Donaldson – Edith Victoria Donaldson – Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Priscilla's best friend

Mc Kitterick – Nurse Lillian Barker McKittrick?

Broome – Maybe Sister Florence Broome ARCC
Church at St Omer- Maybe Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Saint Omer

Tommies – British Soldiers

Prince of Wales – Future King Edward VIII who abdicated for his love of Wallis Simpson. (Edward, Albert, Christian, George, Andrew, Patrick, David Windsor)

Lingerie shop – For women's underwear and sleeping wear. # See also Diary page 60.

9 Francs – French currency or 8 shillings or 80 cents decimal worth \$45 today

29th 1915 – Tuesday 29 June 1915

Mrs Steggall – Not identified

At No 7 Australian hosp– The correct address is No7 British General Hospital

gone astray - they are probably careering around France
the address here is No 7 General - British Expeditionary
force, France. Yesterday I was put on to inspect the
Tommys in the German measles' tents - they are such
nice fellows & so jolly. We are not busy just now.

6.7.15. Edith & I had a half day off & we washed
our heads with Egg Shampoo powder - the best
I've ever used - then had afternoon tea. Miss Robert
Son came back from her 7 days leave and brought
home some most delicious cakes, Choc /al of fruit
& cherries & preserved fruits & nuts & fudge. Then
at 6 o'clock we went into town & explored an old
church, bought some food as we missed dinner
& came home about 8.15. & best of all saw Kitchen
of Khartoum & Mr. Asquith in a motor car. He
had been at the flying ground a 1/2 mile away
from our No 7 & then motored up to the front & back
to the town for dinner. Chip potatoes are great
favourites here - there are stalls in the streets, simply
surrounded by boys & soldiers buying them & eating
them in the street, you see them peeled, cut up by a
machine & cooked in a very few minutes.

15.7.15. On Sunday last I received 11 letters & felt very
happy indeed although a great many are still missing
& feel lots better knowing the family are quite
alright. Sunday night after tea went to military

"Edith and I had a half day off and we washed our heads with egg shampoo powder"

Diary page 57

..... gone astray ~ they are probably careering around when the address here is no 7 General ~ British Expeditionary Force, France. Yesterday I was put on to nurse the Tommies in the German Measles tents ~ they are such nice fellows and so jolly. we are not busy just now.

6.7.15 (Tuesday) Edith and I had a half day off and we washed our heads with egg shampoo powder ~ the best I've ever used ~ then had afternoon tea. Miss Robertson came back from her 7 days leave and brought home some most delicious cakes, choc full of fruit and cherries and preserved fruits and nuts galore. Then at 6 o'clock we went into town and explored an old church, bought some food as we missed dinner and came home about 8.15 and best of all saw Kitchener of Khartoum and Mr Asquith in a motor car. K had been at the flying ground a ¼ mile away from our no 7 and then motored up to the front and back to the town for dinner. Chip potatoes are great favourites here ~ there are stalls in the streets, simply surrounded by boys and solders buying them and eating them in the street, you see them peeled, cut up by a machine and cooked in a very few minutes.

15.7.15 (Thursday) On Sunday last I received 11 letters and felt very happy indeed although a great many are still missing. I feel lots better knowing the family are quite alright. Sunday night after tea went to military.....

Tommies ~ British Soldiers

6.7.15 ~ Tuesday 6 July 1915

Edith ~ Edith Victoria Donaldson - Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Priscilla's best friend

Miss Robertson ~ Muriel Alice Robertson or Minnie

Mabel Alexandra Robertson

Kitchener of Khartoum ~ Field Marshal Lord Kitchener
~ Secretary of State for War

Mr Asquith ~ British Prime Minister

K ~ Kitchener - Field Marshal Lord Kitchener ~
Secretary of State for War

Flying ground ~ located at the racecourse in St Omer

Chip potatoes ~ Hot chips/ fries probably invented by
the Belgians as early as 1770

15.7.15 - Thursday 15 July 1915

Sunday ~ 11 July 1915

58

Church & sat just behind Sir John French &
 the Prince of Wales - a sister came late & they took her
 into their seat - I was wishing I was the - lucky
 person. Yesterday we had a whole day off, Sisters
 Bromo, McKiltrick, Ripley, Inglis, Donaldson &
 myself so we stayed in bed to breakfast then
 at 11 a.m. walked to St. men station & about
 20 minutes walk from there we got a punt & a
 French girl punted us up to Canal & Clare-
 marais woods where we had lunch & afternoon
 tea combined, picked wild honeysuckle, water
 lilies & wild forget-me-nots from the Canal.
 Coming home got very wet as a storm came
 on & we met 300 Australians in dozens of
 transport wagons - Some of them stopped and spoke
 to us recognising our badges. Miss Heriot knew
 one boy - he lived in Williamstown near where her father's
 home is - she asked 3 of them to come to afternoon tea on Sunday
 Matron has gone on leave & Miss Wilson a regular is taking
 charge. 18.7.15. I got 7 letters today & had a good time
 reading them - was off duty until 1 p.m. so I stayed in
 bed. Today 25,000 men have gone past this hospital to the
 front and yesterday 80,000 - The 3rd Army went thro'
 St. Omer. The chaplain is conducting a service in the
 recreation tent this evening to the convalescent men.
 Just at this moment they are singing "Fight the good fight"

"Today 25,000 men have gone past this hospital to the front and yesterday 80,000"

Diary page 58

..... church and sat behind Sir John French and the Prince of Wales – a sister came late and they took her into their seat. I was wishing I was she – lucky person. Yesterday we had a whole day off, sisters Broome, Mc Kitterick, Ripley, Inglis, Donaldson and myself. So we stayed in bed to breakfast then at 11 am walked to St Omer station and about 20 minutes walk from there we got a punt and a French girl punted us up the Canal to Clare – Marais woods where we had lunch and afternoon tea combined, picked wild honeysuckle, water lillies and wild forgetmenots from the Canal. Coming home got very wet as a storm came on and we met 300 Australians in dozens of transport wagons – some of them stopped and spoke to us recognising our badges, Miss Heriot knew one boy – he lived in Williamstown near where her father's house is – She asked 3 of them to come to afternoon tea on Sunday. Matron has gone on leave and Miss Wilson a regular is taking charge.

18.7.15 (Sunday) I got 7 letters today and had a good time reading them – was off duty until 1 pm so I stayed in bed, Today 25,000 men have gone past this hospital to the front and yesterday 80,000 – The 3rd Army went thro' St Omer. The chaplain is conducting a service in the recreation tent this evening to the convalescent men. Just at this moment they are singing "Fight the good fight".....

Church – Maybe Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Saint Omer

Sir John French – Earl of Ypres – Commander of the British Home Force

Prince of Wales – Future King Edward VIII who abdicated for his love of Wallis Simpson

Yesterday – Wednesday 14 July 1915

Broome – Maybe Sister Florence Broome ARCC

Mc Kitterick – Nurse Lillian Barker McKitrick ?

Ripley – English nurse Margaret Adele Ripley

Inglis – Nurse Catherine Inglis from the Orontes

Donaldson – Edith Victoria Donaldson – Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Best friend

The Canal – Waterway from St Omer to Clairmarais

Clare Marais – probably Clair Marais or Clairmarais north of Saint Omer – Picture of punting available

Honeysuckle – Are arching shrubs or vines with flowers which contain edible sweet nectar at the base of the flower.

Lillies – Correctly Lilies a tall plant with trumpet shaped flowers predominantly in white but also other colours even coloured like a tiger hence "tiger lily".

Forgetmenots – Forget-me-nots or scorpion bush has tall hairy stems up to two feet high with small but profuse blue/mauve flowers

Miss Heriot – Katherine Rae Heriot from the Orontes

Sunday – Sunday 18 July 1915

Miss Wilson – Myrtle Elizabeth Wilson

3rd Army – of the British Expeditionary Force – formed 13 July 1915 – sent to St Omer same date

St Omer – Saint Omer – France – The general Head Quarters (HQ) of the British Expeditionary Force

October 1914 to March 1916

Chaplain – A representative of a religious tradition attached to a secular institution such as a hospital, prison or a military unit.

Fight the good fight – Traditional hymn

it is a favorite hymn here - we always have it at church. outside the tent the orderlies and other p'ts (some Catholics) are playing cricket.

19.7.15 Last night a big 'plane called the 'Japplane chaser' had been out & it was my dark when it came home at 9 o'clock so it circled around & around us here in camp at a great distance up until the aerodrome men threw up rockets to show it the way home - it was a pretty sight. The view from the 'Measles' Camp is very pretty - the hills are not at all high and are covered in crops - some cut, some just ripening and then at the top of one hill is an English cemetery - the flying ground beyond that - here & there a church steeple in the distance.

I got my first pay on the 16th a fortnight overdue, so bought myself a case for my passport - a bottle of 'beaune' wine for a G.B.O.

21.7.15 went for a walk to the aerodrome - past a cemetery where there are some English Tommies buried - there are a number of new graves tonight too of French soldiers the officer who showed us all over the flying grounds told us that as each machine goes out, a man on a motor cycle also drives in the same direction and each plane takes a carrier pigeon with it & if they have any news they liberate it at once. Had a letter from my dear Miss Connelley - she is going to take charge of a hospital for Tommies at Welbeck Abbey one of the most historic places in England - it belongs to the Duke of Rutland - she was there last week for the day & she says the

"Last night a big plane called the The Zeppelin Chaser had been out"

Diary page 59

..... it is a favourite hymn here ~ we always have it at church. Outside the tent the orderlies and other pts (some Catholics) are playing cricket.

19.7.15 (Monday) Last night a big plane called The "Zeppelin chaser" had been out and it was very dark when it came home at 9 o'clock so it circled around and around us here in camp at a great distance up until the aerodrome men threw up rockets to show it the way home ~ it was a pretty sight, The view from the measles camp is very pretty ~ the hills are not at all high and are covered in crops ~ some cut some just ripening and then at the top of one hill is an English cemetery ~ the flying ground beyond that ~ here and there a church steeple in the distance ~ I got my last pay on the 16th a fortnight overdue, so bought myself a case for my passport ~ a bottle of "beaune"? wine for a G.B.O.

21.7.15 (Wednesday) went for a walk to the aerodrome ~ past a cemetery where there are some English Tommies buried ~ there are a number of new graves tonight too of French Soldiers the officer who showed us all over the flying grounds told us that as each machine goes out a man on a motor cycle also drives in the same direction and each plane takes a carrier pigeon with it and if they have any news they liberate it at once. Had a letter from my dear Miss Coneter?~ She is going to take charge of a hospital for Tommies at Welbeck Abbey one of those historic places in England ~ it belongs to the Duke of Portland ~ she was there last week for the day and she says the

Orderlies ~ Attendants in a hospital responsible for non-medical care of patients and maintenance of order and cleanliness

Pts ~ Patients?

Catholics ~ Christians who believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.

Cricket ~ A bat and ball game played between two teams of eleven players on a field at the centre of which is a 20 metre (22yards) pitch with a wicket at each end each comprising two bails balanced on three stumps. When ten players have been dismissed the innings ends and the teams swap roles

19-7-15 ~ Monday 18 July 1915

The Zeppelin Chaser ~ Maybe the Parnell Scout on test flight.-An Anti-Airship Fighter-Designed by A Camden Pratt

English cemetery ~ Probably what is now Longuenesse(St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery or the small Military Cemetery next to it.

Flying ground ~ Airfield. Site of the first Royal Flying Corps- Currently the racecourse in St Omer
Beaune ~A town at the centre of the Burgundy winemaking region.

G.B.O. ~ Maybe GDO for Good Day Off

21.7.15 ~ Wednesday 21 July 1915

English Tommies ~ English soldiers

Miss Coneter ~ Not identified

Wellbeck Abbey ~ Wellbeck Abbey Auxiliary Hospital near Workstop in Nottinghamshire.

England ~ A country which is a part of the United Kingdom

Duke of Portland ~ William Arthur Henry Cavendish-Bentinck 7th Duke of Portland

60

The Duchess is charming. I do hope I can see her there sometime. Miss Rempiere is to be Matron of an Officers' hospital at Kew.

22.7.15. Talking to one of the men today he told me that one of their battalion who came over 11 months ago - 1150 men only 13 are left - although they have been reinforced many times yet only 13 remain of the original 1st Scots Guards. He spoke of a man they found lying dead after the battle of the Marne he must have been dead 3 months as grass was growing in amongst his uniform between his arms & his body etc. they tell you of the most gruesome things and yet they are all as jolly as sandbags here. In times of peace a battalion is 750 strong - in war time 1150. I bought a pretty robe de nuit yesterday for Ruby it must be I think as it is threaded with moonlight blue ribbon & looks like her - I want to buy all the girls something nice & am thinking of sending them home to England to be taken care of, in case the Germans come here & we have to evacuate in a hurry. Got two overalls made this week in St. ones 5 sh. 25 p. each.

I saw a pr of boots in a shop in the Grand Place 35 sh. Each beauties - they would be fully £2-2 in Australia.

Edith has got Albert & B. Wards as Sister Mate went away to No 9. Cas. Cl. Station this morning. I'm sending home some p.c. views of Ypres - of the wendepel Cloth Hall famed for its tapestries - it is now in absolute ruins, more so than in the picture. Hang out of the house.

“Their battalion who came over 11 months ago ~ 1150 men only 13 are left”

Diary page 60

... the Duchess is charming. I do hope I can go and see her there sometimes. Miss Lempriere is to be matron of an officer's hospital at Kew,

22.7.15 (Thursday) Talking to one of the men today he told me that out of their battalion who came over 11 months ago ~ 1150 men only 13 are left ~ although they have been reinforced many times yet only 13 remain of the original 1st Scots Guards. He spoke of a man they found lying dead after the battle of the Marne he must have been dead for months as grass was growing in amongst his uniform between his arms and his body etc. they tell you of the most gruesome things and yet they are all as jolly as Sandboys here. In times of peace a battalion is 750 strong ~ in wartime 1150. I bought a pretty robe de nuit yesterday for Ruby it must be I think as it is threaded with moonlight blue ribbon and looks like her ~ I want to buy all the girls something nice and was thinking of sending them home to England to be taken care of in case the Germans come here and we have to evacuate in a hurry. Got two overalls made this week in St Omer 5 f. (Francs) 25 c. (sous) each. I saw a pr of boots in a shop in the Grand Place 35f. Such beauties ~ they would be fully £2 (pounds) - 2 (shillings) in Australia. Edith has got Albert A and B wards as Sister Neate went away to No 9 Cas. Cl. Station this morning. I'm sending home some p.c. views of Ypres ~ of the wonderful Cloth Hall famed for its "tapestries" ~ it is now in absolute ruins, more so than in the picture. Have cut off the name.....

Duchess - Winifred Anna Cavandish-Bentinck (nee Dallas- York) Duchess of Portland
Miss Lempriere - Janey McRobie Lempriere AANS
Matron not QAIMNSR signature on page 100
Hospital at Kew - Not identified

22.7.15 - Thursday 22 July 1915

1st Scots Guards - 1st Battalion of the Scots Guards.

A Scottish foot guard regiment of the British Army

Battle of Marne - First battle of the Marne 6-12

September 1914 saw the beginning of "trench warfare".

The Allies defeated the Germans in this battle

Sandboys - "Jolly as a Sandboy" is to be merry from drinking alcohol

Robe de Nuit - Night robe or Night dress

Ruby - Priscilla's younger sister who was killed in a car accident in Ballarat in 1928 aged 35.

Sister Neate - Sister Mercy Grace Neate

All the girls - Priscilla has four sisters (and two brothers)

Edith - Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat

Hospital and travelled on Orontes. Best friend.

England - A country which is a part of the United Kingdom

Germans - People from or born in Germany.

5 Francs 25 c (sous) - or 4 shillings and 4 pence or 44 cents worth \$26 today

Grand Place - St Omer market food, clothing and other stalls.

35 Francs - or 1 pounds 4 shillings or \$2.40 decimal worth \$144 today

£2 (pounds) - 2/- (shillings) - or \$4.20 decimal worth \$251 today

Ypres - Town in Belgium 58kms north from Saint Omer in

Cloth Hall - "Lakenhalle" a commercial building with markets, stalls and a warehouse where business was conducted. Destroyed during WWI rebuilt in the 1970's.

Pc - Postcard

We are getting put up 8 new marquees holding 14 beds each
 & now there is talk of having huts before the winter - I would
 prefer the huts - they have them at Harefield Park. The tents
 with floors cost £220 each & they are also to have
 electric lights installed - that is the way of the Army
 as soon as one kind of camp is just completed, they change
 it into a another style altogether, entailing endless expense.
 I have counted up what I believe we are to be paid &
 it works out very well - so much for fuel & lighting - so
 much for laundry, so much for lodging - field allowance & pay.
 30th we had some excitement this morning & the night
 before last - German tanks dropped bombs on St. Omar
 only a bare mile from us - killed 3 civilians in their beds &
 blew to pieces two shops & houses combined - Another
 fell in the courtyard of the Casualty Clearing Station
 no do. in the Rue Gambetta not doing much damage
 beyond making a hole in the ground & smashing
 the wall a bit & shattering every pane of glass in
 the windows of the entire building. Not any of them
 were incendiary bombs - 3 others did other damage
 elsewhere - we visited here afternoon Rocky & I and
 were taken into one house where all the family
 were gathered together in the courtyard just looking
 at their ruined home. The stove & kettle &
 San apas were just twisted like paper, plastered
 walls torn to ribbons. Oh it was terrible to witness

“German taubes dropped bombs on St Omer”

Diary page 61

.....We are getting put up 8 new marquees holding 14 beds each and now there is talk of having huts before the winter – I would prefer the huts – they have them at Harefield Park. The tents with floors cost £220 each and they are also to have electric light installed. That is the way of the army as soon as one kind of camp is just completed they change it into another style altogether, entailing endless expense. I have counted up what I believe we are to be paid and it works out very well – so much for the fuel and lighting – so much for laundry, so much for lodging – field allowance and pay.

30th. (Friday) Well we had some excitement this morning and the night before last – German taubes dropped bombs on St Omer only a bare mile from us – killed 3 civilians in their beds and blew to pieces two shops and houses combined – another fell in the courtyard of the casualty clearing station no 20 in the Rue Gambetta not doing much damage beyond making a hole in the ground and smashing the wall a bit and shattering every pane of glass in the entire building. Not any of them were incendiary bombs – 3 others did other damage elsewhere – we visited next afternoon Locky and I and were taken into one house where all the family were gathered together in the courtyard just looking at their ruined home. The stove and kettles and saucepans were just twisted like paper, plastered walls torn to ribbons. Oh it was terrible to witness.....

Marquees – Large Marquee tents used as wards for patients in WWI

Harefield Park – Harefield Park House and its grounds

20 miles – 32 kms out of London site of the No 1

Australian Auxiliary Hospital

£220 – or \$440 decimal worth \$26,400 today

30th – Friday 30 July 1915

German Taubes – First monoplane in the world to be mass produced in Germany for military purposes.

St Omer – Saint Omer – France – The general Head Quarters (HQ) of the British Expeditionary Force

October 1914 to March 1916

Casualty Clearing Station no 20 – Provide initial injury treatment before allocation to hospital

Locky – Nurse Annie Maria Locke from the Orontes

62

Their distress - The mother of the family was still shaking
 from head to foot when she told us about it - all the
 family were asleep at midnight & the bomb fell into
 the living room & courtyard & missed all their bed-
 rooms. That was Wednesday night & early this morn-
 ing whilst we were dressing 2 big explosions were
 heard an aeroplane gave chase from the aerodrome
 near here & later we heard that another shop
 was destroyed & an Eng. Soldier on sentry duty
 had his fingers nearly cut off his hand. This
 evening Edith & I went in to send some money to
 the bank & saw the place where the two bombs dropped
 this morning - then had supper brown bread & butter
 & Gruyere Cheese & lovely coffee. All the time
 we were eating it we felt frightened - were
 alright as soon as we got into the open air. The whole
 populace seems agitated & everyone appeared to be
 on the streets. I heard that papers were dropped
 this morning saying they would come every night
 for a fortnight. Such audacity! No lights
 for us tonight - the enemy's plane flew right over
 our camp on Wed. night - the noise of it was
 terrific. Saw Kennerley Rumford tonight - in fact
 we see him almost every night we go into St.
 James. General French's car passed a few
 times tonight - he goes out every evening to

"All the time we were eating it we felt frightened"

Diary page 62

..... their distress - The mother of the family was still shaking from head to foot when she told us about it - All the family were asleep at midnight and the bomb fell in the living rooms and courtyard and missed all their bed - rooms. That was Wednesday night and early this morning whilst we were dressing 2 big explosions were heard an aeroplane gave chase from the aerodrome near here and later we heard that another shop was destroyed and an Eng. Soldier on sentry duty had his fingers nearly cut off his hand. This evening Edith and I went in to send some money to the bank and saw the place where the two bombs dropped this morning - then had supper brown bread and butter and Gruyere cheese and lovely coffee. All the time we were eating it we felt frightened - were alright as soon as we got into the open air. The whole populace seems agitated and everyone appeared to be on the streets. I heard that papers were dropped this morning saying they would come every night for a fortnight. Such audacity! No lights for us tonight - the enemy's plane flew right over our camp on Wed. night - the noise of it was terrific. Saw Kennerley Rumford tonight - in fact we see him almost every night we go into St Omer. General French's car passed a few times tonight - he goes out every evening to

Wednesday - 28 July 1915

Eng Soldier - English soldier -

Edith - Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Best friend

Send some money to the Bank - Nurses were paid in cash. Money was sent to banks in London.

Gruyere - French Gruyere hard tasty yellow cheese with holes.

Tonight - Friday 30 July 1915

Wed. night - Wednesday 28 July 1915

Kennerley Rumford - A famous English baritone singer.

St Omer - Saint Omer - France - The general Head Quarters (HQ) of the British Expeditionary Force October 1914 to March 1916

General French - Sir John French - Earl of Ypres - Commander of the British Home Force

1 Only old Chateau up amongs trees, in the hills beyond Blendiques. Isabel Ross & I walked down to it a morning or two ago.

31-7-18 Oh we had a big experience this morning at 9 o'clock. A German taube approached St. Owen at a terrific height - the first intimation we had of it, was a big machine gun shooting at it from a place on the way to the flying grounds - ^{from behind} a house that we can see plainly from here - in fact we can walk across the fields to it - as far as our house is from Drina Street. Well this gun fired several times at it & we saw the shots explode in the air but short of it by a long way it was 7 miles ^{up} away & our shots can go 5 miles only. It must have been fully 2 miles high - we could just hear the drone of its engine and see its aluminium body shining in the sun. Well it was turned out of its course by our guns & it described a right angle & made off as hard as it could lick away from us but evidently it saw all it wanted. As it came in broad daylight we believe it was more for observation than anything and it would have taken our planes longer than half an hour to have reached the same height. It was directly over our hospital & we just stood out in the grounds patients orderlies & sisters grouped together (the very worst thing to do of course) & watched it not knowing which minute a bomb would drop & tho it would hardly fall with any accuracy from such a height. Everyone believes that the taube was after headquarters or else our aerodrome.

“Orderlies and sisters grouped together (the very worst thing to do of course) and watched it not knowing which minute a bomb would drop”

Diary page 63

..... a lovely old Chateau up amongst trees, in the hills beyond Blendiques Isabel Ross and I walked across to it a morning or two ago.

31-7-15 (Saturday) Oh we had a big experience this morning at 9 o'clock a German taube approached St Omer at a terrific height - the first intimation we had of it, was a big machine gun shooting at it from a place on the way to the flying grounds - from behind a house that we can see plainly from here - in fact we can walk across the fields to it - as far as our house is from Dana? Street. Well this gun fired several times at it and we saw two shots explode in the air but short of it by a long way it was 7 miles up and away and our shots can go 5 miles only. It must have been fully 2 miles high - we could just hear the drone of its engine and see its aluminium body shining in the sun. Well it was turned out of its course by our guns and it described a right angle and made off as hard as it could lick away from us but evidently it saw all it wanted. As it came in broad daylight we believe it was more for observation than anything and it would have taken our planes longer than half an hour to have reached the same height. It was directly over our hospital and we just stood out in the grounds patients orderlies and sisters grouped together (the very worst thing to do of course) and watched it not knowing which minute a bomb would drop altho' it would hardly fall with any accuracy from such a height. Everyone believes that the taube was after headquarters or else our aerodrome

Chateau - Maybe Chateau De Westhove

Blendiques - Blendecques an area 7 kilometres south east of Saint Omer

31-7-15 - Saturday 31 July 1915

Taube - First monoplane in the world to be mass produced in Germany for military purposes.

St Omer - Saint Omer - France - The general Head Quarters (HQ) of the British Expeditionary Force October 1914 to March 1916

Machine gun - A fully automatic mounted or portable fire arm designed to fire rifle cartridges in rapid succession.

7 miles - 11 kilometres

5 miles - 8 kilometres

2 miles - 3 kilometres

Orderlies - Attendants in a hospital responsible for non-medical care of patients and maintenance of order and cleanliness

Sisters - Nurses and Matrons

64

After it was headed off our guns turned around & fired after it 26 shots in all & they just fell short every time. We have passed the place many times where the guns are - they must be well concealed as we have never seen them. Several of our Sisters were in St. Owen, some at the market and as soon as it was seen they said the populace nearly went mad & all disappeared into cellars etc as quick as lightning. It is thought that there will be a big air raid on St. Owen soon. I believe our guns could have reached it had they fired before they did but they had it let it get clear of our camp as it would have been too dangerous for us. In my excitement I called a patient "my dear" and Lucky fell back in her hurry into the arms of the incinerator orderly. I really felt dead scared when the thing was overhead - I suppose I might get used to it in time.

3-8-15. Well, old boy, things are happening to some extent - last night six sisters arrived last night to be ~~for~~ "parked" - they had been shelled out of their hospital yesterday morning - no 3 casualties ^{at Ballinacorney} clearing station at 9 a.m. Shells from long distance guns killed 4 night orderlies who were sleeping & wounded 3 others, several more have gone to pieces with nerves. The sisters were very white & knelt on - Their luggage came on after them and they did not know whether they would ever get it - they just had to come on & trust Providence to get their luggage.

“They had been shelled out of their hospital yesterday morning”

Diary page 64

.... After it was headed off our guns turned around and fired after it 26 shots in all and they just fell short every time. We have passed the place many times where the guns are. They must be well concealed as we have never seen them. Several of our sisters were in St Omer, some at the market and as soon as it was seen they said the populace nearby went mad and all disappeared into cellars etc. as quick as lightning. It is thought that there will be a big air raid on St Omer soon. I believe our guns could have reached it had they fired before they did but they had to let it get clear of our camp as it would have been too dangerous for us. In my excitement I called a patient “my dear” and Locky fell back in her hurry into the arms of the incinerator orderly. I really felt dead scared when the thing was overhead – I suppose I might get used to it in time.

3.8.15 (Tuesday) Well old book, things are happening to some extent – last night six sisters arrived last night to be “parked” – They had been shelled out of their hospital yesterday morning – No 3 casualty clearing station at Baillieul At 9 am shells from long distanced guns killed 4 night orderlies who were sleeping and wounded 3 others, several more have gone to pieces with nerves. The sisters were very white and knocked out – Their luggage came in after them and they did not know whether they would ever get it – they just had to come on and trust to providence to get their luggage.

St, Omer - Saint Omer – France - The general Head Quarters (HQ) of the British Expeditionary Force October 1914 to March 1916

Locky – Nurse Annie Maria Locke from the Orontes?

Incinerator orderly – Orderly who takes body parts and medical rubbish as well as general rubbish to be burnt.

3.8.15 – Tuesday 3 August 1915

Old book – This diary

Shelled – Maybe artillery shells from cannons or bombs dropped on Baillieul

Yesterday morning – Morning of Monday 2 August 1915

Baillieul– Correctly Baillieul. A town 41 kilometres east of Saint Omer

Orderlies - Attendants in a hospital responsible for non-medical care of patients and maintenance of order and cleanliness

The matron came here late & last - she said she had just finished writing to their wives & had cut a piece of each of their ~~heads~~ hair to send. Sister Middleton who only left here about a fortnight ago for no 3rd ^{Balliant} came back with the others last night & she looked a positive wreck. She said she had to identify her orderly who was killed & he was so badly "done for" that the only way she knew it was he, was by his new sock she had given him that morning - the girls made wreaths of white flowers and helped bury them before they came away & did all ^{that} a woman could. The last we heard was that the whole place was burning before the last one left. The whole P.M. men were picked up & ready to go on leave today. one of the fellows leaves 2 children as well as a wife - it is truly dreadful.

For two nights we have seen a strange thing lighted in the sky - it was an observation balloon, stationary - sending out searchlights - it was an awfully sight to see this first thing throwing weird lights about. I can tell you my diary that I do not feel too safe these days - the aviator threw a paper down the other day saying he would be back later on the blow up St. men.

Mr. Ponsford came to see us just awhile ago - he only left England on Thursday, he & D. Trince & D. Ryan are all fellow at Morningsham just now for a few days & he had to come into St. men to shop for his mess so came out for a few minutes to see us - it was a lovely surprise to see little Poney.

“The last we heard was that the whole place was burning before the last one left”

Diary page 65

The **matron** came here late and last – she said she had just finished writing to their wives and had cut a piece of each of their hair to send. **Sister Middleton** who only left here about a fortnight ago for No 3 **Baillieul** came back with the others last night and she looked a positive wreck. She said she had to identify her **orderly** who was killed and he was so badly “done for” that the only way she knew it was he, was by his new **sox** she had given him that morning. The girls made wreaths of white flowers and helped bury them before they came away and did all that a woman could. The last we heard was that the whole place was burning before the last one left. The whole four men were packed up and ready to go on leave today – one of the fellows leaves 2 children as well as a wife – it is truly dreadful. For two night we have seen a strange thing lighted in the sky – it was an **observation balloon**, stationery – sending out searchlights – it was an ungodly sight to see this great thing throwing weird lights about. I can tell you my “Diary” that I do not feel too safe these days – the **aviator** threw a paper down the other day saying he would be back later on to blow up **St Omer**. **Mr Ponsford** came to see us just a while ago – he only left **England** on Thursday, he and **Dr Trinca** and **Dr Ryan** are all together at **Moringham** just now for a few days and he had to come into **St Omer** to shop for his mess so came out for a few minutes to see us – it was a lovely surprise to see little **Ponny**.

Matron – Acting Principal Matron Helena Hartigan
RRC

Sister Middleton – Sister Jean Middleton from the
Orontes?

Baillieul – 41 kilometres east of Saint Omer

Orderly – Attendants in a hospital responsible for non-
medical care of patients and maintenance of order and
cleanliness

Observation balloon – Balloon employed as an aerial
platform for gathering intelligence and troop and artillery
spotting.

Aviator – Pilot – driver of the plane or balloon

St Omer – Saint Omer – France – The general Head
Quarters (HQ) of the British Expeditionary Force
October 1914 to March 1916

Mr Ponsford – Dr Frank William Augustus Ponsford
England – A country which is a part of the United
Kingdom

Dr Trinca – Dr Alfred John Trinca (1884-1981) 31
years

Dr Ryan – Dr Raymond William Ryan

Moringham – Moringhem 12 kilometres west of Saint
Omer

Ponny – Mr (Dr) Frank William Augustus Ponsford

66

4-8-18. Rocky went off this morning to Boulogne for her operation. She has a hernia & it has to be done at once - she is one of the best dear old Rocky & we were very upset at her going off in such a fashion, Miss Freshfield a V.A.D. who has had measles went also. Many miles of cavalry & big guns went past here this morning up to the front - St. Paul said that things would be very busy soon. The news about Warsaw seems the worst possible & on all hands it is disgusting what we get - The enemy are horribly successful in most things they do - although it is quite true that the German airman Mr. Saw above us last week was captured at Cassel about 12 miles further on - it was very strange to see our own planes move that morning - instead of going straight up they first circled once & hovered about a bit round here so as not to let the enemy see where they came from but he saw alright.

11-8-18. On Sunday night the cannonade was frightful - all night it kept up - just one big continuous thunder & a battering it woke us up at 4 a.m. & we hardly slept afterwards. Coming from church - there was first a beautiful sunset to look at - not a rosy one but one of silver & pale blue. Then as we neared Malabar two of our M.O.'s came along on bicycles & pointed out to us, Star Shells in the sky, there must have been twenty while we were watching. The service on Sunday night was magnificent - the Bishop of Khartoum

“There was first a beautiful sunset to look at -not a rosy one but one of silver and pale blue”

Page 66

4.8.15 (Wednesday) Locky went off this morning to Boulogne for her operation she has a hernia and it has to be done at once - she is one of the best our old Locky and we were very upset at her going off in such a fashion, Miss Freshfield a V.A.D. who has had measles went also. Many miles of cavalry and big guns went past here this morning up to the front - Dr Ponsford said that things would be very busy soon. The news about Warsaw seems the worst possible and on all hands it is disquieting news one gets - the enemy are horribly successful in most things they do - although it is quite true that the German airman we saw above us last week was captured at Cassel about 12 miles further on - it was very strange to see our own planes move out? that morning - instead of going straight up they just sneaked out and hovered about a bit around here so as not to let the enemy see where they came from but he saw alright.

11.8.15 (Wednesday) On Sunday night the cannonade was frightfull - All night it kept up - just one big continuous thunder of a battery it woke us up at 4am and we hardly slept afterwards. Coming from church - there was first a beautiful sunset to look at - not a rosy one but one of silver and pale blue. Then as we neared Malassise two of our M.O.s came along on bicycles and pointed out to us star shells in the sky, there must have been twenty while we were watching. The service on Sunday night was magnificent - the Bishop of Khartoum.....

4.8.15 - Wednesday 4 August 1915

Locky - Nurse Annie Maria Locke from the Orontes?

Boulogne - Town on French coast. Departure point for injured soldiers. 52kms west from Saint Omer

Hernia - A protrusion of organs through a weakened part of the abdominal wall

Miss Freshfield - Miss Katia Freshfield VAD

V.A.D. - Voluntary Aid Detachment. Voluntary civilians providing nursing care alongside military nurses. Includes the Red Cross VAD's.

Measles - Probably German Measles very contagious viral illness that causes a skin rash and fever and can lead to serious illness.

Cavalry - Soldiers who fight on horseback

Big guns - Or artillery. Large guns firing large shells to weaken the enemy before an attack or to defend a position.

Front - Military front or contested front where the fighting in war is taking place.

Dr Ponsford - Dr Frank William Augustus Ponsford

Warsaw - The German army entered Warsaw the capital city of Poland on Sunday 1 August 1915.

German airman - German pilot

Cassel - A city 22.6 kilometres NE of Saint Omer.

12 miles - 19 kilometres

Hovered - Remain in one place in the air.

11.8.15 - Wednesday 11 August 1915

Sunday night - Sunday 8 August 1915

Frightfull - A situation which is very frightening

Battery - Artillery battery. A group of large cannon type guns firing large shells.

Church - Most commonly refers to a Christian place of worship with a congregation of Christians.

Malassise - Suburb of Saint Omer - Site of No 7

British General Hospital

M.O.s - Medical officers/Doctors

Star shells - A type of ammunition which bursts to release a shower of stars for illuminating enemy positions.

Bishop of Khartoum - Welsh Anglican Bishop

Llewellyn Henry Gwynne

preached a beautiful sermon on the war - he said that after being out at the front for months he went home & was told by another clergyman that people had lost their faith since the war - he said that such was not his experience as he found that the men, with whom he had come in contact in the trenches, had not lost their faith a scrap but it had become stronger. He illustrated his sermon with word pictures that were sad & pathetic & I had fearful pain just with keeping control of my emotions. I had a huge lump in my throat, so big that it hurt me like a knife. Some of the men had hard work to keep from sobbing. He told us of a boy in a hospital at Boulogne who is dreadfully maimed for life & yet is as much of a Christian as ever only he cannot understand why God does not kill the Kaiser.

It seems so awful to think that the Germans have taken Warsaw & they appear to be making advances here too. Last Monday ~~on~~ a naval airship flew above us - circled around the hospital grounds for an hour or more. It did not move very quickly & it took a long time to rise but they say they are capable of greater speed. Now I want to write about the punishment of soldiers - one of my orderlies did 1st field punishment a few weeks ago he is a really nice man but he stayed out all one night and did not turn up to parade. He was tied to a wooden cross for 2 hrs every day for 7 days.

"He cannot understand why God does not kill the Kaiser"

Diary page 67

...preached a beautiful sermon on the war ~ he said that after being out at the front for months he went home and was told by another clergyman that people had lost their faith since the war ~ he said that such was not his experience as he found that the men, with whom he had come in contact in the trenches had not lost their faith a scrap but it had become stronger. He illustrated his sermon with word pictures that were sad and Edith and I had fearful pain just with keeping control of our emotions. I had a huge lump in my throat, so big that it hurt me like a knife. Some of the men had hard work to keep from sobbing. He told us of a boy in a hospital at Boulogne who is dreadfully maimed for life and yet is as much of a Christian as ever only he cannot understand why God does not kill the Kaiser. It seems so awful to think that the Germans have taken Warsaw and they appear to be making advances here too. Last Monday a naval airship flew above us ~ circled around the hospital grounds for an hour or more. It did not move very quickly and it took a long time to rise but they say they are capable of greater speed. now I want to write about the punishment of soldiers ~ one of my orderlies did 1st field punishment a few weeks ago he is a really nice man but he stayed out all one night and did not turn up to parade. He was tied to a wooden cross for 2hrs every day for 7 days.....

Sermon ~ Oration or lecture by a preacher

Clergyman ~ A male priest, minister or religious leader

Faith ~ Strong belief in the doctrines of a religion based on spiritual conviction rather than proof

Edith ~ Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Best friend

Sobbing ~ Noisy crying

Boulogne ~ Town on French coast. Departure point for injured soldiers. 52kms west from Saint Omer

Christian ~ One who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and saviour of all people

Kaiser ~ The German word for Emperor

Germans ~ The German army.

Warsaw ~ The German army entered Warsaw the capital city of Poland on Sunday 1 August 1915.

Naval airship ~ Or Zeppelin managed by the German navy

Orderlies ~ Attendants in a hospital responsible for non-medical care of patients and maintenance of order and cleanliness

Field punishment ~ A form of punishment used against military personnel in the field. Field punishment takes place in the field instead of being sent to a goal.

Parade ~ Morning parade. The morning inspection of troops.

68

one hour in the morning & one in the afternoon - his arms are outstretched all the time - Anyone who laughs at him commits a crime & is liable to punishment. Then for two hours during the day they have to ~~do~~ tread the mill walking up & down a given area with all their pack on their back - not allowed at all out of grounds & do extra fatigue work - This goes on for 7 days.

C.B. is confined to Barracks for 7 days - this is a common punishment & is often on an order sheet about certain orderlies. Miss Elston & I walked to Thérondanne on Tuesday a distance of 28 kilometres. We met Thér. Heruighem & came home Thér. Lagheue & Helfaut - Saw some quaint old churches & church yards - lots of peasant women with white mittens on, working in the fields using the scythe to gather in the harvest & then children fleaving after them. We had lunch at Thérondanne of cold pork & salad bread & butter & wine - then went to another place to shelter from a shower & had black coffee & only paid 2 sous each. We rested at the ruins of the old town which was bombarded in the time of Charles V - some houses had cannon balls in the gables set in the cement as curiosities - others had them on the tops of brick chimneys. It is strange here to see no fences around the fields - all open to the wayside yet the crops are unimpaired.

"Some houses had cannon balls on the gables"

Diary page 68

....one hour in the morning and one in the afternoon – his arms are out stretched all the time – anyone who laughs at him commits a crime and is liable to punishment. Then for two hours during the day they have to tread the mill walk up and down a given area with all their pack on their back – not allowed at all out of grounds and do extra fatigue work – this goes on for 7 days. C. B. is confinement to barracks for 7 days – this is common punishment and is often on our order sheet about certain orderlies. Miss Elston and I walked to Therouanne on Tuesday a distance of 28 kilometres went thro' Heuringhem and came home thro' Inghem and Helfaut – saw some quaint old churches and church yards – lots of peasant women with white britches on, working in the fields using the scythe to gather in the harvest and their children sheaving after them. We had lunch at Therouanne of cold pork and salad bread and butter and wine – then went to another place to shelter from a shower and had black coffee and only paid 2 sous each. We rested at the ruins of the old town which was bombarded in the time of Charles V – Some houses had cannon balls on the gables set in the cement as curiosities – others had them on the top of brick fences – it is strange here to see no fences around the fields – all open to the wayside yet the crops are uninjured

C.B. – Not identified

Miss Elston – Possibly English nurse Catherine Elston

Therouanne – A town 16.9 kilometres south of St Omer

Tuesday – Tuesday 10 August 1915

28 Kilometres – This was for the round trip which was in fact nearer 31 kilometres. St Omer to Heuringhem 9.1 km to Therouanne 7.2 km to Inghem 3.7 km to Helfaut 3.7 km to Saint Omer 7.5 km a total of 31.2 kilometres

Heuringhem – A town 9.1 kilometres south of St Omer

Inghem – A town 11.0 kilometres south of St Omer

Helfaut – A town 7.5 kilometres south of St Omer.

Sheaving – A crop bound together often in a "tepee" shaped stack after harvesting by hand.

2 sous – French currency or 1 shilling .6 pence or 18 cents decimal worth \$7.72 today for a cup of coffee.

Charles V – Holy Roman Emperor 1519 to 1556

Cannon balls – A round (ball) shaped solid projectile often metal which is fired from a cannon. No explosive charge.

Gables – The pointed wall space where two roof lines meet

Wayside – The edge of the road

16.8.15. Dudley Pincock came today to see me - he was awfully nice, brought me a letter from Clara Brock in which she asks me to let her know when I'm in Rada so that we can meet each other. He had an excuse to come here today as one of his men was going out so he took him back with him in the car. These naval men are just the nicest imaginable - I have always loved sailors better than soldiers - one of them is sending me photographs of armoured cars that he has taken himself. He is a petty officer.

I have saw Anthony Widdie killed near Ypres some little time ago a German shell fell on one of our cars in which Ashillip was seated & killed him & 7 more men instantaneously.

18.8.15. Heriot came in from her walk tonight & said that Kitchener & General Joffre are in St. Omer & therefore the planes are extra busy keeping guard. It is wonderful to see the search lights at night flashing all over the sky & knowing that while we are sleeping some people are keeping watch over the sky.

Since the air raid two big "atchies" (anti-air-craft guns) have been planted on a hill overlooking Malaisia. The men working them have their huts just beside the guns. Got 3 letters today through Vancouver - I feel very upset about poor old Grandfather dying - have been thinking of him all day - can just feel for them all know how they are upset. However, we cannot wish the dear old man here in this terrible world. One wonders how God can look on & allow all this wholesale slaughter to go on. Have heard of the troopship Royal

"I have always loved Sailors better than Soldiers"

Diary page 69

16.8.15 (Monday) Dudley Pinnock came today to see me – he was awfully nice, brought us a letter from Clara Brock in which she asks me to let her know when I'm in London so that we can meet each other. He had an excuse to come here today as one of his men was going out so he took him back with him in the car. These naval men are just the best imaginable – I have always loved Sailors better than Soldiers – One of them is sending me photographs of armoured contact? he has taken himself. He is a petty officer and he saw Anthony Wilding killed near Ypres some little time ago a German shell fell on one of our cars in which Anthony Wilding was seated and killed him and 7 more men instantaneously.

18.8.15 (Wednesday) Heriot came in from her walk tonight and said that Kitchener and General Joffre are in St Omer and therefore the planes are extra busy keeping guard. It is wonderful to see the searchlights at night flashing all over the sky and knowing that while we are sleeping some people are keeping watch over the sky. Since the air raid – two big "Archies" (anti-air-craft guns) have been planted on a hill overlooking Malassise. The men working them have their huts just beside the guns. Got 3 letters today through Vancouver – I feel very upset about poor old Grandfather dying – have been thinking of him all day – can just feel for them all know how they are upset. However we cannot wish the dear old man here in this terrible world. One wonders how God can look on and allow all this wholesale slaughter to go on. Have heard of the Troopship Royal.....

16.8.15. Monday 6 August 1915

Dudley Pinnock – Surgeon Dudley D Pinnock

Clara Brock – Not identified.

Contact – Battle, fight, engagement. Armoured vehicles/tanks fighting.

Anthony Wilding – New Zealand's world number 1 tennis player. Considered to be the first tennis superstar.

Ypres – Town in Belgium 58kms north from Saint Omer in France.

German – The enemy Germany

18.8.15 – Wednesday 18 August 1915

Heriot – Nurse Katie Rae Heriot from the Orontes

Kitchener – Field Marshal Horatio Herbert Kitchener was a senior British army officer and Secretary of State for the war.

General Joffre – Marshal General Joseph Jacques Cesare Joffre served as Commander-in-Chief of the French forces St Omer – Saint Omer – France – The general Head Quarters (HQ) of the British Expeditionary Force October 1914 to March 1916

Malassise – Suburb of Saint Omer – Site of no7 British General Hospital

Vancouver – A coastal seaport in western Canada

Grandfather – Henry William Wardle assume he was sick and dying but does not pass away until Thursday 30 December 1915

Troopship Royal Edward – The Royal Mail Ship (RMS) /Hired Military Transport (HMT) Royal Edward was torpedoed on Friday 13 August 1915 while travelling from Alexandria to Lemnos with the loss of 864 lives.

70

Edward being torpedoed & 1000 men missing - it is appalling. Had a letter from dear old Pop today - when she wrote she did not know about her brother being killed - oh dear it is a sad world that's that. Miss Watkins the Regular (the Pucker) lost her fiancé only a few months ago & now she is trying to forget her grief in her work. I made some sashes out of red sateen for two Sergeants in a Guard they gave at Argues - they dressed as minsters - are going to give a concert to our men on Friday night. Lorry wrote today from London she is getting on so well but has still got pain - the N^o. 1 Artillery have been awfully good to her. There is a concert here tonight combined with a magic lantern lecture on Egypt by Major Anderson of the 20th Field Ambulance, but I did not go - the M.O.'s are giving us sandwiches in the board room afterwards - I came to bed instead.

22-8-18. Sunday again and the guns are booming & that - they always start Sat. night & keep it up all day Sunday. I am alone in my little tent writing letters, trying to answer my home mail & the guns seem to get nearer & nearer. I was dying to go out for a jog ride this afternoon but had no luck.

27-8-18. Dorothy Mitchell sent me my parcel from London - it is only getting some new clothes.

Last evening Miss Marsh & I went to Argues & saw the hangar in which the French dirigible

"I am alone in my little tent writing letters"

Diary page 70

.... Edward being torpedoed and 1000 men missing – it is appalling. Had a letter from dear old Pop today – when she wrote she did not know about her brother being killed – oh dear it is a sad world and hateful. Miss Watkins the Regular (the Pucker) lost her fiancé only a few months ago and here she is trying to forget her grief in her work. I made some sashes out of red sateen for two sergeants for a concert they gave at Arques – they dressed as minstrels – are going to give a concert to our men on Friday night. Locky wrote today from London. She is getting on so well but has still got pain – the Mc Arthurs have been awfully good to her. There is a concert here tonight combined with a Magic Lantern lecture on Egypt by Major Anderson of the 20th Field Ambulance, but I did not go – the M.O's are giving us sandwiches in the board room afterwards – I came to bed instead. 22.8.15 (Sunday) Sunday again and the guns are booming a treat – they always start Sat-night and keep it up all day Sunday. I am alone in my little tent writing letters, trying to answer my home mail and the guns seem to get nearer and nearer. I was dying to go out for a joy ride this afternoon but had no luck. 27.8.15 (Friday) Dorothy Mitchell sent me my parcel from London – It is lovely getting some new clothes. Last evening Miss Marsh and I went to Arques and saw the hangar in which the French dirigible

Troopship Royal Edward – The Royal Mail Ship (RMS)/Hired Military Transport (HMT) Royal Edward was torpedoed on Friday 13 August 1915 while travelling from Alexandria to Lemnos with the loss of 864 lives.

Torpedoed – Self-propelled weapon with explosive war head. Propelled underwater towards target after being launched from a submarine.

Pop – Nurse Edith (Poppy) Popplewell. Born in New Zealand (NZ) grew up in Ballarat. Trained at Ballarat Hospital. Joined NZ nursing service and served in Egypt.

Close friend of the Wardle family.

Brother being killed – Private Cecil Popplewell of the 11th Battalion Australian Infantry AIF was killed at Lone Pine at Gallipoli during the third attack on Anzac Cove on Sunday 19 May 1915.

Miss Watkins – Sister Helen Margaret Gwyllam Watkins

The Pucker – Priscilla not prepared to use the F word

The Regular – The "Sister in Charge" of the ward or acting matron

Arques – A town 4.5 kilometres east of Saint Omer
Locky – Nurse Annie Maria Locke from the Orontes?

Mc Arthurs – DR G.A.W. McArthur and Mrs E.M. McArthur friends from the Orontes

Magic Lantern – Early form of projection of images produced on glass slides and projected on a screen

Egypt – Country linking Africa with the Middle East. Home of the Pharaohs, the Nile and the Pyramids.

Major Anderson – Not found

M.O.'s – Medical Officers (Doctors)

Board room – The room in which those that run the hospital meet regularly

22.8.15 – Sunday 22 August 1915

Joy ride – Having a ride in the motor car simply for the joy of it.

27.8.15 – Friday 27 August 1915

Dorothy Mitchell – Not identified

Miss Marsh – Probably English nurse Violet May Marsh who's signature V.M.Marsh is on Diary page 100

Dirigible – An air ship. A lighter than air aircraft often cigar shaped.

has been housed - it is 90 ft high 500 ft long & is painted like the fields around it - green & brown & buff coloured with stacks of hay on it & on the top of it there are poles like telegraph poles & it runs parallel with the railway line. There were sentry boxes all around it & when the ship was there it was well guarded - no one at all was allowed anywhere near it. There are hidden anti-aircraft guns too just beside it. Had photographs taken yesterday by Sister Marshall in the camp. Heard this week of a British ^{boat} transport ship that was mined in the English Channel only 4 miles from Boulogne - everyone was saved but all the guns were lost - many officers were coming back from leave - it was so near Boulogne that they could have swum ashore easily. This has never been in the papers else all leave would have been stopped. Yesterday when at Argues we met a Q.A. Sister out shopping - she was so pleased to see other sisters so we stopped & then walked along with her - she was in charge of a train given by Princess Christian - it is a beautiful ambulance train & we can go over it some time when it is at Blondecques. Sir Arthur Clouston has having afternoon tea with the other medical officers in the train and they also come visitors from headquarters there.

"She was in charge of a train given by Princess Christina"

Diary page 71

....has been housed – it is 90ft high and 500ft long and is painted like the fields around it – green and brown and buff coloured with stooks? of hay on it and on the top of it. There are poles like telegraph poles and it runs parallel with the railway line. There were sentry boxes all around it and when the ship was there it was well guarded – no one at all was allowed anywhere near it. There are hidden anti-aircraft guns too just beside it. Had photographs taken yesterday by Sister Marsh in the camp. Heard this week of a British troop ship that was mined in the Eng. Channel only 4 miles from Boulogne – everyone was saved but all kits? were lost – many officers were coming back from leave – it was so near Boulogne that they could have swam ashore easily. This has never been in the papers else all leave would have been stopped. Yesterday when at Arques we met a Q.A. Sister out shopping – she was so pleased to see other sisters so we stopped and then walked along with her – she was in charge of a train given by Princess Christina – it is a beautiful ambulance train and we can go over it some time when it is at Blendecques. Sir Arthur Sloggett was having afternoon tea with the other medical officers on the train and they also drove? visitors from headquarters there.

90ft – 27 metres

500ft – 152 metres

Stooks – A group of sheaves of grain stood on end in a field

Yesterday – Thursday 26 August 1915

Sister Marsh – Probably English nurse Violet May

Marsh who's signature V.M.Marsh is on Diary page 100

British Troop ship – A ship from Great Britain used for transporting troops/soldiers

Troop – Soldiers

Eng. Channel – English channel between France and England

4 miles – 6.4 kilometres

Boulogne – Town on French coast. 52kms west from Saint Omer

Yesterday – Thursday 26 August 1915

Arques – A town 4.5 kilometres east of Saint Omer

Q.A. Sister – Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service Sister

Princess Christina – Probably Princess Christian.

Princess Helena of the United Kingdom, Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein who was President of the Royal British Nurses Association and who founded the Princess Christian's Army Nursing Service (PCANS) and Reserve (PCANSR) which became the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS) and Reserve. (QAIMNSR)

Ambulance train – Train used to treat and transport wounded soldiers to land based hospitals in France or to sea ports for transport to England by ship.

Blendecques – An area 7 kilometres south east of Saint Omer

General Sir Arthur Sloggett – Director General Army Medical Services – DGAMS

72.

8.9.15. Poor old Edith has lost her brother at the Dardanelles - in that awful melee on the 7th of last month - she is awfully brave though. Today Miss is in London in company with 79 other nurses they are at the Doukhoe. I wonder if she will be sent to France. The guns have been dreadful lately for a fortnight & never ceasing day or night. I bought a new watch two days ago thinking I might be able to rise earlier if I had one but so I'm just as bad creeping out of bed a few minutes before seven. No more brown trousers in uniform now that we have new coats instead of those awful capes - got Mademoiselle Boire in the Rue de Calais to make them, & only charging 12 francs. We have had a cricket pitch made in one compound & I have been playing until I am positively sore to the touch. Capt. Griffiths is leaving us going to Col. C.P.S. Mr. Powell & Mr. Hughes are also going this month. The photographs taken of Capt. John & Mr. Powell, March & I are excellent. I seem to be losing touch with the outside world - war news is absolutely all I get these days - even today seems to be given to gallivanting around London & then gives me scraps of letters. Frickham is as miserable as a bandy cote these days - will certainly get promotion - I've heard on all hands that she has friends who have written to Miss McCarthy about her recommending her for promotion.

“Do not look as bad in uniform now that we have new coats instead of those awful capes”

Diary page 72

8.9.15 (Wednesday) Poor old Edith has lost her brother at the Dardanelles – in that awful melee on the 7th of last month – she is awfully brave though. Toby Vines is in London in company with 79 other nurses. They are at the Iwanhoe. I wonder if she will be sent to France. The guns have been dreadful lately for a fortnight never ceasing day or night. I bought a new watch two days ago thinking I might be able to rise earlier if I had one but no I'm just as bad creeping out of bed a few minutes before seven. Do not look as bad in uniform now that we have new coats instead of those awful capes – got Mademoiselle Bois in the Rue de Calais to make them and only charging 12 Francs. We have had a Cricket pitch made in one compound and I have been playing until I am positively sore to the touch. Capt. Griffiths is leaving us and going to No 1 C.C.S. Mr Purcell and Mr Urquart are also going this month. The photographs taken of Capt. John and Mr Powell, Marsh and I are excellent. I seem to be losing touch with the outside world – war news is absolutely all I get these days – even Toby seems to be given to gallivanting around London and then gives me scraps of letters. Fincham is as miserable as a bandy coote these days. will certainly get promotion I've heard and still lauds that she has friends who have written to Miss McCarthy about her recommending her for promotion.

8.9.15 – Wednesday 8 September 1915

Edith – Edith Victoria Donaldson
-Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Priscilla's best friend
Dardanelles – Also Gallipoli by which this battle became known in Australia. Commenced 25 April 1915.

Toby Vines – AANS nurse and family friend In photo album

Iwanhoe – Now called the Bloomsbury Street Hotel on Bloomsbury Street London

France – Country in western Europe. Paris is the capital city.
Mademoiselle Bois – Miss Bois not identified

Rue de Calais – The main street in Saint Omer

12 Francs – or 8 shillings and 6 pence or 86 cents decimal worth \$46 today
Cricket Pitch – A bat and ball game played between two teams of eleven players on a field at the centre of which is a 20 metre (22yards) pitch with a wicket at each end each comprising two bails balanced on three stumps. When ten players have been dismissed the innings ends and the teams swap roles
Playing Cricket – A sport or game in which two teams of eleven players try to score runs by hitting a small hard ball with a bat and running between two sets of small wooden posts. Most runs wins.

Capt Griffiths – Dr? not identified
No 1 CCS – No 1 Casualty Clearance Station at Chocques near Bethune 48 kilometres south east of St Omer.

Mr Purcell – Dr? not identified
Mr Urquart – Dr not identified
Capt John – Dr? not identified
Mr Powell – Dr not identified
Marsh – Probably English nurse
Violet May Marsh who's signature V.M.Marsh is on Diary page 100
Toby – Toby Vines a Ballarat trained nurse, family and personal friend.

Fincham – Nurse Isobel Edith Fincham from the Orontes.
Bandy coote – Bandicoot. Small (rabbit sized) animal (marsupial) that carries its young in a pouch.
Miss McCarthy – Dame Emma Maud McCarthy Matron-in - Chief, British Expeditionary Force, France and Flanders 1914 -1919. Born in Paddington, Sydney, Australia in 1859 died in England in 1949.

Last Sunday night March, Haines (Vad) & I had been to church & coming home the chip potatoes smelt so good at the stall that Miss Haines bought us each 2^d worth - we walked on & pretended to be quite detached - it was dark so we walked home eating them.

14.5.41 One of the patients told us that the shell a 9th 2^d near feet in the hospital at Baltham Thirsk for orderlies was one of our own - it was a mistake - they were shivelling the gun around & the way tried to stop it but it was too late - we often wondered why the sisters were allowed to go back after being here a week. I have had a ^{German} shell top given me also a souvenir of 3 little bullets joined together.

Had a quarrel with Fincham last night - 5 of us - she is eternally growning about something. We went to a concert at the Soldier's Club Room in St. ones & told the V.A.D. that we would not be in for supper because Fincham herself was not informed although she was off duty, she met us with a complaint. The concert was very good & the hall packed with men, about 18 sisters there. Two men were professionals & sang & played exquisitely. One of the one played the concertina in a marvellous fashion "The Last Chord" with harmonium accompaniment - the an imitation of bagpipes and all the latest songs & the men sang to them. Read in the papers yesterday that during 48 hrs last week the Germans rained 2 million shells in our lines so no wonder we heard such terrific firing.

“During 48hrs last week the Germans rained ½ million shells in our lines”

Diary page 73

Last Sunday night Marsh, Haines (V.A.D.) and I had been to church and coming home the chip potatoes smelt so good at the stall that miss Haines bought us each 2 sous worth. We walked on and pretended to be quite detached – it was late so we walked home eating them. 14.9.15 (Tuesday) One of the patients told me that the shell a 9inch that fell in the hospital at Baillieu and killed four orderlies was one of our own – it was a mistake – they were swivelling the gun around and they tried to stop it but it was too late – we often wondered why the sisters were allowed to go back after being here a week. I have had a German shell top given me also a souvenir of 3 little bullets joined together. Had a quarrel with Fincham last night – 5 of us – she is eternally grouching about something. We went to a concert at the Soldiers Club Room in St Omer and told the V.A.D. that we would not be in for supper and because Fincham herself was not informed although she was off duty, she met us with a complaint. The concert was very good and the hall packed with men, about 18 sisters there. Two men were professionals and sang and played exquisitely then one played the concertina in a marvellous fashion “The Last Chord” with harmonious accompaniment – then an imitation of bagpipes and all the latest rags and the men sang to them. Read in the papers yesterday that during 48hrs last week the Germans rained ½ million shells in our lines so no wonder we heard such terrific firing.....

Last Sunday – Sunday 5 September 1915

Marsh – Maybe Australian nurse Phillipa Marsh

Haines V.A.D. – Not identified

Chip potatoes – Chips cooked in oil and wrapped in paper. “Fries” invented by Belgians.

2 sous – 2 pennies or 2 cents worth \$5.90 today

14.9.15 – Tuesday 14 September 1915

Shell – Correctly in this case an artillery shell 229 mm around. This is fired and the fuse is set to explode often on impact. The brass case carrying the explosive propellant is ejected

9 inch – 229 millimetres

Baillieu – A town 41 kilometres east of Saint Omer

Orderlies – Attendants in a hospital responsible for non-medical care of patients and maintenance of order and cleanliness

Sisters- Nurses

Fincham – Nurse Isobel Edith Fincham from the Orontes.

St Omer – Saint Omer – France - The general Head Quarters (HQ) of the British Expeditionary Force October 1914 to March 1916

V.A.D. – Voluntary Aid Detachment. Voluntary civilians providing nursing care alongside military nurses. Includes the Red Cross VAD's.

The Last Chord – Probably “The Lost Chord” a song by Arthur Sullivan from the poem of Adelaide Anne Proctor called “A Lost Chord” as a tribute to his dying brother.

Bagpipes – A woodwind instrument using reeds fed from a reservoir of air in the form of a bag. A high nasal sound concurrent with a drone base.

48 hrs – Two days

½ million – 500,000 shells

Rags – Songs in “Ragtime” which may come from “ragged or syncopated rhythm”. A “rag” in ¾ time is a ragtime waltz

Firing – Artillery guns or cannons firing shells into the front lines.

74

24-9-15. Well old book I have not written in you for many days now - The Queen of Portugal & Lady Gifford, Sir Arthur Sloper (The Surgeon General) came to visit this morning. The old monks all dressed in their best & gave her (the Queen) a special new piece of red plush to kneel on for her prayers in their chapel - she brought the children sweets and the patients cigarettes and altogether was very gracious. We practised our curtains last night & put on clean caps aprons etc. I have been most dreadfully depressed for the last two days & tonight we heard that there is a big engagement on - we had no need to be told that as the roar of guns all day & last night has been deafening - just belabouring with out ceasing at all. All our patients are to be evacuated tomorrow at nine o'clock & we are to get ready at once to take in wounded - they say we'll have 150,000 wounded in the next few days alone. I have left German measles now & am nursing diphtheria & mumps & observation patients - have had a lot of praise lately from matrons about my work. Miss Watkins the Regulus has complimented me again & again & she told Miss M. Carthy that I was an excellent nurse - I'm blowing my own trumpet aren't I? But it is nice to know that the heads think well of you.

29-9-15. As I wrote a few days ago about the dreadful battle that was raging it will not be surprising to say we have had a very busy time since Sunday afternoon - we took in about a thousand on Sunday

“They say we'll have 150,000 wounded in the next few days alone”

Diary page 74

24-9-15 (Friday) Well old book I have not written in you for many days now – The Queen of Portugal and Lady Gifford, Sir Arthur Sloggett (The Surgeon General) came to visit this morning. The old monks all dressed in their best and gave her (The Queen) a special new piece of red plush to kneel on for her prayers in their chapel – she brought the children sweets and the patients cigarettes and altogether was very gracious. We practised our curtseys last night and put on clean cap aprons etc. I have been most dreadfully depressed for the last two days and tonight we heard that there is a big engagement on – we had no need to be told that as the roar of guns all day and last night has been deafening- just bellowing with out ceasing at all. All our patients are to be evacuated tomorrow at nine o'clock and we are to get ready at once to take in wounded – they say we'll have 150,000 wounded in the next few days alone. I have left German Measles now and am nursing Diphtheria and Mumps and observation patients – have had a lot of praise lately from matron about my work. Miss Watkins the Regular has complimented me again and again and she told Miss McCarthy that I was an excellent nurse – I'm blowing my own trumpet aren't I? But it is nice to know that the heads think well of you. 29-9-15 (Wednesday) As I wrote a few days ago about the dreadful battle that was raging it will not be surprising to say we have had a very busy time since Sunday afternoon – we took in about a thousand on Sunday.....

24-9-15 – Friday 24 September 1915

Old book – This Diary

Queen of Portugal – Queen Maria Amelia the last Queen of Portugal. A qualified nurse who was born and raised in France. Exiled from Portugal in 1908 and lived in France for the remainder of her life. Born 28

September 1865 would be 50 in four days time

Lady Gifford – Lady Sophie Catherine Gifford.

Sir Arthur Sloggett – Director General Army Medical Services – DGAMS

Monks – A person who practises religion by monastic living either alone or with any number of other monks.

Chapel – The Chapel at the Monastery now No7

British General Hospital in Saint Omer.

Curtseys – Correctly curtsy. Traditional gesture of greeting in which a girl or woman bends her knees while bowing her head.

Tomorrow – Saturday 25 September 1915

Nine o'clock – 9 am in the morning

into the hospital

German Measles – Very contagious viral illness that causes a skin rash and fever and can lead to serious illness.

Diphtheria – A contagious disease spread by an infected person coughing, sneezing or their open wounds. Can be prevented by vaccination.

Mumps – A viral infection with symptoms that include fever and rash. Easily preventable by vaccine.

Miss Watkins – Sister Helen Margaret Gwyllam Watkins

Regular – Sister in charge.

Miss McCarthy – Dame Emma Maud McCarthy Matron-in-Chief, British Expeditionary Force, France and Flanders 1914-1919. Born in Paddington, Sydney, Australia in 1859 died in England in 1949.

Blowing my own trumpet – Talk about one's own achievements

29-9-15 – Wednesday 29 September 1915

Sunday – Sunday 26 September 1915

Took in about a thousand – Wounded soldiers

evacuated some hundreds next day then had another
 convoy Monday night after dark - oh my it was
 heartbreaking to see them - the second convoy came
 in London buses - all sitting up cases & they had
 to be put out at the entrance gates as the buses
 could not get up the drive on account of trees.
 So up the drive they came hundreds of them
 mud from the tips of their heads to their boots -
 the ones with wounded heads & arms helped
 the lame ones to go on - several gassed cases
 were brought on stretchers to ill to walk. I have
 a section of 2nd Camp with 96 beds in it
 & there are four sections and besides two
 big tents with 28 beds in each - most of
 these men in the 2nd Camp were not very bad
 out of my 96 only 24 were bed cases -
 the others all scrambled along to the dressing
 tent next morning to be dressed - my medical
 officer T1 and two orderlies did the lot & a
 4th house going hand all the time. Although
 the news is good we have had very heavy casualties
 some of the men told us their regiments were
 terribly cut up. One sergeant with a fractured
 jaw has the D.C.M. - his capt. was killed.
 his subaltern wounded & he led his
 men on & chased a lot of Germans out of

"I and two orderlies did the lot in 4 1/2 hours going hard all the time"

Diary page 75

.... evacuated some hundreds next day then had another convoy Monday night after dark – oh my it was heartbreaking to see them – the second convoy came in London buses – all sitting up cases and they had to be put out at the entrance gates as the buses could not get up the drive on account of trees. So up the drive they came hundreds of them mud from tips of their heads to their boots – the ones with wounded heads and arms helped the lame ones and so on – several gassed cases were brought on stretchers – too ill to walk. I have a section of East Camp with 96 beds in it and there are four sections and besides two big tents with 28 beds in each – most of these men in the East Camp were not very bad out of my 96 only 24 were bed cases – the others all scrambled along to the dressing tent next morning to be dressed – My medical officer and I and two orderlies did the lot in 4 1/2 hours going hard all the time. Although the news is good we have had many heavy casualties. Some of the men told us their regiments were terribly cut up. One Sergeant with a fractured jaw has the D.C.M – his Capt. was killed his Subaltern wounded and he led his men on and chased a lot of Germans out of.....

Monday – Monday 27 September 1915

London buses – Double decker London buses were used to transport troops to France and stayed to transport injured soldiers

Gassed- Chlorine gas was first used by the Germans at Ypres in April 1915. Subsequent gases used were Mustard gas, Bromine and Phosgene gases.

Dressing tent- Where field dressings were applied. Bandages.

Medical officer- Doctor

Orderlies – Attendants in a hospital responsible for non-medical care of patients and maintenance of order and cleanliness

Sergeant – A senior non-commissioned officer

D.C.M – Distinguished Conduct Medal -

Capt – Captain in the British army.

Subaltern – Officer in the British army below the rank of Captain. Probably a Second Lieutenant.

Germans – German soldiers

76

Then went back for reinforcements & got wounded on the way going for them - his col. said he would be recommended for the S.C.M. Some ghastly Shrapnel wounds amongst them - some will lose arms & legs but here we just put on dressing & then they are evacuated - This hospital has been turned into a huge Casualty clearing station. The old monks have turned out of their cells & taken several statues of the virgin & different saints away - the Chapel so far is untouched but it may not remain so. That evening several big A.S. Carts brought lay here for the orderlies to sleep on & their blankets have been taken for the men. We'll be able to take in about 1700 patients by the end of the week. We did not get into bed till 1 o'clock Monday morning & were up again at 5.

15.10.18. It's a good long time since I last wrote in this book. After we evacuated, I was put in the theatre as I did have mercurial poisoning & her hand was in a very bad state. I have another staff nurse to help me. We have everything duplicated so that two surgeons may operate at the same time. A great many new sisters arrived for duty after our rush was over amongst the number four Canadians who are very good for they know how to sing all the latest songs.

“Some will lose arms and legs but here we just put one dressing on and then they are evacuated”

Diary page 76

.....there then went back for reinforcements and got wounded on the way going for them - his Col. said he would be recommended for the D.C.M. Some ghastly Shrapnel wounds amongst them - some will lose arms and legs but here we just put one dressing on and then they are evacuated - this hospital has been turned into a huge Casualty Clearing Station. The old monks have turned out of their cells and taken several statues of the virgin and different saints away - the chapel as yet is untouched but it may not remain so. Last evening several big A.S carts brought hay here for the orderlies to sleep on and their blankets have been taken for the men, We'll be able to take in about 1700 patients by the end of the week. We did not get into bed till 1 o'clock Monday morning and were up again at 5. 13.10.15 (Wednesday) It is a good long time since I last wrote in this book. After we evacuated, I was put in the theatre as Edith had mercurial poisoning and her hands were in a very bad state. I have another staff nurse to help me. We have everything duplicated so that two surgeons may operate at the same time. A great many new sisters arrived for duty after our rush was over. Amongst the number four Canadians who are very good fun They fox trot and sing all the latest rags.....

Col. - Colonel an officer in the British army.

D.C.M - Distinguished Conduct Medal

Shrapnel - Fragments of a bomb, shell or other object thrown out by an explosion

Casualty Clearing Station - Where wounds were first assessed before the injured being transported to the appropriate treatment hospitals.

Cells - Very small living areas like "prison cells"

Virgin - The Virgin Mary the mother of Jesus

Saints - Catholic Church Saints are people who have made it into heaven after their death through their saintly deeds while on earth.

Chapel - A place of Christian worship. Generally not a church but a smaller more private place of worship

A.S carts - Army Supply carts, Two wheeled often drawn by horses.

Orderlies - Attendants in a hospital responsible for non-medical care of patients and maintenance of order and cleanliness

End of the week - Probably Saturday 2 October 1915

1 o'clock - 1am in the morning

Monday - Probably Monday 27 September 1915

5 - 5am in the morning

13.10.15 - Wednesday 13 October 1915

Long time - Two weeks

Edith - Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Best friend

Mercurial poisoning - Presume Mercury poisoning

Staff nurse - A nurse immediately below Sister level.

Canadians - People from Canada in North America.

Fox trot - A smooth dance characterised by long continuous flowing movements on the dance floor. It is danced to big band music.

Rags - "Ragtime" may come from "ragged or syncopated rhythm" - a "rag" in ¾ time is a ragtime waltz

They have all sorts of concessions made to them for instance
 they went out motoring 23.10.18. Well these Canadians
 are used to motoring riding - tennis etc - in Boulogne
 they have their riding habits and the officers lend them
 horses & they have a rattling good time. Heriot went to
 Calais today for good "struck off the strength accordingly.
 Little Sergt. Jenkins came back to this hospital with
 diphtheria the night before last. He was a patient of
 mine about a month ago - he went out & was in the
 trenches & then got diphtheria & he was as pleased as punch
 to get back again. Edith is going on night duty tonight
 & I am about the last one now to go on - I wish I could go on
 with her. We had a party last night - champagne, pâté
 de foie gras sandwiches - Miss Lindley's shirt. Went for a
 walk last Sunday afternoon to the Flying Ground to see
 the two captured German aeroplanes. One was smashed
 in except the engine & the other had only a few wounds
 in the planes - they both had the German cross on them
 & were finely painted out & no signs painted on them.
 Several officers spoke to us amongst the number some who had
 been here for afternoon tea. Coming home I saw a pretty sight
 an old shepherd with a flock & a crook stick standing
 his sheep on the hillside - it looked like an old picture
 of Jerusalem the night of. I'm sure the "Angelus"
 was painted with the Church of Regent in the
 background & the figures in the fields near by no less.

“Coming home I saw a pretty sight an old Shepherd with a flock and a crook stick”

Diary page 77

....They have all sorts of concessions made to them for instance they went out motoring. 23-10-15 (Saturday) Well these Canadians are used to motoring and riding ~ tennis etc. In Boulogne they have their riding habits and the officers lend them horses and they have a rattling good time. Heriot went to Calais today for good “struck off the strength? accordingly. Little Sergt. Jenkins came back to this hospital with diphtheria the night before last. He was a patient of mine about a month ago ~ he went out and was in the trenches and then got diphtheria and he was as pleased as punch to get back again. Edith is going on night duty. It might unknown? about the last one now to go on ~ I wish I could go on with her. We had a party last night ~ Champagne, pate de foie grass sandwiches ~ Miss Lordly’s? shout. Went for a walk last Sunday afternoon to the Flying Ground to see the two captured German aeroplanes. One was smashed all except the engines and the other had only a few wounds on the planes ~ they both had the German cross on them and were freshly painted out and had signs painted on them. Several officers spoke to us amongst the numbers? some who had been here for afternoon tea. Coming home I saw a pretty sight an old Shepherd with a flock and a crook stick minding his sheep on the hillside ~ it looked like an old picture of Jerusalem one might see. I’m sure the “Angelus” was painted with the church of Arques in the background and the figures in the fields near by us here.

23-10-1915- Saturday 23 October 1915

Canadians ~ People from Canada in North America.

Boulogne ~ Town on French coast.

Departure point for injured soldiers.

52kms west from Saint Omer

Heriot ~ Katie Rae Heriot ~ On

Orontes ~ Signature on page 100

Calais ~ A coastal town of France

45.1 kilometres NW of Saint Omer.

Srgnt ~ Sergeant

Jenkins ~ Not identified

Diphtheria ~ A contagious disease spread by an infected person coughing, sneezing or their open wounds. Can be prevented by vaccination.

Trenches ~ Military trenches where troops are protected from rifle fire and artillery fire by the enemy. Often the front line.

Edith ~ Edith Victoria Donaldson ~ Trained at Ballarat Hospital and

departed with Priscilla on the Orontes.

Best friend

Last night ~ Friday 22 October 1915

Champagne ~ A sparkling wine made in the region of Champagne in France.

Pate de foie grass sandwiches ~ Pate a paste, pie or loaf made from ground different meats or fish and with wine or brandy (often Cognac or Armagnac) Foie Gras pate made from the liver of a duck or goose. Sandwiches pieces of bread with the Pate between on or on top.

Last Sunday ~ -Sunday 17 October 1915

Miss Lordly’s ~ Canadian nurse

Edwina Ratcliff Lordly signature on Diary page 100.

Flying Ground ~ Flying School.

Airfield. St Omer racecourse. 400 to 800 metres away from the hospital.

German Cross ~ The “Iron Cross” a military decoration from the Kingdom of

Prussia symbolically painted on

German aircraft.

Shepherd ~ A shepherder who tends and rears sheep.

Flock ~ A group of animals. Sheep.

Crook stick ~ A shepherds crook. A long sturdy stick with a hook at one end used to manage and protect sheep.

Jerusalem ~ A Holy City in the middle east where often shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks.

“Angelus” ~ Or L’Angelus an oil painting by Frenchman Jean-Francois Millet. Two peasants in a field with sheep and a church spire in the background.

Arques ~ A commune/town in northern France 4.5 kilometres south east from Saint Omer.

Figures in the fields ~ Like the figures in the fields in the “Angelus”

78

I am trying to edit a magazine about things & people but the house is about getting it printed.

October 31st I had a glorious day on Friday - went to Hardeot with Mabel as she has a weeks holiday at Lady Gifford's home there. The Col. lent us his car & it was a clear day altho' very cold - the woods were beautiful - all russet coloured leaves they quite unlike Australian woods - we passed thro numerous villages all quaint & pretty. The roads were very bad in places and we passed hundreds of A.S.C. waggons. It must have been marketing day for we met crowds of women driving covered carts - they all had white horses too for all the dark ones are at the war. Nearly all wore black woollen hoods too and they were awfully good complected just like red apples. Hardeot is in a fine wood & only about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the sea. It is ^{one of} the ~~best~~ Duchies of Argyll's homes and the late Duke was very fond of his home in France & had a private chapel in the grounds. The sand dunes were lovely & here & there a stray pine tree and bushes of coral pink berries without leaves. The house was white & faded & had stone terraces down to the drive. He arrived just in time for lunch & the Queen of Portugal was staying in the house with Lady Gifford & so I had lunch with a Queen. She is very big & tall

"I had lunch with the Queen"

Diary page 78

I am trying to edit a magazine about things and people but the trouble is about getting it printed. October 31st (Sunday) I had a glorious day on Friday ~ went to Hardelot with Marsh as she has a week's holiday at Lady Gifford's home there. The Col. lent us his car and it was a clear day altho' very cold ~ the woods were beautiful ~ all russet coloured leaves they're quite unlike Australian woods ~ we passed thro' numerous villages all quant and pretty. The roads are very bad in places and we passed hundreds of A.S.C. wagons. It must have been marketing day for we met crowds of women driving covered carts ~ they all had white horses too for all the dark ones are at the war. Nearly all wore black woollen hoods too and they have awfully good complexions just like rosy? apples. Hardelot is in a pine wood and only about ½ mile from the sea. It is one of the Duchess of Argyle's homes and the late Duke was very fond of his home in France and had a private chapel in the grounds. The sand dunes were lovely and here and there a stray pine tree and bushes of coral pink berries without leaves. The house was white and gabled and had stone terraces down to the drive. We arrived just in time for lunch and the Queen of Portugal was staying in the house with Lady Gifford and so I had lunch with a Queen. She is very big and tall.....

October 31st - Sunday 31 October 1915

Friday - Friday 29 October 1915

Hardelot - Picturesque coastal town of France 66 kilometres WSW of St Omer.

Marsh - Probably English nurse Violet May Marsh who's signature V.M.Marsh is on Diary page 100

Lady Gifford's - Lady Sophia Catherine Gifford (nee Street) Convalescent Home at Hardelot in France of which she was matron. The property was owned and loaned by the Duchess of Argyle the Princess Louisa and is also called the Princess Louise's Convalescent Home for Nursing Sisters

Col. - Colonel

Altho. - Although

Woods - Forest. Countryside.

Russet coloured leaves -

Thro'- Through

Quant - Probably "quaint" Attractively unusual or old fashioned

A.S.C.- Army Supply Core wagons which are four wheeled and either animal drawn or motorised.

Covered carts - Usually two wheeled and drawn by an animal or humans in this case white horses.

Black woollen hoods - Probably a woollen knitted cape with a hood. Currently a hoodie.

Complexions - The natural colour, texture and appearance of the skin especially on the face

Rosy apples - Red apples

Pine wood - Forrest or woods made up of Pine trees

Duchess of Argyle's - Louisa Caroline Alberta the sixth child and fourth daughter of Queen Victoria

Duke - Duke Of Argyle, John, George, Edward, Henry, Douglas, Sutherland Campbell the 9th Duke of Argyle 1845 - 1914.

France - Country in western Europe with Paris as it's capital city.

Chapel - A place of Christian worship. Generally not a church but a smaller more private place of worship

Coral pink - A reddish or pinkish shade of orange. Named after the sea animal also called corals

Gabled - A roof with a triangular often steep roof profile

Stone terraces - Flat raised areas often stepped. Platform like

Queen of Portugal - Queen Maria Amelia the last Queen of Portugal. A qualified nurse who was born and raised in France.

Exiled from Portugal in 1908 and lived in France for the remainder of her life.

I had a black skirt & white blouse & wore a violet silk golf coat. Lady Gifford is also tall & wore a lovely shade of grey uniform & plain grey cap like ours ^{only without the red} ~~white~~ Cap. She had the South African Cross also the order of St. John of Jerusalem. Her sister was sitting next to me - a Mrs. Seymour & she had the most delightful dogs. ~~At~~ We had cold roast beef & ham & various salads & mashed potatoes handed around in a casserole. Then batter pudding - The Queen altho' she speaks awfully good English did not understand the difference between a suttie & a batter pudding. After that of course there was cheese & then we went into another room with a delightful log fire - pine logs about 16 inches long, where we all stood about drinking coffee & eating biscuits - the Queen then came over to march & me & talked for a few minutes. We called her "Ma'am". Afterwards two Australian Marshals I went out & gathered berries for me to bring home. I did feel like Lady Muck returning home in the beautiful closed in car with two fur lined capes to keep me warm and crowds of pink berries, after lunching with Royalty (altho' departed) for the first time.

"I did feel like Lady Muck motoring home"

Diary page 79

..... and had a black skirt and white blouse and wore a violet silk golf coat. Lady Gifford is also tall and wore a lovely shade of grey uniform and plain grey cape like ours only without the red and white cap. She had the South African colours also the order of St John of Jerusalem. Her sister was sitting next to me - a Mrs Seymour she had the most delightful dogs. We had cold roast beef and ham and various salads and mashed potatoes handed around in a casserole. Then batter pudding - the Queen altho' she speaks awfully good English did not understand the difference between a butter and a batter pudding. After that of course there was cheese and then we went into another room with a delightful log fire - pine logs about 18 inches long, where we all stood about drinking coffee and eating biscuits - the Queen then came over to Marsh and me and talked for a few minutes we called her "ma'am". Afterwards two Australians Marsh and I went out and gathered berries for me to bring home, I did feel like Lady Muck motoring home in the beautiful closed car with two fur lined capes to keep me warm and crowds pink berries, after lunching with Royalty (altho' deposed) for the first time.....

Violet - Slightly bluish toned purple.
Silk - A fabric woven from silk worm cocoons which has a shimmering appearance and is very light in weight.
Golf coat - A short waist length jacket
Lady Gifford - Lady Sophia Catherine Gifford (nee Street)
Convalescent Home at Hadelot in France of which she was matron. The property was owned and loaned by the Duchess of Argyll the Princess Louisa and is also called the Princess Louise's Convalescent Home for Nursing Sisters.
South African colours - Was this the multicoloured South African flag. Her husband had been Boss of the British South African Company
The order of St John of Jerusalem - Awarded to members who have demonstrated loyalty and service to humanitarian services in the organisation for example to looking after the sick

Mrs Seymour - The Hon Louisa Mary Seymour (nee Street) Lady Gifford's sister.
Roast beef - Beef which is roasted or baked as a main meal
Casserole - Any food that is cooked and served in the same dish and usually baked.
Butter - Or bread and butter pudding. Layered buttered bread scattered with raisins in an oven dish then covered with egg custard mix and baked in the oven
Batter pudding - Or Yorkshire pudding made from batter baked in small baking forms in the oven. Traditional with Roast dinner.
Queen - Queen Maria Amelia the last Queen of Portugal. A qualified nurse who was born and raised in France. Exiled from Portugal in 1908 and lived in France for the remainder of her life.
Altho' - Although

English - The language spoken by people from England and used universally
Log fire - An open fire using tree logs as fuel
18 inches - 46 centimetres or 460 millimetres.
Marsh - Probably English nurse
Violet May Marsh who's signature V.M.Marsh is on Diary page 100
Berries - Fruit of a tree or bush
Lady Muck - A woman who thinks she is very important and should be treated as such
Pink berries - Maybe fruit of the "strawberry tree" or maybe "woodland strawberries" ?
Royalty - Queen of Portugal - Queen Maria Amelia the last Queen of Portugal. A qualified nurse who was born and raised in France. Exiled from Portugal in 1908 and lived in France for the remainder of her life.
Deposed - Removed from the throne

80

Dec. 1st 1915. The following is a copy of Poppie's last letter.
Cilla O'mine.

It ~~seems~~^{seems} just ages since I wrote to tell you I was leaving Egypt - no wonder really for so much has happened - we were bound for Salonika my dear & got torpedoed before we got there - wasn't it awful? & 10 of our Sisters gone - oh Cilla dear it was the most awful experience - there was a muddle with the life boats. Fortunately we all had had life belt drill so the minute we were struck, donned them & took our places without a word & with very white faces. I think most of us girls were really put into boats but we were no sooner in than we were in the sea & the huge transport appeared to be coming right on top of us & then we were miraculously washed right up past the very end of the boat & almost clear of her - that was a miracle, although for a brief minute I did go down & touch the very bottom of the sea, due to the strong suction but my amazement found me up again & flying a piece of wreckage. Then the great big ship we felt so proud to be on just slipped down into the sea head first without a sound or explosion I thank God - & we were scattered every where - fortunately I was able to keep my charm with me - she was not as strong as I & was simply terrified from the beginning.

“The following is a copy of Poppy’s last letter”

Diary page 80

.....Dec. 1st. 1915. (Wednesday) The following is a copy of Poppy’s last letter.

Cilla O’mine,

It seems just ages since I wrote to tell you I was leaving Egypt – no wonder really for so much has happened – we were bound for Salonika my dear and got torpedoed before we got there – wasn’t it awful? and 10 of our sisters gone – oh Cilla dear it was the most awful experience – there was a muddle with the life boats. Fortunately we all had had life belt drill so the minute we were struck, donned them and took our places without a word and with very white faces. I think most of us girls were really put into boats but we were no sooner in than we were in the sea and the huge transport appeared to be coming right on top of us and then we were miraculously washed right aft past the very end of the boat and almost clear of her – that was a miracle, although for a brief minute I did go down and touch the very bottom of the sea, due to the strong suction but to my amazement found myself up again and seizing a piece of wreckage. Then the great big ship we felt so proud to be on just slipped down into the sea head first without a sound or explosion thanks be – and we were scattered everywhere – fortunately I was able to keep my chum with me – she was not as strong as I and was simply terrified from the beginning.....

Dec 1st. 1915. Wednesday 1 December 1915

Poppy – NZ Nurse Edith (Poppy) Popplewell

Cilla O’mine - Endearment, Poppy and Priscilla may have been like sisters. Poppy and her mother were very close to the Wardle family. Poppy’s mother lived in Ballarat.

Egypt – Country linking Africa with the Middle East. Home of the Pharaohs, the Nile and the Pyramids.

Salonika – or Thessaloniki a Greek port city on the Thermaic Gulf of the Aegean Sea.

Torpedoed – Struck by an explosive torpedo from a German submarine or U-boat (underwater boat) in this instance U-35. The Marquette was considered fair game as it carried troops and ammunitions. It should not have carried nurses.

Gone – Dead

Cilla – Endearing nick name for Priscilla

Muddle – Mix up

Life boats – Small boats carried by ships so passengers can leave a sinking ship

The huge transport – The S. S. Marquette 7,057 tons

Aft – Towards the back or stern of a ship

Very bottom of the sea – The sea bed

Suction – The production of a partial vacuum above a ship as it sinks which sucks in and down any people or wreckage

Wreckage – Remains of something that has been badly damaged or destroyed

Great big ship – The S. S. Marquette 7,057 tons

Chum – Friend or best friend – in this case NZ Nurse Lorna Rattray

Terrified – Very very scared

we had been such abominable Cilla, like you & your Edith
 had shared rooms, beds even at times! & done absolutely
 everything together. Ever since we left Wellington - I just
 loved her & she depended on me somehow & I am so
 thankful I was able to keep her with me that awful
 day - the sea was fairly rough & bitterly cold & it all
 looked oh so hopeless dear - I never dreamt of being
 rescued - that was too remote - & all my time was
 then taken up with Rona & I hardly thought of
 another thing for she was so ill & so frightened & got
 weaker & weaker & I finally had to hold her on to the
 piece of board 4 of us were clinging to - another sister
 & a R. F. A. boy who finally went off on his own
 & we 3 girls were left. The other sister is a poor
 sort of a creature & I had to bully her too a bit
 but she was vomiting hard, poor beggar, & when
 Rona got very bad she helped me hold her & then
 my little pal died Cilla - oh dear, it was so sad
 I held ~~her~~ up her face with one hand while she
 died & tried to keep her with me afterwards but
 simply could not - I was getting done myself & had
 to let her go & now I can always see her little
 grey body floating away from me. I just thought
 I would be the next & wished it would all hurry up
 & end & then sister ~~it~~ climbed up on the board we had
 (it was about $\frac{1}{2}$ the size of a door) & lay flat

“ And when Lorna got very bad she helped me hold her and then my little pal died Cilla”

Diary page 81

We had been such chums Cilla, like you to your Edith, had shared rooms, beds even at times! and done absolutely everything together ever since we left Wellington ~ I just loved her and she depended on me somehow and I am so thankful I was able to keep her with me that awful day ~ the sea was fairly rough and bitterly cold and it all looked oh so hopeless dear ~ I never dreamt of being rescued ~ that was too remote ~ and all my time was then taken up with Lorna and I hardly thought of another thing for she was so ill and so frightened and got weaker and weaker and I finally had to hold her on to the piece of board 4 of us were clinging to ~ another Sister and a R. & A. boy who finally went off on his own and we 3 girls were left. The other sister is a poor sort of a creature and I had to bully her too a bit but she was vomiting hard, poor beggar, and when Lorna got very bad she helped me hold her and then my little pal died Cilla ~ oh dear, it was so bad I held up her face with one hand while she died and tried to keep her with me afterwards but simply could not ~ I was getting done myself and had to let her go and now I can always see her little grey body floating away from me, I just thought I would be the next and wished it would all hurry up and end and the sister and I climbed up on the board (it was about ½ the size of a door) and lay flat.....

Chums - Friend or best friend ~ in this case NZ Nurse

Lorna Rattray

Cilla - Nick name for Priscilla

Edith - Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Best friend

Wellington - Town on the south island of New Zealand

Bitterly - Very cold, Agonizingly cold, Painfully cold.

Rescued - Save from a dangerous situation

Remote - Unlikely to happen. A long way off.

Lorna - New Zealand Nurse Lorna Rattray

Pal - Friend or best friend ~ in this case NZ Nurse

Lorna Rattray

Ill - Sick

Frightened - Very scared

Clinging - Hanging onto

Sister - New Zealand Nurse Mary Walker

R & A - Royal Field Artillery

Bully - Use a threat, abuse, act aggressively towards, intimidate.

Vomiting - Forcefully bring up contents from the stomach and out of the mouth.

Poor beggar - Poor unfortunate person, hard done by.

Died - Stopped living, & breathing. Passed away.

Done - Getting weaker and tired.

Grey - Nurses uniforms were predominantly the colour grey.

Next - Next to die and float away

82

from down on it & let the waves do as they liked
 with us - & then we saw smoke in the distance I knew
 a ship had come - it was a British minesweeper & it
 had sent out a life boat which picked us up - goodness
~~know~~ how good those men were to us - they were
 simply beside themselves with pity for us & undressed us
 & rolled us in hot blankets & gave us hot brandy - it
 was 5 o'clock Priscilla then our head had been in the
 sea since 9 a.m.! So you can imagine what he
 felt like & rather than we did not feel at all!
 I knew nothing more till about 4 p.m. & at about
 11 we put on our dried & awful looking clothes
 & were taken on to a Hospital Ship in Salonika
 Harbour. I think that is enough about it all don't
 you? I would not mind anything & scrap
 'cills if only we were all here - fancy 10 sisters
 gone. I have been too miserable for anything
 since - we were all returned to Alex. Matron is
 dangerously ill - I don't think she will live today
 another sister is also very ill - the rest of us are
 kny well indeed - even the brides are about gone
 & we have stopped weeping! & of course want to
 go back & see the thing through now - Ho of one H. J.
 boys went to - I think but am not sure of the exact
 number - they were most P.F. & boys who went but
 I believe only 160 altogether - surprisingly few

"I would not mind anything a scrap Cilla if only we were all there – fancy 10 Sisters gone"

Diary page 82

.....front down on it and let the waves do as they liked with us – and then we saw smoke in the distance I knew a ship had come – it was a British minesweeper and it had sent out a lifeboat which picked us up – goodness how good those men were to us – they were simply beside themselves with pity for us and undressed us and rolled us in hot blankets and gave us hot brandy – it was 5 o'clock Priscilla then we had been in the sea since 9 a.m. So you can imagine what we felt like or rather that we did not feel at all! I knew nothing more till about 9p.m. and at about 11 we put on our dried and awful looking clothes and were taken onto a Hospital Ship in Salonika Harbour. I think that is enough about it all don't you? I would not mind anything a scrap Cilla if only we were all here – fancy 10 Sisters gone. I have been too miserable for anything since – We were all returned to Alex. Matron is dangerously ill – I don't think she will live today another Sister is also very ill – the rest of us are very well indeed – even the bruises are about gone and we have stopped weeping! And of course want to go back and see the thing through now – 40 of our N.Z. boys went too – I think but am not sure of the exact number – They were most R.of A. boys who went but I believe only 160 altogether surprisingly few.....

British – From Great Britain

Minesweeper – A minesweeper sweeps the ocean and removes (detonates) mines so other ships are not sunk. In this case Poppy was rescued by HMS Lynn.

Lifeboat – Small boats carried by ships so passengers can leave a sinking ship

Hot brandy – A "hot toddy" a mix of spirit/alcohol (brandy) hot water and honey.

5 o'clock – 5pm in the evening. Eight hours in the bitterly cold sea.

9am – 9 am in the morning when they entered the sea.

9pm – Assume Poppy slept for four hours

11 – 11 pm at night. Six hours from when they were rescued and fourteen hours after the Marquette sank.

Hospital Ship – The Grantully Castle a ship that treats and transports wounded soldiers to land based hospitals.

It was staffed by an English Matron and Australian nurses who shared their wardrobes with the survivors

Salonika Harbour – The harbour at Thessaloniki a Greek port city on the Thermaic Gulf of the Aegean Sea.

I would not mind a scrap- "I would not mind one little bit"

Cilla – Priscilla

10 Sisters gone – Ten New Zealand nurses had died

Alex – Abbreviation of the town name Alexandria a port city on the Mediterranean Sea in Egypt

Matron – Wagga Wagga born nurse who worked in New Zealand Matron Marie Cameron who was seriously injured and would die years later from her injuries.

Ill – Sick and/or injured

Sister – New Zealand nurse

40 – In fact it was 22. 19 New Zealand male Medical Corps staff (orderlies) and 3 New Zealand soldiers.

N.Z. – Soldiers from New Zealand

Went too – Died

R of A – Royal Field Artillery

160 – The actual number who died (lost) was 169 of 714 passengers.

considering how very quickly it all happened. was all over in 7-12 minutes from the time we got it. They "boarded" us on our return & have refused to think of sending some of us back for the present - I am ^{one} of those - am to stay here for a month at least - but am really very well indeed. We are getting our equipment! it is a terrible job & a terrible gap to have absolutely none of your treasures or necessities - don't forget I haven't a photo of anyone 'Cilla mine & send me yours quickly like a dear will you? I know one's personal effects are the least loss but it is impossible not to give a bit for some sunken treasures, don't you think so? I miss my chum so dreadfully & another girl whom I liked ever so much has gone too, I'm afraid I feel rather like a tin Soldier 'Cilla write soon - much love dear

(Dated Nov. 4th) Poppy

Poor Poppy - I did feel terribly upset when I read that letter - There are many brave women as well as men in this war. I read in "The Nursing Mirror" that when the women were being put in the life boats - they said "Save the fighting men first". Thinking of this has given me the blues for lately I feel as if I could die without a single regret. Things are so terribly depressing out here now.

“Poor Poppy – I did feel terribly upset when I read that letter”

Diary page 83

.... considering how quickly it all happened it? was all over in 7-12 minutes from the time we got it They “boarded” us on our return and have refused to think of sending some of us back for the present – I am one of those – am to stay here for a month at least – but am really very well indeed. We are getting our equipment! it is a terrible job and a terrible gap too to have absolutely none of your treasures or necessities – don’t forget I haven’t a photo of anyone Cilla mine and send me yours quickly like a dear will you? I know one’s personal effects are the least loss but it is impossible not to grieve a bit for some sunken treasures don’t you think so? I miss my chum so dreadfully and another girl whom I liked ever so much has gone too, I’m afraid I feel rather like a tin soldier Cilla

Write soon – much love dear

(Dated Nov. 4th) Poppy

Poor Poppy – I did feel terribly upset when I read that letter – there are many brave women as well as men in this war. I read in “The nursing mirror” that when the women were being put in the life boats – they said “save the fighting men first”. Thinking of this has given me the blues for lately I feel as if I could die without a single regret. Things are so terribly depressing out here now.....

Boarded – Put us up in accommodation. Probably tents in Alexandria.

Equipment – Nursing equipment, thermometers, stethoscope etc.

Cilla mine – Endearment, Poppy and Priscilla may have been like sisters.

Chum – Friend or best friend – in this case New Zealand Nurse Lorna Rattray

Tin soldier – Often made of lead. Feeling weighed down
Cilla – Priscilla

Dated Nov 4th – Dated Thursday 4 November
1915. The Marquette was torpedoed on Saturday 23

October 1915. It took about a month for the letter to reach Priscilla.

Poppy – New Zealand Nurse Edith (Poppy) Popplewell
The Nursing Mirror – A magazine for and read by nurses.

Life- boats – Small boats carried by ships so passengers can leave a sinking ship

Blues – Feeling depressed or sad

Depressing – Upsetting, heart- broken, dispirited, heart rending.

84

am on night duty for the first time tonight in the diphtheria ward with 30 patients. It is a howling night - the wind coming in every direction but the right one & driving the smoke down the chimneys.

A German Taube passed overhead today & our anti-aircraft people fired a few shots at it but as usual it was too high - rumours are abroad that this place is going to be shut down & all of us are going to the East. It would be rather nice to winter in Egypt or the Mediterranean - as the cold here is intense - everything was iced over for a couple of days this week.

Our billets on night duty are a little distance away from the hospital in a French house - they are comparatively quiet but the great disadvantage will be coming & going to them in bad weather.

8.12.11 This morning Miss Shearer & I went for a walk to Argues & saw the wonderful canal lift working. After getting permission from the French the Corporal took us on the barge as it went into the lift & then the big iron shutters closed & we were slowly elevated to a height of 68 ft. It took 8 minutes altogether to get to the higher water on the other side of the lift. A weight of 500 tons can be taken up & it is about 252 ft long & 20 ft wide & has a draught of 6 ft. It was built in 1887 & was made in Paris but I heard

“Miss Shearer and I went for a walk to Arques and saw the wonderful canal lift working”

Diary page 84

...Am on night duty for the first time tonight in the Diphtheria ward with 30 patients. It is a howling night – the wind coming in every direction but the right one and driving the smoke down the chimneys. A German taube passed overhead today and our anti aircraft people fired a few shots at it but as usual it was too high – rumours are abroad that this place is going to be shut down and all of us are going to the East. It would be rather nice to winter in Egypt or the Mediterranean – as the cold here is intense – everything was iced over for a couple of days this week. Our billets on night duty are a little distance away from the hospital in a French house – they are comparatively quiet but the great disadvantage will be coming and going to them in bad weather.

8.12.15 (Wednesday) This morning Miss Shearer and I went for a walk to Arques and saw the wonderful canal lift working. After getting permission from the French the Corporal took us on the barge as it went into the lift and then the big iron shutters closed and we were slowly elevated to a height of 65 ft. It took 8 minutes altogether to get to the higher water on the other side of the lift. A weight of 500 tons can be taken up and it is about 250ft long and 20ft wide and has a draught of 6ft. It was built in 1887 and was made in Paris but I heard.....

Night duty – Working throughout the night

Diphtheria – Correctly diphtheria A serious infection of the nose and throat. Spread by coughing, sneezing or open wounds. Treatment includes antibiotics and Diphtheria anti-toxin. Preventable by vaccine.

Howling night – Very strong wind

German Taube – The first monoplane in the world to be mass produced in Germany for military purposes.

Anti-aircraft – Soldiers who man and shoot the anti-aircraft cannons

This place – No 7 General Hospital in St Omer. These hospitals can retain their numbers but be moved to other sites or towns.

Egypt – Country linking Africa with the Middle East.

Home of the Pharaohs, the Nile and the Pyramids.

Mediterranean –

Billets- Civilian house where soldiers are lodged

French – The people or the language of France.

8.12.15 – Wednesday 8 December 1915

Miss Shearer – Not identified

Arques – A town 4.5 kilometres south east of Saint Omer.

Canal Lift – The Fontinettes Boat Lift is the only one in France and lifts boats and barges between two water levels on a waterway or canal. The only still working model is in England.

French – Born in or from France.

Corporal – A non-commissioned officer in the army.

Barge – A flat bottomed boat mainly for river and canal transport they may have their own power or be pulled by animals or even humans.

Lift – See canal lift

Shutters – Very large rubber sealed doors at both ends of a large box which could hold the barges. The lift had two boxes. To lift boats and barges up and down.

65ft – 20 metres

500 tons – 453,592 kilograms

250ft – 76 metres

20ft – 6 metres

6ft – 1.8 metres

Paris – The Capital city of France. Has the Eiffel Tower.

that it was to the design of a British engineer. However it is the biggest thing of the kind in the world & there are very few of them anywhere. The Capt said there were only two or three in England. When we got up to the top level then we clambered into another barge & came down again - altogether a most interesting proceeding. Edith has a night in bed on account of her cold. T. 100.2 & Miss Fincham has her orders & leaves tomorrow afternoon for Versailles. Oh before I forget I must add that the big objective that the Germans have for this particular area in which we live, besides Sir John French, seems to be this Marvellous Canal lift. They have tried to drop bombs on it many times without success. Of course it is well guarded & the French are most particular not to let strangers on it. Had it not been for our uniform we never should have been allowed. As for the special part of it the 250 ft - not even the R.E. officers are permitted to walk on it.

23.12.18 Have just had a letter from Florence Vines which was addressed to the 3 General & it therefore had been travelling about France for me - in it she says she may not go for a few weeks - if so I cannot understand why she did not write again. Last Sunday we witnessed Sir John French's farewell to his troops from our billet.

"Last Sunday we witnessed Sir John French's farewell to his troops"

Diary page 85

.....that it was to the design of a British engineer. However it is the biggest thing of this kind in the world and there are very few of them anywhere. The Cpl. said there were only two or three in England. When we got up to the top level then we clambered into another barge and came down again ~ altogether a most interesting proceeding. Edith has a night in bed on account of her cold. T. 100.2 and Miss Fincham has her orders and leaves tomorrow afternoon for Versailles. Oh before I forget I must add that the big objective that the Germans have for this particular area in which we live, besides Sir John French seems to be this marvellous canal lift. They have tried to drop bombs on it many times without success. Of course it is well guarded and the French are most particular not to let strangers on it. Had it not been for our uniforms we never should have been allowed. As for the special part of it the 250ft ~ not even the R.E. officers are permitted to walk on it.

23.12.15 (Thursday) Have just had a letter from Florence Vines which was addressed to no 3 General and it therefore has been travelling about France for me ~ in it she says she may not go for a few weeks ~ if so I can't understand why she did not write again. Last Sunday we witnessed Sir John French's farewell to his troops from our billet.....

British Engineer ~ Edwin Clark

Cpl - Corporal A non-commissioned officer in the army.

England ~ A country which is a part of Britain. London is the capital city. One lift is still working at Anderton in 2018

Edith ~ Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Best friend

T. ~ Temperature in this case "Edith's body temperature"

100.2 ~ Body temperature is normally 87.3

Miss Fincham ~ Nurse Isobel Edith Fincham from the Orontes

Versailles ~ A city 27 kms south west of Paris famous for a palace and gardens.

Sir John French - Earl of Ypres - Commander of the British Home Force a target for the Germans

Canal lift ~ The Fontinettes Boat Lift in Arques the only one in France lifts boats and barges between two

water levels on a waterway or canal. The only working model currently is in England.

Bombs - Explosive weapon that uses an explosive material to provide an extreme and violent release of energy.

French - The people or the language of France.

250ft ~ 76 metres

R.E. ~ Royal Engineers

23.12.15 ~ Thursday 23 December 1915

Florence ~ Nurse and family friend Florence (Toby) Vines

No 3 General ~ May have been confused with No 3 Australian General Hospital at Abbeville.

France ~ Country in western Europe with Paris as a capital city.

Last Sunday ~ Sunday 19 December 1915

Billet ~ Civilian house where soldiers are lodged

86

We were undressing for bed at 11 o'clock & hear such cheering that we ran outside thinking surely peace had been proclaimed. Across the fields on the Arguel Road we saw lined up thousands of troops in a double row & between them two cars passed containing Sir John & Staff officers. Here today we had his farewell message in "Special Order of the day". We were all wet-eyed when the cheering had finished - it did stir one's blood to hear it from so many lusty throats.

The channel is blocked again & no papers nor mails through today - it is bad luck so near Christmas too.

Miss Cumming told me that some of our mail from Aust. too has been burnt - a fire broke out near Adelaide & burnt some of the mail bags. Since I last wrote in Jan, old book, there have been some changes - Edith & Miss Wilson have both gone to the base to be General. Edith has pleurisy & Wilson pneumonia & she hasn't had her crisis yet & is very, very bad & on the D.I. list. Both were on night duty in the kitchen before we had stores in our bedrooms & they were frightfully damp. I sat on the window ledge last Sunday night & watched the lights on the battlefield away in the distance - star shells we saw bursting very distinctly and the fumes were terrible. The Germans used gas but fortunately it proved a failure this time. I'm afraid George Bay

"The Germans used gas but fortunately it proved a failure this time"

Diary page 86

.....we were undressing for bed at 11 o'clock and hear such cheering that we ran outside thinking surely peace had been proclaimed. Across the fields on the Arques road we saw lined up thousands of troops in a double row and between them two cars passed containing Sir John and Staff officers. Next day we had his farewell message in "Special order of the day" we were all wet eyed when the cheering had finished - it did stir one's blood to hear it from so many lusty throats. The channel is blocked again and no papers nor mails through today - it is bad luck so near Christmas too. Miss Cummins told me that some of our mail from Aust. too has been burnt - a fire broke out near Adelaide and burnt some of the mail bags. Since I last wrote in you, old book, there have been some changes - Edith and Miss Wilson have both gone to the base No 14 General. Edith has pleurisy and Wilson pneumonia and she hasn't had her crisis yet and is very very bad and on the S.I.? list. Both were on night duty in the billet before we had stoves in our bedrooms and they were frightfully damp. I sat on the window ledge last Sunday night and watched the lights on the battle field away in the distance - star shells we saw bursting very distinctly and the guns were terrible. The Germans used gas but fortunately it proved a failure this time. I'm afraid George Bury.....

Arques - A town 4.5 kilometres south east of Saint Omer.

Troops - Soldiers

Sir John - Sir John French Earl of Ypres -

Commander of the British Home Force

Staff officers - Officers who work for a Commander or in the Headquarters.

Lusty - Strong, full of vigour, energetic, hearty

Channel - The English Channel the seaway between England and France. Closed due to submarine danger.

Christmas - An annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ

Miss Cummins - Nurse Margaret Cumming from the Orontes

Aust. - Australia

Adelaide - The capital city of the state of South Australia in Australia

Edith - Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Best friend

Miss Wilson - Nurse Myrtle Elizabeth Wilson from the Orontes

No 14 General - No 14 British General Hospital in Wimereux near Boulogne

Pleurisy - Inflammation of the tissues that line the lungs and chest cavity

Pneumonia - Infection that inflames air sacs in one or both lungs which may fill with fluid

S.I. - Seriously Injured?

Billet - Civilian house where soldiers are lodged

Stoves - Enclosed space/box where fuel is burned to heat a room

Damp - The presence of unwanted water

Battlefield - A piece of ground on which a battle is or was fought

Star shells - A type of ammunition shell that bursts to release a shower of stars illuminating enemy positions

The guns were terrible - The noise from the artillery

Germans - People from or born in Germany. The German army.

Gas - Main poison gases used in WWI are Phosgene and Mustard Gas

George Bury - Doctor George Chadwell Bury

has been in this engagement as he is over in that direction.
 near Popersnighe. We have been making coloured paper
 lamp shades for the electric lights in the wards & have
 big bunches of mistletoe hung up & holly etc. Some
 of the Sisters are giving each patient a present but
 I cannot do that as I have 62 ^{now} so am just getting
 together a parcel of good things to eat for them.

There is an Indian Prince over in the officers' section
 he has his servant always with him & not any one else
 but the M. is allowed in his tent - the Sisters do not
 go near at all. His Secretary & servant pass our billet
 every morning & he often sees them, but so far I haven't
 seen the Prince.

24.12.15. I am feeling very sick over the news in the papers
 tonight - cried till I was sick when I read of the withdrawal
 of our troops from Gallipoli - how cruel it all is - to have left
 them there so long after they knew it was futile - it is all too
 tragic & I feel like murdering the men who were responsible
 for the blunders of the Dardanelles. To think of the hundreds
 of graves out in that lonely peninsula given for nothing.

The pity of it! What is the next mistake I wonder the
 English will make. Our mails haven't come through yet
 & we hear from the Cpt who went down to ~~Bomb~~ Boulogne
 yesterday in the ambulance that a submarine has sunk
 3 small British ships this week in the Channel.

Poor old Wilson is worse - yesterday they thought she was

“Cried till I was sick when I read of the withdrawal of our troops from Gallipoli”

Diary page 87

.....has been in this engagement as he is over in that direction near Poperinghe. We have been making coloured paper lamp shades for the electric lights in the wards and have big bunches of mistletoe hung up and holly etc. Some of the Sisters are giving each patient a present but I can't do that as I have 62 now so am just getting together a parcel of good things to eat or them, There is an Indian Prince over in the officers section he has his servant always with him and not anyone at all but the M.O. is allowed in his tent – the Sisters do not go near at all. his Secretary and Servants pass our billet every morning and we often see them but so far I haven't seen the Prince.

24.12.15 (Friday) I am feeling very sick over the news in the papers tonight – cried till I was sick when I read of the withdrawal of our troops from Gallipoli – how cruel it all is – to have left them there so long after they knew it was futile – it is all too tragic and I feel like murdering the men who were responsible for the blunders of the Dardanelles. To think of the hundreds of graves out in that lonely Peninsula, given for nothing. The pity of it! What is the next mistake I wonder the English will make. Our mails haven't come through yet and we heard from the Cpl who went down to Boulogne yesterday in the ambulance that a submarine has sunk 3 small British ships this week in the channel. Poor old Wilson is worse – yesterday they thought she was.....

Engagement – Battle

Poperinghe – A municipality located in Belgium province of West Flanders 44kms NE of saint Omer and near Ypres

Mistletoe – A plant which attaches to a host tree or shrub. We kiss under the Mistletoe because legend says Frigg promised a kiss to all who passed beneath it.

Holly – Probably common holly. Spiked dark green leaves with red berries. At Christmas the sharp leaves are said to symbolize Christ's crown of thorns and its red berries the blood he shed.

Sisters – Nurses

62 – Number of patients

Indian Prince – Maybe Bhupinder Singh of Patiala

Servant – A person who performs duties for others

M.O. – Medical Officer { Doctor}

Secretary – An administrative professional or personal assistant.

Billet – Civilian house where soldiers are lodged

24.12.15 – Friday 24 December 1915. Christmas eve.

Gallipoli – See Dardanelles

Dardanelles – Battle of the Dardanelles also Gallipoli by which this battle became known in Australia.

Commenced 25 April 1915. Australia had approximately 8000 soldiers killed and 18,000 soldiers injured at Gallipoli

Peninsula – The Gallipoli Peninsula site of Anzac Cove, Lone Pine and the battle of the Dardanelles.

English – People born or from England. In this case the English in charge of the war.

Cpl. – Corporal A non-commissioned officer in the army.

Boulogne – Town on French coast. Departure point for injured soldiers. 52kms (44mins) west from Saint Omer

British – United Kingdom made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Channel – The English Channel the seaway between England and France.

Wilson – Nurse Myrtle Elizabeth Wilson from the Orontes

88

going to die & sent for his relation in Scotland. I could give up everything tonight - The irony of Christmas this year of peace on earth goodwill towards men!"

^{11.11.16} ~~didn't~~ ^{we} are going around the hospital on Christmas ^{evening} singing carols. Everything is being made as nice as possible for the patients - ^{the} sisters on day duty have bought them cakes, buns, meat paste etc & I have got muscades almonds & dates for them. Mother has several sacksful of presents from the Red Cross. In a very pretty ^{old} bluey grey ^{enamel} glazed vase with a slender neck I have two small sprays of Eucalyptus in flower & bud. Miss Watkins bought it for me in Donloque yesterday. Morty sent me a mince pie tonight to eat before Xmas as it is supposed to bring good luck.

1.1.16. May the New Year first 48 minutes old bring us better times than the last one did. At Supper we had liqueurs & drank the healths of 'the King' 'the one we love best', 'the men at the front', 'the sick & wounded' etc etc. Some of the M.O.'s came down & joined in with us - then some day Sisters also came down with new liqueurs & shortbread so it was quite jolly.

Well, the Xmas was the most miserable it was possible to have - poor old Wilson died on the Thursday night before Christmas at 7.30 p.m. She was conscious to the last & spoke of us all & told Edith to say goodbye to us. She & Edith took communion two days before she died.

“The irony of Christmas this year and peace on earth good will towards men!”

Diary page 88

.....going to die and sent for her relation in Scotland. I could give up everything tonight ~ The irony of Christmas this year and “peace on earth good will towards men!” Yet we are going around the hospital on Christmas morning singing Carols. (added note 1/1/16 : didn't sing Carols after all. P.W.) Everything is being made as nice as possible for the patients ~ the sisters on day duty have brought their cakes, bon bons, meat paste etc and I have got muscatels, almonds and dates for them. Matron has several sacks full of presents from the Red Cross. In a very pretty bluey grey unknown? glazed vase with a slender neck I have two small sprays of Eucalyptus in flower and bud. Miss Watkins bought it for me in Boulogne yesterday. Morty? sent me a mince pie tonight to eat before Xmas as it is supposed to bring good luck.

1.1.16 (Saturday) May the new year just 48 minutes old bring us better times than the last one did. At supper we had liquers and drank the health of “The King” “the ones we love best” “the men at the front” “the sick and wounded” etc etc Some of the M.O.'s came down and joined in with us ~ then same day ~ Sisters also came down with more liquers and shortbread and so it was quite jolly. Well the Xmas was the most miserable it was possible to have ~ poor old Wilson died on the Thursday night before Christmas at 7.30p.m. She was conscious to the last and spoke of us all and told Edith to say goodbye to us. She and Edith took communion two days before she died.....

Scotland - United Kingdom most northerly country (British)

Christmas - An annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus

Christ

Carols - Festive songs generally religious with Christmas themes.

Traditionally sung at Christmas

Added note 1/1/16 - Priscilla entered an addition on Saturday 1 January 1916

P.W. - Priscilla Wardle

Bonbons - A sweet or small confection. A chocolate coated bun also sweets, hard candy, chocolates, lollipops etc.

Meat paste - A paste made from beef, liver pork, turkey etc. Called pate in French.

Muscatels - Are small dried muscat grapes served with cheese and bread.

Matron - Acting Principal Matron Helena Hartigan RRC

Red Cross - Red Cross parcels containing food, hygiene products, cigarettes, chocolate, cookies etc.

Glazed - Smooth shiny hard coating Eucalyptus - Flowering tree native to Australia with pungent sap, red or yellow flowers as part of “gumnut”.

Miss Watkins - Maybe nurse Helen Margaret Gwyllam Watkins

Boulogne - Town on French coast.

Departure point for injured soldiers. 52kms west from Saint Omer

Morty? - Maybe nurse M. M.

Morrison working in London

1.1.16 - Saturday 1 January 1916

New Year's Day

48 minutes - The time was 12.48am on

New Year's day

Xmas - Short form of Christmas

Liqueurs - Alcoholic distilled spirits.

Gin, Rum, Brandy, Whisky, Vodka, Cointreau, etc.

The King - King George V (George, Frederick, Ernest, Albert Windsor)

M.O.'s - Medical officers (Doctors)

Sisters - Nurses

Wilson - Nurse Myrtle Elizabeth

Wilson from the Orontes

Edith - Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Best friend

Communion - Is the bond uniting Christians with each other and with Jesus. The Eucharist or Holy Communion or Lord's Supper is the sacramental rite.

she was quite prepared to go. They paid her a military funeral. Their M^r Carthy - Matron-in-Chief, Miss Fletcher, Matron of the Red Cross, most of the staff from the Australian Voluntary Hospital, the Matron, some Sisters & N^{rs} from home & many officers including Frenchmen followed the hearse to the cemetery outside of Boulogne. As the coffin was being lowered, the Matron ~~was~~ of the Aus. Vol. Hosp. Miss Greaves R.R.C. scattered a big bunch of wattle blossoms on it. We did not get the telegram until 11 o'clock ~~next~~ ^{the} day after she died & she was buried at 2 p.m. Poor Edith must have suffered intensely being in the next bed to her. I went to see Miss Cheekman on Sunday. She was most distressed & was home sister & had to attend to the Christmas dinner etc & decorations for the sisters' mess & of course she did not at all feel inclined for that.

Edith is going to Aardret soon. Hannah is then now & to leave from here Mrs Owen & Miss Doyle go. Florence hasn't left London yet - she sent me a nice parcel yesterday. I do wish I could get across to see her but my leave seems a very long way off.

Went to market on the morning of Christmas Eve - it is held every week on Saturdays in the Grand Place & Place in St. Hubert - all round the squares women were selling produce & vegetables, while in the Centre were women of drapery. I was amused to see the women carrying alive rabbits by their ears home from market - they are not wild like ones but when you eat them you feel as if you are eating the domestic cat.

"I was amused to see the women carrying alive rabbits by their ears home from market"

Diary page 89

...she was quite prepared to go. They gave her a military funeral and Miss McCarthy – Matron – in – Chief, Miss Fletcher, Matron of the Red Cross, most of the staff from the Australian Voluntary Hospital, the matron, some sisters and M.O.'s from no 14 and many officers including Frenchmen followed the hearse to the cemetery outside of Boulogne. As the coffin was being lowered, the matron of the Aus. Vol. Hospital, Miss Greaves R.R.C. scattered a big bunch of wattle blossom on it. We did not get the telegram until 11 o'clock the day after she died and she was buried at 2p.m. Poor Edith must have suffered intensely being in the bed next to her. I went to see Miss Cheeseman on Xmas day. She was most distressed and was home sister and had to attend to the Christmas dinner etc and decorations for the sisters' mess and of course she did not at all feel inclined for that. Edith is going to Andelot soon. Hamilton is there now and tomorrow from here Miss Owen and Miss Doyle go. Florence hasn't left London yet – She sent me a nice parcel yesterday – I do wish I could get across to see her but my leave seems a very long way off. Went to market on the morning of Christmas eve – it is held every week on Saturdays in the Grand Place and Place Victor Hugo? All round the squares women were selling produce and vegetables while in the Centre were booths of drapery. I was amused to see the women carrying alive rabbits by their ears home from market – they are not wild like ones but when you eat them you feel as if you are eating the domestic cat

Miss McCarthy Matron in Chief – Dame Emma Maud McCarthy Matron-in-Chief, British Expeditionary Force, France and Flanders 1914-1919. Born in Paddington, Sydney
Miss Fletcher Matron of the Red Cross – Australian nurse Nora Kathleen Fletcher Matron In Chief of the British and Belgium Red Cross and Order of St John nurses in France in 1915.
Australian Voluntary Hospital – Established by Lady Dudley at the Hotel du Golf on a cliff overlooking the sea in Wimereux 55kms west of St Omer.
M.O.'s – Medical officers (Doctors)
No 14 – No 14 General Hospital in Wimereux 55 kms west of St Omer.
Frenchmen – Men from or born in France
Boulogne – Town on French coast.
Departure point for injured soldiers. 52kms west from Saint Omer
Aus. Vol. Hospital – see Australian Voluntary Hospital

Miss Greaves R.R.C. Australian nurse
Matron Ida Mary Greaves (nee Searle)
Wattle blossom– A flower with small green petals and yellow flowers in dense rounded colours. An acacia, golden wattle. The Australian floral emblem. Displays national colours green and gold. Symbol of unity also remembrance and reflection.
Telegram – A message sent using an electric device and delivered in written form particularly for urgent letters. Nowadays telephones are used.
Edith – Edith Victoria Donaldson – Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Best friend
Miss Cheeseman – Nurse Beatrice Graham Cheeseman from the Orontes
Xmas – Shortened word for Christmas
Christmas – An annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ
Sisters – Nurses

Mess – Or mess hall (in this case a large tent/marquee) where military personnel socialize and eat.
Andelot – Andelot-Blancheville a small village located in north east France 412kms south west of Saint Omer.
Hamilton – Nurse Ellen (Nellie) Mary Hamilton from the Orontes
Miss Owen – Not identified
Miss Doyle – Maybe Nurse Estelle M Doyle from the Orontes or nurse Helen (Nellie) Grace Doyle
Florence – Nurse and family friend Florence (Toby) Vines photos in album
London – The Capital city of England
Grand Place – The elegant t cobbled town square where markets are held also called Place du Marechal Foch
Place Victor Hugo– One block from Grand Place above.
Rabbits – Or bunny a small mammal with very large ears and a "cottontail".

90

They were selling evergreens in the square too, holly etc for Xmas decorations. 13.1.16 Yesterday I went to Bonifacio with 6 C.P.M. cases to No 14 St. Hosp. in the ambulance, after leaving the patients I went on to No 14 General to see Edith, after she had finished her lunch I took her for a walk in the village. Mr. & Mrs. the Padre a nice man who came back with us. Edith seems better, yet her breathing is still much impeded. We had a good *le cha* and both enjoyed seeing each other. Then I went on to see Lockie who looked "in the pink" - while I was there Baldy Birrell came in from leave, I also won a ticket in a raffle, just a bit of fun one of Lockie's officers' patients had. The hospital she is in is most beautiful - also No 14 is also they were palatial hotels for the seaside resort & are just magnificent, such a change after No 7 General. Coming from Wismereux into Bonifacio the train stopped just as we neared B. I would not go any further because the sea was coming over the wall, right over the road & the water was about a foot deep in the clefts of the road. It was a wonderful sight watching the waves dashing up the high parapet & over. I did not see much of Bonifacio but coming in by the amb. we passed the old town and the wall which surrounds it which is so wide that a horse carriage could drive along the top of it. On Monday morning about one o'clock we watched hundreds of Alpian soldiers pass along

“They are palatial hotels for the seaside resort and are just magnificent”

Diary page 90

...they were selling evergreens in the square too, mistletoe, holly etc for Xmas decorations.

13.1.16 (Thursday) Yesterday I went to Boulogne with 6 C.S.M. cases to no 14 St. Hosp in the ambulance. After leaving the patients I went on to no 14 General to see Edith, after she had finished her lunch I took her for a walk in the village and we met the Padre a nice man who came back with us. Edith seems better yet her breathing is still much impeded. We had a good old chat and both enjoyed seeing each other then I went on to see Lockie who looked “in the pink” – while I was there Baldy Birrell came in from leave, I also took a ticket in a raffle just a bit of fun one of Lockie’s officer patients had. The hospital she is in is most beautiful – also no 14 is also they were palatial hotels for the seaside resort and are just magnificent, such a change from no 7 General, Coming from Wimereux into Boulogne the train stopped just as we neared B. and would not go any further because the sea was coming over the wall, right over the road and the water was about a foot deep in the centre of the road. It was a wonderful sight watching the waves dashing up the high parapet and over. I did not see much of Boulogne but coming in by the amb? we passed the old town and the wall which surrounds it and which is so wide that a horse and carriage could drive along the top of it. On Monday evening about our bed time 11 o’clock we watched hundreds of Algerian Soldiers pass along.....

Evergreens – Plants with leaves throughout the year
Mistletoe – Plant in ancient legends, folklore and folk medicine.
If you are under Mistletoe with someone at Xmas you must kiss them.

Holly – Popular Christmas decoration with spiky, shiny dark green leaves and bright red berries,
Xmas – Corrupted form of the word Christmas the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

13.1.16 – Thursday 13 January 1916

Boulogne – Town on French coast. departure point for injured soldiers. 52kms west from Saint Omer and 7kms south of Wimereux

C.S.M – Company Sergeant Major or Conspicuous Service Medal

No 14 St. Hospital – No 14 Stationery Hospital in Wimereux

14 General – No 14 General Hospital in Wimereux,

Edith – Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Best friend

Village – Wimereux

Padre – Priest

Impeded – Handicapped, retarded, hindered.

Chat – Talk, discussion.

Lockie – Nurse Annie Maria Locke from the Orontes

In the pink – In extremely good health and spirits

Baldy Birrell – Doctor William Alexander Hamilton Birrell

No 7 General - No 7 British General Hospital

Malassises (previously a Monastery now a Private

School - College Lycee La Malassise Saint - Omer)

Wimereux – French town on coast 7kms north of Boulogne and 57kms west of Saint Omer

B – Boulogne

Foot – Or 12 inches is 30cms or 300mm.

Amb – Ambulance?

Monday – Monday 10 January 1916

11 o’clock – 11pm at night

Algerian Soldiers - Soldiers from Algeria in NW Africa. A colony of France.

the road by our billet - with them were French officers some with their steel helmets on. The Algerians were a kind of Khaki Pig - they all rode small thick set ponies & rode superbly - the ponies of them all were all the same height & the men were short & all about the same size too.

After the last one had just passed we heard a big explosion & then the anti-aircraft guns began firing at a taube - it passed overhead after dropping several bombs - two of our biplanes were chasing it or heading it off & the next lot of anti-aircraft guns started on it over on the hill by Argues. Well we were too intent watching the firing & the shots exploding all around the taube which was a mere speck in the sky near the new moon (still to be seen) & we didn't notice a second taube coming along but soon later was a terrific explosion by our side & we saw that the house 100 yards from our billet had been bombed. A big cloud of black smoke & earth issued forth - no windows in our bedroom were smashed over our floor & the telegraph wires dropped to earth instantaneously at the front door. While the taube was so near us we were a bit bewildered & wondered whether we would stay in the house or go out we decided on the latter & out we ran into the road in nightgowns & dressing gowns until all danger was passed - even then though we did not know if we were safe as we couldn't see them they were so high up & the first intimation was the bursting shell.

“There was a terrific explosion by our side and we saw that the house 100 yards from our billet had been bombed”

Diary page 91

.....the road by our billet ~ with them were French officers and men with their steel helmets on. The Algerians wore a kind of khaki fez ~ they all rode small thick set ponies and rode superbly ~ the ponies of them all were all the same height and the men were short and all about the same size too. After the last one had just passed we heard a big explosion and then the anti aircraft guns began firing at a taube ~ it passed overhead after dropping several bombs ~ two of our biplanes were chasing it or heading it off and the next lot of anti aircraft guns started on it over on the hill by Arques. Well we were so intense watching the firing and the shots exploding all around the taube which was a mere speck in the sky near the new moon (still to be seen) and we didn't notice a second taube coming along but soon there was a terrific explosion by our side and we saw that the house 100 yards from our billet had been bombed. A big cloud of black smoke and earth issued forth ~ our windows in our bedroom were smashed over our floor and the telegraph wires dropped to earth instantaneously at the front door. While the taube was so near us we were a bit bewildered and wondered whether we would stay in the house or go out. We decided on the latter and out we ran into the road in night gowns and dressing gowns until all danger was passed ~ even then though we did not know if we were safe as we couldn't see them they were so high up and the first intimation was the bursting shell.....

Billet - Civilian house where soldiers are lodged

French - The people or the language of France.

The Algerians - Soldiers from Algeria in NW Africa. A colony of France.

Khaki - Shade of brown with yellow tinge (close to green)

Fez - Headdress or hat shaped like a short cylinder sometimes with a tassel

Anti - aircraft guns - Weapon /gun designed to attack and defend against enemy aircraft by damaging them. Usually fires shells at a high rate.

Taube - First monoplane to be mass produced in Germany for military purposes.

Bombs - Explosive weapon that uses an explosive material to provide an extreme and violent release of energy.

Biplanes - Fixed wing aircraft with two horizontal stacked wings.

Arques - French town 4,5 kms south east of Saint Omer

Exploding - Burst or shatter violently and noisily as a result of rapid combustion or other process

New moon - The lunar disk is not visible as no light is being reflected by the moon. It is dark.

Explosion - A rapid increase in noise and release of energy in an extreme manner causing extreme damage.

100 yards - Or 300 feet is 91 metres

Bombed - To have explosive bombs dropped on you from aircraft

Telegraph wires - Strung on poles above ground

Bewildered - Confused, puzzled, unsure.

Latter - Occurring at the end or last mentioned.

Night gown - Or nightie or night dress. A loosely hanging form of nightwear worn to bed by women

Dressing gown - A long loose robe typically worn when getting out of bed or after bathing.

Intimation - Indication or hint

Bursting shell - Or bomb dropped by the Taub and exploding.

92

The spy system of the enemy seems so truly thorough that the opinion is that they were informed of the movements of the French troops from one part of the line to another & that they were to pass along this road. I have for some pieces of the shell, also a shell case which one of the medical officers procured for me from the anti aircraft gunners. They are very hard to get as how they should return empty shell cases to be filled again.

24.1.14. A week after the tanks visit I was nursing a Belgian Baroness for one night at the Hotel de Commerce in St. Omer & next morning we heard shooting & the Cathedral bells ringing & looking out of the window saw another tank. It was quickly chased off by guns & aeroplanes. Miss Botting was with the Baroness all day & I relieved her at 9 o'clock. She was a charming girl only 23. A widow with a child $2\frac{1}{2}$ yrs. Her fiancé an American named Marburg - he had been in an Infantry Regiment but had changed to the R.F.C. & one day had an accident fell from his plane 300 ft & smashed his leg so that it had to be amputated. The Baroness de Vivaio was summoned from Paris & whilst staying at the Hotel de Commerce caught a chill & had a high temperature. She had the most delightful clothes & toilet accessories the last named with a coronet engraved thereon. Some of ivory with monogram & coronet in inlaid silver.

“I was nursing a Belgian Baroness for one night at the Hotel De Commerce in Saint Omer”

Diary page 92

....The spy system of the enemy seems so truly thorough that the opinion is that they were informed of the movement of the French troops from one part of the line to another and that they were to pass along this road. I have got some pieces of the shell, also a shell case which one of the medical officers procured for me from the anti aircraft gunners O.C. They are very hard to get as how they should return empty shell cases to be filled again.

24.1.16 (Monday) A week after the taube's visit I was nursing a Belgian Baroness for one night at the Hotel De Commerce in Saint Omer and next morning we heard shooting and the Cathedral bells ringing and looking out of the window saw another taube. It was quickly chased off by guns and our aeroplanes. Miss Bothing? was with the Baroness all day and I relieved her at 9 o'clock. She was a charming girl only 23 and a widow with a child 2 1/2 yrs. Her fiancé an American named Marburg - he had been in an Infantry regiment but had changed to the R.F.C. and one day had an accident and fell from his plane 300ft and smashed his leg so that it had to be amputated. The Baroness De Vivario was summoned from Paris and whilst staying at the Hotel de Commerce caught a chill and had a high temperature. She had the most delightful clothes and toilet accessories the last named with a coronet engraved thereon. Some of ivory with monogram and coronet in inlaid silver.....

Spy system - Spying is the method of secretly collecting intelligence information which can be used against an enemy
Enemy - A hostile nation or their armed forces

French - People born or from France.

Shell - Correctly in this case an Artillery "shrapnel shell" 76.2mm around and weighing around 6 kilos. This is fired and the fuse is set to explode at a set height. The brass case carrying the explosive propellant is ejected

Shell case - This carries the explosive propellant to send the projectile to its target height and is usually made of brass.

Medical officers - Doctors

Anti-aircraft gunners - Soldiers who operate the anti-aircraft guns

O.C. - Officers Clerk

Filled - Brass shell cases can be refilled and used numerous times.

24.1.16 - Monday 21 January 1916

Taube - First monoplane in the world to be mass produced in Germany

Belgian Baroness - Baroness Gisele De Vivario of Liege (Refugee from French speaking Liege in Belgium) (Married 10 April)

Hotel De Commerce - Hotel Du Commerce in Saint Omer

Saint Omer - France - The general Headquarters (HQ) of the British Expeditionary Force from October 1914

Taube - First monoplane to be mass produced in Germany for military purposes.

Guns - Anti-aircraft guns

Miss Bothing - Unknown

Baroness - see Belgian Baroness

9 o'clock - 9pm at night

23 - 23 years of age

Widow - Woman who has lost her spouse by death

2 1/2 yrs - 2 years six months of age.

Fiancé - A man to whom someone is engaged to be married (Fiancée a female who is engaged)

American - A person born in or from America or the United States of America, the States, the US, or the USA

Marburg - Flight Lieutenant Theodore Marburg, accident 7 December, Son of American Minister at Brussels.

Infantry - Foot soldiers

R.F.C. - Royal Flying Corps

300ft - 300 feet is 91.4 metres.

Baroness De Vivario - See Belgian baroness

Paris - Capital of France 266kms (3hrs)

South from Saint Omer

Chill - Sensation of cold due to illness

High temperature - A fever becomes a concern when it reaches 103 degrees F or 39.4 degrees C.

Toilet accessories - For washing and taking care of one's body. Soap, Shampoo etc, hair - brushes, comb, mirror toothbrush and paste

Coronet - A small simple Crown

Ivory - Hard white material from tusks and teeth of animals. Legal to use this time

Monogram - Motive of two or more letters, often initials, to form one symbol.

Silver - A precious metal which is very soft and very heavy and has a lustrous shine.

others with gold lids etc. Her clothes & lingerie would have sent the girls into ecstasies of delight.

On the 14th I had a cable saying Grandfather had passed away. Poor old dear, I'm glad he was at last for his rest. One could not be sorry. On the 21st of this month another telegram came saying Hugh Miller had died - I was shocked because although I knew he was very ill did not dream of his dying.

82.16 Bethune. Arrived at 11.30 Co matins - so now am only 10 Kilometers from the front line about 6 miles. I am billeted out in a very nice house in Boulevard Vietn Hup no 78. In my bedroom only one window in 6 is glass - The remaining five papers - the glass having been blown out with shells - This town is constantly shelled & lots of shops & houses have big lumps smashed out of them - even the hospital roof has a tremendous hole in it. I think I will like being here only 10 Sisters in all 5th Sister in Charge seems quite nice. The girls at no 7 were very jealous of my move - of course it is wonderfully good luck for me to be here & I'm going to make the best of it. I had to travel alone this morning & change too at Berpette but I had quite nice Scotch orderlies at each place to help me with my luggage. They were Glasgow boys very young & kind too & I called each one

"I had a cable saying Grandfather had passed away"

Diary page 93

.....others with gold lids etc, Her clothes and lingerie would have sent the girls into extacies of delight. On the 14th I had a cable saying Grandfather had passed away. Poor old dear, I'm glad he has at last got his rest. One could not be sorry. On the 21st another telegram came saying Hugh Miller? had died ~ I was shocked because although I knew he was very ill did not dream of him dying.

8.2.16 (Tuesday) Bethune. Arrived at 11.30 unknown? ~ so now am only 10 kilometres from the front line about 6 miles. I am billeted out in a very nice house in Boulevard Victor Hugo no75. In my bedroom only one window in 6 is glass ~ the remaining five paper ~ the glass having been blown out with shells ~ This town is constantly shelled and lots of shops and houses have big lumps smashed out of them ~ even the hospital roof has a tremendous hole in it. I think I will like being here only 10 sisters in all and the sister in charge seems quite nice. the girls at no7 were very jealous of my move ~ of course it is wonderfully good luck for me to be here and I'm going to make the best of it. I had to travel alone this morning and change too at Bergette? but I had quite nice Scotch orderlies at each place to help me with my luggage. They were Glasgow? boys very young and kilties too and I called each one...

Gold - A very precious soft and heavy metal.

Lingerie - Women's underwear and nightwear

Extacies of delight - Correctly Ecstasies of delight.

Feeling of intense joy, delight, happiness or pleasure

On the 14th - Friday 14 January 1916

Cable - Telegram

Grandfather - Henry William Wardle - (Born 1832-1835?) Died 1915) (Age 80-83 years)

Passed away - Died

On the 21st - Friday 21 January 1916

Hugh Miller - Hugh Miller Senior

8.2.16 - Tuesday 8 February 1916

Bethune - French town 54 kilometres south east of Saint Omer. Priscilla had been sent to the No 33

Casualty Clearance Station (CCS)

11.30 - 11.30am

Front line - The place where the fighting in the war was taking place

Billeted - Army personnel living in a local house

Boulevard Victor Hugo no75 - In Bethune

Shells - Maybe artillery shells from cannons or bombs dropped on Bethune

Shelled - see shells

Lumps - pieces

Sisters - Nurses

No 7 - No 7 British general Hospital, Malassises, Saint Omer

Jealous - Envious

Bergette - Probably Berguette? 26 kilometres south east of St Omer and 19 kilometres north west of Bethune

Scotch - Scottish or Scot's

Orderlies - A soldier who performs minor tasks for an officer. Priscilla as a nurse was an officer.

Luggage - Bags and or suitcases and or boxes

Glasgow boys - From Glasgow the port city on the river Clyde In Scotland

Kilties - Wearing their kilts or knee length skirt traditionally worn by Scottish men often in family or fighting unit coloured Tartans.

94

Jock & gave him a franc for cigarettes. At Bethune
 an officer carried my suitcase up the long platform &
 then the R.T.O. met me & took me into his office
 until my car came for me. It was strange driving
 thro the shell-blasted town - the main street
 looks as if a huge giant with enormous sledge
 hammers had gone thro it & clung his hammers on
 each side of him as hard as he could. Miss Smith
 is to come on Monday - she was on leave when her
 orders came through - mine was coming on Monday
 morning & now of course I will not be able to talk
 "mine" for while - as long as I keep well though I do not
 mind. I am to go to the theatre tomorrow as the theatre
 is to have a day off. It is to be hoped they do not have a full
 day for me to begin with. The billet is palatial compared to
 what I have been used to - bedroom with carpet, walnut
 suite of furniture including bed with pale green tapestry
 hangings & canopy with a design of creamy
 daffodils on it. An old lady owns the house & she
 was frightened away from the town by the shells falling
 then her servant keeps it going & takes no as boarders.
 I have electric light & a dressing room fitted up
 as a toilet with a wardrobe for my clothes.

15.2.12. Have been here a week now & have been in
 almost every ward in the hospital - was in the theatre
 most days relieving in D ward & two days in officers hospital

“The main street looks as if a huge giant with an enormous sledge hammer had gone thro
it “

Diary page 94

..... Jock and gave him a franc for cigarettes. At Bethune an officer carried my suitcase up the long platform and then the R.T.O. met me and took me into his office until my car came for me. It was strange driving thro the shelled scarred town ~ the main street looks as if a huge giant with an enormous sledge hammer had gone thro it and swung his hammer out each side of him as hard as he could. Miss Smith? is to come on Monday ~ she was on leave when her orders came through ~ mine was coming on Monday morning and now of course I will not be able to have mine for a while ~ as long as I keep well though I do not mind. I am to go to the theatre tomorrow as the Theatre Sister is to have a day off. It is to be hoped they do not have a field day for me to begin with. The billet is palatial compared to what I have been used to ~ bedroom with carpet, walnut suite of furniture including bed with pale green tapestry hangings and canopy with a design of creamy daffodils on it. An old lady owns the house and she was frightened away from the town by the shells falling and her servant keeps it going and takes us as boarders. I have electric light and a dressing room fitted up as a toilette with a wardrobe for my clothes.

15-2-16 (Tuesday) Have been here a week now and have been in almost every ward in the hospital ~ was in the theatre most days relieving in D ward and two days in officers hospital.....

Jock ~ Scottish soldier in Scottish Regiment

Franc ~ A French Franc worth about 14 pence in British currency. Fourteen pence in 1915 is worth about one pound today or \$ 1.80 Australian. Single cigarettes were available for purchase.

Cigarettes ~ Or Fags or smokes narrow cylinders of paper wrapped around tobacco then lit at one end and “smoked”

Bethune ~ French town 54 kilometres south east of Saint Omer

R.T.O. ~ Railway Transport Officer

Thro ~ Through

Shelled ~ Maybe artillery shells from cannons or bombs dropped on Bethune

Huge giant ~ Imaginary or mythical being of human form but superhuman, jumbo, immense size.

Miss Smith ~ Unknown

Monday ~ Monday 14 February 1916

Mine ~ Priscilla's leave

Theatre ~ Operating Theatre where surgery is performed on wounded soldiers at No 33 Casualty Clearance Station (CCS)

Theatre Sister ~ Nurse who works in the Operating Theatre

Field day ~ Slang for a busy day with lots of patients

Billet ~ Civilian house where soldiers are lodged

Palatial ~ Like a Palace

Tapestry hangings ~ Works of textile woven art hung on walls

Canopy ~ Bed with posts on each corner supporting a decorative material roof/cover

Creamy ~ Creamy colour is very light almost white yellow

Daffodils ~ Yellow flower grown from bulbs with long stem and leaves and a bell - shaped flower

Shells ~ Maybe artillery shells from cannons or bombs dropped on Bethune

Servant ~ Person who performs duties for other people often employed in a house.

Boarders ~ People who pay rent to stay in a house.

Toilette ~ A place for washing oneself, dressing and attending to one's appearance

15-2-16 ~ Saturday 15 February 1916

Been here a week ~ 8th to 17th of February 1916

D ward ~ Diphtheria ward?

Officers hospital ~ Hospital or ward especially for officers

met another Australian doctor who is with a regiment near here. On Sunday night I was kept going in the theatre with awfully bad operations of all descriptions - one man had most of his leg shot away & of all the horrors of war I'm seeing the worst was alright. The Germans made an infantry attack after bombarding our first trenches. & altho in the papers it says we had no casualties yet one of our Company of Middlesex men 120 didn't answer the Roll call after the attack. & almost all he got in that night & next morning were Middlesex & R.F. men. One officer whom I nursed did awfully good work so we were told - he was very modest about it. Another whom I got in at 8 Monday morning was dreadfully smashed about - he had lain all night & told me that he was almost taken prisoner he & two men. I was kept going all evening in the theatre Sunday night & then was called up at one o'clock. Men who were wounded at 5.30 were being fixed up under an anaesthetic at 8.30. So that shows how near we are & they had had treatment first of all too at a field ambulance. Some orderlies walked on Sunday afternoon about as home's walk from here & came to our big guns. Two of them lip ~~parallel~~ parallel to Bethune. Air fights are quite a common occurrence here & tanks have been over here nearly every night since I have been here & we can

“Of all the horrors of war I’m seeing the worst right now”

Diary page 95

..... met another Australian doctor who is with a regiment near here. On Sunday night I was kept going in the theatre with awfully bad operations of all descriptions – one man had most of his face shot away and of all the horrors of war I’m seeing the worst now alright. The Germans made an infantry attack after bombarding our first trenches and although in the papers it says we had no casualties yet out of one company of Middlesex men 170 didn’t answer the roll call after the attack and almost all we got in that night and next morning were Middlesex and R.F.? men. One officer whom I nursed did awfully good work so we were told – he was very modest about it. Another whom I got in at 8 Monday morning was dreadfully smashed about – he had lain out all night and told me that he was almost taken prisoner he and two men. I was kept going all evening in the theatre Sunday night and then was called up at one o’clock, Men who were wounded at 5.30 were being fixed up under anaesthetic at 8.30 so that shows how near we are and they had had treatment first of all too at a field ambulance. Some orderlies walked on Sunday afternoon about an hour’s walk from here and came to our big guns. Two of them lie parallel to Bethune. Air fights are quite a common occurrence here and taubes have been over here nearly every night since I have been here and we can.....

Sunday – Sunday 13 February 1916

Theatre – Operating Theatre where surgery is performed on the wounded soldiers at the No33 Casualty Clearance Station (CCS)

Awfully bad – Significant injuries

Germans – Soldiers from or born in Germany

Infantry – Soldiers on foot

Bombarding – Maybe artillery shells from cannons or bombs from aircraft

First trenches – The very first row of trenches in the front line. (firing line)

Casualties – People who have been injured and/or wounded.

Roll call – A muster roll is the list of members of a military unit.

Middlesex – Middlesex Regiment – Middlesex an area in England

R.F. men – Republique Francaise (French) men?

Awfully – Very, extremely

Modest – Unassuming, low key.

8 – 8am in the morning

Monday – Monday 14 February 1916

Dreadfully smashed – Very, extremely injured

Prisoner – An enemy soldier taken into captivity.

Sunday night – The night of Sunday 13 February 1916

One o’clock – One o’clock in the morning

5.30 – May have been 5.30am

8.30am – May have been 8.30am

Field ambulance – A mobile medical unit treating wounded soldiers very close to the combat zone

Orderlies – Medical orderlies

Sunday afternoon – Sunday 13 February 1916

Big guns – Big artillery cannons for firing shells on the enemy.

Bethune – French town 54 kilometres (45mins) south east of Saint Omer

Air fights – Fights between aeroplanes sometimes called “Dog fights”

Taubes – First monoplane in the world to be mass produced in Germany for military purposes.

96

See our plane being shelled by the Huns for their shots are black & ours white. An officer such a nice man brought me 3 bunches of anemones white edged with pale pink, pink & mauve & 2 bunches of violets they looked so lovely together. There is quite a good little florist's here & all the flowers are dear yet we seem to have lots given us. Carnations are a franc each also one piece of white lilac is a franc. In our mess we have a painter making for flowers, I must buy one to take home. Am getting my case here Tuesday. Now I am in B.I. Ward with 60 beds evacuated some for barges this afternoon, taking in-cases at the same time - it is a dreadful business. 19.2.16. Yesterday was presented to Prince Arthur of Connaught who was visiting with Super General Pike - The Prince shook hands with me & asked a few questions concerning the job - he is lame a little & wore a Staff officer's uniform. I thought he was very charming - he had such a particularly nice voice. My new ward is being equipped today with ten beds & I am to do relieving work in the Theatre. Smith is to have B.I. to herself - it is very nice having her here as I felt very lonely last week by myself. I felt that Mation was prejudiced against Australians.

21.2.16

Bethune shelled last night between

“The Prince shook hands with me and asked a few questions concerning the patients”

Diary page 96

.....see our planes being shelled by the Huns for their shots are black and ours white. An officer such a nice man brought us 3 bunches of anemones white edged with pale pink, pink and mauve and 2 bunches of violets they looked so lovely together. There is quite a good little florist's here and altho flowers are dear yet we seem to have lots given to us. Carnations are a franc each also one piece of white lilac is a franc. In our mess we have a pewter mug for flowers, I must buy one to take home. Am getting my leave next Tuesday. Now I am in B.1 ward with 80 beds evacuated some for barges this afternoon, taking in cases at the same time - it is a dreadful business. 19.2.16 (Saturday) Yesterday was presented to Prince Arthur of Connaught who was visiting with Surgeon General Pike - The Prince shook hands with me and asked a few questions concerning the pts? - he is lame a little and wore a Staff officers uniform and I thought he was very charming - he had such a particularly nice voice. My new ward is being equipped today with ten beds and I am to do relieving work in the theatre. Smith is to have B1 to herself - it is very nice having her here as I felt very lonely last week by myself and I felt that matron was prejudiced against Australians.

21.2.16 (Monday) Bethune shelled last night between.....

Shelled - Anti -aircraft artillery shells

Huns - Derogatory nickname for German Soldiers

Anemones - Flowers with simple daisy like shaped flowers. Common names windflowers, poppy. Re, Pink and bicolour example ivory/pink.

Violets - Violet coloured petals often 3-5 flat asymmetrical shape with heart shaped leaves. Can be coloured blue and can be bicoloured.

Dear - Expensive

Carnations - Flowers can be single or in groups of up to five with long stem and leaves. Sweetly scented. Red symbolizes admiration. Purple traditionally used by French for condolence.

Florist's - Person and place where they sell flowers

Here - In Bethune

Altho - Although

Franc - A French Franc worth about 14 pence in British currency. Fourteen pence in 1915 is worth about one pound today or \$1.80 Australian.

White Lilac - Ornamental shrub with stunning flowers with intoxicating fragrance. Flowers are long upright panicles.

Pewter - Grey dull metal 85-99% tin.

Mug - Or tankard. Large roughly cylindrical cup (mug) with a handle.

Being used as a vase.

Leave - Holidays

Tuesday - Tuesday 22 February 1916 (last day of the diary)

Evacuated some for barges - Injured but on barges for travel to other hospitals or to track heads for transport to England

Taking in cases - More wounded soldiers arriving

Dreadful - Awful, shocking

19.2.16 - Saturday 19 February 1916

Yesterday - Friday 18 February 1916

Prince Arthur of Connaught - Third son of Queen Victoria and Albert.

Aide de Camp to General Sir John French

Surgeon General Pike - WW Pike

Prince - See Prince Arthur of Connaught

Pts - Patients

Lame - Unable to walk without difficulty due to illness or injury affecting legs or feet.

Staff Officers - Enlisted and civilian personnel that is responsible for administration, operational and logistical needs of an army.

Charming - Very pleasant or attractive

Theatre - Operating Theatre where surgery is performed the wounded

Smith - Not identified but certainly not the Matron.

Matron - Probably Gertrude Mary Wilton Smith

Prejudiced - Having or showing dislike or distrust. Biased, bigoted, one sided, unfair.

Australians - Nurses and soldiers from Australia.

21.2.16 - Monday 21 February 1916

Bethune - French town 54 kilometres south east of Saint Omer

Shelled - Maybe artillery shells from cannons or bombs from aircraft

Last night - Sunday 20 February 1916

11.5.12. an aeroplane hovered about & gave signals for the guns & 6 bombs & shells were dropped - several houses smashed to atoms no only to 700 yds from where we were - well on one side of the big church & the bomb fell on the other side. The noise from the guns was deafening but I didn't get up, we just turned over & went to sleep again. The lights were put in in two ambulances & the superiors set going for us sisters to be taken away in the then the shelling ceased. I would hate to be carried off & leave the patients. Oh the noise from the firing line is appalling tonight - it is very clear & frosty & we can hear the machine guns & the rifle firing - such a lot of poor fellows we've got in from last night & today. An aeroplane of ours was brought down by German fire just in our lines yesterday & the officer is in hospital - only a scratch but is suffering from shock too - a great number of men suffer from shell shock & two we have in it has made absolutely dumb - they cannot speak a word. We are to get gas helmets given out then so I'm told - tonight I have everything in readiness if we are chased off quickly.

22-2-16. Drank Hotel London. Have been travelling all day - left Bournemouth at 6 o'clock & came over 60 miles by car (ambulance) it was very cold & snowed all the time. Had a smooth crossing & am now waiting for Florence.

"Ivanhoe Hotel London"

Diary page 97

..... 11 and 12. An aeroplane hovered about and gave signals for the guns and 6 bombs and shells were dropped ~ several homes smashed to atoms one only 50 Yds from where we mess? ~ we're on one side of the big church and the bomb fell on the other side. The noise from the guns was deafening but Smith and I didn't get up, we just turned over and went to sleep again. The lights? were put on in two ambulances and the engines set going for us sisters to be taken away in but then the shelling ceased. I would hate to be carried off and leave the patients. Oh the noise from the firing line is appalling tonight ~ it is very clear and frosty and we can hear the machine guns and the rifles firing ~ such a lot of poor fellows were got in from last night and today. An aeroplane of ours was brought down by German fire just in our lines yesterday and the officer is in hospital ~ only a scratch but is suffering from shock too ~ a great number of men suffer from shell shock and two we have in it has made absolutely dumb ~ they cannot speak a word. We are to get gas helmets given out today so I'm told ~ tonight I have everything in readiness if we are chased off quickly.

22-2-16 (Tuesday) Ivanhoe Hotel London. Have been travelling all day ~ left Bethune at 6 o'clock and came over 60 miles by car (ambulance) it was very cold and snowed all the time. Had a smooth crossing and now am waiting for Florence

11 and 12 ~ Eleven pm and midnight on Sunday 20 February 1916

Hovered ~ Remain in one place/position in the air

Guns - Big artillery cannons for firing shells on the enemy.

Bombs ~ Explosive weapon that uses an explosive material to provide an extreme and violent release of energy.

Often dropped from planes

Shells ~ Maybe artillery shells from cannons or bombs dropped on

Bethune

Atoms ~ Very small pieces

50 Yds ~ 46 metres

Big Church ~ Saint Vaast Church

Bethune

Guns - Big artillery cannons for firing shells on the enemy.

Smith ~ Not identified

Sisters - Nurses

Shelling ~ Maybe artillery shells from cannons or bombs dropped on

Bethune

Firing line ~ Front line where the combat was happening.

Appalling ~ Very bad, awful, shocking, horrific, horrible, causing shock.

Machine guns ~ Fully automatic firearm designed to fire cartridges in rapid succession

Rifles ~ Portable long barrelled firearm designed for precision-oriented shooting

German fire ~ Anti aircraft weapon /gun designed to attack and defend against enemy aircraft by damaging them. Usually fires shells at a high rate.

Lines ~ Front line where the combat was happening.

Yesterday ~ Sunday 20 February 1916

Shock ~ Body's reaction /response to sudden drop in blood pressure after blood loss, suffering burns or spinal injury.

Shell shock ~ Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) A failure to recover

after experiencing or witnessing a terrifying event.

Gas helmets ~ Metal hat with face mask and breathing apparatus for main poison gases used in WWI Phosgene and Mustard Gas

Today ~ Monday 21 February 1916

22-2-16 ~ Tuesday 22 February 1916 (last day of the diary)

Ivanhoe Hotel London- Now called the Bloomsbury Street Hotel on Bloomsbury Street London

Bethune ~ French town 54 kilometres south east of Saint Omer

60 miles ~ 97 Kilometres

Crossing ~ Crossing the English Channel the sea between France (Calais) and England (Dover)

Florence ~ Nurse and family friend

Florence (Toby) Vines

98
13.1.16 A. Day
Margaret Donald
7 General Hospital
13 F. 7

Christine
3
Mead.

Back Fly Leaf

Diary Page 98

13.1.16 N. Daly?

Christine Cameron .

—————3

Margaret Oswald?

7 General Hospital

BIF

13.1.16 – 13 January 1916 – On this date Priscilla travelled to Wimereux and Boulogne to see Edith Donaldson and Edith Wilson at the No 14 Australian General Hospital.

N Daly? – Is this N. Daly's signature? Nurse/Doctor? Not identified

Margaret Oswald – Not identified is this Margaret Oswald's signature

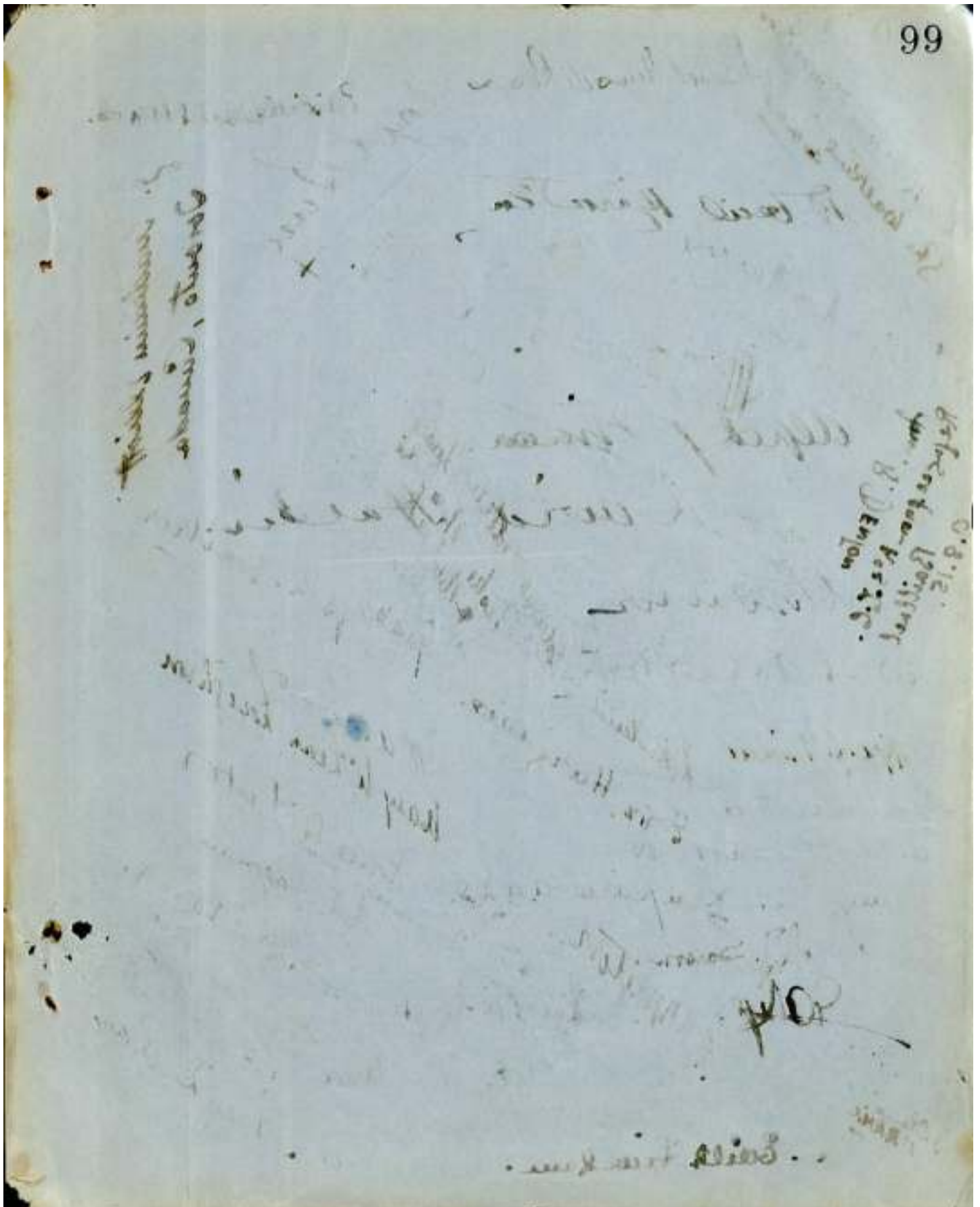
7 General Hospital – No 7 British General Hospital Malassises. Saint Omer, France

BIF – British Imperial Force

Christine Cameron? – Not identified . Is this her signature

3? – Unknown. Probably a scroll as part of the signature.

Were these signatures that did not fit on page 100 or was this originally to be the signature page?



Diary page 99

Unknown?

Unknown – No identifiable text. On this Carbon Diary page. There is bleeding through of signatures from reverse side Diary page 100.

[illegible]

Diary page 100 (41 signatures)

Priscilla Isabel Wardle - Diary Author - Australian nurse Δ

Edith Victoria Donaldson - Australian nurse and Priscilla's best friend Δ

Sister Watkins - Nurse Helen Margaret Gwyllam Watkins

Isabel Russell Ross - Australian Nurse Isabel Russell Ross Δ

Eileen King - Australian Nurse Eileen King Δ

George C Bury - Dr George Chadwell Bury

W Cecil Marsden - Dr Walter Cecil Marsden

Sallie M Marron - Australian Nurse Sara Marie Marron Δ

H J Sharpe - Not found

Madge C Donnellan - Nurse Margaret "Madge" Cecilia Donnellan Δ

J Madelaine Elliott, Toronto, Canada - Jessie Madelaine Elliott, Canadian Army Medical Corps

H Hartigan 13.11.15. - Acting Principal Matron Helena Hartigan RRC (English)

Alfred J Trinca - Dr Alfred John Trinca

David Hardie - Sir David Hardie - Doctor

E Coulter - Not found

Ann B Denton, Refugee from No 3 CC, Bailleul? 9.8.15 - Not found

Gladys M Walker - Gladys M Walker

LB Walker - Lois B Walker?

Edwina Ratcliff Lordly, Chester, Nova Scotia & New York - Nurse Edwina Ratcliff Lordly, Canadian Army Medical Corps

W S Newton - Dr Wilberforce Stephen Newton

K R Heriot - Australian nurse Katherine "Katie" Rae Heriot Δ

E E Appleton - Matron Edith Elizabeth Appleton O.B.E. RRC (English)
Δ Australian nurse travelling on the Orontes.

Effie Hargreaves - Australian nurse Ethel Mary "Effie" Hargreaves Δ

Nigel L Pritchard - Dr Nigel Lovat Pritchard

G A W McArthur - London GP Doctor on boat

E M McArthur - Wife of London GP doctor

F W A Ponsford - Dr Frank William Augustus Ponsford

Mary McLean Loughron - Australian nurse Mary McClean Loughron Δ

Lonnie A Yaton? - Canadian nurse?

M L Chapman - Nurse Jemima "Minnie" Logie Chapman

V. M. Marsh - English nurse Not found

LB McKitrick ANSR - Nurse Lillian Barber McKitrick Princess Christians' Army Nursing Service Reserve PCANSR

C F Middleton - Australian nurse Jean Middleton Δ

Janey M Lempriere AANS - Matron Janey McRobie Lempriere, Australian Army Nursing Service AANS Matron Δ

Freda M Davies - Not found

John McKenzie Dr RAMC - Doctor Royal Australian Medical Corps

Mary Sullivan - Not found

I Edith Fincham - Australian nurse Isobel Edith Fincham Δ

A J Barson? - Dr Albert John Barson

Luigi di Mascio, no 8, rue Lepic, Paris - The Italian, violin playing Count's son from Naples but living in Paris

G A Nye - Australian Nurse Gertrude Ada Nye Δ

① London, of which I had heard so much
 about from my grandfather & grandmother.
 I do not anything about London Surprises
 we because of descriptions and pictures &
 all my life I had had a great fascination
 for me. ~~It was~~ we for a fortnight
 we had a wonderful time out sightseeing
 most of the time. Of course we had to buy
 our kit and uniforms but they were all
 regulation shapes & sizes & practically
 ordered for us by the War Office so that
 did not take up much time.
 Although ~~the~~ the contractors for War Office
 ran a lap over us yet when our uniforms
 arrived the night before we crossed to
 France no one's uniforms fitted. I well
 remember crying over mine - it was big
 enough for an extra outsize. However
 we pooled the lot (24 of us) and each took
 what nearest approached our size &
 sat up till midnight altering them.
 I must tell you about them they were
 made of grey zephyr with tight white
 calico linings to the waist & buttoned

Attachment One (1) ~ The extra pages

Note: "This set of fourteen pages written by Priscilla appears to have been written in different sections on different sized pages and with different inks and at different times, this could be after returning to London or Australia. One page is in pencil. The pages are not always sequential.

Where sections or pages finish and do not logically "flow" into the next page a note will be added.

Some pages have circled numbers and these numbers are kept on the left hand side of the transcription.

Explanations have been highlighted and some unknown words entered as **unknown** and others with a **question mark?** to indicate a best guess.

For complete accuracy please refer to the original pages.

Transcription

1. London of which I had heard so much from my Grandfather & Grandmother. I do not anything about London surprised me because of descriptions and pictures & all my life it had had a great fascination for me. For a fortnight we had a wonderful time out sightseeing most of the time. Of course we had to buy our kit and uniforms but they were all regulation shapes & sizes & practically ordered for us by the War Office so that did not take up much time. Although the contractors for War Office ran a tape over us yet when our uniforms arrived the night before we crossed to France no one's uniforms fitted - I well remember crying over mine - it was big enough for an extra outsize. However we pooled the lot (25 of us) and each took what nearest approached our size & sat up till midnight altering them. I must tell you about them they were made of grey zephir tight white calico linings? to the waist & buttoned

End of section of 1 page (there are no pages which logically continue/follow on)

London - Capital city of England. Central administration and departure point during WW 1.

Grandfather - Henry William Wardle, born Southampton, 1832-1915

Grandmother - Priscilla Wardle (nee Bryan), born London, 1836 - 1926

Kit and uniform - Rubber boots, collapsible bath, basin, mattress, spirit stove, kettle, towels, food etc etc

War office - Department of the British Government responsible for the British Army 1857 - 1964

Night before - Monday evening 7 June 1915

Pooled - Grouped together

25 of us - 25 Nurses

Grey zephir - Or zephyr or zepher. Grey satiny, glossy, fine woven cotton fabric

Tight white calico linings - Plain woven cotton textile. Very cheap.

It was just one of hundreds of ^{Saints} old monasteries
 in France, a couple of miles out of St. Omer, which
 was G.H.Q. when I was there. All the monks over
 60 yrs of age went off to the war & as only the old
 ones remained it was not a close order. The
 old monastery was turned into a military Hospital
 of several hundred beds for Belgian Refugees & later
 when they were evacuated & it was got ready for
 wounded, it was able to accommodate 1700. The
 good old brothers turned one of their cells &
 living rooms & gathered their belongings, including
 many ^{calendars} Statuettes of the Virgin & Saints into a
 basement, their chapel & garden was all
 they could call their own for years.
 The garden was delightful - it was June when
 I arrived & it was a riot of flowers & fruit-
 trees. One old Toothless monk who always
 worked in the garden ^{sometimes} used to gather strawberries
 in a young Cabbage leaf, ^{then} he would first
 look around to see if any one was looking,
 then kiss the leaf & pass the delicious
 fruit to any of the Sisters who passed along
 the path. ~~But Peter as he would snatch a~~
~~peep off the tree, look around, then kiss it~~
~~& with a toothless grin hand it to us.~~
 One path about 200 yards long was bordered
 either side with pickets - it ended in a
 Grotto which housed

Attachment One (2) – The extra pages

Commencement of new set of pages

Transcription

It was just one of hundreds of similar old Monasteries in France, a couple of miles out of St Omer, which was G.H.Q when I was there. All the monks over 60 yrs of age went off to the war & as only the old ones remained & it was not a close order, the old Monastery was turned into a Military Hospital of several hundred beds for Belgian Refugees & later when they were evacuated & it was got ready for wounded & it was able to accommodate 1700. The good old brothers turned out of their cells & living rooms & gathered their belongings, including many calvarys' statuettes of the virgin & saints into a basement, that & their chapel & garden was all they could call their own for years.

The garden was delightful – it was June when I arrived & it was a riot of flowers & fruit trees. One old toothless monk who always worked in the garden sometimes used to gather strawberries in a young? Cabbage leaf then he would first look around to see if any one was looking, then kiss the leaf & pass the delicious fruit to any of the Sisters who passed along the path. Later on he would snatch a pear of the tree, look around, then kiss it & with a toothless grin hand it to us.

One path about 200 yards long was bordered either side with unknown? – it ended in a grotto which housed

Monasteries – See Monastery below.

France – Country of western Europe. Paris is the capital.

St Omer – French city in the north of France named after Saint Audomar.

G.H.Q. – General Headquarters of the British Expeditionary Force October 1914 to March 1916

Monks – A man who practises religion by monastic living.
Over 60 yrs – I assume she means all the monks under 60 years of age went to the war.

Close order – Closed order.

Monastery – Building or complex of buildings comprising domestic quarters, workplaces and worship places for monks or nuns

Military Hospital – Hospital to treat wounded and sick soldiers

Belgian refugees – Belgian people who have fled Belgium due to German occupation or because their homes were at the war front.

1700 – Patients. Wounded or sick soldiers

Brothers – The Monks.

Calvary's – May be a crucifix or cross with Jesus on it

Statuettes – Small statues of religious deities.

Virgin – The Virgin Mary the mother of Jesus Christ.

Saints – Catholic Church Saints are people who have made it into heaven after their death through their saintly deeds while on earth

Chapel – Small Christian place of worship. Can be inside a larger church.

June when I arrived – Arrived Thursday 910 June 1915

Toothless Monk – Monk with no teeth

Young cabbage leaf – Large bowl-shaped leaf. Very firm because it was young.

Sisters – Nurses

Pear – A fruit with a unique "pear shape" (pyriform)

Toothless grin – A grin with no teeth as he was toothless.
200 yards –

Grotto – A natural or artificial small cave.

a ~~crucifix~~ ^{calvary} & Statuette of Saints.
 On the way along, to the left there was a tiny
 Cemetery in which there were several graves but
 one was without a cross - just name & dates -
 we often wondered why of a ~~man~~ ^{man}.
 In this quiet ~~last~~ ^{last} while ~~at~~ ⁱⁿ quiet ~~seem~~ ^{seem} place
 where it seemed there was almost always
 a service going on in the chapel, such ~~tragedy~~ ^{tragedy} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~sin~~ ^{sin}
^{Single} ~~tragedies~~ ^{tragedies} & ~~sin~~ ^{sin} introduced and death stalked
 about so often. There were ~~even~~ ^{even} Tommies' ^{were}
 concerts held in one of the ~~best~~ ^{best} rooms &
 lusty voices screaming "Good Bye - don't
 cry - ee" must have carried along the
 corridors to the little chapel where the
 brothers were at devotion. What must have
 been their thoughts had they seen what I did
 accidentally one day. It was one of my own
 orderlies doing 1st field punishment ~~here~~
 although I quickly averted my eyes I could
 not help seeing him tied a to the large wheel
 of an A.S.C. wagon arms outstretched. He was
 like that for one hour in the morning & another in
 the afternoon for seven days & for two hours during
 the day he had to tread the mill - that was
 to walk up & down a given area with his
 pack on his back. This man had been absent
 without leave for one night & did not attend parade

Attachment One (3) – The extra pages

New page

Transcription

a (crucifix) Calvary & Statuettes of Saints. On the way along, to the left there was a tiny cemetery in which there were several graves but one was without a cross – just name & dates – of a nun
In this ernst while quiet place where it seemed there was almost always a service going on in the chapel, Soon such tragedies? & Sin were introduced and death stalked about so often. There were Tommies' concerts held in one of the rooms & lusty voices "Good Bye – don't Cry" must have carried along the corridors to the little chapel where the brothers were at devotion. What must have been their thoughts had they seen what I did accidentally one day. It was one of my own orderlies doing 1st field punishment Although I quickly averted my eyes I could not help seeing him tied a to the huge wheel of an A.S.C wagon arms outstretched. He was like that for one hour in the morning & another in the afternoon for seven days & for two hours during the day he had to tread the mill – that was to walk up & down a given area with his pack on his back. This man had been absent without leave for one night & did not attend parade

Crucifix – Word used but crossed out.

Calvary – May be a crucifix or cross with Jesus on it

Statuettes – Small statues of religious deities.

Saints – Catholic Church Saints are people who have made it into heaven after their death through their saintly deeds while on earth

Nun – A woman member of a religious community who may be living a monastic life in a Monastery.

Ernst while – Formerly, previously

Service – Service of worship. Formalized Christian communal worship

Chapel – A small Christian place of worship within the monastery which is now No7 British General Hospital, Malassise St Omer where Priscilla is working

Tragedies – Events causing great suffering, destruction and distress.

Sin – Offences against god's will, wrong -doing.

Death – The cessation of being alive. To stop breathing. Soldiers dying.

Tommies – English soldiers

Concerts – A musical performance typically by several performers

Lusty voices – Strong and loud signing voices

Good Bye – don't Cry – Goodbye don't Cry song lyrics.

Corridors – Long passage in a building

Brothers – The monks

Devotion – Prayers and practises expressing devotion and commitment to their faith.

Orderlies – Attendants in a hospital responsible for non-medical care of patients and maintenance of order and cleanliness

Field punishment – A form of punishment against military personnel in the field. Field punishment takes place in the field instead of being sent to a goal (See also Diary pages 67 & 68)

Averted – Eyes turned away or sideways

A.S.C – Army Supply Corps

Parade – Morning parade. The morning inspection of the troops and roll call.

next morning.

The pictures of this dear old place at Melassies
I can conjure up!!

The bombs that were dropped two houses away
from the night museum billets - the molten crowd
gathered in the road - French soldiers, English
Tommys, the Pas de Calais peasants - English
nursing sisters in ~~night~~ pyjamas & plants hanging
down their backs. These were the days of Tanbros
& unshingled heads!

Another memory is that of a wonderful concert
given by the Artists Rifles who were stationed
in St. Omer. Many of them were professionals &
Kennedy Rumford was amongst them.

The delightful little dinners in St. Omer at the
"Top Hole" - the asparagus omelettes & button
mushrooms & chicken topped off with a bottle
of good wine. Of nights, coming home from
the military church where one would hear
such clergymen as the Bishop of Chartres
preach, when we would pay a tiny boy
a couple of sous to buy us all a "poke"
of chip potatoes at the stall where Mademoiselle
Gaby sat with her great smoking cauldron of
fat! After lifting her potato chips out she
would carefully sprinkle them with salt

Attachment One (4) - The extra pages

New page

Transcription

next morning.

The pictures of this dear old place at Malassise I can *conjure?* up!!

The bombs that were dropped two houses away from the night nurses billets ~ the *motley?* crowd gathered in the road ~ French soldiers, English Tommies, the Pas de Calais peasants ~ English nursing sisters in pyjamas & plaits hanging down their backs. These were the days of Taubes & *unshingled?* heads!

Another memory is that of a wonderful concert given by the Artists Rifles who were stationed in St Omer. Many of them were professionals & Kennerly Rumford was amongst them. The delightful little dinners in St Omer at the "Top Hole" - the asparagus omelettes & button mushrooms & chicken topped off with a bottle of good wine. Of nights coming home from the military church where one would hear such clergymen as the Bishop of Khartoum & such, when we would pay a tiny boy a couple of sous buy us all a "poke" of chip potatoes at the stall where mademoiselle Gaby Sat with her great smoking cauldron of fat. After lifting her potatoe chips out She would carefully sprinkle them with salt

Malassise - Suburb of St Omer in France

Conjure - Cause to appear by means of magic.

Bombs - Explosive weapon that uses an explosive material to provide an extreme and violent release of energy. Often dropped from planes.

Billets - Civilian houses where nurses were housed.

Motley - Diverse, assorted, mixed, different types that do not appear to go together

French - Born in or from France

English - Born in or from England

Tommies - Nick name for English soldiers

Taubes - German mono plane & first in world to be mass produced.

Unshingled - Without helmets

St Omer - Saint Omer in France The General Head Quarters GHQ of the British Expeditionary Force 1914 - 1916

Kennerly Rumford - A famous English baritone singer

Top Hole - May be the name of a restaurant. Top-hole means excellent, first class.

Asparagus - Sparrow grass. It's young spring shoots are used as a vegetable.

Omelettes - Dish made from beaten eggs sometimes with cheese, chives, vegetables, mushrooms etc. or a mixture of these.

Button mushrooms - Small mushrooms shaped like buttons

Military church - Maybe Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Saint Omer

Bishop of Khartoum - Welsh Anglican Bishop Llewellyn Henry Gwynne

Couple of Sous - Equivalent to a penny or cent. So two cents. Worth \$1 today

Poke - Paper bag

Chip potatoes - Hot chips (fries) invented by the Belgians in 1770

Cauldron - Large cooking pot

Potatoe chips - Hot chips (fries) as above

I put them in a "poke" of paper. We had
 employ a boy to do our shopping of these
 as it was taboo for a sister to crowd in
 amongst the "Tommies" especially as there
 were so many. Had tabs about ^{we used to} ~~eat them~~ ^{with}
 The occasional peeps at the big men ^{and} ~~of~~ ^{in the} ~~dark~~
 there! Sir John French was housed in
 a beautiful white Chateau on the hill
 near Blondeques - ~~he often had~~ the Prince
 of Wales ~~staying~~ ~~with him~~ often visited there
 also. One day we saw Sir John saying farewell
 to the troops nearby: General ~~John~~.
 His Majesty the King, Mr. Asquith, Lord
 Charles Beresford, Sir William Robertson.
 were there at different times. One Sunday
 evening I sat behind the Prince of Wales in
 the little military church - another Sunday
 evening I noticed the French people were
 excitedly saying at ~~some~~ a young priest
~~about~~ riding a push bicycle over the
 cobble stones - it was the Prince of Wales!!
 We went in late purposely, hoping to be invited
 into the Prince's pew which is after all only
 a long form with a back bit. One evening
 a sister came in late & the Prince whispered
 to Sir William Robertson who beckoned her

Attachment One (5) - The extra pages

New page

Transcription

& put them in a "poke" of paper. We had to employ a boy to do our shopping of these as it was taboo for a Sister to crowd in amongst the "Tommies" as there were so many bad tales about - we used to eat them with our fingers going home in the dark. The occasional peeps at the big men of that time! Sir John French was housed in a beautiful white Chateau on the hill near Blendecques - The Prince of Wales often billeted there also. One day we saw Sir John saying farewell to the troops nearby. His Majesty the King, General Joffre, Mr Asquith, Lord Charles Beresford, Sir William Robertson were there at different times. One Sunday evening I sat behind the Prince of Wales in the little Military Church - another Sunday evening I noticed the French people were excitedly gazing at a young Priest riding a push bicycle over the cobble stones - it was the Prince of Wales!! We went in late purposely hoping to be invited into the Prince's pew which is after all only a long form? with a back to it. One evening a Sister came in late & the Prince whispered to Sir William Robertson who beckoned her

Poke - Paper bag

Taboo - Forbidden

Sister - Nurse

Tommies - English soldiers

Sir John French - Earl of Ypres. Commander of the British Home Force.

Chateau - Maybe Chateau De Westhove in Blendecques France

Blendecques - An area 7 kilometres south east of Saint Omer

Prince of Wales - Future King Edward VIII who abdicated for his love of Wallis Simpson. (Edward Albert, Christian, George, Andrew, Patrick, David Windsor)

His Majesty the King - King George V. King of the United Kingdom. (George, Frederick, Ernest, Albert Winsor) Spouse Queen Mary of Teck.

General Joffre - Marshal General Joseph Jacques Cesare. Joffre served as Commander in Chief of the French forces.

Mr Asquith - Herbert Henry Asquith, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

Lord Charles Beresford - Admiral Charles William de la Poer Beresford, Baron of Beresford.

Sir William Robertson - Sir William Robert Robertson, Field Marshal, Chief of the Imperial General Staff. Only British soldier to ever go from Private to highest British office of Field Marshal.

Military church - Maybe Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Saint Omer

French - Born or from France

Priest - Probably dressed as a monk in robes

Cobble stones - Building material based on cobble sized stones. Used for paving. Bumpy surface.

Prince's pew - Long bench seat in the Military church on which the Prince was sitting.

Form - Bench?

Sister - Nurse

to come & sit beside them - she lucky thing shared a hymn book with the Prince. He seemed to be enjoying himself scuttling along the cobblestones one night on a push bike - what a break away from the tape!

- ① Consternation in the camp when 18 or so of us went into breakfast in a huge mess hall - we all wore our Australian Red Capes & as the nation a Regular Army Sister was the only one to wear a Red Cape, she ^{very much} resented this Scarlet intrusion & as soon as we had swallowed the last mouthful of breakfast, we were in the mess & red capes were put back in our kit bags until she wrote to her office. We were the first Australian boys to France & later on, of course the regulars had to swallow the nasty pill when hundreds wore the Scarlet. All the same this "punker" nation was a very fine woman even though she did build a brick wall around herself. An Irishwoman of fine build with flaming red hair & not pretty with the afore mentioned Scarlet Cape & which by the way was relieved with several ribbons the South African & two Italian ribbons. She had been stationed

Attachment One (6) – The extra pages

New page

Transcription

to come & sit beside them – She lucky thing shared a hymn book with the Prince. He seemed to be enjoying himself scuttling along the Cobblestones one night on a push bike – what a break away from red tape!

1. Consternation in the camp when 18 or so of us went in to breakfast in a huge marquee – we all wore our Australian red capes & as the matron a regular Army sister was the only one to wear a red cape she very much resented this scarlet intrusion & as soon as we swallowed the last mouth full of breakfast we were “on the mat” & red capes were put back in our kit bags until she wrote to War office. We were the first Australians to go to France & later on of course the regulars had to swallow the nasty pill when hundreds wore the scarlet. All the same this “pukken” matron was a very fine woman even though she did build a brick wall around herself. An Irishwoman of fine build with flowing red hair (not pretty with the afore mentioned Scarlet Cape) which by the way was unknown? with several ribbons the South African & two Italian ribbons. She had been stationed

Hymn book – Or Hymnal. A religious song book.

Prince – The Prince of Wales. Future King Edward VIII who abdicated the throne for his love of Wallis Simpson. (Albert, Christian, George, Andrew, Patrick, David Windsor)

Cobblestones – Building material based on cobble sized stones. Used for paving. Bumpy surface.

Red tape – Rules and regulations

Australian red capes – The capes of the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) nurses was red but so were the capes of the English nursing services.

Matron – Acting Principal Matron Helena Hartigan RRC. (Royal Red Cross RRC a service decoration)

Scarlet – The Australian capes were “scarlet” a form of red.

On the mat – In trouble

Kit bags – Bags in which Kit and uniform, rubber boots, collapsible bath, basin, mattress, spirit stove, kettle, towels, food etc etc was kept.

War office – Department of the British Government responsible for the British Army 1857 - 1964

Australians – People born in or from the continent of Australia.

France – Country of western Europe. Paris is the capital.

Scarlet – Deep red scarlet capes

Pukken – Originally written as “pucken” but we know what she meant. Still can’t use the F word. See also Diary page 70

Irishwoman – Helena Hartigan was from Ireland. See also character page xxx She also signed Diary page 100.

South African – South African ribbon for her service in the Boer war. And Italian ribbon for her service there.

Italian ribbons – Awarded for service to the Italian Republic. Red, White and Green.

at Malta when the Messing ~~Lanz~~ ^{Lanz} ~~gushe~~ ^{gushe} occurred & all the nurses there were rushed across to help the stricken Italians.

an excellent linguist too, she was. To my horror I caught her eye in a lingerie shop in St. Onoré, as I was telling the French girl to "parle lieutenant!!" owing to an unusual uniform some French men asked one of our number "What exactly were we?" ~~She~~ after scanning her little Ing. French dictionary which she carried in her hand she told him she was a "nourrice" which being interpreted means a wet nurse!

That reminds me of a time in Havre a couple of years later when we should have known better, another girl & I saw a huge sign across a house "Sage-femme". We thought here was a chance to have some fun have our fortunes told but upon talking to Madame to our horror ^{also} ~~amusement~~ she told us Sage-femme means midwife! after that we bought a book on French idioms.

Attachment One (7) – The extra pages

New page

Transcription

at Malta when the Messina earthquake occurred & all the nurses there were rushed across to help the stricken Italians. An excellent linguist too, she was. To my horror I caught her eye in a lingerie shop in St Omer, as I was begging the French girl to "*parle lentement?*"! Owing to our unusual uniform some French men asked one of our number "what exactly were we?" After scanning her little Eng. French dictionary which she carried in her hand she told him she was a "nourrice" which being interpreted means a wet nurse!

That reminds me of a time in Havre a couple of years later when we should have known better, another girl & I saw a huge sign across a house "sage-femme" we thought here was a chance to have some fun & have our fortunes told but upon talking to Madame to our horror & also amusement she told us Sage-Femme meant Midwife! After that we bought a book on French idioms.

Malta – The republic of Malta an island country between North Africa and Sicily. Language Maltese and English.

Messina earthquake – Occurred on 28 December 1908 in Sicily and Calabria. Between 75,000 and 82,000 people died.

Cities of Messina and Reggio Calabria almost destroyed.

Italians – People born or from Italy. Sicily and Calabria are in Italy.

Linguist – A person skilled in languages.

Lingerie – Women's under wear and night clothes. On Diary page 60 Priscilla talks about buying her sister Ruby a "Robe de Nuit" on Wednesday 21 July 1915 in St Omer.

St Omer – Saint Omer in France The General Head Quarters GHQ of the British Expeditionary Force 1914 – 1916

French – Born in or from France

Parle lentement – Speak slowly

Eng. French dictionary – Book that translates English words into French

Havre – Major port city of northern France on the English channel.

Madame – Lady of the house

French idioms – A common word or phrase with a culturally understood meaning as well as a literal meaning. Example; It is raining cats and dogs an English idiom. Idioms are often unique to a culture in this case French. idioms

~~Case~~ The medical orderly officer one night was begged to attend to two confine-
ments at a house just beyond the hospital gate.
As soon as he returned two rather distressed
Sergeants presented themselves to him, saluted
& asked with great concern about the two
patients. He was able to assure them all
was well & each of the French girls had
a little English piquancy as ~~they were~~ ^{they were}
commonly known amongst the peasants.
o ~~these little~~

Attachment One (8) – The extra pages

New page

Transcription

The orderly officer one night was begged to attend to two confinements at a house just beyond the hospital gates. As soon as he returned two rather distressed Sergeants presented themselves to him, saluted & asked with concern about the two patients. He was able to assure them all was well & each of the French girls had a little English piccaninny as commonly known amongst the peasants.

End of section of 6 ½ pages.

Orderly – Attendant in a hospital responsible for non-medical care of patients and the maintenance of order and cleanliness

Confinements – The condition of being in childbirth

Sergeants – From Latin “one who serves”. Refers to a non-commissioned officer above the rank of Corporal.

French – Girls born in or from France.

English – In this case born to a parent who was born in or is from England

Piccaninny – A small black, coloured or Aboriginal child or baby. Used in slang as tiny or baby. In this case English baby.

Peasants – Workers, usually on the land and of low social standing.

④ Soon refugees evacuated - British Tommy's infectious disease - cerebro spinal meningitis worst of all. Wards called after member of Belgian Royal Family. The Cerebro Sp. ward was the Marie Jose ward. Princess Marie Jose was a pretty little girl of 6 or 7 then with a mop of fair curls - I often used to see her at Handelot where she was staying for a time with an English Governess. At Handelot there was a delightful ^{res.} home for nurse in charge of Lady Gifford - it had originally been a shooting lodge of the Duke of Argyll - wonderful furnishings & pictures - in forest of pines. As it ^{in Sq. ad.} was near the sea only 1 1/2 miles away instead of the pines the ~~soil~~ Marie Jose is now married to the Crown Prince of Italy.

Prince of Wales at
ch. etc.

Attachment One (9) The extra pages

Commencement of new set of pages (note the number 4 at the beginning. If the above was in fact number 1 then entries 2 and 3 are missing)

Transcription

4. Soon refugees evacuated – British Tommies infectious diseases – cerebro spinal meningitis worst Wards called after members of Belgian Royal family. The Cerebro Sp. Ward was the Marie Jose Ward. Princess Marie Jose was a pretty little girl of 6 or 7 then with a mop of fair curls – I often used to see her at Hardelet where she was staying for a time with an English Governess. At Hardelet there was a delightful rest home for nurses in charge of Lady Gifford – it had originally been a shooting lodge of the Duke of Argyle's – wonderful furnishings & pictures in forest of pines in sand as it was near the sea only 1 ½ miles away. Marie Jose is now married to the Crown Prince of Italy.

There is a note at the bottom of this page which says *Prince of Wales at Church etc.*

Refugees evacuated – Refugees moved further behind the lines

British Tommies – I think she means the British soldiers with the worst diseases were moved further behind the lines.

Infectious diseases- Diseases which are easily spread to other people

Cerebro spinal meningitis – Bacterial disease, inflammation of the spinal membranes very serious and can lead to death.

Belgian Royal family – Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria 1830-1916 who was 46 years older at 62 when he married his Queen who was 16 years. Queen Elisabeth of Bavaria 1876 – 1965 a qualified nurse, Children Leopold 1901 – 1983 later King Leopold III, Charles 1903 – 1983 Count of Flanders, Marie 1906 – 2001 later the last Queen of Italy.

Cerebro Sp. Ward – Cerebro Spinal Ward

Marie José – Princess Marie, José, Charlotte, Sophie, Henriette, Gabrielle 1906 – 2001 Later the 1st Queen of Italy for 34 days in May 1946. Known as the May Queen.

Little girl of 6 or 7 – The Princess was in fact 9 years of age in 1915.

Hardelet – Picturesque coastal town of France 66kms west south west of St Omer

English governess – English woman employed to teach and train children in private families. (Nannies look after physical needs)

Lady Gifford – Lady Sophia Catherine Gifford (nee Street) Convalescent Home for nurses at Hardelet of which she is Matron. Property owned and loaned by the Duchess of Argyle the Princess Louisa and is also called the Princess Louisa Convalescent Home.

Duke of Argyle – John, George, Edward, Henry, Douglas, Sutherland Campbell the 9th Duke of Argyle 1845 – 1914.
1 ½ miles – 2.4 kilometres.

Is now married – They were married in 1930. Did Priscilla write these notes on or after 1930?

Crown Prince of Italy – Umberto, Nicola, Tommaso, Giovanni, Maria di Savoia 1904-1983 (11 years in 1915) an only child. Became the last King of Italy in May 1946. Ruled for 34 days before Mussolini took over the government. Was known as the May King.

Prince of Wales at Church – Maybe a reminder that she saw the Prince at the church as described see also Attachment One 5 & 6 and Diary pages 57 & 58.

- ⑤ Then came the Battle of Loos only about 20 miles away - as near to us as Ballan. or the suburbs. My first noise of war. constant shelling day & night & our hosp. was turned at last into military for wounded. Tents sprang up like mushrooms. I was put in charge of 90 beds - in 6 big marquees with one orderly! ^{and} our own Ball. hosp. accommodated about 200 pts at most. There I had 90.
- ⑥ Then I was sent to Bethune only 5 miles behind firing line - a c.e.s. here the noise of war was fairly continuous. I got used to bombs falling as the enemy very often bombed the railway station which was rail head. Two enormous British guns were in a wood close to the town & when they were fired - well words fail to convey the deafening noise also the mental effect it had on one. This town looked as if my first impression of this town was that a giant had walked up & down & with an enormous sledge hammer had battered with all his might: no glass in windows. Here we learnt of Lord Kitchener's death & I attended a memorial service in opera house attended by French & allied troops.
- Bethune

Attachment One (10) The extra pages

New page

Transcription

5. Then came the Battle of Loos only about 20 miles away ~ as near to us as Ballan or thereabouts. My first noise of war. Constant shelling day & night & our hosp. was turned at last into military for wounded. Tents sprang up like mushrooms. I was put in charge of 90 beds ~ in six big marquees with one orderly, 1 VAD. Our own Base? Hosp. accommodates about 200 pts at most. And here I had 90.

6. Then I was sent to Bethune only 5 miles behind firing line ~ a C.C.S here the noise of war was fairly continuous. I got used to bombs falling as the enemy very often bombed the railway station which was railhead. Two enormous British guns were in a wood close to the town & when they were fired ~ well words fail to convey the deafening noise also the mental effect it had on one. My first impression of this town was that a giant had walked up & down & with an enormous sledge hammer had battered with all his might ~ no glass in windows. Here we learn of Lord Kitchener's death and I attended memorial service in opera house attended by French, British & allied troops.

Battle of Loos ~ The Battle of Loos en Gohelle
Saturday 25 September 1915 to Friday 8 October
1915

20 miles away ~ 20 miles or 32 kilometres away from
where? Saint Omer was 71 kms away from the battle and
Bethune was 20 kms from the battle so we should assume
Bethune.

Ballan ~ A town 39 kilometres from Ballarat, Priscilla's
home in Australia.

Shelling ~ Artillery shells from large guns/cannons
kilometres away.

Hosp. ~ Hospital

Military ~ Changed from treating refugees and sick to
treating wounded soldiers.

Marquees ~ Large tents

Orderly ~ Attendant in a hospital responsible for non-
medical care of patients and the maintenance of order and
cleanliness

VAD ~ Voluntary Aid Detachment. Voluntary civilians
providing nursing care alongside military nurses. Includes
Red Cross VAD's

Pts ~ Patients

Bethune ~ Town 54 kilometres from St Omer.

5 miles behind the firing line ~ 5 miles / 8 kilometres from
the battle. I assume she went from Bethune 20kms from

the front to a CCS 8 kilometres from the front where the
newly wounded were treated.

CCS ~ 33rd Casualty Clearing Station

Bombs ~ Explosive weapon that uses an explosive
material to provide an extreme and violent release of
energy. Often dropped from planes.

Bombed ~ To have explosive bombs dropped on you
from an aircraft

Railhead ~ Point in a railway system where good
(wounded soldiers) are transferred or loaded.

Enormous British guns ~ Extremely big artillery canons
for firing large shells on the enemy

Deafening noise ~ An extremely loud noise. Loud
enough to make you deaf.

Giant ~ Imaginary or mythical being of human form but
superhuman strength and jumbo, immense size.

Lord Kitchener ~ Field Marshal Lord Kitchener ~
Secretary of State of War

Memorial service ~ A service held to memorialize a
deceased person with their body not present.

Opera House ~ Probably the Opera House in Lille 39
kilometres from Bethune.

⑦. My first experience of gas. Preliminary precautions had been taken gas masks & drill. Early masks became careless. One day gas came up one with masks. Theatre work here - laying out dead with all day's thought of 1st day of war. Always crops up thoughts of place a square in middle of town & on market day - a way of flowers. amongst vegetable & dairy produce. Buy first snowflakes clumps of them in earth in flower for two pence.

⑧. Back to Base hospital on coast near Bologne. for 18 months. Hard work - mostly theatre work. Worst winter during war. That of 1916-17. Everything frozen for 5 wks. Snow for hot water bottles. etc. flowers frozen in vases - fountain pen ink frozen whilst writing it. Didn't care if I died. Tell in snow drift one night duty & didn't want to get up. During this time had leave to England from Somerset & Cornwall in early Spring. Back again refreshed.

Lunch with Royalty at Hardeot. Hospital on cliff - huts - saw wreck on rocks 5' men clinging to masts for hours.

New page

Transcription

7. My first experience of gas. Preliminary precautions had been taken. Gas masks & drill. Carry masks. Became careless. Day gas came no one with masks. Theatre work here – laying out dead all day & night of 1st day of gas. Always crops up thoughts of place & square in middle of town & on market day – *unknown?* of flowers amongst vegetables & dairy produce. Buy first *unknown?* clumps of them in earth in flower for two pence.

8. Back to base hospital on coast near Bolougne for 15 months. Hard work mostly theatre work. Worst winter during war that of 1916-17. Everything frozen for 3 weeks. Snow for hot water bottles etc. Flowers frozen in vases – fountain pen ink frozen whilst wearing? it didn't care if I died. Fell in snow drift one night duty & didn't want to get up. During this time had leave to England, Devon, Somerset & Cornwall in early spring. Back again refreshed. Lunch with Royalty at Hadelot Hospital on cliff – huts – saw wreck on rocks 5 men clinging to masts for hours

§ Note in margin “Queen of England's inspection”

Gas – Chlorine gas was first used by the Germans at Ypres in April 1915. Subsequent gases were Mustard gas, Bromine gas and Phosgene gas.

Gas masks – Priscilla also calls them gas helmets. Metal hat with face mask and breathing apparatus for main poison gases phosgene and mustard gas

Drill – Practise when and how to use the gas mask

Masks – See gas masks

Laying out dead – When a soldier dies they are still a patient we will wash the body, comb their hair and dress them in clean uniform. Nurses still talk to them, use their names and tell them what they are doing. It is an act of dignity.

Base hospital – The 8th Stationary Hospital Wimereux a coastal town on the English channel 7 kilometres north of Bolougne.

Bolougne – A coastal town in northern France.

Departure point for travel across the English channel

Theatre work – Working in the operating theatre. See page 254 for photograph.

Snow for hot water bottles – Because all liquid water was frozen presume snow was put or melted for water bottles.

Snow drift – Wind moving light snow and depositing a mound of snow usually against an object or wall.

Leave – Maybe 8/11/1916 to 22/11/1916 see also page 272

England – Country part of United Kingdom.

Devon, Somerset & Cornwall – Counties in south west England

Royalty – Maybe the Queen of Portugal and/or the Duchess of Argyle the daughter of Queen Victoria.

See also page 78

Hadelot – A coastal town on the English channel in France 13 kilometres south of Bolougne.

Hadelot – Coastal resort with unspoilt sandy beaches and forests in northern France 13 kilometres south of Bolougne

Hospital on cliff – Probably No 25 General Hospital in Hadelot staffed by Australian nurses and English doctors.

§ Queen of England's Inspection – This refers to Queen Mary of Teck, the English Queen's visit to a hospital in Bolougne where Priscilla was presented to the Queen on Friday 6 July 1916. See also photo on page 252

⑨. Further up the line. rather uneventful.
 4 or 5 months - quietest period ~~was~~
 then came request for training in anaesthetics
 my name accepted. excitement when leave
 for South of France was possible. Fortnight in
 French Riviera amongst all the wonderful
 places one had read about & longed to visit.
 Spirits damped when American girls said we
 were like Salvation army lassies.

⑩ Back to Amiens - a wonderfully interesting
 town with one of the most beautiful cathedrals
 in ~~any~~ Europe. only 5 weeks here but
 what a 5 weeks. - ~~we were all~~ hundreds of
 Sisters were waiting here to be sent to
 C.S.'s as there was a big staff coming.
 this was the big fight to end the war 1918.
 Bombardment of Amiens night after night.
 & then evacuation night before - all lights
 were out & ~~Red Cross~~ ~~ambulance~~ ~~grip~~ about with
 torches or candles grip relief with the hyper-
 dermic syringe. never forget it - it was
 like Hell let loose. Hospital trains in
 station were shelled & bombed - drivers of
 French trains deserted their posts & so held
 up the line & our hosp. trains could not
 get out of station. Next morning - order for
 evacuation 20 minutes - numerous German

Attachment One (12) – The extra pages

New page

Transcription

2. Further up the line rather uneventful 4 or 5 months – quieter? period Then came request for training in anaesthetics my name accepted. Excitement when leave for south of France was possible. Fortnight in French Riviera amongst all the wonderful places one had read about & longed to visit. Spirits damped when American girls said we were like Salvation army lassies.

10. Back to Amiens ♦ – a wonderfully interesting town with one of the most beautiful Cathedrals in Europe. Only 5 weeks here but what a 5 weeks – numbers of sisters were waiting here to be sent to C.C.S's as there was a big strife? coming. This was the big fight to end the war 1918. Bombardment of Amiens night after night & then evacuation night before – all lights were out & doctors & nurses going about with torches or candles giving relief with the hypodermic syringes. Never forget it. – it was like hell let loose. Hospital trains in station were shelled & bombed – drivers of French trains deserted their posts & so held up the line & our hosp. trains could not get out of station. Next morning- orders for evacuation 20 minutes – rumours Germans

♦ Note in margin of this page “met my husband here”

Anaesthetics – Administering medications that block the feeling of pain by causing unconsciousness which allows surgical procedures to be undertaken.

French Riviera – Mediterranean coast of south eastern France. Glamorous beach resorts of Saint-Tropez and Cannes. Priscilla on leave 20/2/18 to 6/3/18

American girls – American nurses

Salvation army lassies – Assume they were being derogatory about their grey uniforms with the scarlet banding.

Amiens – City of northern France on the Somme river.

Cathedrals – The Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Amiens or simply Amiens Cathedral. Seat of the Bishop of Amiens. (Cathedrale Notre-Dame D'Amiens)

Sisters – Nurses

CCS's – Casualty Clearing Stations

Strife – Conflict, trouble, difficulty

Bombardment – Maybe artillery shells from big guns/cannons or bombs from aircraft dropped on the town

Hypodermic syringes – Injections of probably morphine to relieve pain.

Hospital trains – Trains used as hospitals to treat and transport wounded soldiers to other land - based hospitals.

Shelled – Artillery shells from large guns/cannons kilometres away dropped on town

Bombed – Bombs explosive devices dropped from aircraft

Hosp. trains – Trains used as hospitals to treat and transport wounded soldiers to other land - based hospitals.

Evacuation 20 minutes – Urgent escape, removal, expulsion, shifting in 20 minutes.

Germans – The Enemy German troops/soldiers

♦ “met my husband here” – There were a significant number of British, Australian, French and other troops at the front at this time of the war and Priscilla may have been describing the bombardment and evacuation of Amiens at the beginning of the “Michael” assault by the Germans with their objective being Amiens and which destroyed 2000 buildings in a week in Amiens around the 27th March and 4th April 1918. Priscilla's service record shows she was working at the 42nd Stationery Hospital in Amiens at this time. (see Service History)

Was Cyril Terrence Charles Kirby defending the German assault during the “Michael” campaign?

first over the hill. Sisters in ambulances
 going to C.C.P.s returning - what had been
 hosp. now in German hands. our hosp.
 crowded to overflowing receiving more & more
 doctors nurses from further up - arriving
 first in what they stood in.
 when one has time to look out of windows
 we saw hordes of people in the streets - prison
 labour battalions Chinese etc French families
 with all belongings in carts - old women leading
 cows etc. aeroplanes on lorries being taken
 back to safety.
 we were all paid 150 francs - This was to
 ensure all having a little money in case we were
 later prisoners. Hastily packing - leave all
 behind except attache case.
 Every patient given morphine & put into
 ambulances - 2 sisters in each. Long drive
 Bibberville & entrained to Havre.
 We thought end of war & that we'd be in
 England next day.

Attachment One (13) – The extra pages

New page

Transcription

just over the hill. Sisters in ambulances going to C.C.S.'s returning – what had been hosp. now in German hands. Our hosp. crowded to overflowing receiving more & more doctors nurses from further up – arriving just in what they stood in. When one had time to look out of windows we saw hordes of people in the streets – prisoner? labour battalions? chinese etc French family with all belongings in carts – old women leading cows etc aeroplanes on lorrys being taken back to safety. We were all paid 150 francs – this was to ensure all having a little money in case we were taken prisoner. Hasty packing – leave all behind except attaché case. Every patient given morphine & put into ambulances – 2 sisters in each. Long drive Abbeville & entrained to Havre. We thought end of war & that we'd be in England next day

Sisters – Nurses

CCS's – Casualty Clearing Stations. Early treatment site for wounded soldiers. Priscilla indicating that they are returning probably because the fighting is getting too close.

Hosp – Hospital

German – The enemy soldiers born in or from Germany. Indicating the CCS hospitals closer to the front have been taken over by the Germans

Doctors nurses from further up – Doctors and nurses from the CCS's taken by the Germans returning/evacuating

Hordes – Large numbers

Prisoner, labour battalions, Chinese – Withdrawal of these groups from the front line ahead of the German advance

Aeroplanes on lorrys – Correctly Lorry's. Aeroplanes loaded on four wheeled trucks being driven from the front

150 francs – Approximately worth \$700 Australian today.

Prisoner – Person captured and kept confined by the enemy

Attache case – A small thin suitcase

Morphine – Opiate based pain medication to alleviate strong and severe pain.

Abbeville – The track head 84 kilometres from Bethune travelled there by ambulances

Entrained to Havre – Taken 170 kilometres by train from Abbeville to the major French port city of Havre a departure point for crossing the English channel.

We thought end of war – We thought it was the end of the war and that we were defeated.

England – Country which is part of the United Kingdom. Capital city is London.

(10)
 Compensation for what we'd lost & then
 new uniforms etc & it was here I was
 trained in anaesthetics. Then up the line
 to French C. & S. ^{but inspired} pretty place with
 camouflaged tents below ground surface.
 Nasterians all around. Marquees had
 been used for Indian Durbar lined yellow
 from base again near the Sea -
 for 7 years. Change from nursing.
 Armistice night - Convoy arriving - could
 not believe war was over. Everyone singing
 beating trays blowing whistles - my feeling
 was too deep for any outward sign.
 I felt too so thankful that just wanted to
 give thanks.
 Then followed a wait of months for demobilisation
 travelled on ^{my} last trip across sup. Channel
 my ~~trip~~ trip with Admiral Beatty &
 Queen of Romania. Followed a month
 in a wonderful 2000 bed hosp. in London
 a marvel of a place with every conceivable
 convenience.
 Home on ^{small} ship called the Rhoda which
 had been commandeered by us from
 Germans.

Attachment One (14) – The extra pages

New page

Transcription

10. Compensation for what we'd lost & our? new uniforms etc & it was here I was trained in anaesthetics. Then up the line to Frevent C.C.S. tent hospital – pretty place with camouflaged tents below ground surface. Unknown? all around. Marques had been used for Indian unknown? unknown? unknown? down to base again near the sea – giving anaesthetics for nearly year. Change from nursing. Armistice night – convoy arriving – could not believe war was over. Everyone singing beating trays blowing whistle – my feeling was too deep for any outward sign. I felt so thankful that just wanted to give thanks. Then followed a wait of months for demobilisation. Travelled on my 9th & last trip across Eng. Channel with Admiral Beatty & Queen of Romania. Followed a month in wonderful 2000 bed hosp. in London a marvel of a place with every conceivable convenience. Home on a small ship called the Rhoda which had been commandeered by us from Germans &

End of section of 6 pages and end of the extra pages

Compensation – Reimbursement, repayment

Anaesthetics – Administering medications that block the feeling of pain by causing unconsciousness which allows surgical procedures to be undertaken.

Frevent C.C.S. – Priscilla worked at 19th Casualty Clearing Station from 30/7/18 to 5/9/18 in Frevent a small city in northern France 64 kilometres south of St Omer.

Camouflaged – Hide or disguise or conceal existence of the tents

Marques – Marquees or large tents.

Armistice night – The night of Armistice day. The day the war ended Monday 11 November 1918

Convoy arriving – A group of motor vehicles and/or ships travelling together. Assume to remove them from France.

Admiral Beatty – Sir David Richard Beatty (1st Earl Beatty) Admiral of the Fleet.

Queen of Romania – Marie of Romania. Marie Alexandra Victoria 1875-1938, also Marie of Edinburgh was part of the British Royal Family before her marriage. She was the last Queen of Romania. A qualified nurse who worked during the first world war.

Hosp – Hospital

Rhoda – Hospital Transport HT Roda or Steam Ship SS Roda. Left London on Saturday 8 May 1919. Other nurses also on board. Example Eileen King from the Orontes.

Commandeered – Seized, taken or confiscated

Germans – The enemy the German forces

invited up is a party at Pearl Eyes to-light. Sunday has to go away earlier than the intended the boat goes on to 30th I two months yesterday I the

My dearest Priscilla
 Clean just home from my bath. Elsie went out with us, she always goes for the drive & she does enjoy it too. This afternoon the 8 other B. have gone to see Miss Badgercomb & then she is going shopping she is making a little coat for Billy. Miss D. he was here last night. He was at our game he has all his week at there, and gives him every afternoon. Off. What Mr. John Stewart is giving a social at Mr. Arthur's Church & invited Dad & I only Dad is going. I am better but could not go & it is yet had such a nice letter from Pippie. Poor County people would very likely get a letter & Jacks to-day that must be hard. Elsie got one from Gustave to-day he met Jack near the Jean has her washerwoman to-day (a good day). Elsie & Mabel are

Waverley
 May 3rd 1916

Attachment Two (1) – Isabella's letter

Side 1 of a letter from Isabella (Belle) Wardle to her daughter Priscilla. Priscilla may have kept this letter because it may have been Isabella's last letter to Priscilla before she passed away in the early hours of Sunday the 11th of June 1916. Isabella had been ill for some time.

Notes

- i. The word and has been substituted for the symbol & to make reading easier. (Priscilla also did this when writing her diary)
- ii. Shaded words have page notes below the transcription
- iii. Words followed by a question mark ? are a best guess.
- iv. Where the word **unknown** is entered the word(s) could not be identified

"For complete accuracy refer to the original letter"

Letter Side 1 - Transcription

Waverley

May 3rd, 1916

My dearest Priscilla

Am just home after my bath. Ettie went out with us. She always goes for the drive and she does enjoy it too. This afternoon she and Ethel B have gone to see Miss Bodycomb? and then she is going shopping. She is making a little coat for Billy. Bess and he were here last night. Vic was at an exam? He has all this week at them, dad gives him every afternoon off. Old Mrs? John? Stewart? is giving a social at McArthur? St Church? and invited dad and I. Only dad is going. I am better but could not go just yet. Had such a nice letter from Poppy?. Poor Aunty Belle would very likely get a letter of Jacks to-day that must be hard. Ettie got one from Eustace to-day he met Jack over there. Jean has her washerwoman to-day (A good day) Olive and Ruby are.....

writing now is sideways on the left hand side of side 1

...invited up to a party at Pearl Eyer's? to-night. Aunty? has to go away earlier than she intended. The boat goes on the 30th of this month instead of the 8th of Sept?.....

writing is now sideways at the top of side 1

..... Ruby and Bess are at Ivy's? this afternoon. Liz Allan? is engaged Lots of love mother.

Explanations see next 2 pages

Attachment Two (1) – Isabella's letter

Explanations Side 1

Waverley - One of the Wardle family homes in Ballarat which still stands today

May 3 1916 - Wednesday 3 May 1916

Ettie - Isabella's sister in law and aunty to Priscilla. Marie Esther (Ettie) Wardle in 1916 aged 57 years.. Married to William Edward Burbidge in 1884. Moved from Ballarat to Gympie in Queensland in 1893 where William became Mayor in 1910. Name sometimes spelled as Burbridge. Priscilla's cousin Beryl Emma Burbidge 1902-1988 the youngest of Ettie's nine children also became a nurse and matron in the second world war and awarded the OBE.

She - Ettie see above

Ethel B - Probably Ethel May Burbidge, Ettie's sister in law. Aged 40 in 1916 born and lived in Ballarat.

Miss Bodycomb - Not identified

Billy - Two year old grandson Henry George Ian (Billy) Wardle (2 years old) Priscilla's nephew. Son of Priscilla's brother Henry Victor (Vic) Wardle and Bessie (nee Eason) Henry George Ian (Billy) Wardle born with brain damage in 1914 and died in 1926 aged 12 years.

Bess - Probably Isabella's daughter in law and Priscilla's sister in law Bessie Eason wife of Henry Victor (Vic) Wardle Priscilla's brother

Vic - Son Henry Victor (Vic) Wardle brother to Priscilla

Dad - Her husband Henry Thomas (Harry) Wardle, Priscilla's father

Old Mrs John Stewart - Not found

Social - A dance. Social evening.

McArthur St Church - Currently the Uniting Church but in 1916 probably the Methodist Church on the corner of McArthur and Neill Streets, Soldiers Hill in Ballarat.

Poppy - Nurse Edith (Poppy) Popplewell - Family friend Born in NZ but brought up in Ballarat and completed Nursing training in Ballarat. Served for NZ in Egypt. Famous for her Marquette sinking actions.

Poor Auntie Belle - Isabella Allan (nee Reed) living in Western Australia. Mother of Jack Gadsby Allan killed in Egypt three weeks before Isabella wrote this letter.

Attachment Two (1) - Isabella's letter

Explanations Side 1

Priscilla Wardle Diary Transcription

Jacks – Jack Gadsby Allan son of Isabella (Belle) Allan

Eustace – Isabella's nephew Eustace Wardle Burbidge son of Isabella's sister in law Marie Esther (Ettie) Burbidge (nee Wardle) and cousin to Priscilla.

Jean – Isabella's daughter Janet Merton (Jean) Wardle 1886 – 1977 30 years old in 1916 sister to Priscilla. Married the month before to Thomas Alfred Selleck.

Olive – Daughter Maggie Olive Wardle sister to Priscilla

Ruby – Daughter Ruby Agnes Vivian Wardle 1893 – 1928 Priscilla's sister. 23 years old in 1916 Ruby died in a car accident in 1928 aged 35 years.

Pearl Eyer's – Not identified

Aunty – Probably Marie Esther (Ettie) Burbidge (Nee Wardle) going to Queensland. (Gympie)

Boat – To Brisbane or Gympie

Ivy's – Probably niece Nellie Ivy Allan (27 years), daughter of Isabella's brother William Ivie Allan. Born in Ballarat in 1889 and died in Ballarat in 1975(86) cousin to Priscilla

Liz Allan – Probably niece Lizzie Allan (34) daughter of Isabella's brother James Allan. Born in Ballarat in 1882 and died in Mont Park Hospital in 1945 (63) cousin to Priscilla, Married Sydney Bousefield Tatham in 1916.

Mr. Mathew has gone and a new, a
 very fine minister in his place. The
 church is filled just as it was when
 Mr. Johnson was here. Elsie does a lot
 of sewing & fancy work now.
 Elsie & Frank are very good in going
 out with her where I do not go.
 Harry drove Elsie & Elsie down to
 the Alfred Hall last night - to a
 fancy fair show. It was more the
 drive that Elsie went for. After they had
 seen the whole show, the left hand
 I went for a drive as far as places
 I then back for dad & he drove me
 home & went back for his two fowls. 3rd & 4th
 God bless you my precious daughter
 is the constant prayer of your loving mother
 Belle Wardle

Attachment Two (2) – Isabella's letter

Notes

- i. The word and has been substituted for the symbol & to make reading easier. (Priscilla also did this when writing her diary)
- ii. Shaded words have notes below.
- iii. Words followed by a question mark ? are a best guess.
- iv. Where the word unknown is entered the word(s) could not be identified

"For complete accuracy please refer to the original letter"

Letter Side 2 - Transcription

....**Mr Madsen?** has gone and a new and very fine Minister *in?* his place. The Church is filled just as it was when **Minister Hobard?** was here. **Ettie** does a lot of sewing and fancy work *etc.?* **Olive** and **Ruby** are very good in going out with her when I do not go. **Harry** drove **Ettie** and **Olive** down to the **Alfred hall?** last night - to a **fancy?** fowl show. It was more the drive that **Ettie** went for. After they had been there a while **Olive** and **she** left **dad.** and went for a drive as far as *unknown* and then back for dad and he drove them home and went back for his two **fowls** 3rd, 4th.

God bless you my precious daughter is the constant prayer of your loving mother.

Belle Wardle

Explanations Side 2

Mr Madsen – Not found

Minister Hobard – Not found

Ettie – Isabella's sister in law and aunty to Priscilla. Marie Esther (Ettie) Wardle in 1916 aged 57 years.. Married to William Edward Burbidge in 1884. Moved from Ballarat to Gympie in Queensland in 1893 where William became Mayor in 1910. Name sometimes spelled as Burbridge. Priscilla's cousin Beryl Emma Burbidge 1902-1988 the youngest of Ettie's nine children also became a nurse and matron in the second world war and awarded the OBE.

Olive – Daughter Maggie Olive Wardle sister to Priscilla

Ruby – Daughter Ruby Agnes Vivian Wardle sister to Priscilla

Harry – Her husband Henry Thomas (Harry) Wardle and Priscilla's father

Alfred hall – Corner of Cutis and Grenville streets. Demolished in 1956

Fancy fowl show – Probably fancy chicken breeds

She – Ettie - See explanations page 1

Dad – Her husband Henry Thomas (Harry) Wardle and Priscilla's father

Fowls 3rd, 4th. – It means Harry's Fowls were placed third and fourth in the show.

"Waverley"

Narrows St
Ballarat

June 13-1916

My dear Priscilla

It is with great sorrow regret I have to write you to night and convey the news of the death of your loving mother and my darling wife she was the dearest little woman that ever breathed even in her sickness & weakness she was a shining light to us all the dear lamb always done every thing that was good and never done anyone harm her aim in life was to feed the poor and clothe the naked and she will be missed by hundreds whom she helped to make life easy for some poor child or old people I miss her to day when I sat down to dinner I looked round to see if ma was gettin' hers but the couch was vacant she passed away peacefully at 10 o'clock Sunday morning we had Lucy Bennett nursing her at night and the dear girls in the day Monday fortnight 3 o'clock in the morning she cry out to me oh dear I have strained my self we all got up and got the fire going and put hot packs to her ever since until she passed away We had Dr Champlin attending to her twice a day and nurse Lucy Bennett who is a dear girl doing her best and dear mother loved her but the

Attachment Three (1) – Harry's Letter

Letter from Priscilla's father Henry Thomas (Harry) Wardle informing Priscilla that her mother had died.

"For complete accuracy please refer to the original letter"

Letter Part 1

"Waverley"

Dawson St

Ballarat

June 13 – 1916

My Dear Priscilla

It is with great sorrow & regret I have to write you to-night and convey the news of the death of your loving mother and my darling wife. She was the dearest little woman that ever breathed even in her sickness & weakness she was a shining light to us all the dear lamb always done everything that was good and never done anyone harm her aim in life was to feed the poor and clothe the naked and she will be missed by hundreds whom she helped to make life easy for some poor child or old people. I miss her to-day when I sat down to dinner I looked round to see if ma was getting hers but the couch was vacant. She passed away peacefully 4 o'clock Sunday morning. We had Lucy Bennett nursing her at night and the dear girls in the day. Monday fortnight 3 o'clock in the morning she cry out to me oh Harry I have strained myself. We all got up and got the fire going and put hot packs to her ever since until she passed away. We had Dr Champion attending to her twice a day and nurse Lucy Bennett who is a dear girl doing her best and dear Mother loved her but the

Harry's letter – Part 1 – Explanation notes

Waverley – One of the Wardle family homes which still stands today at 215 Dawson St Ballarat.

Ballarat – A city in the State of Victoria, Australia made famous by the Eureka stockade and gold mining in 1854.

June 13 1916 – Tuesday 13 June 1916

Wife – Isabella (nee Allan) Wardle, Priscilla's mother

4 o'clock Sunday morning – 4 am Sunday 11 June 1916

Monday fortnight 3 o'clock – 3 am Monday 29 May 1916

Harry – Priscilla's father Henry Thomas (Harry) Wardle

Dr Champion – Dr William John Champion

Lucy Bennet – Nurse Lucy Bennet

the Lord called for her and we had to let her go. she was
 a dear lamb to us all always trying & thinking for us all. It
 was her Birthday on Thursday and we gave her presents and she was
 so pleased your present came on the very day. Her Birthday
 next day poor dear asked for my fountain pen to write a
 note but was unable so she said Miss take ten shilling out of the
 house money for yourself and it will be Robbie's 21st 1 July take
 out 1 pound for him and ten shilling for Jean's Birthday
 so you will know she was quite clean up to the last and we
 put the dear to rest on Monday June the 12th in the old country
 you will see by the paper slips the girls are enclosing what
 a lot of friends she had she was beloved by everybody who knew
 her I will miss her every turn and tonight I am writing this
 letter tonight with tears my dear she as left behind her
 five good girls & boys who love her and will always be able
 to say that they had a good mother who never done a
 wrong thing to anyone. We have received 120 letters & Telegrams
 today from friends all over the Commonwealth. Now dear
 Pearl you will know I will be alright the girls will be able
 to keep the house going and we will look after the living
 and things will have to go on. The poor dear was only a few hours
 Dr Champion told me he never in all his experience saw such
 a ^{thin} living being and the undertaker said never saw anything
 like it and he had handled hundreds of people

Attachment Three (2) – Harry's Letter

Letter from Priscilla's father Henry Thomas (Harry) Wardle informing Priscilla that her mother had died.

"For complete accuracy please refer to the original letter"

Letter Part 2

..... the Lord called for her and we had to let her go. She was a dear lamb to us all always trying & thinking for us all. It was her Birthday on Thursday and we gave her presents and she was so pleased your present came on the very day. Olive Birthday next day poor dear asked for my fountain pen to write a note but she was unable to so she said Olive take ten shilling out of the house money for yourself and it will be Bobbie's 21st 1 July take out 1 pound for him and ten shilling for Jean Birthday So will know she was quite clear up to the last And we put the dear to rest on Monday June the 12th in the old cemetery You will see by the paper clips the girls are enclosing what a lot of friends she had. She was beloved by everybody who knew her I will miss her every turn and tonight I am writing this letter tonight with tears my dear She has left behind her fine good girls & boys who love her and will always be able to say that they had a good Mother who never done a wrong thing to anyone. We have received 120 letters & telegrams today from friends all over the commonwealth. Now dear pearl you will know I will be alright the girls will be able to keep the house going and we will look after the living and things will have to go on. The poor dear was only a few bones Dr Champion told me he never in all his experience saw such a thin living being and the undertaker never saw anything like it and he had handle hundreds of people

Harry's letter – Part 2 – Explanation notes

The Lord – God

Birthday on Thursday – Thursday 8 June 1916

Fountain pen – A pen with a reservoir from which ink flows continuously to the nib

Olive – Daughter Maggie Olive Wardle sister to Priscilla

Bobbie's – Priscilla's brother Robert Norman Wardle

1 July – Saturday 1 July 1916

1 pound – One pound, \$2 in current currency. One pound in 1916 is worth \$153.09 dollars today.

Ten shillings – Or \$1 in current currency. Ten shillings in 1916 is worth \$76.54 today

Jean Birthday – Janet Merton (Jean) Wardle Priscilla's sister birthday Saturday 22 July 1916

Commonwealth – Did Harry mean The Commonwealth of Australia, that is from all States of Australia. The future "Commonwealth" of Australia, India, New Zealand, Canada, Caribbean, Africa, South Africa, Newfoundland was at that time called the British Empire.

Pearl – Harry's nickname for Priscilla

Dr Champion – Dr William John Champion

Robbie will be going away back to Melbourne to-morrow
 he has passed his thirteenth year and will now ^{be} starting his fourth
 year I will feel the loss when the house gets quite and we
 get into the ordinary duties of life again you will be getting
 a lot of letters and I am not in a condition to write more
 to night - with love from your loving father

Harry

Attachment Three (3) – Harry's Letter

Letter from Priscilla's father Henry Thomas (Harry) Wardle informing Priscilla that her mother had died.

"For complete accuracy please refer to the original letter"

Letter Part 3

Bobbie will be going away to Melbourne tomorrow he has passed his third year and will now be starting his fourth year I will feel the loss when the house gets quite and we get into the ordinary duties of life again You will be getting a lot of letters and I am not in a condition to write more tonight with love from your loving father

Harry

Harry's letter – Part 3 – Explanation notes

Bobbie – Priscilla's brother Robert Norman Wardle

Melbourne – The capital city of the state of Victoria in Australia

Third year – The third year of his science degree, Robert went on to be a veterinarian.

Fourth year – The fourth year of his science degree, Robert went on to be a veterinarian.

Quite – Probably quiet

Harry – Priscilla's father Henry Thomas (Harry) Wardle

Attachment Four (1) – Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badges



Priscilla circa 1915

A studio portrait thought to be prior to her departure for France in 1915

Priscilla is wearing her Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) cape which is all red.

She is also wearing her white muslin cap

At her throat Priscilla is wearing the nurses silver "throat" Army Rising Sun or General Service badge

Note: Australian nurses in World War One are the only Australian service personnel to ever be authorised to wear a silver Rising Sun insignia as a part of their uniform.

Attachment Four (2) – Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badges



Priscilla and friends at No. 7 General Hospital, Saint Omer, France in July 1915

(Priscilla would have been aged 30 in this photograph.)

Australian War Memorial (AWM) P09900.002 (Copyright expired-public domain) The official AWM description is "Informal group portrait of Australian nurses of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve outside No. 7 General Hospital. At left rear is Priscilla Isabell Wardle, and standing second from right is Ethel Mary (Effie) Hargreave(s). Also in this group but positions unknown are: E. Cumming; K Herriot; Mary Loughron; I King; Nellie Weston Crommelin. Following the death of her brother 1942 Private Ernest Walter Hargreave(s) in 1918, Ethel Hargreave(s) applied to return to Australia. She travelled via Canada and north America, then to Australia aboard RMS Niagara. Spanish influenza broke out on board and Ethel volunteered to nurse patients."

A recently discovered copy of this photograph from Priscilla says on the back "I am only sorry that Edith was on duty when this was taken. Cameras are strictly forbidden by the British Authorities but the Belgians of course may have theirs and do. Next to me is Cumming, Miss Marsh?, Heriot, Hargreaves and Loughron. In front of me Eileen King and next to her Donnelly?"

Therefore standing left to right are. Priscila Isabel Wardle; Margaret Cumming; Violet May Marsh ?; Katherine "Katie" Rae Heriot; Ethel Mary "Effie" Hargreaves ; Mary McLean Loughron; Front are. Eileen King; Charlotte Bridget Donnelly?

Note: The names Miss Marsh and Donnelly are still subject to further research and confirmation because these are very hard to read.. Donnelly could be Australian nurse Charlotte Bridget Donnelly. Priscilla mentions a Miss "Marsh" on Diary pages 70,71,72,73,78 and 79 and there is a V.M.Marsh signature on Diary page 100. On Thursday 26 August 1915 (Diary page 71) Marsh has photos taken but maybe these were the photographs mentioned on Diary page 72 and not the above photograph..

The official AWM description names only seven (7) nurses and there are eight (8) in the picture.

All the nurses except Marsh are Australian.

All the nurses except Marsh and Donnelly travelled to Europe together on the Orontes.

The Edith mentioned is Priscilla's best friend Australian nurse Edith Victoria Donaldson.

Note: Nurse Nellie Weston Crommelin could not be in this photograph as she did not depart Australia until July 1916.

Attachment Four (3) – Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badges



Priscilla 1917 (aged 32 years)

While Serving on the Western Front at the 8th Stationary Hospital in Wimereux, France which was her longest posting of the war Priscilla was on leave between Tuesday 22 May 1917 and Tuesday 5 June 1917.

Priscilla may have been staying at the Ivanhoe Hotel, where she usually stayed, in London, when this studio portrait was taken. Priscilla turned 33 on Sunday the 9th of December 1917.

One month later while still working at the 8th Stationary Hospital in Wimereux, France on Sunday 1 July 1917 Priscilla became an "Acting Sister" and on Friday 6 July 1917 was presented to Queen Mary. (see opposite)

So this portrait was taken around significant events in her life.

This portrait was taken in London by SWAINE photographs at 146 Bond St. West.

The photographer may have been James Russell and Sons. The Plate Number is 21930 C.

Swaine's had three Royal Warrants for their photography.

Together with a wooden frame it cost 2/6 or two shillings and six pence (26 cents in decimal currency) in 1917 which is today worth approximately \$15 Australian.

Attachment Four (4) – Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badges



Priscilla meets the Queen, Friday July 6 1917

The official description for this photograph is "Queen Mary of Teck talking to Matron of a hospital in Boulogne 6 July 1917"

Queen Mary of course was the British Queen and wife of King George V of England.

It is from the Ministry of Information First World War Official Collection (Image Q2507) and was taken by Ernest Brooks.

A Family legend has it that the nurse next in line directly behind the Matron is Priscilla. This is probably correct because a recently discovered copy of this photograph that Priscilla kept with her papers has the quote "Me & the Queen" in Priscilla's handwriting on the back. Amongst Priscilla's items is a copy of this photograph in a glass case with a ring so it can be wall mounted.

Another fact is the nurse next in line after the Matron in the picture is a "Sister" or "Acting Sister" because she has the dark bands on her sleeves near her wrists denoting her rank. Priscilla became an acting Sister on Sunday July 1 1917 five days before this photo was taken. The distinctive Cape this nurse is wearing also identifies her as a nurse with the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve (QAIMNSR) the same as Priscilla. Priscilla also refers to this "inspection" on page 230.

Attachment Four (5) – Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badges



Priscilla at 2nd General Hospital (Officers Hospital) in Havre., France Friday 29 March 1918 to Monday 29 July 1918 note the two dark bands on her right sleeve denoting that she is an "Acting Sister"

The group photos have the same 6 QAIMNSR nurses with their distinctive capes, 2 Red Cross nurses and 2 Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurses

In the top right photo Sister Priscilla is the nurse on the right of the sitting centre trio. The men are doctors

In the bottom photo Sister Priscilla is the nurse on the right of the front row.

Priscilla worked at Havre for 14 weeks but she was very ill and admitted to the 1st General Hospital in Etretat for two of those weeks

Attachment Four (6) – Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badges



Priscilla leaving the operating theatre at Wimmereux

Priscilla at the 8th Stationery Hospital in Wimmereux, France, Saturday 24 June 1916 to Tuesday 8 August 1917

Priscilla worked at this hospital for 15 months her longest time in one hospital. She had two periods of two weeks leave during this time. During her time at Wimmereux on Sunday 1 July 1917 she was appointed an Acting Sister. Wimmereux is just up the coast from Boulogne where she met the Queen on Friday July 6 1917 Priscilla once said she disliked nursing in her cape and badges and here she is in her favourite “uniform” for work “the robe” as she called it. See also the reference on page 230



Priscilla in Cannes on the French Riviera during her leave from Friday 20 February 1918 to Friday 6 March 1918

Priscilla is wearing her distinctive QAIMNSR cape. The other nurses are wearing their “travelling” uniform. They were rudely called “Salvation Army Lassies” by American nurses for the way they were dressed. (see page 232)

Attachment Four (7) – Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badges



Sisters' (Nurses) Mess Tent, No 7 General Hospital, Malassises, St Omer France (IWM Q28902)

This was the first hospital Priscilla worked at in France. She mentions this Mess Tent on Diary page 55. The photographer may be standing where the dining tables are. Note the light fittings etc.

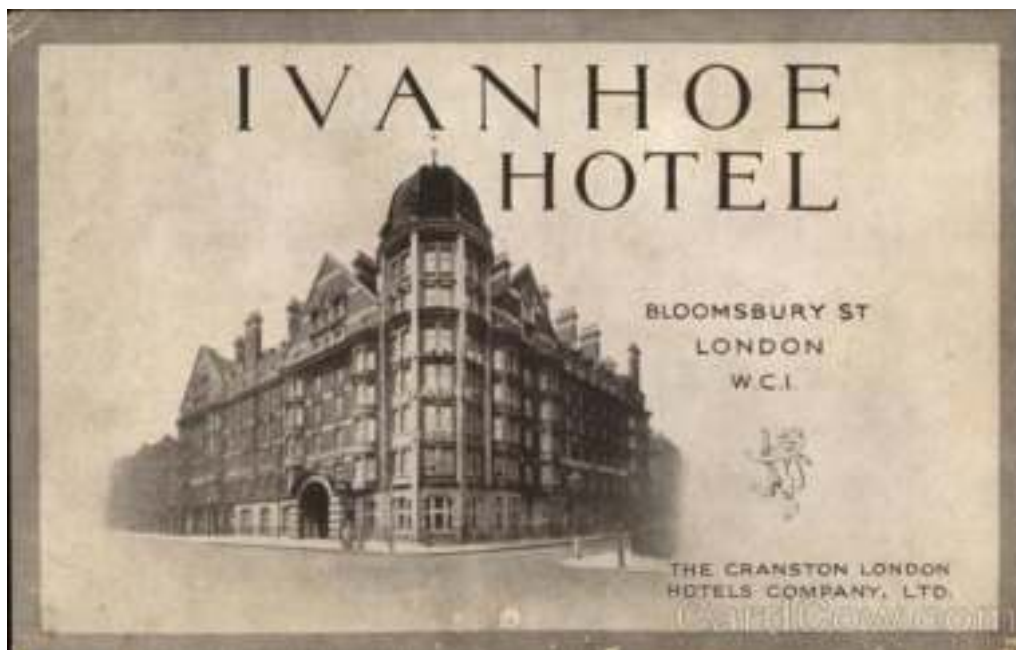


The Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve (QAIMNSR) cape was very distinctive. Here worn by Australian nurse Annie Isobel Griffiths together with her QAIMNSR badge

Attachment Four (8) – Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badges



Priscilla and her friends undertook this trip on a day off mentioned on Diary page 58 and at Attachment Four (11) page 259



Priscilla stayed at the Ivanhoe when in London as mentioned on Diary page 48. It is now known as the Bloomsbury Street Hotel on Bloomsbury street London.



Priscilla's War Medals

From left to right:

The 1914-1915 Star approved in 1918 and issued to those who served in a theatre of war between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915

The British war Medal approved in 1919 and issued to those who served between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918, Automatically awarded on completion of active service before or on 11 November 1918.

The Victory Medal (Inter-Allied Victory Medal) with the Winged Victory is a campaign medal for the 1914 ~ 1919 war which was adopted by nearly all the allied countries.

Priscilla's original Medals have been mounted by her family together with her original nursing badge in a sealed presentation box.

Attachment Four (10) – Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badges



Priscilla's Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service Reserve (QAIMNSR) qualification Badge & Ribbon

On the left Priscilla's original ribbon is very worn from the continual wearing on the right side of the lapel of her cape. On the right how the ribbon should look

The original Badge has been mounted by her family together with her original medals in a sealed presentation box.

Attachment Four (11) – Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badges



and Hugh has had his Maggie for 12 yrs. Jenny does not know that she is an adopted daughter. Hugh is quite taken with one of our sisters so I'm trying to make a match of it. She is very nice. He said in his last letter he would like to hear from her!! We are getting our badges sent out from England for QAIMNSR. Matron is very disgusted with this photograph - says it looks like washing day with the towel hung out & of course the patients should not be sprawling on the beds. One can only be sick for two days now if you are not better then you are sent away - so far I've been very healthy. A queer sort of life eat & sleep & go on duty, as soon as we finish at night at 5 one night and at 8 the next. One day this week we are all having a day off duty so Edith and I are taking tea baskets & thermos flasks & are going to the canal on a barge to a pretty wood.

and Hugh has had his Maggie for 12 yrs. Jenny does not know that she is an adopted daughter. Hugh is quite taken with one of our sisters so I'm trying to make a match of it. She is very nice. He said in his last letter he would like to hear from her!! We are getting our badges sent out from England for QAIMNSR. Matron is very disgusted with this photograph - says it looks like washing day with the towel hung out & of course the patients should not be sprawling on the beds. One can only be sick for two days now if you are not better then you are sent away - so far I've been very healthy. A queer sort of life eat & sleep & go on duty, as soon as we finish at night at 5 one night and at 8 the next. One day this week we are all having a day off duty so Edith and I are taking tea baskets & thermos flasks & are going to the canal on a barge to a pretty wood.

The above is the transcription of the text written on the back of the photograph..

Hugh - Cousin Hugh Miller the younger (pages 88,90,98,104)

Maggie - Margaret

Jenny - Adopted daughter

Sisters - Nurses

QAIMNSR - Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service

Reserve

One day - From details in the diary on Diary page 58 this is

Wednesday 14 July 1915

Week - Sunday 11 July 1915 to Saturday 17 July 1915.

Edith - Edith Victoria Donaldson - Trained at Ballarat Hospital and departed with Priscilla on the Orontes. Best friend

Canal - Waterway from St Omer to Clairmarais

Pretty wood - Clair Marais or Clairmarais north of St Omer a large wood with punting. (picture at Attachment Four (8) page 256

Attachment Four (12) – Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badge



Priscilla's Parents – "Belle" and "Harry"

Priscilla's mother Isabella "Belle" Wardle (nee Allan) was born in Ballarat on Wednesday 8 June 1859 and lived her whole life in Ballarat. Isabella became very ill shortly after Priscilla's embarkation to the Western Front. She passed away on Sunday 11 June 1916 aged 57 years approximately four months after the last entry in Priscilla's diary. Belle wrote a letter to her daughter on Wednesday 3 May 1916 and this could possibly be her mother's last letter. We can see where Priscilla got her habit of writing the "*& sign*" to replace the word "*and*".

Belle's letter and transcription are in Attachment Two on pages 237 to 242.

Henry Thomas "Harry" Wardle was born in Ballarat on 16 August 1857 and also lived his entire life in Ballarat passing away aged seventy in 1927. Harry wrote a letter to Priscilla on Tuesday 13 June 1916 informing his daughter that her mother had passed away. This letter has also been kept by Priscilla and is in Attachment Three pages 243 to 248. Harry's handwriting was beautiful. His nickname for Priscilla is "Pearl".

Priscilla -A brief Biography (1)

Priscilla Isabel Wardle was born in Ballarat, Victoria, Australia on Tuesday the 9th of December 1884. On her birth certificate her name is miss spelled as "Prisilla". Priscilla was the eldest of seven children of Henry Thomas (Harry) Wardle and Isabella Wardle (nee Allan) she had four sisters and two brothers, Janet, Merton (Jean) Wardle, twins Hilda, Allan (Hillie) Wardle and Henry Victor (Vic) Wardle, Maggie Olive (Olive) Wardle, Ruby Agnes Vivian (Ruby) Wardle and Robert Norman (Bobbie) Wardle.

Priscilla was educated at Clarendon Presbyterian Ladies College in Ballarat and it is assumed she completed her "Certificate of Merit" around 1902 when aged 17 or 18 years. In later years aged 49 to 51 years she would become Vice-President of the College Old Collegians Association (1933) and the President in 1934 and 1935.

Priscilla's nursing training at Ballarat Hospital commenced on Thursday 2 February 1905 when she was aged just 20 years and three months and she completed her training on Sunday 1 March 1908 and subsequently her Nurse Certificate (page 286) was presented on Monday June 1 1908 when Priscilla was aged 23 years and 6 months, which for nursing qualification at this time is very young.

Nurses applying for training were required to be aged 21 years or over so it appears that Priscilla who was aged 20 years and six months in June 1905 may have started her training which was scheduled to take 3 years early or did she commence in December 1905 and complete her training under the three years required.

Upon completion Priscilla was registered with The Royal Victorian Trained Nurses Association (RVTNA) on Tuesday 15 September 1908.

Nurses were expected to complete their formal training by undertaking a Certificate For Infectious Diseases Nursing course for approximately three months which Priscilla successfully completed on Tuesday 16 February 1909. Priscilla was 24 years of age when fully qualified.

Requirements for training as a nurse had been established by the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses Association in 1902. Ballarat hospital had affiliated with the RVTNA who also set the examination requirements for nurses. Most of the training would today be described as "on the job training". In 1904 the Ballarat Hospital Training School was very well thought of in nursing training circles across the country.

From Priscilla's Military Forces of the Commonwealth, Certificate of Efficiency issued by the Australian Army Nursing Service on Thursday the 15th of July 1909 we can see that "Nursing Sister P. Wardle of the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) in Victoria has attended a Course of Lectures on the Organisation of Military Hospitals, Hygiene, and Military Surgery and has qualified for a Certificate in accordance with the instructions laid down for Efficiency". Priscilla who was registered in Victoria as Number 15 would have been required to be fully qualified as a nurse before undertaking this training.

From details on the back of this certificate Priscilla re-qualified annually between 1909 and 1914 with her last Efficiency qualification attained on Tuesday the 26th of May 1914 for the year 1914 - 1915.

Priscilla – A brief Biography (2)

It is interesting to note that Priscilla was already an AANS nurse or possibly an Army Nursing Reserve (ANR) nurse five years prior to her departure for the Great War that commenced in August 1914.

At this time many qualified nurses worked in private employment after completing their training as positions in hospitals were not very well paid or readily available. Priscilla and another qualified nurse Miss Selina Lilly (Lil) McKenzie (MacKenzie) “conducted” the Mount Stuart House Private Hospital in Daylesford 45 kms North from Ballarat until June 1914. They were the “principals” in this enterprise but exactly when the partnership commenced is uncertain. The building still exists in Duke Street, Daylesford as a two-story luxury renovated residence.

On Thursday the 18th of June 1914 Priscilla was accorded a farewell at which she was said to be “a most popular favourite with all classes of the community and took a keen interest in amateur dramatic affairs” The social was attended by around 50 people and Priscilla was presented with a “handsome manicure set”. Guests stayed till midnight and danced to piano music provided by Miss Nind.

Priscilla now aged 29 worked for a short time in charge of Clarendon House in East Melbourne in the capital city of Victoria until her departure for Europe in April 1915.

When the Australian Department of Defence in response to a request from the British Government called for trained nurses to volunteer to go to the war in Europe and to be in service and under the orders of Britain's Imperial Military as a part of the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve (QAIMNSR) Priscilla and a number of her friends were in the very first group of volunteer nurses from across Australia to go to Europe. (see also “First qualified nurses to volunteer” page 267)

Priscilla embarked from Melbourne on Wednesday 14 April 1915 on the ship R.M.S. Orontes. Her journey forms part of the Diary. On reaching the English Channel there was great anxiety when three German submarines were reported in the vicinity. That night passengers remained fully dressed with their lifebelts on hand but they disembarked safely in London on Wednesday 26 May 1915. Priscilla gives this occurrence on Diary page 34 very little urgency’ She probably did not want to frighten her family as she was sending her Diary pages home for them to read.

After a brief fortnight in London during which she prepared her “kit” for her war service she crossed the English Channel and joined the 7th General British Hospital at Malassises in Saint Omer, France on Wednesday 9 June 1915.

Priscilla – A brief Biography (3)

Priscilla worked at various General Hospitals, Stationary Hospitals and Casualty Clearing Stations in France as a Staff Nurse and Acting Nursing Sister between June 1915 and March 1919. (“see also “Which nurse is which” page 269 & “Which hospital does what” page 270 & “Priscilla’s Service History” page 272).

Priscilla was made an acting Sister in 1917 and was also selected to train to become a qualified Anaesthetist in 1918. After becoming an Acting Sister on Sunday 1 July 1917 family legend has it that Priscilla met Queen Mary of Teck the Queen of England on Friday 6 July 1917. (see also Attachment Four (4) “Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badges page 252)

After completing her service in France Priscilla returned to London on Wednesday 12 March 1919 and departed England on Thursday 8 May 1919 on the ship H. T. (Hospital Transport) Roda with some of her nursing friends. Her service was terminated on Saturday 7 June 1919 after returning to Ballarat.

Priscilla was awarded three war medals for her service, the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. (see also” Attachment Four (9) “Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badges page 257)

As part of her uniform she also wore a badge confirming her nursing qualification the QAIMNSR Qualification Badge symbolised by a large R which also resembles a medal. All the “medals” have been mounted in a case to protect them. (see also” Attachment Four (10) “Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badges page 258)

Priscilla in a series of extra pages which she may have written during or shortly after the war writes in the margin of one of the pages detailing her time at Amiens, France “met my husband here”. (see also Attachment One (12) “The extra pages” page 232) We can only wonder what name he was using when he met Priscilla. His army service name was T. C. Kirby (assume Terence Charles Kirby) but on his marriage certificate he uses the name Cyril Terence Charles Kirby. His mother Emily called him “Boy”. When they met in March 1918 Cyril would have been aged 25 years if you accept his birthdate as 1892, and Priscilla 33 years. Although we are not sure of the exact date of Cyril’s arrival in Australia it must have been between June and November 1919.

From the original Certificate of Marriage we can see that Priscilla and Cyril were married on Saturday the 15th of November 1919 in a Presbyterian service by John Walker a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and the Moderator General (the most senior office-bearer in the church). The witnesses were Robert N. Wardle and Maggie Olive Wardle has signed as Olive Wardle. Cyril was 27 and Priscilla would turn 35 in December. Interestingly the wedding took place at “Waverley” the family home which still stands today at 215 Dawson Street Ballarat.

Priscilla – A brief Biography (4)

Shortly after being married Cyril and Priscilla applied for land under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act 1917. They were successful in obtaining 20 acres on the Woorinen ~ Vinifera Road at Nyah West in the Tytynder West Parish just north of Swan Hill in the district of south east Mallee in Victoria where they were to undertake irrigation and fruit growing, thought to be oranges.

(see full details at "Facts, Thoughts & Characters" (9) on page 281)

Their farming life commenced on Friday 11 June 1920 and ended on Friday 27 May 1927. During these 6 years at Nyah West Priscilla and Cyril had two children Terence Patrick Kirby born at Nyah on Saturday 2 July 1921 and Mary Shelagh Kirby born on Sunday 27 January 1924 at Dr Ettelson's private hospital in Swan Hill.

In 1927 the family returned to Ballarat. In 1933 Priscilla was President of the Ballarat Trained Nurses League as well as Vice President and then President of the Clarendon Presbyterian Ladies College Old Collegians Association in Ballarat.. Cyril (Terence) was manager of the Ballarat depot of the Atlantic Oil Co. Ltd then was appointed Superintendent for Victoria. The family moved from Ballarat to Kew in Melbourne in 1935. In 1949 Priscilla applied for Repat benefits for the injuries suffered during the war but her medical records could not be found and she was denied.

Priscilla died on Wednesday 26 July 1967 aged 82 at Heidelberg in Melbourne, Victoria and was cremated at Springvale Crematorium.

Cyril died on Tuesday 14 May 1968, nine months and eighteen days after Priscilla and at the same address in Heidelberg in Melbourne as Priscilla. On the certificate he is listed as Cyril Terence Charles Kirby aged 83. His body was donated to the Department of Anatomy, University of Melbourne on Friday 21 June 1968 and subsequently cremated. He may have made this donation for the study of Stokes Adams Syndrome which he suffered in the last 10 years of his life.

Priscilla and Cyril are interred together in the Banksia Area, Wall P, Niche 97 and Niche 104 respectively at the Springvale Crematorium in Melbourne.

Diary - What Diary!

There was some mystery about Priscilla's original diary. It was assumed in the family that the diary had been donated to either the Australian War Museum or the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.

There is a very poor photocopy of the Diary at the State Library of Victoria and this was the copy used to begin the transcription.

However in November 2018 the original diary was discovered amongst a number of other papers being cared for by one of Priscilla's granddaughters.

The Diary commences with Priscilla's departure from Australia for Europe on the ship R.M.S. Orontes on Thursday the 22nd of April 1915 and covers a period of eleven months and two weeks until Saturday the 22nd of February 1916 when it ends with Priscilla's return to London.

Most of the diary entries take place in 1915 at the No 7 British General Hospital Malassises in Saint Omer in France close to the Belgian border in an area now known as Brittany. At the beginning of February 1916 Priscilla transferred to No 33 Casualty Clearance Station in Bethune in France and the diary ends in London with Priscilla on two weeks leave.

The diary entries are made on a white perforated sheet of paper with a "carbon copy" blue page in between two white pages of entries. (see Basic Conservation page 266)

The original white pages numbered from 1 to 51 appear to have been sent home as letters by to her family. Only the central blue Diary pages with entries on both sides remain.

On the white Diary page numbered 52 Priscilla writes "I have decided **not** to send this (the white sheet numbered 52) so will write more fully." I think this means she will no longer send the white sheet of paper home as a letter.

From the Diary page numbered 52 onwards to the diary page numbered 99 both of the white pages and the blue "carbon copy" pages are intact in the diary. (a group of three sheets)

The Diary page numbered 100 is a "carbon copy" blue page with copies of 41 signatures.

There are "fly" pages inside the front and back covers

The diary has hard card covers pages at the front and the back.

There were a further seven loose pages in the back of the diary with Priscilla's writing on both sides of each page.

These are included in this transcription document as Attachment One.

There is a letter from Priscilla's mother Isabella written in 1916, one month before she passed away, and this included as Attachment Two

The letter from her father "Harry" informing her that her mother had passed away in 1916 is included as Attachment Three.

Basic conservation

Priscilla Wardle Diary Transcription

The following basic conservation was completed prior to handling of the original Diary and the other materials when undertaking the Diary transcription. Permission for this basic conservation process was given by Priscilla's grand - daughters.

The spine of the Diary had completely separated from the pages and was held together with a "sticky tape" which had impacted on the condition of the front and back cover surfaces.

Some water damage had occurred. This made some pages fainter and more difficult to read.

Very badly rusted staples had stained the covers and some Diary pages. The staples were cut and extracted from the Diary and all the pages were separated including the hard covers and "fly" pages.

The blue Diary pages numbered 1 to 51 with "carbon copy" printing on both sides are at great risk from handling and may have been handled many times in the past. As a result these pages are very faint and would explain the reason for the poor earlier photocopies. These blue "carbon copy" pages also included the Diary pages numbered 98 and 100 which had copies of 3 and 41 signatures respectively.

The white Diary pages numbered from 52 to 99 with Priscilla's original fountain pen writing are very readable and still have the blue carbon copy pages between them. The blue "carbon copy" pages numbered 52 to 99 are very faint and mostly unreadable.

All the Diary pages 1 to 100 have been placed in archival quality polypropylene sleeves to protect them from further handling and damage. Diary pages 52 - 99 have been placed in the sleeves in groups of three pages. As they were in the original Diary. For example page number 52 and page number 53 have the double sided blue carbon copy page between them.

The covers and fly pages have also been placed in archival quality sleeves to protect them.

All the sleeves containing the Diary pages have been placed in a black coloured archival quality binder with a slip case to provide further protection from moisture, light and dust etc.

The seven extra "diary type" pages, loose photos, letters, certificates, service memorabilia for both Priscilla and Cyril have similarly been placed in archival quality polypropylene sleeves to protect them and then placed in a charcoal coloured archival quality binder with a slip case.

Priscilla's photo album given to her by her mother on her 30th Birthday on Wednesday the 9th of December 1914 has been placed in a light grey coloured archival quality box for its protection. Many of the photographs are missing from the album but may be included with the individual copies of photographs placed in sleeves in the charcoal coloured binder.

First qualified nurses to volunteer

When war was declared in August 1914 the British Government requested urgent nursing support from Commonwealth countries.

The Australian Government through the Department of Defence immediately responded to this request by advertising for “appropriately qualified and experienced community nurses” in all states to volunteer for the war effort..

Nurses were required to have a Nursing Qualification and at least four years of nursing experience. It was also preferred that they were a part of the Army Nursing Reserve (ANR) and had attained a current Certificate of Efficiency from the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) dealing with Organisation of Military Hospitals, Hygiene and Military Surgery. Priscilla had firstly attained this Certificate in July 1909 and re-qualified yearly between 1910 and 1914.

Apart from being “appropriately qualified” the nurses were also required to meet other selection criteria. They would be a member of AANS but must be prepared to be under the direct command of the British Imperial Force and join the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve. (QAIMNSR).

Nurses were required to be “unmarried” and preference was given to nurses aged between 25 and 35 years. Your qualifications as a nurse must include, gentleness, cleanliness, truthfulness, observation, order, courage, coolness and tact. According to the Weekly Times in Melbourne on Saturday the 31st of October 1914, “no standard height or chest was required but applicants were required to be of sound health, and capable of doing hard work and undergoing fatigue. Only nurses of undoubted character and ability would be chosen.

Four hundred nurses volunteered their services in Victoria and of these 45 Volunteer Victorian Nurses were selected to go to the Front. Each State in Australia was allocated a number of volunteer places by the Government, New South Wales 45, Queensland 27, South Australia 27, Western Australia 18, Tasmania 18 and Victoria 45 making a total of 180 volunteer nurses from Australia. Various references and resources give the actual number selected as between 200-220 nurses. Six Matrons and an unknown number of Medical Officers (Doctors) were also recruited.

Priscilla and a group of nurses and doctors left Australia on the Orontes in April 1915 and arrived in England in May 1915 to be posted to various hospitals in England, France, Egypt and other war zones.

Australia would send around 3000 nurses to the Great War between 1914 to 1918 as part of a total force of 22,000 nurses from Britain and the Commonwealth.

Nursing in 1915

Nursing early in the twentieth century was still using and further developing the Florence Nightingale model. This included a more overall care responsibility in which bathing, dressing, eating, sleeping and overall daily care was as prominent as treating symptoms, wounds and injuries.

Nurses were responsible for cleaning the wards and ensuring the supplies for medical needs such as bandages, blankets ointments and medicines etc. They often went “shopping” which addressed all the ward’s needs including the needs and food for patients.

Socially nurses did not talk about or discuss the details of their work when outside the hospital both for privacy reasons and for politeness reasons.

Their training was primarily “by doing” however formal training and qualification certificates were starting to be introduced. Priscilla was committed early in her career to undertake formal training. Authorities started to realise that training for War and the Military environment for nursing was also important. Priscilla completed and was a certified military nurse having first completed Military Nursing training in 1909 and having completed yearly updates every year to 1915.

As nurses responsibilities were expanded in wound, infectious diseases and symptom treatment together with the general health care and as patient death rates and recovery times were reduced the Doctors and authorities were quick to make use of their nursing skills.

For example nurses were not allowed to work in the Syphilis wards, Officer wards or Hospital Trains based on the thought that females should not be exposed to these situations but this was quickly changed when the massively increased survival and recovery benefits to the sick and wounded was realised.

Changing world

In 1914 when the war variously called The Great War, The War to end all Wars or World War One (WWI) was declared Priscilla had been nursing for approximately five years. (see also Priscilla- A Brief Biography page 261)

As early colonial support for the Great War the British Government requested extra nurses from the Commonwealth countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Canada and India etc.

But we should remember that these nurses had little or no experience of working in military hospitals during a war with all the very confronting experiences that these active service conditions would bring.

All sorts of social “norms” in people and in particular women’s behaviour in the world would be tested and change very quickly during this time.

Countries would lose a significant number of their young people.

Those who returned would never be quite the same after their experiences.

Those both at home and in the war and particularly women would undertake roles and responsibilities which were not available to them prior to the war.

Technologies such as aviation, factories and transport etc would change at an ever increasing rate of change requiring workers roles, abilities and responsibilities to change with them.

Which nurse is which

Qualified Nurse

Provide treatment and care for injuries, wounds and illness. Provide emotional and psychological care.

Staff Nurse

A Qualified Nurse ranking immediately below Nursing Sister

Nursing Sister

A Qualified Nurse with knowledge, experience and ability to be a "Nurse in Charge" Nurses of a "High Grade". Sometimes nicknamed "The Regular"

Matron

A Qualified Nurse with knowledge, experience and ability to be a "Chief Nurse" the "Sister in Charge".

Medical Officers(M.O.)

A Doctor who is also an Army Officer.

Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Nurse

Volunteers often First Aid trained who provide nursing care for injured and wounded soldiers. Often do every day repetitive tasks for Nurses. Under supervision of Nurses.

Red Cross Nurse

Volunteers often First Aid trained who provide nursing care for injured and wounded soldiers. Often do every day repetitive tasks for Nurses. Affiliated with the Red Cross society. Wear Red Cross on uniform. Under supervision of Nurses.

Orderlies

Generally males who provide help and assistance to Medical Officers and Nursing staff and who are under their supervision.

Nursing Orderlies are responsible for convalescent/rehabilitation care nursing.

General Orderlies who act as stretcher bearers, incinerator orderlies and move patients and equipment as required.

Which hospital does what

General Hospital - Large base hospitals with 250, 500 or 1000 beds and infrastructure. Larger hospital in England had facilities and care for 2000 or more beds.

Stationery Hospital - Smaller hospitals in forward areas

Casualty Clearing Stations (CCS) - Small hospitals at transport hubs like railheads and departure points. Emergency treatment before being moved to Stationery and General hospitals.

Auxiliary Hospital - Small hospital in rear area conducted/linked by a General hospital. No fixed establishment.

Australian Voluntary Hospital - Military hospital staffed by Australian expatriates.

Hospital Trains - Also called Ambulance Trains or Red Cross Trains were fully equipped trains with Doctors and Nurses to treat wounded while they were being transported to hospitals both in Europe and back to England.

Hospital Ships - Were destined to be a "Hospital" at or near the war zones. Treatment was a primary function. They were also used to transport the injured to land based hospitals.

Currency

It was interesting to consider the value and buying power of the French Franc (F), the British Pound (£) for both Britain and Australia in 1915 and then relate these to the current Australian Dollar (\$) in 2018.

Buying power was the main objective of the comparison.

Comparisons are included in the "page notes" on each transcription page where required.

Different comparisons brought different comparison considerations.

For the example on Diary page 61 we learn that a tent cost £220 and from military records we know Priscilla was paid £50 - £55 pounds per annum plus a field allowance which means that in 1915 a tent is about five times an annual wage.

The annual basic wage in 2018 is around \$60,000 or more. which makes a tent worth around \$300,000 in 2018 which seems a very high cost for a tent in 2018.

Most of the currency comparisons are straight forward value conversion with inflation costs over 100 years calculated to compare them to today's buying power.

List* of nurses on RMS Orontes

(There were thirty (30) nurses plus a Matron found during our research but this figure may be subject to change)

Priscilla Wardle Diary Transcription

Nurses:

Jemima "Minnie" Logie Chapman # Beatrice Graham Cheeseman Evangaline Alice Clarke (also Clerke) Dorothy May Craike Margaret Cumming Wilhelmina Sarah Dods Edith Victoria Donaldson # Margaret "Madge" Donnellan # Estelle M Doyle Isobel Edith Fincham # Ellen "Nellie" Mary Hamilton Ethel Mary "Effie" Hargreaves # Katherine "Katie/Kitty" Rae Heriot # Catherine Inglis Eileen King #	Annie Maria Locke Mary McLean Loughron(also McLoughran)# Myra MacKenzie Elizabeth Mann Sara Marie Marron # Elspeth McRae Jean Middleton # Gertrude Ada Nye # Constance Elizabeth O'Shea Selena Maude Powell Isabel Russel Ross (also Jean Russell Ross) # Louisa Alice Tabor (also Louise Alice Tabor) Mary Ann "Dolly" Ward Priscilla Isabel Wardle # Myrtle Elizabeth Wilson
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Matron: Janie McRobie Lempriere (also Janey and Jane) Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS)#

*List may not be complete

Signature on Diary page 100

Priscilla's Service History

7 th General Hospital	Saint Omer	9/6/15 to 7/2/16	32 weeks
33 rd Casualty Clearing Station CCS	Bethune	8/2/16 to 22/2/16	2 weeks
Leave	London	22/2/16 to 8/3/16	2 weeks

Priscilla Wardle Diary Transcription

33 rd Casualty Clearing Station CCS	Bethune	8/3/16 to 23/6/16	12 weeks
8 th Stationary Hospital	Wimereux/Aubergue	24/6/16 to 3/8/16	6 weeks
No 25 General Hospital	Hardelot	4/8/16 to 11/8/16	1 week
8 th Stationary Hospital	Wimereux/Aubergue	12/8/16 to 7/11/16	3 weeks
Leave	Devon, Somerset, Cornwall	8/11/16 to 22/11/16	2 weeks

See also Attachment One (11) – The extra pages on page 230

8 th Stationary Hospital	Wimereux/Aubergue	23/11/16 to 21/5/17	24 weeks
Leave	Unknown (London?)	22/5/17 to 5/6/17	2 weeks
8 th Stationary Hospital	Wimereux/Aubergue	6/6/17 to 18/9/17	30 weeks
Appointed Acting Sister		1/7/1917	

See also Attachment One (11) – The extra pages on page 230 “Queen of England in section” and photograph page 252.

15 th Casualty Clearing Station CCS	Ebblingham	19/9/17 to 20/2/18	20 weeks
Leave	French Riviera/Cannes	20/2/18 to 6/3/18	2 weeks

See also Attachment One (12) – The extra pages on page 232 at No 9 and photograph page 254.

42 nd Stationary Hospital	Amiens	7/3/18 to 28/3/18	3 weeks
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See also Attachment One (12) – The extra pages on page 232 “met my husband here”(Cyril). Amiens Photographs page 253

2 nd General Hospital	Havre	29/3/18 to 28/4/18	4 weeks
Admitted ill to the 1 st General Hospital	Etretat	29/4/18 to 14/5/18	
2 nd General Hospital	Havre	15/5/18 to 29/7/18	10 weeks
19 th Casualty Clearing Station CCS	Frevent	30/7/18 to 5/9/18	5 weeks
12 th Stationary Hospital	Saint Pol	6/9/18 to 9/9/18	3 days
4 th General Hospital	Camiers	10/9/18 to 21/9/18	11 days
Leave	Unknown (London)	22/9/18 to 6/10/18	2 weeks
4 th General Hospital	Camiers	7/10/18 to 11/3/19	20 weeks

Matron report 4th General Hospital 10/1/19 . Miss Wardle joined Unit 10/9/18 as anaesthetist and has served with me since November 1918. She is satisfactory in her work as anaesthetist – careful and reliable. Is tactful and has a good influence.

Armistice Day & the War ends 11/11/18

Returned to England London 12/3/19

From Priscilla's notes she worked in a 2000 bed Hospital in London for a month. She was also due for leave and may have taken 4 weeks in London.

Embarked for Australia London 8/5/19 8 weeks

“Priscilla served for approximately 3 years and 9 months in France at 10 different hospitals.”

Facts, Thoughts and Characters (1)

Thought: The focus of this document has been Priscilla's War Diary Transcription. It has also led to the linking of relatives, friends, associates and persons mentioned and providing some information on them where available. It has been rightly suggested that the document may benefit from the inclusion of “family tree charts” and maps of the areas in France mentioned. My thought is that because of the large amount of this information available and the power of the internet and the many search sites people may like to explore both of these in more detail if they

would like to. For family trees particularly I am indebted to Jenni Ibrahim, one of Priscilla's granddaughters and recommend her Wardle family blogspot listed on page 282 as starting point for people.

Fact: Priscilla was one of the first group of nursing volunteers from Australia who possessed the training, ability, personal attributes and courage to volunteer and go to the Western Front during the First World War between 1914 to 1919.

Fact: Priscilla was 30 years of age when she departed Australia to go to the Great War. She had four birthdays on or at the Western Front in France and returned to Australia aged 34 years.

Fact: Because Priscilla was undertaking Military Nursing Training from 1909 with updates each year to 1914 she may have been in or a part of the Australian Nursing Service Reserve (ANSR) or the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) prior to volunteering in 1914.

It would appear that Australia considered her a part of the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) however for the duration of the war she volunteered to be under the direction of the British Imperial Forces (BIF) as a nurse of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve (QAIMNSR)

Fact: Uniform was very important to the military. For nurses the colour of their capes made it easier to identify which country they were from. This also caused some conflict. Both British and Australian capes were red, but the English did not think that Australian nurses were as well trained as them so they did not like them wearing the red cape. Priscilla's cape with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve was grey with a wide band in what is often called a "wine red" colour.

Bands on the arms of the uniform made it easier to identify their status in the system For example Staff Nurses and Nurses had no bands on their sleeves. Sisters had a single narrow band and Sisters in Charge has two bands with Matrons having an extra wide band close to their wrists.

Fact: Often looked down on by the English nurses the Australian, New Zealand and Canadian nurses had one objective and that was to treat the wounded and the sick as quickly and as good as was possible given the conditions they were working in. "Their" boys often responded better to a nurse from their own country because they reminded them of home and their families. English nurses were often very concerned about how the ward was organised and that timetables were followed and that all the nurses were correctly dressed compared to the patient focus of Australian and new Zealand nurses.

Facts, Thoughts and Characters (2)

Fact: Harry, Priscilla's father called her "Pearl".

Character: Edith Victoria Donaldson, Priscilla's best friend is mentioned on numerous pages of the Diary. They both trained at Ballarat hospital and travelled together on the Orontes and were obviously very good friends as per her many mentions in the Diary. However details for Edith have been very hard to find. We see her

last mentioned on Diary page 90 at the No 14 General Hospital in Wimereux being visited by Priscilla and where she is being treated for pleurisy while Priscilla is being transferred to Bethune, From her war record it would appear that Edith then went into recovery at the Hadelot Convalescent Home for nurses as detailed on Diary pages 78 and 79. By Friday the 25th of February 1916 Edith was working at the No 25 General Hospital in Dammes Camiers and after three months is transferred to the No 13 General Hospital in Boulogne on Friday the 26th of May 1916. From Monday the 5th of March 1917 Edith was in charge of the Surgical Division while the Sister in charge was on leave. All her reports indicated that she did a first - class job and was very well respected. Her next posting was the No 32 Stationery Hospital known as the Australian Voluntary Hospital in Wimereux/Aubergue where she commenced on Saturday the 9th of June 1917 until Saturday the 6th of July 1918. Priscilla was at the No 8 Stationery Hospital in Wimereux/Aubergue at this time and I wonder if they saw each other. However it would appear that Edith's illness continued to seriously affect her health through these final years of the war and she may have been invalided out shortly after Armistice Day and after receiving some further treatment in England. Leaving England on or around Friday the 25th of April 1919.

Fact: Interestingly there was a Sleeman on the Orontes travelling to England with Priscilla in 1915. Dr James Garnet Sleeman a vet to look after horses. Interesting because the author is a Sleeman.

Thought: Tracing Cyril's history may also be interesting he was after all a First Aider, Motor Engineer/Engineer/Mechanic, Master Mariner, Adventurer, Soldier/Officer/Contemptible (see page 279) in the 1914-1918 War And in the second world war from 1939 to 1945 he was the army Docks and Movements Controller for the port of Melbourne . He was Husband, Irrigator, Orchardist, Salesman, Manager, Superintendent, Traveller, Father, Grandfather, Assistant Commissioner of Sea Scouts, and a Legatee 1929 - 1968.

Facts, Thoughts and Characters (3)

Character: Edith (Poppy) Popplewell ARRC was born in New Zealand but moved to Ballarat in Victoria and completed her schooling and nurse training there at the Ballarat Hospital. Cilla and Poppy appear to have been great friends and Poppy was also a family friend who wrote letters to Isabella, Priscilla's mum. Poppy was on a visit to New Zealand when she volunteered for service in the New Zealand Army Nursing Service (NZANS) Poppy went to Egypt while Priscilla went to France. Poppy was working at Port Said when ordered with a group of nurses to establish a hospital at Salonika. Their ship the Arquette left Alexandria on Tuesday October 19,

1915 and was carrying armaments, ammunition and troops which made it a target for German submarines. There is some contention that it should not have carried the nurses as a convention existed that hospital ships marked with the Red Cross would not be attacked and that the nurses should have been on one of these. The orders for the nurses to travel was given by the British Imperial Forces and after this incident New Zealand insisted that all future orders would be given by the New Zealand Armed Forces. On Saturday October 23, 1915 the Arquette was sunk by a submarine with the loss of 169 people including 10 New Zealand nurses and with many injured. A copy of a letter from Poppy to Priscilla describing the incident is on Diary pages. Poppy was awarded the Associate Royal Red Cross Medal (ARRC). Her Matron during the sinking who was very seriously injured and spent the remainder of her life in private hospitals was Mary (Marie) Mc Naughton Cameron who was born in Wagga Wagga in 1878 and who passed away in the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital in 1946 aged 68 years.

Thought: Maybe it could be considered that the family donate all the original Priscilla material but particularly the Diary, non-personal photographs, documents and medals etc. to a Government identity such as the State Library of Victoria, The Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne or the Australian War Memorial where everyone could access them at any time and they would be appropriately cared for. And properly archived. My suggestion would be the State Library of Victoria where copies of the material has already been catalogued in the Manuscripts Collection MSF Box 4288/2 or have them in an appropriate Ballarat based organisation.

Fact: Staff Nurses had the army rank of Second Lieutenant and when Priscilla became an Acting Sister she also became an Acting Lieutenant. Same rank as Cyril, So technically the nurses were "Officers".

Facts, Thoughts and Characters (4)

Character: Eileen King MM was one of the nurses travelling with Priscilla on the Orontes to Europe in 1915. Surprisingly she also returned to Australia with Priscilla on the H. T. Roda in 1919. Eileen was working with Priscilla at the No 7 General Hospital in St Omer for the entire period of the Diary. Was she one of the "girls", in the photo on page 250, undoubtedly, and "King" is mentioned a number of times in the Diary.. Shortly after Priscilla left No 7 General Hospital to go to the No 33 Casualty Clearing Station in Bethune Eileen was transferred to No 14 General Hospital in Wimereux in May 1916 after being very ill for a month. While stationed at the No 63 Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) at Haringe in Belgium she was seriously injured but continued

to give directions and organise and care for her patients. Sister Mary Loughron who also travelled on the Orontes was working here too during the bombing. Sister King was one of only eight nurses to be awarded the Military Medal (MM) in the First World War. Both Sisters Loughron and King's signatures are on Diary page 100.

Character(s): On Diary page 92 Priscilla details having to nurse the Baroness Giselle or Gisele or Gesell De Vivario of Liege in Belgium aged 23 who was a refugee from Liege. She is the fiancé of an American Flight Lieutenant Theodore (Ted) Marburg junior who interestingly was born in France in 1893 and possibly younger than Giselle. He was the son of an American diplomat Theodore Marburg senior who was an American Minister at Brussels in Belgium.

Later the fact that Marburg junior could not in fact have American citizenship became a national scandal in America and the President had to change the citizenship rules to change Ted's status. Young Marburg was flying for the British Royal Flying Corps because America had not yet entered the war. He had an accident in his plane during high winds on Tuesday the 7th of December 1915 and his left knee was pierced by a piece of the plane's woodwork. He was at the No 7 General Hospital in St Omer after lengthy treatment did not work and the leg had to be amputated above the knee. Ted had been educated at Oxford and they were married in England on Monday the 10th of April 1916 but the marriage did not last. Ted returned to America and purchased ranch in New Mexico a lifestyle which Gisele hated. She walked out and they were divorced in 1921. Ted remarried in 1921 but was shot in the head and died in 1922.

Fact: What's in a name?. While Cyril Karl Schulz is the name on Cyril's birth certificate and probably as a result of the beginning of the War with Germany Cyril adopted his mother's maiden name and became Cyril Terrence Charles Kirby or any of the following names he used on documents and as a signature over the years. These are Cyril Kirby; C. Kirby; Cyril Terrence Charles Kirby; C. Terrence C. Kirby; C. T. C. Kirby; Cyril T.C. Kirby; C. T. Kirby; Cyril Terrence Kirby; Terrence Charles Kirby; Terrence Cyril Kirby; Terrence C. Kirby; Terrence Kirby; T.C. Kirby.

Emily Kirby his mother used to call him "Boy". His grandchildren called him "grandpa" and Priscilla "granny." From a few of the documents it would appear that Cyril preferred and was predominantly called Terry or Terrence. After the birth of his son Terence and on a photograph with him as adults Cyril is called Terry Snr. (senior)

Facts, Thoughts and Characters (5)

Character: Nurse Myrtle Elizabeth Wilson who travelled on the Orontes with Priscilla and spent her first year with Priscilla at No7 General Hospital in St Omer in France was a nurse trained in Brisbane however Myrtle was born at Fitzroy in Victoria in 1877. It is likely that Myrtle was a "Queensland volunteer" selected to work with the QAIMNSR. Myrtle sadly became very ill with Pneumonia in late December of 1915, which is detailed on Diary pages 86 to 88 and she subsequently passed away on Christmas eve, Friday 24th of December 1915 aged 38 years. Unfortunately her friends at No7 General Hospital were not advised in time and could not attend her funeral. The Matron in Chief in France Maud McCarthy was incensed at this and ensured that a large number

of officers and as many nurses as possible from Wimereux and Boulogne did attend her funeral. Myrtle is buried at Wimereux cemetery.

Character: Jemima "Minnie" Logie Chapman, Diary page 3, was born in 1889 in Scotland. And moved to Australia in 1890. Minnie was Brisbane trained so did she know Myrtle Wilson? When travelling with Priscilla she would have been 26 years old and may have "stretched" her age to volunteer as applicants were required to be over 30 years of age. . In 1911 when aged 22 Minnie is already working at the Brisbane Hospital. Given that at that time women were required to be aged 21 years to start a three year training course her age for training may also have been "stretched ". Minnie's father Rev Andrew Chapman was pastor of the Red Hill Presbyterian Church in Gympie between 1891 and 1897 and may have known Priscilla's family the Burbidges. Minnie's service was a bit unique in that she worked on Ambulance/Hospital trains which was very pioneering in 1915 as well as many General Hospital and Casualty Clearing Stations (CCS) in France, Belgium and England. In May 1919 Minnie returned to England from Belgium and worked at the Kitchener Hospital in Brighton. She departed from Tilbury on Saturday 6 March 1920 on the SS Orvieto bound for Brisbane aged 31 years the same age that Priscilla was when she started her war service.

Thought: My guess would be that other members of the family could/should have further letters, documents, photographs and relevant items belonging to both Priscilla and Cyril.

Fact: Priscilla's training at Ballarat hospital between Thursday 2 February and Sunday 1 March 1908 overlapped with her family friend Edith Popplewell's training at Ballarat hospital from Thursday 21 April 1904 and Sunday 21 April 1907.

Facts, Thoughts and Characters (6)

Character: Acting Principal Matron Helena Hartigan RRC was trained as a nurse at St Bartholomew's Hospital London between 1901 and 1904. It is interesting to note that she was qualified at 27 years of age when she joined the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (not the Reserve) in 1905. She may also have been friends with Edith Appleton (see below) who trained at Bart's at the same time. Helena held the position of Acting Principal Matron in France and Flanders and was awarded the Royal Red Cross, First Class in June 1915 and a Bar to the award in January 1919. Priscilla must have known or crossed paths with Helena somewhere on their many postings as her signature appears on Diary page 100.

Character: Edith "Edie" Elizabeth Appleton OBE, RRC was born in 1877 and may have been in the same training group at St Bart's as Helena Hartigan. Reports show she was an exemplary student. With the war looming Edith transferred to the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (not the Reserve) from private nursing and District nursing in 1914. In October 1914 she arrived at Boulogne in France and by December 1914 was at No 10 Stationery Hospital in St Omer however Priscilla did not arrive in St Omer till June 1915. In February 1915 she was at No 3 Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) at Hazebrouck in France which was moved due to heavy enemy fire to Bailleul in France in May which is a bit strange as Bailleul is closer to the front. In November 1915 Helena is transferred to No 1 General Hospital in Etretat followed by several other postings at Abbeville, Treport and Boulogne. After the Armistice in November 1918 she joined No 42 Ambulance/Hospital Train and in February 1919 is appointed to the staff of the Matron in Chief of France in Boulogne Dame Maude McCarthy. Edie kept a detailed diary of her experiences. She was awarded the Military OBE, the Royal Red Cross (RRC) and the Belgian Queen Elisabeth medal. She was demobilised in December 1919 but re-joined the Territorial Force Nursing Service (TFNS) under Maud McCarthy in August 1923. Clearly Priscilla must have known or crossed paths with Edie during their service as her signature appears on Diary page 100.

Fact: The Wardle family owned numerous houses in Ballarat. Two at least are still standing "Rheola" at 16 Dawson Street and "Waverley" at 215 Dawson Street.

Fact: Mr Shay the "Marconi Operator" (Diary pages 2, 3, 11, 32) could not have known that Cyril's maternal uncle Frank Newman was an electrical engineer and worked for the Marconi Company in both England and America. He took part in the various historic radio transmissions including the England to Canada transmission of 2,200 miles (3,500 kilometres) in December 1901 which changed history and proved such communication was possible.

He worked his passage to America by being a telegraphist on the first Cunard liner, the *Lucania*, to use the Marconi wireless system. Stories in the family about Frank Newman inspired Priscilla's son Terrence to his life-long interest in electronics.

Facts, Thoughts and Characters (7)

Fact: Priscilla's salary when she commenced her service as a Staff Nurse in 1915 was £40 pound (\$80) per year and 15/- shillings (\$1.50) per week field allowance. A total of £79 pound (\$158) a year. £79 pounds in 1915 is worth £7,719.74 pounds or \$14,292.33 Australian dollars in 2019. A very low wage.

Fact: When Priscilla was promoted to Acting Sister on 1 July 1917 her salary became £55 pound (\$110) per year and 21/- shillings (\$2.10) per week field allowance. A total of £109 pounds 12/- shillings (\$219.20) a year. £109.12 pounds in 1915 is worth £10,663.01 pounds or \$19,741.50 Australian dollars in 2019. A very low wage.

Fact: Priscilla's husband Cyril was one of The Old Contemptibles, The British Expeditionary Force which served in Flanders within range of the enemy mobile artillery between 5 August and 22 November 1914 at the First Battle of Ypres. Their stand against a force of ten times their number is legendary and prevented the German advance against the Channel Ports. Cyril enlisted on Friday 23 October 1914 and he was Demobilized on Wednesday 9 April 1919

Fact: Dame Maud McCarthy the Matron in Chief of France 1914 – 1919 was born in Sydney NSW and was the Matron in Chief for the entire period of World War One.

Fact: Ballarat is said to have provided up to 20 nurses who served in the Great War from 1914 – 1919.

Fact: Saint Omer where Priscilla is working for most of this diary was a considerable hospital centre with the 4th, 10th, 7th and 9th Canadian and New Zealand Stationery Hospitals, the 58th, 59th and 7th General Hospitals (Priscilla's Hospital) as well as the 17th, 18th, 1st and 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Stations.

Fact: Priscilla's Aunt, Marie Esther (Ettie) Wardle married William Edward Burbidge in 1884 the same year Priscilla was born. William was a chemist and mining engineer who wrote many books and papers and lectured on the subject and was very highly respected in Ballarat. He was also a very accomplished photographer. After an industrial dispute where William thought his workers were being harshly treated the Burbidges moved to Gympie in Queensland where William later became the Mayor and again a keen photographer which may also explain the many "formal" photographs of the family.

Facts, Thoughts and Characters (8)

Fact(s): The ageless Cyril!

Cyril's birth certificate gives Thursday 21 April 1892 as his official birth date. Using this date would make him 8 years younger than Priscilla. |

In the document package there is a St John's First Aid certificate for Cyril in 1906 making him 14 years of age at the time.

In the Bede J.F. Bentley expedition document "To Menelek in a Car" brochure there is a C. T. Kirby, Engineer listed. This expedition was scheduled for August/September 1909 but Cyril would have been only 17 years of age at this time. If this is not Cyril why did he and Priscilla keep this document.

There is an apprentice "reference" letter for Cyril as an Automobile Engineer in 1909 which says "he should be equally capable of controlling men", but could this be right when he was only 17 years old at the time but it supports the above expedition information.

Cyril's recently found Demobilization Certificate for Wednesday 9 April 1919 makes this even more confusing the 9 in 1890 on the certificate is overwriting an 8 and the last digit could be a 0, 1, 5 or 6. So the dates could be 1880, 1881, 1885, 1886, 1890, 1891, 1895 or 1896.

On their marriage certificate of Saturday 15 November 1919 he claims to be 34 years of age which would make his birth year 1885.. But based on his birth certificate date Cyril would have been only 27 years and 7 months old when he married Priscilla who was 34 years of age.

When making a legal declaration for Soldier Settler land in 1920 he claims to be 35 years of age. This would fit with his marriage certificate age of 34 years in November 1919 and would mean a birth year of 1885. But does not agree with his official birth date where he would have been only 28. Remember this is a sworn document.

When enlisting for World War Two in 1942 Cyril gave his birth date as 21 April 1896. This may have been to get selected as this would have given him the age of only 46 years. If 1896 was correct he would have been 12 years younger than Priscilla and married aged only 23 years.

On Cyril's 1968 Victorian Drivers Licence his date of birth is 21 May 1896 .

On Cyril's Death Certificate he is listed as being 83 years of age which interestingly would have given him the birth year of 1885. If we use his accepted birth year he was only 76 years old when he died.

Fact: Priscilla served her entire 3 years and 9 months of service in the Great War in various hospitals in France. She served in a variety of hospitals in 10 different location as follows. Saint Omer, No 7 General Hospital, 32 weeks; Bethune, 33rd Casualty Clearing Station, 14 weeks; Wimereux/Auberge, 8th Stationery Hospital, 63 weeks; Hardelot, No 25 General Hospital, 1 week; Ebblinghem, 15th casualty Clearing Station, 20 weeks; Amiens, 42nd Stationery Hospital, 3 weeks. She met Cyril her husband here. Havre, 2nd general Hospital, 14 weeks; Frevent, 19th Casualty Clearing Station, 5 weeks; Saint Pol, 12th Stationery Hospital, 3 days; Camiers, 4th General Hospital, 22 weeks. Priscilla also said she worked for 4 weeks in a London 2000 bed hospital after the end of the war.

Facts, Thoughts and Characters (9)

Fact: The farming years 1920-1927

Four days before their wedding in November on Tuesday 11 November 1919 Terence Cyril Kirby (name as per the application) applied in Melbourne for a Qualification Certificate under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts for an area of 20 acres of land for irrigation and fruit growing at Nyah, near Swan Hill in the Mallee region of Victoria 311 kilometres from Ballarat. The application stated he was living at "Waverley" Dawson Street in Ballarat, Priscilla's parental home and he signed this and all the following documents as Terence C. Kirby A Certificate of Qualification to apply for Land under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act 1917 was approved in the name of Terence Cyril Kirby on Tuesday 23 December 1919. Six months later on Friday 11

June 1920 at Swan Hill he made a solemn declaration to some of the following, "I am 35 years of age" of course this would mean he was born in 1885 not 1892. "I have a qualified certificate for irrigation farming" it may be that after his wedding in November 1919 Cyril went to work on a property in the Nyah area for six months to get "on the job" irrigation training. "I own no land". "Wife owns no land". "I will require assistance for the purpose of" Fruit growing; and then he seems to list experiences, "six months experience Nyah; Experience on cattle ranch South America; 4 1/2 years service in France. Wife 4 years as nurse. Wife no experience on land, No pension, Good health, 1st application, make own arrangements re house. The lease was granted from this date (Friday) 11 June 1920 for allotments 70 (which in fact was 71) and 71A which was Cyril's second preference. Over time the descriptions of the exact locations have become confused but on the Public Record Office Victoria, Soldier Settlement website you can go exactly to the site on a map and also see the site on satellite. Even the records are confusing regarding the location of the land. It is listed as, Parish: Tytynder West; County: Tatchera, Land District Mallee. Cyril Terence Charles Kirby is listed as living in Nyah West with occupation as Orchardist. The exact location of the land is on the Woorinen-Vinifera Road close to the community of Vinifera which is 5.4kms south of Nyah West and 24kms north of Swan Hill.. Cyril applied for 20 acres the documents say they received 25 acres however the actual size was 16 acres. They worked the farm until late 1926 or early 1927. On Tuesday 24 May 1927 the farm was transferred to Eric Langley Sutton but by this time Priscilla and Cyril were living at 121 Webster Street Ballarat and his occupation was Motor Engineer & Manager. Their reasons for selling were, climatic conditions, wife & children (medical), uncongeniality of work, resumption of original profession.

Bibliography "of sorts" (1)

Primary Sources

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Looking For The Evidence (Research work by Jennifer Baker)

Australian Nurses in World War 1

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Great War Form (Heather (Frev) Ford)

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Assistance

Charles Sturt University Archive (Wagga Wagga) (Jillian (Jill) Kolhagen) – Digital copying

Inside back cover



Young Priscilla Xmas 1907

Priscilla dedicated this formal studio portrait to her "Grandma" and namesake Priscilla Wardle (nee Bryan) for Xmas 1907. Depending on the exact date the portrait was taken she may have been either 22 or 23 years of age (Birthday 9 December) and close to qualifying as a nurse.

Her "Grandma" was married to Henry William Wardle. The news of her Grandfathers death reached Priscilla in late 1915 and is mentioned on Diary page 93.

The portrait surround is labelled "Fegan Gympie" and may have been taken by highly respected Australian photographer John James William Rolling (Jack) Fegan of Gympie.

Jack Fegan was also President of the Professional Photographers of Queensland and travelled throughout Australia taking the portraits of many famous Australians.



LEST WE FORGET

September 2019

ADDITIONAL PAGES and PAGE UPDATES - JANUARY 2020

Priscilla Wardle Diary Transcription

The original Diary Transcription was started in October 2018 and printed (copied) in September 2019. As is the nature of such documents corrections, feedback (from Jenni) and in this case the discovery of another box containing photographs, documents and notes from Priscilla has given us an opportunity to either add or not add this extra information, detail, corrections , copies of extra documents and photographs etc to the original Diary Transcription.

In an effort to avoid confusion by simply adding extra pages to the original transcription and thereby having to re-paginate the whole document I have decided on the following strategy.

PAGE UPDATES

Updated pages will use the current page number with all the changes and updating added and will have January 2020 in the bottom left hand corner replacing September 2019. When discussing the document with others or if you have any questions or corrections please refer to the dating on your copy of the page under discussion to avoid confusion.

List of updated pages for JANUARY 2020

1; 2; 88; 148; 150; 152; 160; 164; 208; 238; 250; 252; 253; 259; 261; 262; 273; 276; 278; 279; 280; 282;

ADDITIONAL PAGES

These pages will be clearly headed with for example, Additional Pages – January 2020, and will mirror the format currently used in the Diary Transcription. However page numbers will continue on from the last page number used.

When available copies of all the Additional Pages and Page Updates will be sent to you. My suggestion is to simply slide the **updated pages** over your current pages and to keep the **additional pages** together in one sleeve either at the back of the folder or immediately following the similar section to which they refer in your current copy of the Diary.

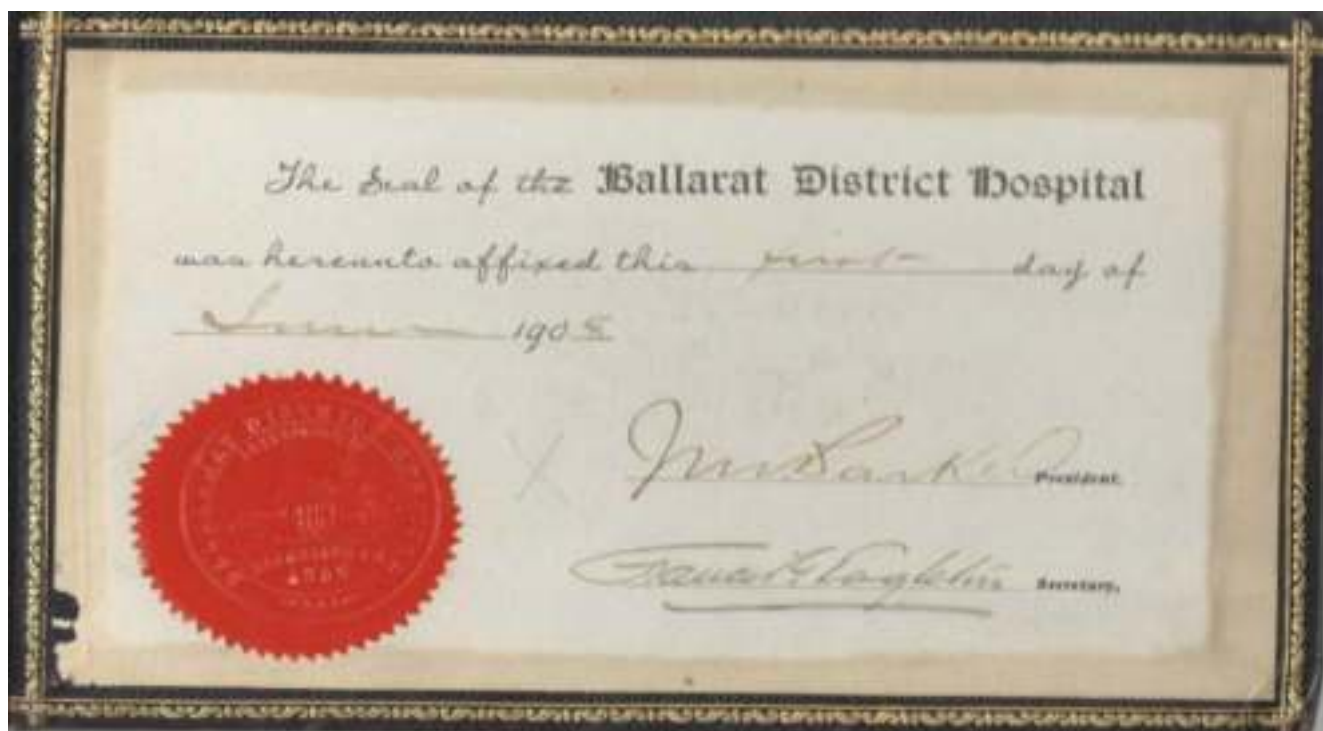
For those who want the digital copy of the current “Master” this will always be available for sharing to you via Google Drive after the updating is completed and I will send you the link via your email,

Regards

Bob

ADDITIONAL PAGES and PAGE UPDATES – JANUARY 2020

Attachment Four (13) – Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badge

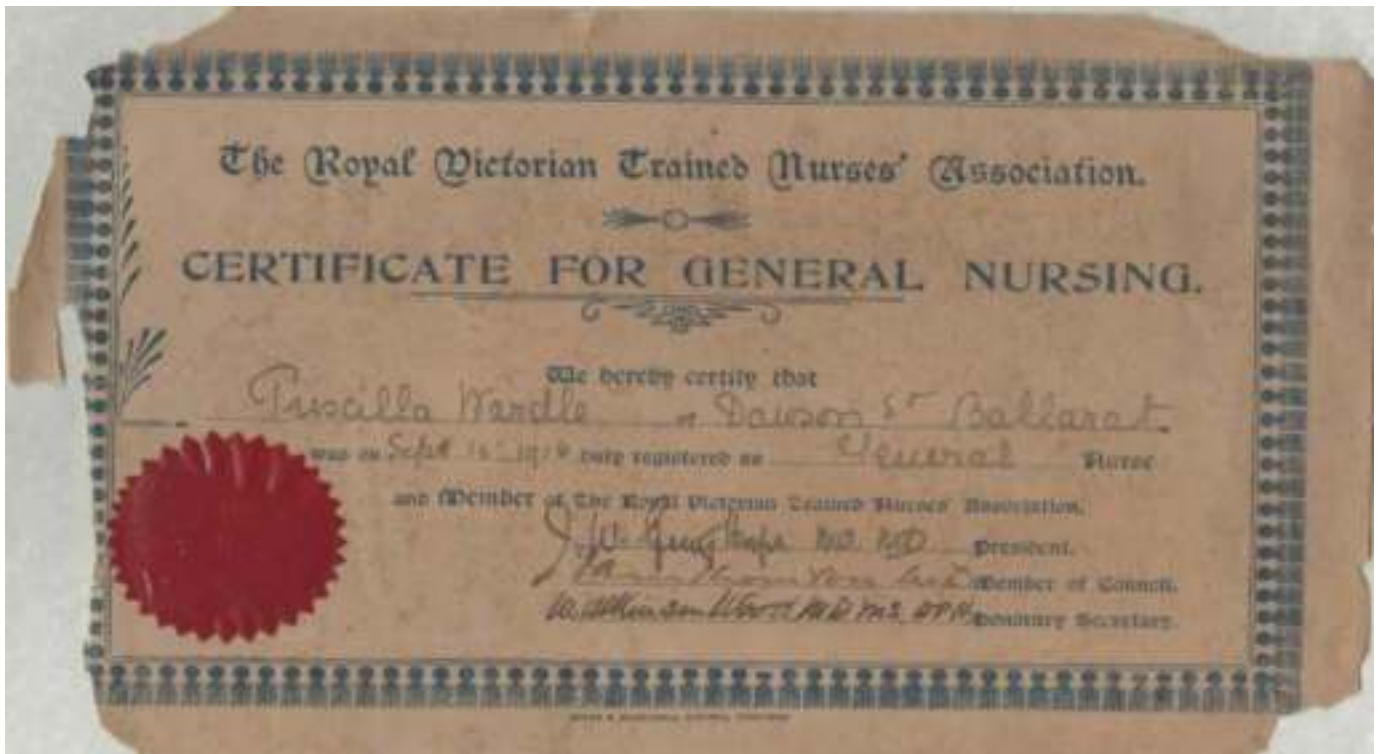


Priscilla's - Ballarat District Hospital - Nurse Certificate

Recently discovered. This is a thick leather covered, menu sized, folder in deep burgundy (wine) colour with gold embossing. Together with the certificates on pages 287, 288 and 289 they allow us to accurately detail and date Priscilla's nursing training as detailed in Priscilla - A brief Biography (1) on page 261.

ADDITIONAL PAGES and PAGE UPDATES - JANUARY 2020

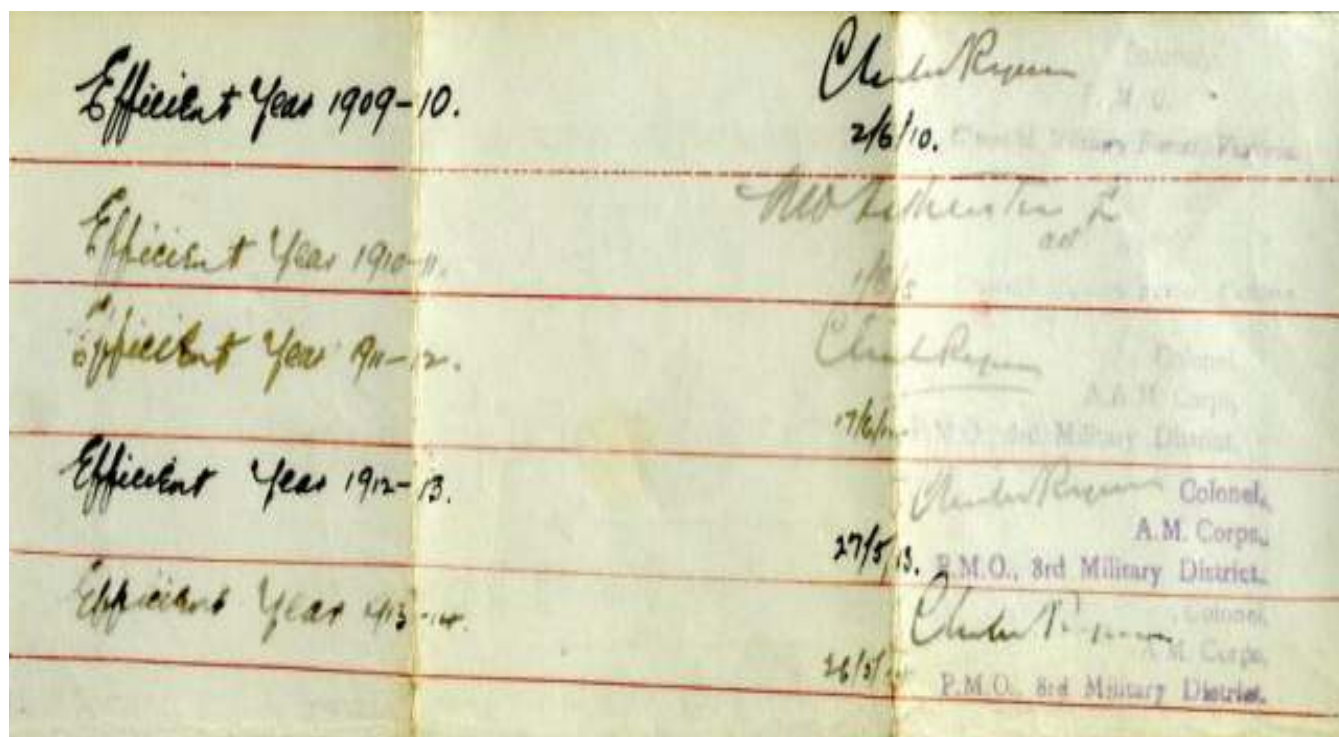
Attachment Four (14) - Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badge



Discovered recently Priscilla 's General Nursing Certificate is in poor condition and the Infectious Diseases Nursing Certificate is in very poor condition, torn in two pieces and very fragile. They show priscilla was fully qualified in February 1909 when aged 24.(see also Priscilla – A brief Biography (1) on page 261)

ADDITIONAL PAGES and PAGE UPDATES – JANUARY 2020

Attachment Four (15) – Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badge



Priscilla's Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS), Certificate of Efficiency. This certificate indicates that Priscilla was an AANS nurse (probably the Reserve) from the middle of July 1909. At the bottom the reverse of this certificate details Priscilla's yearly updates to keep her qualification current. She is registered as No 15 in Victoria.

ADDITIONAL PAGES and PAGE UPDATES - JANUARY 2020

Attachment Four (16) - Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badge



A copy of the interesting Concert on board the R. M. S. "Orontes" Monday 10 May 1915 on the way to London. Notice the cost of the "Programme".

The list of signatures on the "programme" are : Australian nurses, Edith Victoria Donaldson; Priscilla Wardle. May 10th 1915; Jemima "Minnie" Logie Chapman; E. Gertrude Ada Nye; Isabel Russell Ross; Eileen King. Australian doctors, William Arthur Bowman; Alfred John Trinca; Walter Cecil Marsden; David Hardie; Wilberforce Stephen Newton; George Chadwell Bury. Italian doctor Luigi di Mascio. Unknown, E. Coulter; B. Edgar Pike. Many of these signatures are also on Diary page 100.

The concert was early in the voyage however the issue of concerts is a little confusing. Priscilla appears to mention this concert on Diary page 23 but on Diary page 20 she talks about rehearsals and a concert which may have happened on Friday 7 May 1915. Also other activities such as a Birthday party. The social activity calendar seems to have been very full.

ADDITIONAL PAGES and PAGE UPDATES - JANUARY 2020

Attachment Four (17) - Photographs, Postcards, Documents, Medals & Badge



Priscilla 1909

Priscilla was probably 24 years of age in this soft graphite pencil sketch photo effect portrait by Fraser Studio in Ballarat.

This technique was very painstaking to create as photographic line art. Today many computer applications assist people to do this process very simply with their own photographs.

At the time of this "photograph" Priscilla had recently fully qualified as a nurse and may have started or recently completed her Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) training.

The Photographer's signature is stylized in a vertical way to the left of Priscilla with possibly a C and a long tail on the letter F for Fraser, at the base of which may be a scrolled B and the date 1909 half way to the right.

Has this very artistic "photograph" been created meticulously by Cora Beatrice Fraser (nee Willets) an art photographer in her own right and the wife of studio owner Leonard Allan Fraser who bought the studio from Cora's father George Willets. We can assume Cora grew up with the art of photography. It is a very beautiful "photographic sketch."